

COASTAL WORKSHOP FUN ON THE BOAT!

The weather was not on our side for our final workshop for the year to visit to the seals on board Wildlife Coast Cruises with huge swells at Seal Rocks, Phillip Island. But we did not let that spoil our fun as Ambassadors made the most of the cruise spotting seals and pelicans along the way to the gorgeous cliffs and beautiful clear waters in this area. They also learned about the unique nature in this area that includes dolphins, winter whales, seals, a huge range of beautiful coastal bird species and more!

Thank you so much to Wildlife Coast Cruises, our wonderful partners at City of Casey and the amazing ISIC teachers and parent/carers for supporting Ambassadors throughout the year, we are so grateful. Congratulations to our Ambassadors for the many actions taken through 2023 to act for the planet and spread the conservation message throughout their school and wider communities we are so proud of you and remember to reach out if you need any project or volunteer ideas as you head into secondary school!



"Nature is not a place to visit, it is home." –Gary Snyder.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW DRI EDUCATION MANAGER ELLIE COLLINS!

We are excited to welcome Ellie, who has joined us to lead our education programs, taking over from our much loved Director Mandy. Ellie is born and bred on the Mornington Peninsula, loves the surrounding marine environment, and has saltwater in her veins. After completing a Biological Sciences and Ecology degree at Monash University, Ellie has worked as an environmental educator at various organisations on the Peninsula. She is working part-time with us until the end of the year to learn the ropes and get things ready for a wonderful 2024. We are in good hands and very happy to have you on the team Ellie!!

DRI RESEARCH CELEBRATES SOME CHAMPION MOTHERS!

The success of our bay's community of common dolphins is partly due to their environment - but also due to some very successful mothers. V-Nick is a great example. We first sighted her in 2005, and she is #001 in the Port Phillip Catalogue. Our records show that V-Nick had her first calf in 2012 and, in July this year, her fifth! What is remarkable is that V-Nick's second calf (#041) had her own calf in February - making V-Nick's fifth calf younger than her grandcalf! If you would like to know more about our citizen science projects such as Pod Watch and the Two Bays Whale Project, or learn about dolphin distancing, how to adopt a dolphin and more head to the DRI webpage.



**OUR DOLPHINS
DESERVE A FAIR GO**



HELP US SHOW BOATERS
HOW IT'S DONE BY
COMMITTING TO

**DOLPHIN
DISTANCING**

A Dolphin Research Institute Initiative



DOLPHIN DISTANCING - PROTECT AND RESPECT!

As we head into summer **YOU** can help educate your communities! Dolphins share their home with many vessels, and over summer interactions increase due to higher vessel traffic, as well as greater dolphin presence (often with new calves). These interactions put dolphins at risk, as they interfere with vital behaviours, such as feeding, mating and nursing of calves.

Dolphin Distancing is about being respectful around our dolphins by giving them space. Dolphins are curious and may approach – sometimes you don't even realise. If they do, simply slow down and enjoy the experience! **Please report breaches to DELWP on 136 186.**

