

## COASTAL WORKSHOP FUN IN THE SUN FOR EVERYONE!

We had gorgeous sunshine for our final Workshop for 2023 at the beautiful Point Lonsdale foreshore! We began with a Sand-Sort session with Ambassadors racing each other to identify marine debris items hidden in the sand. This activity helps Ambassadors to have a deeper understanding of the issues regarding micro plastic impacts on marine and bird life and the importance of identifying the sources of marine debris.

Next up was a whale and dolphin artefact show-and-tell, and a chance for Ambassadors to understand DRI research activities during the whale and dolphin identification session. We also had Ash Skinner from the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation presenting amazing artefacts and discussing our amazing indigenous history and culture. As always we finished with a delicious barbeque. We thank all of our ISIC teachers, parent carers, and the Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic School for supporting our Ambassadors throughout the year and making our workshops 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.

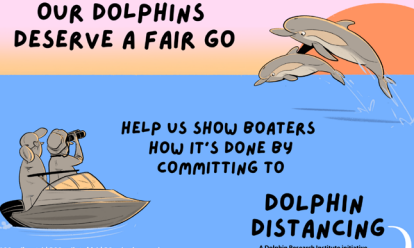
After completing a Biological Sciences and Ecology degree at Monash University, Ellie has worked as an environmental educator at various organisations on the Peninsula. She is working part-time with us until the end of the year to learn the ropes and get things ready for a wonderful 2024. We are in good 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)

A Dolphin Research Institute Initiative

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.**