

Our Relationship with the Bay



The Program

Key Knowledge/Skills Areas: Unit 3 and 4 Outdoor and Environmental Studies.

Outline: Through practical experience students will learn about the importance of biodiversity and discover the many facets of human interaction (both positive and negative) on Port Phillip Bay. The recently-introduced Marine National Parks are used as an example of a positive impact on the bay, whereas the current issue of the 'Channel Deepening Project' is used as a potential negative. Students will also explore the conflicting interests between different user groups within 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.

Key Knowledge/Skills

- Evaluate factors which influence contemporary relationships with natural environments
- Participate in outdoor experiences
- Importance of healthy natural environments and biodiversity for the future of society
- Practical knowledge and skills for safe and sustainable interaction
- Conflicts of interest between people involved in uses of natural environments
- Management strategies for achieving healthy and sustainable environments
- Current state policies related to the management and sustainability of natural environments

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