

'i sea, i care' AMBASSADORS AWARDS



Ambassador Winner : Hayley Irving, Cranbourne East PS



Ambassador School Winner (Joint): Chalcot Lodge PS and Tooradin PS

A large audience gathered at the City of Casey council offices for this year's awards night. The winners are shown below with Councillors, the Deputy Mayor and the state Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment, Anthony Carbines MP. Cr Damien Rosario, the Deputy Mayor, said that the council 'looks forward to continuing to work with this exciting and innovative marine education program'. He praised it as a 'wonderful initiative', and the Ambassadors as 'our future leaders'. He added that "Next year we welcome five more schools to the program." The Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment, Anthony Carbines MP also addressed the crowd. "It will be young people who chose to set the tone for their future .. so that those who come after you have a greater environment and an enriched environment." A short video of the awards night is on our facebook page. Be inspired by these 'future leaders'. Congratulations to you all.



Highly Commended School : Cranbourne East PS



Co-ordinator Winner : Jess Lonsdale, Cranbourne East PS



Outstanding Contribution : Leona Gray, Lynbrook PS

Well done to you all!



Fundraisers of the Year : Lynbrook PS



A DAY TO REMEMBER

On Tuesday 22nd November, student Ambassadors from various Casey primary schools pushed through the drizzle to come together for the annual boat trip to visit Seal Rocks, situated 2km off the Phillip Island coast. Meeting at Stony Point Pier in the morning, we boarded Wildlife Coast Cruises, providing us with seating and shelter along the journey to the site. Upon arrival, thousands of Australian Fur Seals came into view playing and lounging on the windswept platforms, including large males, females and an abundance of pups. Well directed winds also gave lucky students a good example of what the seals smell like.

Seal Rocks is home to over 16, 000 fur seals, making it Australia's largest colony residing here in Victoria. These seals breed between October and December, so students were given the chance to see a number of pups, some of which would have only been bred this season. Despite a small amount of swell on the journey out - which students thoroughly enjoyed anyway (minus one or two), the trip gave Ambassadors a chance to see first hand why it is important to care for our coastlines, waterways and marine wildlife.

During the 1800's Australian Fur Seals were largely over-harvested, taking a long time for populations numbers to recover. Even now, with populations thriving, seals are still monitored and found entangled in fishing line, trawl net and debris that has made its way out of drains and into the ocean. Everything the students are taught in these programs helps them to become wildlife warriors with the experience and knowledge to help educate others and protect our precious and extraordinary environment.

Thank you to the teachers, helpers, the Wildlife Coast Cruises crew and our Ambassadors for making the journey to Seal Rocks a day to remember.

