

# Preserve or Plunder

## The Program

**Key Knowledge/Skills Areas:** Unit 2 Outdoor and Environmental Studies

**Outline:** Students will develop an understanding of the impacts on Port Phillip Bay by actively exploring ways to preserve the marine environment, whether it is when snorkelling in a Marine National Park or by following a code-of-conduct when interacting with wild dolphins. They will also investigate activities that affect the health of the Bay and be introduced to the most recent issue - The Channel Deepening Project - and the possible effects that it may have on the wellbeing 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.

## Key Knowledge/Skills

- Impact of conservation, commercial and recreational activities on natural environments
- Procedures and practices for minimising and managing human impacts on nature
- Impact of technology on natural environments
- Impact on natural environments of urbanization
- Apply minimal impact practices in outdoor experiences in natural environments
- Apply codes of conduct for human interaction with natural environments

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