Dolphin Research Australia Australia Inc.
Sponsorship Proposal

Marine Conservation, Education & Research Not-for-Profit 
Organisation Dedicated to the Protection of Our Oceans

www.dolphinresearchaustralia.com

Knowledge, Action, Awareness
Our Purpose

Throughout the world dolphins are exposed to an increasing number of threats and decreasing health of the marine environments. In all oceans, dolphins are exposed to a cocktail of threatening processes and activities from human sources. Those species that reside along the coastal zone are particularly vulnerable and face an uncertain future as the pressure to survive increases with the inundation of increased pollutants, boating, commercial activities, fisheries practices and climate change, to only name a few. In recent years, there has been a general increase in the number of strandings of dolphins in Australian waters, more cases of disease, entanglements and evidence of human interference posing a risk to individual dolphins, their communities and environments.

Dolphin Research Australia works to increase the understanding of the ecology of dolphins, whales, their needs for survival and to improve conservation efforts. Our projects are diverse, from developing early primary education programs and adult education programs to research that investigates the habitat use, abundance trends and social systems of dolphins and other marine species. Each of these projects aims to increase the awareness and engage the public in marine conservation efforts and increase the knowledge about dolphins and their marine environment.
### Our Vision
Conserve and protect dolphins, whales and their marine environment through advancing knowledge and understanding.

### Our Mission
- Aid in the protection and conservation of dolphins and other marine species through research and education.
- Undertake research into key ecological aspects of dolphins and whales to improve the understanding of their requirements for survival.
- Advance knowledge on the impacts of human activities on the health of dolphins, whales and the marine environment.
- Raise environmental awareness and conservation issues through education and training programs

### Our Purpose
Australia has the highest diversities of Dolphin and Whale species in the world. Australian waters are inhabited by over 45 species of whales and dolphins. A very small amount of information is known about only 2% of these 45 species. The current status, distribution and social structure of coastal dolphin species inhabiting Australia’s coastal waters is currently unknown.

As the human population increases, so too, does the demand for natural resources, particularly marine or aquatic. The increase in human activities along our coastline can have detrimental impacts on populations, groups and individual dolphins. Coastal dolphin species are highly vulnerable as many social groups are resident along coastal zones where they are exposed to an abundance of human activities that can have negative consequences on the dolphins and their environment.
Research

Dolphin Research Australia Inc. projects increase the knowledge of the ecology of dolphins, whales and other marine species and their needs for survival. Our work investigates the extent of human impact on individuals, communities and populations to assist in providing more informed management and conservation initiatives. For such long lived species that are very difficult to study in the wild, long-term commitment is essential to establishing an accurate understanding of the status, trends and health of these keystone predators. Our research projects are leading the way in establishing better knowledge to ensure the protection and conservation of coastal dolphins and their habitats in the long-term.

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<th>Ecology</th>
<th>Health</th>
<th>Conservation</th>
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<td>Our research has provided further insight into the ecology of dolphins and identified important habitats and the complexity of coastal population structures along the east coast of Australia. Our on-going research into the fine-scale habitat use and monitoring population trends will fill critical knowledge gaps for our dolphin populations.</td>
<td>The increasing numbers of dolphins found stranded along our coastlines, has highlighted the lack of information about the health of our dolphins. Our research projects assess the short and long-term impacts of human activities on dolphins. We also assess the health of habitats through environmental monitoring and the causes of death of stranded animals through necropsy assessments.</td>
<td>Our work provides for a more informed approach to management and conservation. We work to develop new innovative management solutions and work closely with government agencies, the community and stakeholders to improve the ongoing management of threatening human activities to improve the health and conservation of the marine environment.</td>
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Moreton Bay Dolphin Research Project

Two species of dolphins, the Australian humpback dolphin (*Sousa sahulensis*) and Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops aduncus*) inhabit Moreton Bay, Queensland, all year round. These species are the focus of our long-term Moreton Bay Research Project which commenced in 2014, particularly the humpback dolphin which has been classified as Near Threatened and a species of high priority. The local populations of dolphins in Queensland are considered to be vulnerable to decline or localised extinction because of small population sizes, low population growth rates, high site fidelity and geographic isolation. Assessing the trends in abundance and ecology of dolphin populations requires long-term research projects to determine the health and risks associated with threatening processes.

