

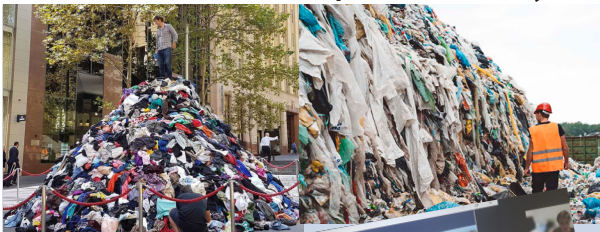
## CATCHMENT WORKSHOP SUCCESS

We had a fantastic day for our Catchment Workshop at Balyang Sanctuary beginning with a Healthy Waterways Workshop with a water pollution testing lesson, and a hunt for aquatic macroinvertebrates to identify their pollution tolerance. Ambassadors were amazed to learn how wetlands trap pollutants that cannot be caught in litter traps such as oil, and the toxic chemicals.

With dark clouds on the horizon we continued the workshop at Holy Spirit School, starting with a frog identification session focusing on how the presence and absence of various frogs helps determine the condition of a water catchment, and Ambassadors raced to identify different frogs by their calls. We also played a Climate change game focusing on sources of food production, deforestation, and carbon emissions. We finished with a litter collection around the school yard and discussed potential sources of, and solutions for the collected litter. Thank you to our partners at the Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools, Holy Spirit for hosting, and as always ISIC teachers and parent/carers for giving up their time and transporting the Ambassadors to the workshop!



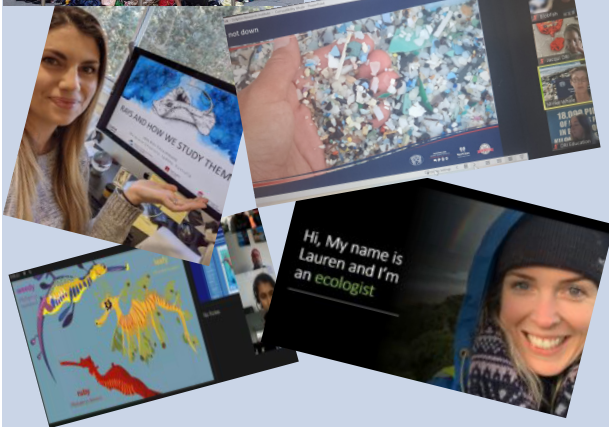
*"No one is without power. Everybody has the capacity to do something"* Sylvia Earle



## ICHAT AND NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK SUCCESS!!

We had so many fantastic ICHATs including sessions looking at 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 IT IS 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.*

