

## CATCHMENT WORKSHOP WINTER FUN!

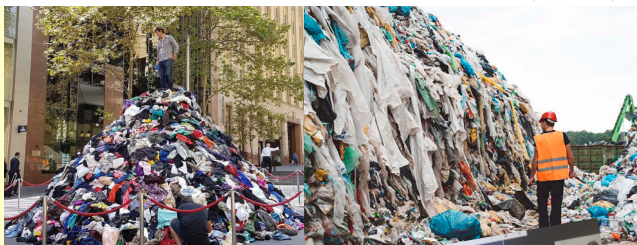
We had a fantastic Catchment Workshop at the stunning Namatjira Reserve! Ambassadors began with a discussion about storm water drains leading into the catchments to trap litter from flowing further into our waterways. Mandy explained the issues with litter not caught in traps travelling down storm drains into our creeks and bays, highlighting why reducing our waste is so important.

Ambassadors then participated in a Healthy Waterways Workshop with Jacqui and Chris, starting with a water pollution testing lesson, and a hunt for aquatic macroinvertebrates to identify their pollution tolerance. Ambassadors learned how important wetland filtration systems are to trap pollutants such as oil, and the dangerous chemicals from our lawns.

Mandy conducted a frog identification session, where the different types of frogs help determine the water catchment condition, and the Ambassadors raced to identify frogs by their calls. Then it was onto a Climate Change Game focusing on global emissions and the huge volumes of waste from food production. We finished off with a litter collection and collected a huge amount of litter from amongst the reeds. We had a great discussion about potential sources and solutions for the litter items. Thank you to our partners at the City of Greater Dandenong, and ISIC teachers and parent/carers for transporting the Ambassadors to the workshop.



*"No one is without power. Everybody has the capacity to do something" Sylvia Earle*



## ICHAT AND NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK SUCCESS!!

We had so many fantastic ICHATs including sessions on the huge volumes of waste created by food production, Fast fashion and our discarded clothing, and the actions to reduce waste such as purchasing from sustainable fashion retailers, recycling old clothes, and storing food correctly.

For NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK Ecologist Lauren Tworowski talked about her amazing PhD research on Phillip Island's Little Penguins! Joni Fitzsimmons discussed her Ph.D. research on ray biology, the issues threatening rays, and how we can all help! Tangaroa Blue's incredible founder, Heidi Tate discussed her journey toward developing the Australian Marine Debris Database, and the hidden issues with recycling such as recycled plastic T-shirts that shed plastic microfibers during the wash cycle. Kade Mills, ReefWatch Coordinator at the VNPA wowed Ambassadors with all things Weedy seadragon biology, associated climate change issues, and how to get involved with citizen science projects! THANK YOU so much to all of our presenters for giving up their time to help support Ambassadors with the tools to help act for our precious environment and ensure a more positive environmental future for all!!



## DRI RESEARCH TEAM UPDATE ALL ABOUT THE WHALES!

The return of the magnificent Humpbacks during the winter saw the Research Team launch our Whale Distancing program! If you're familiar with Dolphin Distancing from earlier this year, this is the whale version. Whale Distancing is about making a commitment to giving our whales respect and space on the water. You can do this by not approaching whales closer than the distances printed on this image. Sometimes whales will approach you and that's completely fine - enjoy the amazing experience but don't follow. Follow this link <https://www.dolphinresearch.org.au/whale-distancing/> to join a community who care about the welfare of our whales, and are committed to creating a safer environment for them..... Together, we can make a difference.

