



A dolphin has been spotted near Gladesville Bridge marina at Drummoyne.

An encouraging sign

Joanne Vella

A DOLPHIN sighting has delighted swimmers and boat passengers along an unlikely waterway — the Parramatta River.

The creature was spotted frolicking near Gladesville Bridge at Drummoyne on Sunday, December 2.

Matthew Ward was swimming with friends when he saw what looked like a shark near the end of the marina.

“One of my friends spotted it and said ‘Oh my God, there’s a shark’, but it wasn’t a shark,” he said.

“There were one or two boats following it and it was headed east to the city.”

Mr Ward said in the 40 years he had lived in the area he had never seen a dolphin.

“I’ve seen dolphins at Bondi, a seal at Bondi but I’ve never seen them that far up the river,” he said.

“It’s like when you see

whales migrating — it’s a captivating thing to see.”

Western University water specialist Dr Ian Wright said the dolphin’s appetite could have led it west of the Harbour Bridge for a feed.

“It takes a lot for a 250kg, bottlenose dolphin or common dolphin to eat,” Dr Wright said.

“They need about 10kg to 20kg of food to keep a warm-blooded mammal like that racing down the water and

using all that energy. They basically like anything they can catch.”

He said despite the pollution in the river, the dolphin’s appearance was “a huge encouragement”.

“Parramatta River hasn’t had a great reputation over the years,” he said.

“From time to time they set up in Sydney Harbour but to come to the Parramatta River is really, really rare.”