

MOONRAKER WORKSHOP A FABULOUS DAY!

The weather really turned it on for our final Moonraker Workshop for this season with sunny skies and clear waters! Ambassadors from Mornington Peninsula, Melbourne and Kingston had a blast on the boat with some snorkelling for the very first time! We were so excited to swim with the beautiful seals, stingrays and seadragons! It was also such a treat for those sightseeing with lovely sunny skies and plenty of wildlife to enjoy from the deck of the Moonraker!

Many Ambassadors commented that they felt so much more confident after embracing the challenge of snorkelling, and that this experience made them even more motivated to teach their communities their new knowledge about our precious marine creatures and how to help them! Thanks so much to Torie, Dave and the Moonraker crew for a fabulous season of workshops and of course our wonderful council partners, parents, teachers and carers who transported our lucky Ambassadors to the workshops!



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

KINGSTON CATCHMENT FUN IN THE SUN!

The predicted rain did not arrive and the chilly wind did not dampen the excitement of our Ambassadors who began their Catchment Workshop with the Greenworks staff at the Namatjira Reserve Litter Trap to view the litter that flows through the storm drains. Ambassadors were shocked at the amount of litter that was lifted out via crane from the litter trap, and the huge costs involved in trapping, tipping and recycling the discarded litter! Ambassadors also participated in a Healthy Waterways Workshop with a water pollution testing lesson, and a hunt for macroinvertebrates with a focus on their tolerance to pollution. Everyone had a great time sifting through the reeds and trying to identify native and non-native species in the watershed.

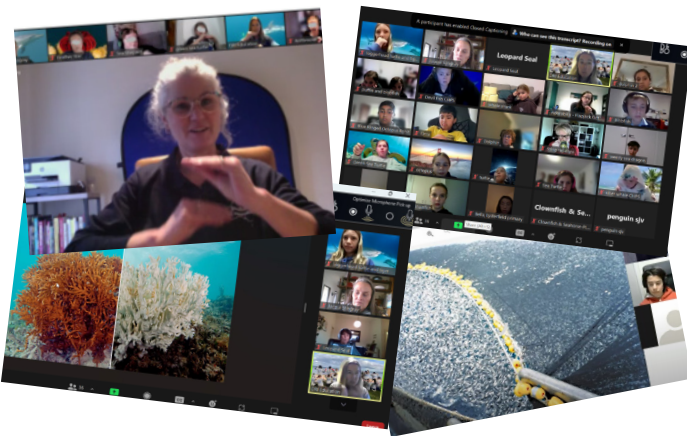
After lunch we met at Mordialloc Pier and finished the day in the brilliant sunshine with a walk along Mordialloc Creek to the litter trap that catches rubbish flowing from inland. Ambassadors now have a better understanding of the importance of creek traps to stop the litter from entering our beautiful Port Phillip Bay! Thank you to our partners at the City of Kingston, and Jesse, Brendan, Aaron and Tony from Greenworks who were so generous with their time! As always we are SO thankful to the ISIC teachers and parent/carers for transporting the Ambassadors to the workshop!



WORLD ENVIRONMENT WEEK DAILY ICHAT'S

In the lead-up to World Environment Day on 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's Field Research Officer, thrilled Ambassadors with stories of dolphin and whale encounters and some of 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, 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 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 our ecosystems. 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!

