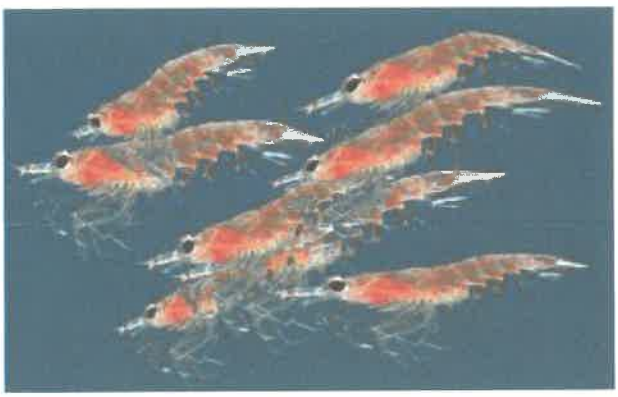
Tasman Venture
• HERVEY BAY •

## Migration/Hervey Bay

The humpback whales migrate each year from Antarctica to the warm sub- tropical waters of Queensland. They arrive in Hervey Bay from mid July until late October on their southern migration after completing their northern migration around the Great Barrier Reef. This journey annually is necessary for mating and calving.

## Whale Watching Behaviours

Hervey Bay is regarded as one of the best places in the world to watch humpbacks play, socialise, rest and bring up their calves. You may experience the following behaviours; breaching, mugging, spy hopping, head lunging or pec slapping. You may see baby whales called calves or witness a heat run where the boisterous males compete with each other for females in the breeding season.



## Feeding

The reason the humpbacks don't live in Hervey Bay all year round is that they need to spend the summer in Antarctica to feed. The main food that they eat is krill, a small shrimp like creature which isn't found in warm waters. So over summer they feast on it, taking about 1000kgs a day, to stock up they're blubber needed for the migration north at the end of summer. Humpback whales diet also consists of small fish and plankton.

## Mating and Calving

The mating season is over winter when the whales visit us. Gestation is approximately 11 months so any females who were mated last year will now calve this year. The calves are born in the warm waters as they don't have a lot of blubber and wouldn't survive the cold Antarctic. They are born around 4 metres in length, weighing about 1000kgs and will stay with their mother for about a year.

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## Whaling and Research

Humpback whales were hunted for many years in the past for their oil and baleen. They were on the brink of extinction when a moratorium was put in place to protect them and they have bounced back to good numbers these days. This group were believed to have dropped to about 200 or so individuals but now the numbers are up over 20 000. Research conducted is teaching us a lot of new things about the mysteries of whales.

## Fluke

Each whale has a different fluke size, shape and markings. The combination of the fluke and dorsal fin gives a Full ID of that whale.

## Peck slap

Humpback whales have the longest pectoral fins out of all the whales, they are about 1/3 of their body length. Pack slapping can be a form of communication, cooling down.

## Blow

Humpback whales breath in and out in 1 to 3 seconds and their air comes out with 450km per hour. Being a baleen whale, humpback whales have 2 blow holes. When breathing out, their blow looks like a white V. Hot air comes out of the whale's lungs, as soon as it comes out it vaporises.

## Breach

Humpback whales are the acrobats of the ocean. They are very active on the surface with breaching being their famous behaviour where they jump out of the water. It takes 3 flicks of the fin for a whale to get fully airborne. Whales can breach to communicate, look around, escape a predator or do it just for fun ☺

Public Speaking

To be a great public speaker is something anyone can learn. It can be dawnting to start of with due to: confidence, everyone looking at you etc. But once you learn more about how to speak infront of people, what to consider and lots of practise you will get more confident and better at it.

Points to follow:

1. Knowing what your talking about

2. Position yourself well so everyone is facing yourself

3. Speak loud and a bit slower then usual

4. Adjust to your surroundings
   Sun, wind, rain, noise

5. look athe people and see if they understand/listenen or have questions

6. Adjust to the group your working with (Adults, Kids, Aussies or only foreigners)

**Excersise**

1. Listenen to the following life jacket demonstration and write down 2 points that can be improved
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2. Experience the way non english speakers sees a lifejacket demo and write down the points that made you understand the main massege of it.
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3. Before you do your life jacket demo fill out these questions
What are your strong points
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Any points you like to improve on
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4. Perform a life jacket demo infront of the group