

CATCHMENT WORKSHOPS WINTER FUN FOR ALL!!

We had fantastic sessions for our Catchment Workshops this term! Ambassadors began at Banyan Reserve, with Mandy explaining how stormwater drain works with the slope and flow of the wetland to trap litter from flowing out to our beaches. We then had a session with Melbourne Water at the Reserve's Litter Trap where litter bags were lifted out to highlight the huge issues and costs associated with trash being washed down our drains from parks and streets! Ambassadors conducted a Healthy Waterways Workshop with a water pollution testing lesson, and a hunt for aquatic macroinvertebrates focusing on pollution tolerance.

The first workshop saw sunny skies and we conducted a litter collect, sort and report session at Frankston Beach focusing on nurdles and how to report litter collections, however the wild weather closed in for our final workshop and we had to skip to our final activity with a walk along Kananook Creek to the closest litter trap. Ambassadors were shocked that the closest trap was over 2 kilometres inland and the walk highlighted how much litter is discarded in this waterway, and the vital importance of creek traps to stop the litter from entering Port Phillip Bay! Thank you so much to Melbourne water, and as always to the fabulous 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

RICKETTS POINT WORKSHOP SO MUCH FUN IN THE SUN!!

We had a fantastic workshop at Ricketts Point for Ambassadors who missed out last term! We began the day with a rockpool ramble and Ambassadors loved searching for all the beautiful critters that call this special Marine Sanctuary their home! Then it was on to a seagrass activity where Ambassadors searched through the microscopic world of seagrass and found animals such as centipedes, crabs, and flatworms whilst learning about the critical importance of our seagrass habitats. Ambassadors also got hands on during the Sand Sort session racing each other to correctly identify and name the sources of a range of marine debris items buried in the sand. We then conducted a dolphin identification activity and Ambassadors raced to identify some of our resident dolphins. We were so impressed with their identification skills and strategies and their support for each other was inspiring!

Ambassadors finished off with a Climate Change game to learn about the impacts of food production, and they were surprised to learn about the hidden carbon emission costs of local to global food production and transport. We are so grateful to all our parent/carers and ISIC teachers for supporting and transporting our Ambassadors to the workshops throughout the term!





NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK SUCCESS!!

We had some amazing presenters for National Science Week starting with Ecologist Lauren Tworowski talked about her amazing PhD research on Phillip Island's Little Penguins, including the issues they face due to land clearing and climate change and how we can help these little creatures. Next up was Joni Fitzsimmons, who discussed her Ph.D. research on ray biology, the issues threatening rays, and how we can contribute! Then it was onto Tangaroa Blue's incredible founder Heidi Tate, who 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. Last but not least we chatted to Kade Mills, who is the ReefWatch Coordinator at the VNPA. Kade wowed Ambassadors with all things Weedy seadragon biology, seadragon surveys and some of the associated climate change issues, and how to get involved with some fantastic seadragon citizen science projects!

THANK YOU 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!! We are so grateful and look forward to future sessions!



ICHATS WAR ON OUR WASTE!

With the launch of the new War on Waste Series on the ABC we wanted to focus on Waste this term. We had some amazing sessions highlighting the huge volumes of waste created by both the fashion industry and food production. Ambassadors were amazed to learn the average Australian throws out 50 kilos of clothing every year and over 300 kilos of food!!!

As we always say at DRI "It is called waste for a reason" We had great discussions about the many small actions we can take to greatly reduce our food and fashion waste such as purchasing from sustainable fashion retailers, recycling our clothes at Op Shops and storing our food correctly! Small changes can have huge impacts!

DRI RESEARCH 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.

