

## COASTAL WORKSHOP FUN IN THE SUN!

We had a fantastic day at Chelsea Beach beginning with the City of Kingston demonstrating a mechanical litter collection and we discussed litter issues on our beaches. Ambassadors were surprised to learn of the huge associated costs of equipment, staff and transport! Then it was on to a weeding and planting session including a discussion about the issues with invasive grasses and the importance of replanting sand dunes to provide habitat, and stabilization to reduce erosion along this beautiful coastline.

We also had an fabulous session with Hudson from Living Culture with indigenous artefacts, spear throwing and fire making! Ambassadors also loved learning about our amazing indigenous history and culture!

Ambassadors got hands on during the Sand Sort workshop, racing to identify marine litter, and we followed up with a discussion on the issues and solutions to litter on our beaches with the number one solution TO REDUCE our consumption of single use items! Thank you so much to Stephen from the Chelsea Yacht Club for providing such a fabulous venue, our partners at the City of Kingston, 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 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.*

