

## COASTAL WORKSHOP FUN IN THE SUN!

We had beautiful sunny skies for our final workshop at Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary! Ambassadors began with Skyla from Living Culture, and all had a fantastic time learning about Australia's rich indigenous cultural history! Skyla wowed Ambassadors with her deep knowledge of bush medicine, and everyone got hands on with indigenous artefacts, a finished with a spear throwing and fire making session!

Ambassadors participated in a Sand-Sort-Session searching through the sand for litter to identify the items, and their potential sources and pathways. We had a great discussion about solutions, and Ambassadors now have a greater understanding as to why REDUCE is the first solution to our marine debris problem.

We enjoyed a barbecue and a discussion about the future as Ambassadors may be finishing their program, but we are passionate about supporting their conservation journey going forward. Thank you SO much to our brilliant partners at City of Greater Dandenong, Living Culture and our wonderful ISIC teachers and parent/carers for transporting Ambassadors to workshops, and supporting them throughout the year. Without you this program would not be possible!



*"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**

100m (boats) | 300m (jet skis) | 50m (swimmers)

DOLPHIN RESEARCH INSTITUTE

RESEARCH | EDUCATION | LEADERSHIP SINCE 1991



## 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.**