

June has certainly given nature a great winter kick-start with Winter Solstice, World Environment Day, and International Ride to Work Day! These events are a great reminder to get outside and celebrate Australia's amazingly diverse environment. Down here, the coast doesn't get any more beautiful than right now in the depths of winter. The beaches feel a little wilder, the bush scent seems stronger, and you'll often find yourself with your own private space...

IT'S WINTER WHALE TIME

This is the time of the year to spot some of the worlds' greatest living creatures from the Split Point Lighthouse! Whales. During the winter months, the Bass Strait is host to Southern Right Whales, Humpback Whales, and the largest creature of all: Blue Whales.

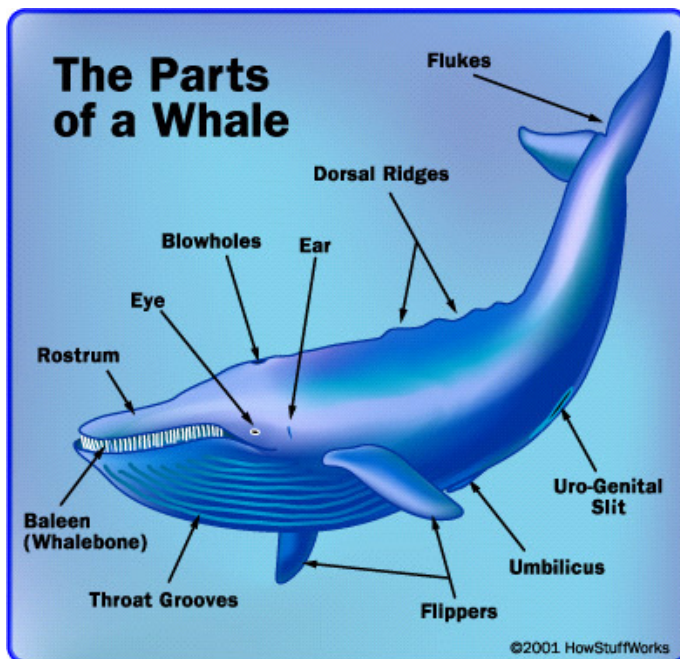


Image: Harris, Tom. 'How Whales Work' 13 July 2001.

In this Issue...

Winter Whale Time

Staff Profile:

Rebecca Hosking

Kid's Capers

Touch and tell

Creature Feature:

Leatherback Sea Turtle, a reptilian giant.

Dune EduAction:

FREE conservation activity.

Enviro Diary:

Upcoming events.

Eco-Logic
Next issue out
19 September

Viewing these animals is very special for a number of reasons. These beautiful mammals have had a pretty tough time down here in the South of Australia. During the 1820s-1850's whaling was very common. Bay whaling stations were scattered throughout the Bass

Strait. There were 35 on Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) at one stage. Some stations were in such close proximity to each other that a boat from two different stations would attempt to bring in the same whale.

One of the most interesting aspects of our whaling history is that of a symbiotic relationship between the indigenous people of Eden and the local Orca (Killer Whale) population. ABC has made a documentary called 'Killers of Eden' about the rapport developed between them. The Orca's would round up a whale into Two Fold Bay, Eden and then signal the whalers. If this occurred at night, they would splash their tails to alert them. The people would attack and kill the whale cubs but leave them floating in the water for a day before bringing into shore. This was called the 'Law of the Tongue' because the day given by the whalers allowed the Orca's to dine on the whales tongue. When the British arrived, they employed the indigenous people to continue this hunting relationship with hand harpoons. The relationship between Man and Orca was very strong. There is even a story of Orca's rescuing a whaler from a wrecked boat. In the story, an Orca brought the man back to the surface of the water and a group encircled him to protect him from sharks. Sadly this amazing relationship came to an end when the whale population plummeted to a level that left the Orcas in a state of starvation. The Orcas left the area and never returned to work with whalers again.

Although whaling has been banned from Australian waters for a long time now, the Blue Whales are still listed as Endangered and protected under Australian and international law. And, they are still dealing with many threats such as marine noise, collision with large vessels, and ingestion of marine debris. Climate changes also poses threats to food sources such as krill.

Visit HowStuffWorks.com <http://animals.howstuffworks.com/mammals/whale.htm> for more fun information on whale songs, blubber, and breaching.

For tips on identifying the species of whale that you are sighting, visit this link: <http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/species/cetaceans/whale-watching/identification.html>

Kids Capers: Touch and Tell

Collect a few secret objects often found outside and near to your school. Place one object into a feelie bag or box at a time. Let your students feel the object inside. They can compare suspected identities or ask the one person feeling yes/no questions in an attempt to identify the hidden object.

Make sure the objects provide a variety of textures and sensations!



Staff Profile- Rebecca Hosking

I'd like you all to meet Rebecca.

This is her second year with us at Eco. She has been living in the beautiful Airey's Inlet for seven years and is confident that she's walked and explored all of the Surf Coast from the beach to the bush. The opportunity to share her love of the coast is a driving passion for working in environmental education.

Rebecca brings an amazingly varied background to her role with us. She is currently studying small business management, exploring and learning about coastal life, and filming a local surfer. She is a photographer and often displays in local exhibitions and runs her own clothing accessory business (inspired by the coast, of course).

She also has her snorkel instructor, senior first-aid, and Safety Leadership Training for Volunteer Coordinators (DSE) qualifications.

And, with all this going on, is hoping to swim with Whale Sharks in Exmouth sometime this winter.



Dune EduAction



We are super excited to continue providing FREE Dune EduAction activities to school groups. This is all thanks to a 'Care for Country' grant donated by ANGAIR.

If you would like an activity that teaches your students about the dune & bush ecosystems and provides a real opportunity to get involved in conservation, then this is a great project for you. It's also fantastic in all seasons and it is completely FREE to participate.

Students spend time with educators learning about how dune systems and bush habitats work then weed, brushmat or plant an area. Kids love a day out at the beach or in the forest, and this activity provides them with a very real sense of accomplishment.

Many of our schools are annual attendees! These students really get to see the impact of their improvements over a number of years. So, what are you waiting for?? Give us a call and book your kids in for this incredible experience.

JULY PLANS:

We are not running a set winter holiday program but if you have a group that would like to see this beautiful coastline with one of knowledgeable educators, give us a call!

You can also join a tour at Split Point Lighthouse, open 11am- 3pm daily with extended hours 10am-4pm on Lighthouse Weekend 20-21st August.

*School holidays (July 1-18)
We will be running our Spooky and Twisted tours.*

Eco-Logic recognizes that we are on Indigenous ground.

We wish to acknowledge and pay respect to the original custodians -both past and present- of Geelong, Anglesea and Aireys Inlet realizing that this land continues to be a place of significance.



PO Box 20, Anglesea
VICTORIA 3230

P 03 5362 1133
F 03 52633654

tours@ecologic.net.au
www.ecologic.net.au

ENVIRO DIARY

Get your pen out and record these fun and interesting up and coming events:

Sat 2nd July NATIONAL WORLD WHALE DAY

- Get Wet For Whales is a water sport challenge designed to raise awareness and critical funds to help protect whales.
- Take a tour at the split-point LH where the viewing deck is ideal for spotting this seasons whales passing through the Bass Strait.

Sun 31st July NATIONAL TREE DAY

- Book your class in for a FREE Dune EduAction program where the students will learn about the dune systems and gain a sense of accomplishment through weeding, planting, or brush matting. This is available throughout the year.

20-21st August INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE W/E

- Split Point Lighthouse in Aireys Inlet will be running tours on the hour from 10am – 4pm.

22-28th August KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL WEEK

- Organise a tidy up or run a neighbourhood litter count. Lets look after this great country.

September: NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY MONTH

Thurs 22nd Sep WORLD CAR FREE DAY