

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



### Ambassadors at Assembly

St Catherine's Primary, Moorabbin has been an Ambassador school for 3 years and although only small, has a brilliant environmental culture, led by their sustainability co-ordinator, Sandra Surace.



The Grade 5/6 students presented their assembly on rubbish and the environment with a style all their own. Led by the *'i sea, i care'* Ambassadors they performed a song, with words written by Eloise Griffin to the tune of "Happy" and everyone joined in enthusiastically, helped along by Marcus and his dancing.



The Ambassadors (opposite) also had a fundraiser for DRI called "Blue Day for the Bay" where the students came to school dressed in something blue to help celebrate our amazing marine environment. The students raised an incredible \$216. Thanks to all the students and Trudi Kelly, the science teacher.



### Science Expo

2016 saw Moorabbin Primary host their second science expo after the success of the first one last year. We were proud to be asked to return with our wonderful 19m inflatable whale and giant whale bones to show all the parents and students.



### Coastal Workshop

On a glorious spring day, Ambassadors from 18 schools spent the day planting and weeding at the Carrum foreshore, learning about indigenous heritage and how to be a citizen scientist.



Many thanks to Will Tangipo, Bob, Dean Stewart, Lauren Wood, Adam Ryan and the crew for making this day possible.



## 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.

