

PEER TEACHING WORKSHOPS SO MUCH FUN!

We all had such a fantastic time during our Peer Teaching Workshop! We began with some tips for effective communication, and then ran Ambassadors through some fun ocean-related activities about our local marine species, the issues they face, and how we can all act to protect our precious marine environment. The Ambassadors practised teaching each other and supporting each other throughout the session! Ambassadors then became the teachers, and did a brilliant job of teaching the younger grades!

The Ambassadors commented about being so nervous at the beginning of the session, and they were surprised how much fun they had teaching the activities! It is so inspiring to watch the Ambassadors gain the confidence so quickly to learn and effectively teach the younger students, and their support for each other was a pleasure to witness!

Thank you SO much to our wonderful partners at the City of Casey, to Harkaway for hosting, and as always to the wonderful ISIC teachers, parents and carers for transporting Ambassadors throughout the term, for without you these experiences would not be possible!



"Nature is not a place to visit, it is home." Gary Snyder.

CASEY CATCHMENT WORKSHOP SUCCESS!

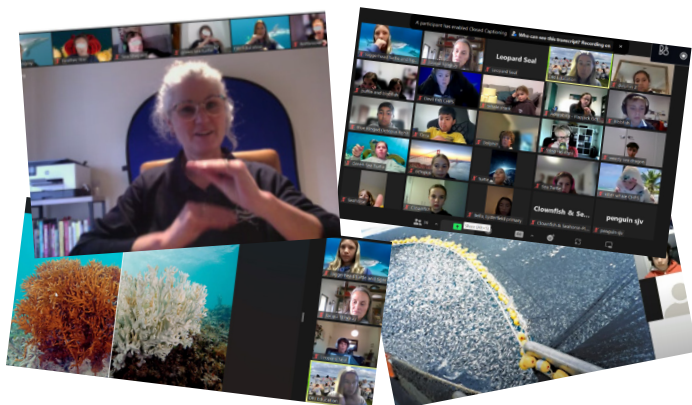
We had such a great day with Ambassadors at the Casey Catchment Workshop! We began at the Endeavour Hills Litter Trap to learn how stormwater drains lead to litter catchments to trap litter from flowing into our creeks, rivers and bays. The fantastic team from Casey Council explained the huge costs involved including staff and transport to collect litter from traps all over Melbourne. The team then used their crane to lift an huge litter bag from the trap to highlight what happens when litter is discarded in our parks and streets.

We then headed to Frog Hollow and the Friends of Frog Hollow conducted a planting session, and DRI staff followed up with a water pollution testing session, and a hunt for macroinvertebrates to identify their pollution tolerance in the watershed. They learned how important these wetlands are to trap pollutants such as oil, and the dangerous chemicals from our lawns after residents blow grass clippings and leaf litter into the gutters. Thank you to Casey Council, FoFH and ISIC teachers and parent carers for transporting our Ambassadors!



WORLD ENVIRONMENT WEEK DAILY ICHATS

In the lead-up to World Environment Day on Monday the 5th June, we hosted a daily ICHAT series with live and recorded presenters who work and volunteer in marine conservation! The Humpback migration is underway and David Donnelly, DRI Field Research Officer thrilled Ambassadors with stories of dolphin and whale encounters and some the issues due to a changing climate and increasing human populations. Our recorded sessions included Paleontologist Ben Francishelli and his field research on fascinating Australian fossils, Dr Prue Francis from the Queenscliff Marine Science Centre and her research on the Great Southern Reef, and finally Marine Biologist Fam Charko who presented on a community project to address the impacts of the Northern Pacific seastar in our local waters. HOW DID YOU CELEBRATE World Environment Week? Don't forget to let us know of any special events so we can proudly promote your efforts!



I SEA I CARE ICHATS ARE BACK FOR 2023!

Back by popular demand, our online ISIC ICHAT sessions support our Ambassadors throughout the year. The first ICHAT focused on learning Auslan signs with Michelle Hughes! We loved learning some of our theme words such as 'i sea i care', and Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, and we can't wait to use some of our newly acquired signs during our workshops! Other great ICHATS focused on Climate Change facts, issues, and solutions, and sustainable fishing on local to global scales and how we can all help to protect our oceans from irresponsible fishing. If you miss an ICHAT session do not fear, the recorded session links are posted to your parent's/carer's emails.

DRI RESEARCH UPDATE ON MARINNA AND FAMILY!

In 2012, a dolphin called Jean gave birth to little Marinna. Marinna suffered a horrible injury to her back when she was only four, and it was a miracle she wasn't paralysed or killed! She seemed to heal well, with a deep scar on her back as a sign of her accident.

Then in 2021, something extraordinary happened - Marinna became a MUM! - but there is more...Marinna now has a second calf! The photo on the right shows Marinna with her new calf taken on 11 March - the calf is likely to be only a few weeks old! Marinna's calves are adding to the third generation of this remarkable community of common dolphins! In 2022 we recorded the birth of six calves!

The knowledge of dolphins recovering from severe injury, calving and calf survival is crucial to understanding the health of this dolphin community. Because they are top-order predators, it also reflects positively on the health of the ecosystem they rely on. The End. No, not really -- thanks to some special mums, this is becoming a never-ending story! Head to our DRI socials or website for all the news on our wonderful dolphins and whales! Also don't forget the PHILLIP ISLAND WHALE FESTIVAL online and on site activities 30th June- 2nd July. Meet the research team, and participate in a range of super fun activities!



REPORT SIGHTINGS







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