

APRIL

ORCA

2023

Monthly Newsletter



Highlight of the month

First Great White Shark Sightings!

As if on schedule, the first great white sharks of the winter season have returned to Plett. Our field assistant, Kade Howorth, spotted one during our observations on April 10th, and we've been delighted to see them regularly ever since. We're particularly excited about their return because the presence of these majestic predators is a sign of a healthy ecosystem and a thriving marine environment. We look forward to continuing our observations and learning more about these fascinating creatures.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY @MELMAKESWAVES



bookings@orcafoundation.com



[@orca_foundation_south_africa](https://www.instagram.com/orca_foundation_south_africa)

A quick catch-up

We are delighted to report that April was a successful month for our research projects. They conducted a high number of boat trips, Robberg Observations, and beach surveys. The team's hard work resulted in valuable data and information on marine life that will aid in understanding the ecosystem and protecting the environment. The author thanks their partners and volunteers for their support and contributions.



83 cumulative hours of
Robberg Observations



16 Boat Trips with Ocean
Blue Adventures



During our boat trips, we were fortunate enough to have a few encounters with bottlenose dolphins, as well as spotting two brydes whales and a pod of endangered Humpback dolphins. The Robberg Observations have also been attracting more shark action, with multiple sightings of bronze whaler sharks and a handful of great white shark sightings.

As we approach the winter season, we are eagerly anticipating the start of the whale migration towards the end of May or early June. We hope to witness the Humpback and Southern Right whales passing through the bay, alongside a considerable number of great white sharks.



*Bottlenose
dolphins in the bay
seen abroad Ocean
Blue Adventures*



@MELMAKESWAVES



Community united in compassion:

ORCA volunteers came together to give a proper farewell to a beautiful Striped Dolphin that washed up on Keurbooms beach in April in collaboration with the Plett Marine Stranding Network. The cause of death is unknown but a biopsy was done and sent to Bayworld museum for further examination.

Did you know?

Striped dolphins have a unique vocalization system that allows them to communicate with each other using a variety of clicks, whistles, and pulsed sounds. They are highly social animals and use their vocalizations to coordinate hunting and to form close bonds with other members of their pod.



We would like to bid a special farewell to Jasper, who has volunteered with us for 6 months and become part of the ORCA family! Thank you for all your hard work Jasper, and happy 21st birthday!

