

'i sea, i care' Ambassadors in Action...

It looks like spring is finally here. The Ambassadors had a great day down at Warneet in what is their last official workshop this year. They spent the day learning about the local history of the indigenous people across 50,000 years and then further back in time to when megafauna and dinosaurs roamed the land.

They also got the opportunity to learn plant identification, pest species management and hands-on weeding of Sallow wattle, an invasive non-indigenous woody species in Warneet Reserve.

The day was finished off with a well-earned BBQ. Hopefully this won't be the last time we see the Ambassadors as we have the Awards night celebration next term (Thursday 17 November) where Ambassadors, parents and co-ordinators are invited to join us to say goodbye. This year we have a special guest at the event. Many thanks to David Westlake at City of Casey, Dean Stewart from ATAEM, Asti Fletcher from Bunurong Coast Education,

Rick Sissons and Alison Bolden from Parks Victoria and Sally Mcleod from Warneet Friends Group for making this day not only possible, but fantastic too.

Next workshop is Tuesday 22 November on the Kasey Lee to Seal Rocks.



WINTER WHALES

Winters in our bays and surrounding coastal waters have become a busy time for whale activity. Humpback and southern right whales are being seen regularly in our waters.

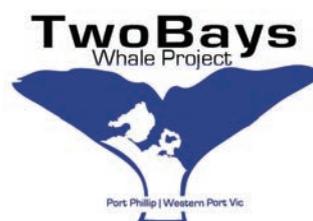
Hunted to the edge of extinction during the industrial whaling era, humpback and southern right whales are making a comeback, though the latter still have a long way to go. The east coast population of humpback whales is expected to reach around 26,000 animals this season.

The news is not so good for the slow-to-reproduce southern right whale, with their southeast Australian numbers estimated to be between just 224 and 251.

The Dolphin Research Institute has joined with Wildlife Coast Cruises and Killer Whales Australia to form the citizen science initiative; Two Bays Whale Project. We invite people and organisations to report sightings

and contribute images of whales to a collaborative database. This forms the basis of an annual summary that is available to wildlife managers and other government organisations to assist with management decisions and conservation measures.

Data collected over the years can be used to compare sighting rates and monitor changes in behaviour. It gives an overall understanding to trends in numbers of animals visiting our waters.



dolphinresearch.org.au/sightings
or facebook.com/twobayswhales/



DRI Image, Phillip Island 2016

Victoria's whale watching regulations prevent boats from approaching whales closer than 200 metres. For PWCs (jetskis and the like) the minimum distance is 300 metres. Serious penalties apply for breaches of this regulation.

