

COASTAL WORKSHOP IN GLORIOUS SUNSHINE!!

What a finish to the year for our Mornington Ambassadors at Jacks Beach, Warringine Reserve! We were thrilled to have Hudson and Skyla from Living Culture who wowed Ambassadors with stories and ancient artefacts from our rich indigenous history, and we had a blast learning how to make fire and throw a spear. The Ambassadors absolutely loved their session and couldn't wait to tell their families and friends.

Ambassadors enjoyed a walk and talk with the Anthony, Hannah, and Zali from NatureLinks and the Mornington Peninsula Shire learning about the indigenous and non-indigenous flora and fauna, and the issues our beautiful native creatures face in this area. We finished off with a barbecue, and all enjoyed feasting in the sunshine.

Thank you SO much to our wonderful partners at Mornington Peninsula Shire, Nature Links, Living Culture! Thank you to the amazing ISIC teachers, parents and carers for going above and beyond to support our Ambassadors throughout the year and transporting them to workshops. Without all of YOU these experiences 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

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.**