

MOONRAKER WHAT A WAY TO FINISH 2023!

We had brilliant conditions for our final workshops on Moonraker for our lucky Ambassadors with sunshine and magically flat seas! We only had a glimpse of our wonderful dolphins but the seal and seadragon swims were some of the best we have ever had with beautifully clear water!

The Ambassadors were so excited to get up close to these wonderful animals, and squeals of excitement could be heard from the boat and in the water! The seals were very playful jumping over us and swimming under us and we laughed at them squabbling for space on the seal platform!

These experiences help Ambassadors gain a deeper understanding of how precious our local marine environment is, and many commented they were even more motivated to act to protect our planet. Thank you SO much to the Moonraker crew, the City of Kingston, and to the fantastic ISIC teachers, parents and carers for supporting Ambassadors throughout the year, you make these opportunities possible, and we are so grateful!



"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.**