

'i sea, i care' AMBASSADORS AWARDS 2016

On a beautiful spring evening in November, St Louis de Montfort's School played host to almost 160 Ambassadors, parents, teachers and principals from sixteen Kingston schools across the region. It was a wonderful celebration of all the Ambassadors have achieved throughout the year.

There were presentations from several schools about their year, including a brilliant clay-mation video from the girls at Mentone PS, a poem by Cheltenham East and a song written about saving the environment by St Catherine's team to the tune of "Happy" by Pharell Williams.

There were awards too, and here is the list of this year's deserving winners

Ambassador Winner : Parker Pleyzier- St John Vianney's School

Ambassador Highly Commended : Paige Strachan and Emma Callanan- St Brigid's PS

Ambassador School Winner: Chelsea PS

Highly Commended School : Clayton South PS

Co-ordinator Winner : Maree Bailey- Mentone PS

Co-ordinator Highly Commended : Anna Cardamone- Clayton South PS

Fundraisers : St Catherine's PS

Parent helper : Cindy Rowland- Patterson Lakes PS

Outstanding Contribution : Julie Wynne- St Louis de Montfort's PS and Sandra Surace- St Catherine's PS.

Huge thanks to Julie and Tanya at St Louis de Montfort's for all their hard work in hosting, Lisa Griffin at Amberlee catering and Pete Murrell at City of Kingston for sponsorship.

And thanks to everyone that came on the night to support the event and mostly to the Ambassadors; you all deserved awards and I hope that you continue as passionate advocates for the environment in the future.



POT BELLY SEAHORSES UNDER BLAIRGOWRIE PIER

Despite the unusually cold and wet spring and all the new pier development at Blairgowrie marina this year, we still managed to find one of the resident pot bellied sea horse pairs doing a courtship dance.

The Pot Belly Seahorse is one of the largest species, with some adults reaching up to 30cm. They are found around the coasts of South Australia, Victoria and southern New South Wales. They live in a range of habitats including shallow sea grass meadows and deeper sponge gardens. Under the pier at Blairgowrie is an ideal environment with many areas covered in sponges for them to hide.

Male seahorses have a pouch at the front where a female will deposit her eggs. The male then incubates the eggs until they hatch about a month later. Pot bellies are strong swimmers and can travel hundreds of metres in a day.

Our sea grass meadows in Port Phillip are important habitats for pot belly seahorses and it's vital we continue to care for our bays to protect them. This is even more important at a time when globally, sea grass is declining at about 2% per year.

(Sources – Australian Museum and Pittsburgh Zoo)



(Photo Karl Bromelow)