

AMBASSADORS BECOME TEACHERS FOR A DAY!

With so many Mornington Ambassadors, their peer workshops were divided between two days. The first was at Benton Junior College on May 31 and the second at Somerville Rise Primary School on June 5.

These workshops are all about using leadership skills to deliver a lesson to junior students – teaching students about the abundance of sea life found in our bays and the many ways we can reduce human impacts on the environment.



By having our Ambassadors teach younger students an awareness of these matters, not only does it provide the opportunity to gain experience in leadership, teamwork and public-speaking but helps spread important messages in the community.

Ambassadors learnt the content they would use for these lessons in the first half of the day – taking notes of key information and helpful hints that would support the flow of their lesson. Following on from this, Ambassadors worked together as a team to divide roles amongst one another.



The first activity involved Ambassadors describing key characteristics of the Australian Fur Seal, Eleven-Armed Sea Star, Port Jackson Shark, Decorator Crab and Moon Snails.

Activity Two was 'Beachcombing' which involved Ambassadors interacting with junior students to creatively outline common items that wash up on our beaches, including plastic litter and sponges.

The final activity was called 'Help find the dolphin's food'. Here, two very hungry dolphin Ambassadors selected a number of junior students at random to help them find the right food to eat! Finding food for dolphins can prove difficult when there is so much rubbish in the way...

The second half of the day was spent delivering everything learnt to the younger students. Using their notes and what was taught in the first half of the day, Ambassadors rehearsed the lesson and worked together to replicate the 30 minute lesson.

It was fantastic to see Ambassadors step up to the challenge of becoming teachers. For some, this really meant moving out of their comfort zones, getting up in front a crowd and speaking in public. You all supported each other so well; this is a sign of your great team working skills as Ambassadors! A big thank you to our hosts, Ella at Benton Junior College and Barbara at Somerville Rise Primary School, and all the teachers and parents on the day as well!



Celebrate the annual migration of some of the oceans most majestic creatures as our coastal waters play host to Humpback and Southern Right whales making their way north to their winter breeding grounds. The Island Whale Festival is an immersive three day event held during the school holidays on Phillip Island from 7 – 9 July, and heralds the arrival of these seafaring cetaceans into our marine environment.

Local community members and visitors alike have the opportunity to engage with a range of free or low cost activities that will not only entertain, but also allow you to appreciate the wildlife and natural habitats of Phillip Island and the Bass Coast region.

BUT STILL THEY COME!! SPIDER CRABS ON THE MOVE!

Whilst the Queen's Birthday weekend is traditionally the official start of the Humpback whale watching season, another species quietly makes its annual migration into Port Phillip.

Spider crabs spend much of the year in Bass Strait, but head in shore at the start of winter, to the shallow waters around Blairgowrie and Rye, to get ready for the big moult. This is when the crabs shed their old shell to grow a new one. They are vulnerable at this time, so the crabs make themselves as flat as possible on the sandy seabed, looking rather like flattened discs. They then pump themselves full of water, increasing their size by as much as 30% before starting the process of hardening their new shell.



The event is pretty famous around the world as we don't think it happens anywhere else in such shallow and easily accessible waters for the public to view. It's a jewel in the crown of Port Phillip's story. (Even David Attenborough came to film a few years ago!)

They will hang around for a couple of weeks until their shells are fully formed and then head back out to their alternative home.

Check our facebook page for a short video of the crabs arriving on World Oceans Day! What better way to celebrate and remember why our bays are so special.