

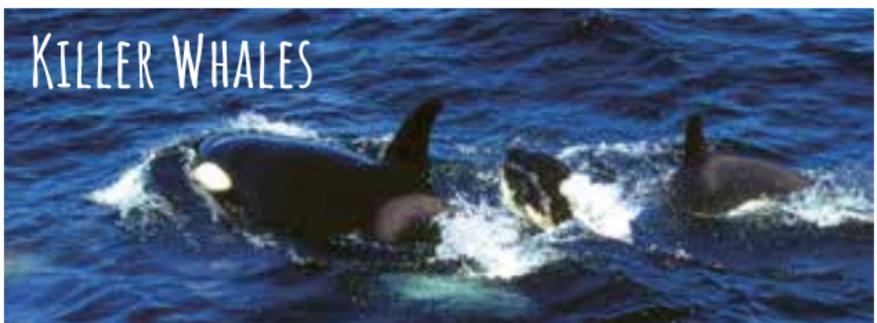


MARINE MAMMAL VISITORS TO THE COAST

The Victorian coastline is home to many marine mammals but we are also lucky to have other amazing visitors along the coast each year!



Humpback whales visit the Bay each year during their annual migration from feeding grounds in Antarctic waters to calving grounds in warmer Australian waters. Females are about 16m long, the males only 14m. They have black/dark-grey upper body and white underside. They have long slender pectoral fins, about 1/3 the length of the body and a small stubby dorsal fin set further back on the body. They have been observed in the Bay during winter as far north as Port Melbourne.



Killer whales, otherwise known as Orca whales, are occasional visitors to the Bay and Victorian coastline. The largest of the dolphins, Killer whales have black body with a white underside extending from the chin/chest area to the tail end. They have a distinct white oval patch behind the eye, a blunt rostrum (nose) and large black paddle-like flippers. Males are 7-10m and the females 4.5-8.5m in length. Their dorsal fin differs in sexes, with the males having a large tall dorsal fin up to 1.8m high.



COMMON DOLPHINS



Common dolphins are found not only along the Victorian coastline, but throughout the world. Smaller than the Burrunan, these dolphins have a tri-coloration pattern with a distinct cream/tan patch on their side. They have a distinct dark stripe extending from the rostrum (nose) to the pectoral fin. They have a long slender rostrum (nose). Their dorsal fin is triangular with paler inner coloration.

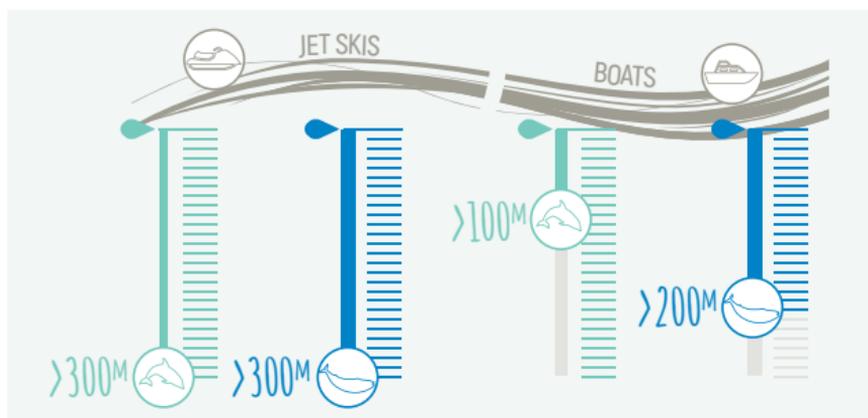
SOUTHERN RIGHT WHALES



Most famously seen close to shore along Victoria's west coast during the winter period, the Southern Right whale have a large bulbous head and downward arched mouth line. They also have callosities, which are large white rough and raised markings around the head region. These markings can help identify individual whales.

BOATING AROUND MARINE MAMMALS REGULATIONS

It is always amazing to see marine mammals in the wild BUT we do have to remember there are regulations in place to protect both them and us. **Boats are not permitted to approach within 100 metres of a dolphin and 200 metres of a whale. Jet skis are not permitted within 300 metres of either a whale or dolphin. Caution zones for all vessels are 300m of a whale, 150m of a dolphin and 50m of a seal.** Please visit www.delwp.vic.gov.au or marinemammal.org.au for more information.



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 MARINE MAMMAL
FOUNDATION