Byron Bay Dolphin Research Project

In 2003, research on the Byron Bay coastal dolphins in Australia began. This research has provided valuable baseline information on this population. Results of this research have revealed that the Byron Bay region is utilized by over 1000 bottlenose dolphins that live in highly structured societies. Within this large population, only an estimated 30% are resident throughout the year. Critical habitats for these resident groups, which consist primarily of females and calves, have been identified within areas of concentrated human activity.

We are currently working to determine the population trends and health over time, which can only be achieved by long-term research projects such as those of Dolphin Research Australia. We are also continuing research into understanding the complexities of dolphin social structure and residency patterns. Monitoring of the levels and types of encounters with humans will also continue with research outcomes used as a basis in minimising risk of disturbance and ensuring the health of the population into the future. Our work with our project partners in Byron Bay is striving to ensure sustainable levels of tourism and other human activities take place to keep the dolphins safe and their environment healthy.
Healthy Waterways-Healthy Dolphins: The Importance of Estuaries for Coastal Dolphin Species

As apex predators, dolphins are bioindicators of environmental health and as such can provide important insight into the condition of the habitats upon which they rely. There is growing evidence that localised resident populations of these species occupy and rely on the major estuarine systems of the Northern New South Wales and South East Queensland. In recent years, concerns have increased in Australia regarding the impacts of pollutants and poor habitat quality on dolphin populations inhabiting estuarine areas.

This project aims to investigate the relationships between utilisation and health of coastal dolphin populations and the health of estuaries. This large project includes six estuaries in South East Queensland, Northern New South Wales and the Mid-North Coast of New South Wales; Brisbane River, Broadwater-Gold Coast, Richmond River, Ballina, Nambucca River Estuary and Hastings River, Port Macquarie.

Dolphin Rescues

Dolphin Research Australia’s Team are also trained and experienced in assisting with marine mammal strandings and rescues. Our team plays an important part in advising government agencies in marine mammal emergencies, in addition to, conducting post mortems on deceased animals to determine potential cause of death.
Education
Dolphin Research Australia has a number of education programs for all ages!! Dolphin Research Australia’s programs and resources expand these learning experiences creating opportunities for children to develop awareness, creativity, inner strength, responsibility, respect and compassion. Each program focuses on engaging participants to help conserve our environment and promote awareness in the community towards environmental issues and ways each of us can help to protect it.

School Programs
We provide programs for all levels of primary and secondary schooling. These programs are unique in their delivery and provide pathways for students to connect with their surrounding environment through understanding how they are vital to the future of conserving the environment.

Each of our school education programs is designed to complement Australian school curriculum.

Community Engagement & Education
Our community education programs range from information sessions to provide a source of knowledge and directly communicating findings from our research projects.

Our Dolphin Watchers Sighting Network and Dolphin Ecology Workshops provide unique opportunities for the public to be engaged in monitoring and adding to the limited knowledge about Australia’s dolphins.

Professional Training
Dolphin Research Australia offers training for professionals in the fields of marine ecotourism and environmental management.

We are working towards providing professional accredited training for indigenous marine rangers and whale & dolphin tour guides and operators throughout Australia.
Our School Education Programs

Journey with Dolphins Primary School Program

Journey with Dolphins is a three module program each with five sessions (or lessons) and an excursion. Students learn about marine animals and their environment whilst being encouraged to explore their own qualities/attributes. The three modules, each have a different focus: self-awareness (immersing in one’s inner world), group awareness (building social skills) and environmental awareness (activating citizenship).

Cetacea World High School Program

Delivered in the class or in the field by one of our marine biologists, this program provides an academic outline the biology and ecology of whales and dolphins. Designed to be delivered for one lesson and to complement science subjects for high school students, this program is a unique opportunity to meet a professional marine biologist and learn about the biology, adaptations, social systems and conservation of marine mammals. The workshop style sessions engage students through interactive activities and questioning.

Dive In School Holiday Program

Our Dolphin Research Australia Holiday Education Programs suitable for ages 6 to 10 yrs and are based on learning, experiencing and connecting with dolphins and the marine environment. Through fun integrated activities, children will learn about the lives of dolphins and their plight for survival. Our programs empower both young and old to help to protect dolphins and their environment from the growing number of threats they face. Our team of professional teachers facilitates each program and guides the participants through fun and informative activities. The program takes the group through a ‘in-class’ session and practical session to learn about the effects of pollution on our environment.
Community Engagement Programs

**Dolphin Watchers Sighting Network**

The Dolphin Watchers Network is a community engagement Citizen Science program designed to provide opportunities for the public to contribute to the research and monitoring of regional populations of coastal dolphins. Information obtained from the Dolphin Watcher Network add to the limited knowledge about regional dolphin populations and assist to research the life histories of individuals, residency patterns, areas of core usage along with individual health.

