

Safety guidelines and risk management for:



Marine National Parks Ambassador Workshop – Dandenong, Bayside and Melbourne groups

Location: Ricketts Point Surf Life Saving Club and Marine Sanctuary

The program educational content:

- The unique marine life of Victoria
- The Value of Marine National Parks and Sanctuaries
- How human impacts effect marine ecosystems
- The Importance of Good Scientific evidence and Citizen Science
- Investigation into the micro world of sea grass

Program brief

The Ambassadors spend half the session exploring the rock pools and the other half inside the surf life saving club, looking at sea grass invertebrates, exploring Climate Change and learning how we monitor and identify our resident dolphin populations.

Safety Brief

All students will be given the same safety messages at the start of the program and these will be reiterated by group leaders throughout the session.

The main points include:

- Stay with your leader at all times unless instructed otherwise.
- Wear covered shoes and be sunsmart. (it is up to the school to provide sunscreen)
- When exploring keep your hands where you can see them.
- Walk when on the rocks.
- Put bags around the edge of the room inside the club to avoid trips
- Don't run inside
- Be aware if wearing wet shoes that they may be slippery.

Manageable risks:

- **Bites and stings** – The main risk involved is from blue ring octopus. While they are living in the rock pool environment they are rarely encountered. Their habitat is dark places and thus students are warned not to place their hands where they cannot see what they are touching.
- **Slips, trips and falls** – part of the session is conducted on the beach or very sandy soil so the risk of injury from a fall is low. On the rocks however the risk is managed by leaders implementing a walking only policy. Leaders will teach with a style that does not ask participants to “come over quickly” but rather “slowly walk towards me”. In the classroom, students are asked to place bags away from the main areas.
- **Traffic control** – School staff will be responsible for the management of traffic at all times. DRI staff will support when instructed to do so by school s staff.
- **Significant medical issues** - Schools staff should notify DRI of any medical issues which maybe relevant to a student’s/teachers participation in the activity prior to the day. School supervisor will be responsible for the participant’s management with the support of DRI staff in accordance with school policy.
- **Inappropriate behaviour** – DRI staff in conjunction with school staff will be responsible for the appropriate behaviour of all participants. DRI staff upholds the right to stop the activity if inappropriate behaviour is posing a risk to the group, individual or staff. Behaviour of a racist, sexual, abusive or violent nature towards staff or students will not be tolerated.
- **Drowning** – Students will not enter the water at any stage or under any circumstances during the program. If there is a perceived risk of this, students will be excluded from the activity. The Ricketts Point environment is very shallow with the risk of supervised downing very low. The sessions are conducted around low tide.
- **NB Dandenong Ambassadors have a snorkel element to this session and are supervised by an appropriately qualified and licensed organisation. We’re currently looking for a new provider.**
- **Fire** – In the event of a ‘Code Red’ fire warning for the region, the excursion will be cancelled.

Child Safety

The staff at Dolphin Research Institute (DRI) provide a range of educational activities for primary and secondary school students. We are committed to providing a safe environment for all students during these activities. To ensure the safety of students attending our activities DRI maintains the following.

- DRI is committed to child safety.
- We support and respect all children, as well as their teachers and volunteers.
- We are committed to the safety and participation of all children.
- Our Student Ambassador program is designed to provide a range of activities that promote participation and empowerment of the student ambassadors.
- The Education Director is responsible for ensuring that staff are suitably trained for all activities.
- The Education Director is responsible for establishing clear expectations and appropriate behaviour for all DRI staff when working with students.
- If DRI staff have any concerns about a student, they will raise the matter with the class teacher.

- DRI staff brief students and teachers/volunteers about the possible dangers and hazards of the activity they are undertaking.
- DRI staff are always accompanied by teachers or adults from the school designated with the responsibility of looking after the students.
- DRI staff do not work alone with individual students.
- All DRI staff working with students have either a current VIT registration or a current Working with Children Check. Copies of these documents are held by DRI's Education Director.

Risk assessment:

The site will be assessed for risk on a program by program basis. Risk assessment will include the following elements:

- Wave height
- Weather conditions
- Track conditions, proposed walk routes
- Groups or individuals that may pose a risk (drug and alcohol abuse, antisocial behaviour)

Emergency details

There is good emergency vehicle access to all locations during the program.

Mobile phone coverage is reliable at all program locations.

Sandringham Hospital has an emergency department and is 7 mins away

Covid Guidelines (subject to change)

Current capacity limits for indoor/outdoor gatherings and density limits/social distancing will be adhered to and as advised by the department of education

Masks for anyone over 12 where applicable

Equipment will be cleaned between groups or hand will be sanitised before use where sharing equipment is unavoidable.

Names and contact details for attendees will be kept and when using an indoor venue, QR codes will be mandatory