



MEDIA RELEASE
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BUSSELTON JETTY AND RIO TINTO DELIVERING MARINE EDUCATION TO SCHOOLS

Busselton Jetty and Rio Tinto have created a new Wonderful Whales program for all WA schools.

Featuring the red Jetty Train and Underwater Observatory, the Jetty's marine science team has put together a new primary school designed tour including whale research, activities and technology.

School students will learn about whale migration through Geographe Bay and try and spot whales from the end of the Jetty.

Marine Biologist and Operations Manager Amy Gornall said Cornerstone Christian College year 4s and 5s were the first to experience the new education program last week.

"Our marine science team taught the students about Humpbacks, Southern Right Whales and Pygmy Blue Whales and how to spot which whale is which from their features and behaviours."

Students also learn about whale conservation efforts being undertaken to help whale populations recover and what more needs to be done to protect and preserve the largest animals in the ocean.

Cornerstone teacher Brittany Haythornthwaite said the tour guides were enthusiastic and engaging.

"The information about different types of whales was very interesting and the interactive activities really kept the students involved."

An Advanced Ecotourism Certified business, Busselton Jetty Inc runs a charitable Environment Foundation and carries out projects to protect and preserve the marine environment and educate people about the marine environment.

Mrs Gornall said it was critical that we passed this information onto younger people to carry on the legacy of marine conservation and protection.

Rio Tinto Manager of Community Relations, Justin Francesconi said: "Rio Tinto is committed to encouraging environmental stewardship and an important part of this is instilling a passion for the natural environment in the next generation. This new and innovative program provides many great learning opportunities for Western Australian students and Rio Tinto is a very proud supporter."

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