Dolphin Watchers can provide independent sightings of dolphins through the Dolphin Research Australia online platform accessible through our website or join one of our Dolphin Watcher group who regularly conduct dedicated surveys from set land-based platforms. Alongside the Dolphin Watchers program, we offer dolphin ecology workshops to increase the skills and knowledge of the public and distribute education materials through print and online media.

**We Also Deliver:**

- Environmental Education Materials
- Dolphin Ecology Workshops
- Community Market Stalls
- Community Presentations
- Dolphin Research Expeditions
- Dolphin & Whale Tour Guide & Operator Training

*And So Much More!*
Mrs Isabela Keski-Franti  
**Education Manager, Secretary, Director**  
Isabela loves working with children. Her background in education and psychology has allowed her to develop resources for primary school students that focus on self/group/environmental awareness. She is originally from Brazil, where she taught English at primary and language schools for over ten years. She also graduated in clinical psychology. Living in Australia since 2004, Isabela has worked at Sathya Sai, a primary school based on Human Values, for over seven years. She works as a Child Support Officer – which involves students’ wellbeing and literacy support. She currently co-facilitates the Dolphin Club, a curriculum based environmental program; does holistic counselling and runs group sessions for children. Isabela’s background as a group facilitator involves psychodrama, group dynamics, sacred circle dances, cooperative games, emotional literacy and education in Human Values. Her passion for dolphins has inspired her to raise awareness about these fascinating creatures and their environment through education.

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**Dr. Elizabeth Hawkins**  
**Executive Officer, Founding Director**  
Dr. Hawkins is a marine scientist with over 15 years’ experience researching the ecology of dolphins and whales in Australia. Her research has primarily focused on the acoustics and behaviour of bottlenose dolphins. In 2012, Dr Hawkins formed Dolphin Research Australia into what it is today. Dr. Hawkins has published her research in a number of scientific journals and made many public presentations on both her research and marine conservation issues to a variety of community groups and developed a variety of education materials. She is also an education officer and scientific advisor for government agencies and organisations as a cetacean expert. Recently, she’s been a Postdoctoral Fellow with the Southern Cross University School of Tourism & Hospitality and the SCU Marine Ecology Research Centre’s Whale Research Group. Dr Hawkins is continuing her research into the communication faculty and behavioural ecology & conservation of coastal dolphins whilst working closely with collaborative partners and international researchers. These local and international collaborations will aid in the development of future research and the advancement in the knowledge of dolphin ecology and the conservation of the marine environment.

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**Dolphin Research Australia Committee**
Mr John Coloumbe  
Vice President, Director
John Coulombe is originally from California and now lives by the sea in Queensland and frequently surfs amongst the local dolphins and watches the whales go by on their yearly migration. John’s love for the ocean first began when he moved to the ocean in northern California where he was instantly captivated by whales migrating past. He subsequently began surfing and fell even more in love with the ocean and the wonder and life contained within it. After experiencing life in many countries and many careers, including as a fireman/emergency medical technician, a computer marketing, marketing and tourism industries, John settled in Australia. John has a degree in Environmental Science and Management from Southern Cross University. As a dedicated research volunteer on the Dolphin Research Australia, Byron Bay Dolphin Research Project for many seasons, John hopes to continue working with marine mammals into the future, bringing together a keen interest in how impacts on land-based environments affect the marine environment and the dolphins and whales that call it home.

Mr David Briggs  
Treasurer, Director
David is an engineer and commercial manager. He worked for several years in mechanical and production engineering roles in Silicon Valley. After emigrating from California to northern New South Wales in 1989, he began working in the mining industry. He held senior technical and commercial roles in the international mining industry in the areas of mineral processing, alumina processing, solvent extraction, ion exchange, and water treatment over the past 25 years. His later roles focused on industrial waste remediation. David has been a surfer for nearly 50 years and has a great respect for the ocean and its many inhabitants. He has enjoyed the company of the local bottle nose dolphins on many occasions and feels great joy when they swim close enough to say Hello.
**What We Will Achieve**

The diversity of our research and education projects will not only provide for improved knowledge and conservation of dolphins, whales and their environment, but also the community through engagement and awareness.

Dolphin Research Australia’s project will provide:

- **Increased knowledge** of the ecology of dolphins, whales and other marine species and the impacts of human activities on the marine environment.

- **Better solutions** to the management of human activities that pose great risks to the health of dolphins and their marine environment.

- Provide for more **informed management** to aid in the conservation of dolphins, whales and their marine environment.

- Create improved **pathways for community engagement** and **environmental awareness**.

*To achieve these outcomes, Dolphin Research Australia needs assistance from businesses, individuals and the public.*
How You Can Help

Be part of the change and become part of our team to help conserve and protect our precious marine environment.

Become a Sponsor of Dolphin Research Australia TODAY!

Becoming A Sponsor

Dolphin Research Australia Inc. recognises the diversity of businesses in our community. To accommodate for this diversity, we have developed five different ways that your business can invest and support DRA. Just fill out the sponsorship form, select Diamond, Gold, Silver, Bronze or become a marketing partner, then choose the type of payment, electronic deposit, direct deposit or contact us to arrange a payment that works for your business.

1. DIAMOND Business Sponsor

Become a Diamond business partner by contributing a minimum of $10,000 or more or by donating an item of equipment of similar minimum value.

Customized Benefits Package includes:

- Use of Dolphin Research Australia logo on company marketing & promotional materials (conditions apply)
- Use of photographs and other (negotiable) materials that may assist in the marketing and promotion of business.
- Exposure on all electronic media
- Complementary Business dolphin adoption
- Signage on promotional materials and equipment related to the project.
- Acknowledgement and signage on presentations and publications.
- A Certificate of Appreciation for display in your workplace
- Invitations to special events
- Opportunities for staff participation: Staff from project partner organisations will be given the opportunity to participate in the field surveys.
- The positive image and feeling that your business gets by helping the environment
### 2. GOLD Business Sponsor
Become a Gold business sponsor by donating $5,000-<\$10,000 or by donating an item of equipment of similar value.

Customized Benefits Package includes:
- Use of Dolphin Research Australia logo on company marketing & promotional materials (conditions apply)
- Exposure on all electronic media
- Complementary Business dolphin adoption
- Signage on promotional materials and equipment related to the project.
- Acknowledgement and signage on presentations and publications.
- A Certificate of Appreciation for display in your workplace
- Invitations to special events.
- Opportunities for staff participation: Staff from project partner organisations will be given the opportunity to participate in the field surveys.
- The positive image and feeling that your business gets by helping the environment

### 3. SILVER Business Sponsor
Become a Silver business sponsor by donating $1,500-<\$5,000 or by donating an item of equipment of similar value.

Customized Benefits Package includes:
- Use of Dolphin Research Australia logo on company marketing & promotional materials (conditions apply)
- Exposure on all electronic media
- Complementary Business dolphin adoption
- Acknowledgement and signage on presentations and publications.
- A Certificate of Appreciation for display in your workplace
- Invitations to special events.
- The positive image and feeling that your business gets by helping the environment

### 4. BRONZE Sponsor
Become a Bronze sponsor by donating $500-$1,500 or by donating an item of equipment of similar value.

Customized Benefits Package includes:
- Limited use of Dolphin Research Australia logo
- Some electronic media exposure
- Acknowledgement in relevant projects supported by funding
- A Certificate of Appreciation for display in your workplace
- Invitations to special events.
- The positive image and feeling that your business gets by helping the environment

These are just some of the options we offer. Dolphin Research Australia is here to work with you!! If you would like to support us in any way, please don’t hesitate to contact us!
Our Equipment Wish List
If you would like to donate a piece of much needed equipment,, you can choose from the list below.

- 4-stroke outboard engine to help keep our research vessel on the water
- Binoculars (e.g. waterproof Fujinon with compass) = $1000 each
- Professional digital camera with underwater housing  (e.g. Canon GX1 with underwater housing) = $1200
- Handheld GPS = $350
- High Powered Laptop Computer = approx. $2500
- Weatherproof jackets of field staff = (e.g. Gill OS2 Jackets) $325 each
- Quality polarized sunglasses (e.g. Maui Jims) = $300 each
- Field & rescue staff uniforms = $60 each
- Software (e.g. Matlab, Adobe Audition) = approx. $500 each
- Permanent Office Space
- Education & Research Centre Facility

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