

Neighbourly Interactions



The Program

VELS disciplines: Science (Biology) and Humanities (Geography), Level 5 and 6.

Outline: Students are encouraged to explore the complex ecosystem that is Port Phillip Bay and examine the interaction between living and non-living components, through the exploration of food chains, food webs and ecosystems. They will also investigate the impact of human activities on the bay, including pollution, fishing and the introduction of exotic species. Students will also identify management strategies aimed at improving the health of the bay.

The Tour

The tour generally consists of three snorkels - all of which are lead by Qualified Snorkel Instructors. Students are introduced to the water at Pope's Eye, where they are taught safe snorkeling practices in a sheltered environment. Part of the Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park, Pope's Eye has become a very popular dive site due to its abundance in marine life. Once comfortable with their equipment, students are then introduced to a population of young male Australian Fur Seals, followed by a snorkel with a pod of Bottlenose Dolphins. Due to their wild nature a swim with the dolphins cannot be guaranteed, but in the event that we do not find them we will endeavour to have a snorkel elsewhere. While on the boat, students will be entertained with activities such as a ride on the boom-net, a duck spa, and if time permits - fishing. Generally the program runs for 3.5 hours, but this can easily be shortened according to your needs. All equipment is provided - including wetsuit, fins, mask and snorkel, with snacks and drinks served throughout the journey.

Learning Focus

Level 5 Biology

- Explain the relationships, in living and non-living systems, in particular ecosystems, and human impact on these systems
- Analyse what is needed for living things to survive

Level 5 Geography

- Understanding of environmental issues and propose ways of ensuring the sustainability of resources

Level 6 Biology

- Investigate the adaptive behaviours which enable plants and animals to survive in their environments
- Investigate energy flow through ecosystems

Level 6 Geography

- Investigate the interaction of human activities with the natural environment
- Develop skills to evaluate the factors contributing to the development of these issues, identify strategies to address them and explore ways of managing them

Feel it, Hear it, Taste it, Smell it, Sea it!