

# Dolphins



- Port Adelaide and the Port River is the home of the Port River Dolphins. This area is a dolphin sanctuary in which the dolphins are protected.
- There are about 30 dolphins living in the Port River. They are social creatures and live in small pods. Many other dolphins visit the river each year.
- Bottlenose dolphins live for up to 40 years.
- Female dolphins give birth every 3 years.
- Female dolphins are called cows, males are called bulls and young dolphins are called calves.
- The Port River is part of the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary. It is a special place and one of very few places in the world where wild dolphins live so close to a major city.
- Dolphins breathe through their blow hole and need to come up to the surface of the water every few minutes for air.
- They arch their back and do a 'duck dive,' when they are going deep down into the water to feed. They can dive down to 500 metres and can jump up to 6 metres out of the water.
- When spotted near the shore the dolphins are often herding the fish for an easier catch.
- A bow rider is a dolphin that hitches a ride in the bow wave in front of a boat. The dolphin surfs using the pressure created in front of the moving boat.
- Dolphins have excellent eyesight and hearing as well as the ability to use echolocation to communicate, find food and find the location of objects.
- Dolphins communicate with each other by clicking, whistling and other sounds.
- Port River dolphins are famous around the world for *tail walking*. It is rare for wild dolphins to do it.
- It is everyone's responsibility to look after the local environment and make sure that the dolphins and marine life survive. Ask: What can you do to help the Port River dolphins?