

Dear School Staff & Students,

***RE: Dolphin Competition for Schools – win over $950 in prizes for your students***

Did you know that many dolphin populations don't migrate? They often live in close proximity to the coast - particularly near estuaries and river entrances. Coastal dolphins are some of the most vulnerable marine species in the world. Their homes are under ever-increasing pressure from threats created by many human activities. Dolphins and the oceans are facing a very uncertain future.

We are asking Schools to get involved and be part of the change to help protect and conserve our precious marine life and oceans.

This year to celebrate International Dolphin Day on 14th April 2018, we are inviting schools in Northern New South Wales and South East Queensland to take part in our Care 4 Dolphins & Our Oceans competition. The competition involves your class or school taking a pledge to help protect dolphins, marine life and the oceans through positive actions.

**Firstly a little about us…**

Dolphin Research Australia is a charitable organisation whose mission is to increase the understanding of the ecology of dolphins, whales, their needs for survival and to improve their conservation and protection of their habitats through our research, education and advocacy programs.

**Will you help us show the world our community cares about dolphins & the oceans by pledging to taking practical environmentally positive actions?**

**How to Enter**

* How can your class or school help protect & conserve dolphins and their habitats?
	+ Think about different actions that your class or school can keep waterways, estuaries and the oceans healthy and write your messages. What action message is the most popular in your class? This will be what you pledge to do.
	+ For more information about dolphins and their conservation, head to the ‘Learn About Dolphins’ page on our website.
* Create a visual representation of what you pledge to do.
	+ You can find some sample pledges on our website or create your own.
* Take a photo of your pledge.
	+ Get creative! The possibilities are endless, but be sure the pledge can be clearly read in your photo. You can take a photo of your pledge with your class or school or create a wonderful artwork with your class.
* Send in a photo of your pledge to us!
	+ Send in your photo/s to Dolphin Research Australia to info@dolphinresearchaustralia.org
	+ Our competition panel made up of Dolphin Research Australia committee and a special guest scientist. The panel will vote on their favourites and the most votes will win.

***Competition closes on 10th April 2018 at 5pm. Competition winners will be announced International Dolphin Day 14th April.***

Entries will be shown on public display through the Dolphin Research Australia website and promoted through the local media.

Additionally if you are posting your pledges and stories to your school network through social media and beyond be sure to use the hashtag #care4dolphins (and of course don’t forget to tag us too!). We would love to see updates on your progress too!

**Competition Prizes**

The winning class or school will receive:

* **New library resources!**
	+ Thanks to our **sponsors at Footprint Books, CSIRO and Pascal Publishing** the winning school will receive some brand new books for your library!! Worth over $550 you’ll receive a selection of amazing natural world and wildlife books.
* **A Dolphin Guardianship!**
	+ The opportunity to name a dolphin from your coastal area. The Dolphin Research Australia team has got to know many dolphins through our long-term research programs in the South East Queensland and Northern New South Wales Region. Some of our resident dolphins still don’t have names! The winning school will receive an honorary adoption of your named dolphin (valued at over $250). You’ll also receive a visit from our marine education team who will present your class or school with special dolphin adoption package.
* **OCEAN Education Program!**
	+ The winning class will also receive an OCEAN Education Program (valued at >$180)! Dolphin Research Australia offers a variety of marine education programs for primary and high school groups. Each program is delivered by our marine educators and takes students on a journey through the eyes of dolphins and into their ocean world. Students learn about the basic biology and ecology of dolphins and whales along with the conservation issues and how students can help protect them into the future. We use story telling techniques, activities and the power of narrative in our lessons to both teach and inspire classes. For more details about our OCEAN Education Programs, check out our website [www.dolphinresearchaustralia.org](http://www.dolphinresearchaustralia.org).

**Runner up will also receive a CSIRO book pack (worth >$140)! And a special Dolphin Research Australia gift pack!**

**Change cannot be made without the helping hands of many!**

**Will your class or school show the world that you are part of the positive change and take a pledge to Care 4 Dolphins & Our Oceans?**

We look forward to hearing what your class or school pledges!

Please don’t hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any questions, needs some advice or information to help you along!

We hope to hear from you soon!

Very Best Wishes,

Dr Liz & the Dolphin Team

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**Care 4 Dolphins & Our Oceans**

**School Competition Entry Form**

Please provide all necessary information in the School Competition Form below and send in with your submission.

Send your Competition form along with your submission to info@dolphinresearchaustralia.org or to Dolphin Research Australia, PO Box 1960, Byron Bay, NSW, 2481.

Please note all entries must be received by 10th April 2018 5pm (AEST) and winners will be announced on 14th April 2018.

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| **School**  |  |
| **School address** |  |
|  | **State** | **Postcode** |
| **Contact number** |  |
| **Email** |  |
| **Contact Teacher’s name** |  |
| **Class Level & Name** **(for class entries only)** |  |
| **How many students are in your school?** |  |
| **How many students are in your class** **(for class entries only)?** |  |
| **Do you have comments or special instructions regarding your entry?** |
| **Declaration** I confirm I am able to submit this entry for the Care 4 Dolphins School Competition as a representative of the school above.  I confirm that the entry can be viewed by the public via the Dolphin Research Australia website and associated media of this competition. **Signed**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Full Name SignatureDate\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |