



Tangalooma excited by unexpected new arrival

- *New dolphin mum debuts her day-old calf at Tangalooma Island Resort*
- *Mum, Silhouette, is the granddaughter of Beauty, one of the first dolphins of the program*
- *The Tangalooma Dolphin Feeding Program began in 1992 and runs every evening at sunset*
- *The new calf becomes the 12th member of the pod of dolphins that regularly visits the resort each evening*

14 January 2019: One of Tangalooma Island Resort's favourite wild dolphins, Silhouette, gave crowds a wonderful surprise during the wild dolphin feeding session last night, as she debuted her day-old newborn calf.

The 14-year-old female is already mum to Betts, a four-year-old male who appeared to be over the moon with his new sibling and stayed very close throughout the feed.

At this stage, it is too early for staff to determine if the calf is male or female but they are very encouraged of its wellbeing.

The calf is approximately 80cm, weighing between 15-20kg. It is already quite confident and a strong swimmer. These qualities are very important to observe and are a good sign of the calf's survival in the wild.

Eco Centre and Dolphin Team Manager at Tangalooma Island Resort, Sue Hassard, said "We can expect to see this boisterous and cheeky little calf quite regularly as it matures."

"It is typical for the calf to nurse from mum for around 12-24 months and will begin to take fish in the wild when it is around six months," she said.

"If the calf is female, it will remain with Silhouette throughout its life, whereas if it is a male calf, it will wean itself and wander at around three years of age."

At this stage the calf is yet to be named, and it is expected that the public will have the special opportunity to name the latest addition to Tangalooma's family of wild dolphins through an upcoming naming competition.

Follow Tangalooma Island Resort on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to watch the journey of this newest addition to the Tangalooma Dolphin family.

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About the Dolphin Feed Program at Tangalooma Island Resort:

Tangalooma's wild dolphin feeding program began in 1992 with six regular dolphins. The program operates each evening at sunset now with 12 regulars. The Dolphin Care Team, consisting of Eco Rangers and dedicated staff, run the program which operates to strict guidelines to ensure the protection of the bottlenose dolphins. The dolphins come into feed, usually arriving just after sunset, and of their own accord. To ensure the dolphins maintain their natural instincts and independence, Tangalooma only feed each of the dolphins between 10 to 20 percent of their daily food requirement. This ensures they also hunt for themselves and can survive on their own.

For further information, head to www.tangalooma.com/dolphin-feeding.