

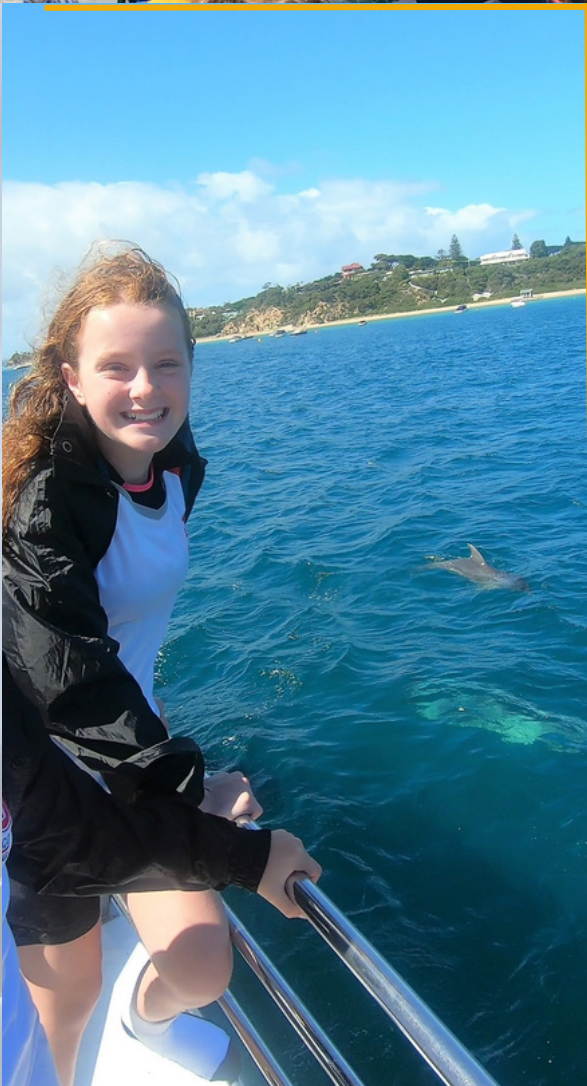
i sea i care



Victorian Marine Ambassador Program



Handbook 2024



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PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

i sea i care

i sea i care has developed over 8000 ambassadors from 97 schools in 7 regions across Metropolitan Melbourne for almost 25 years.

What is it?

i sea i care is an award winning program that fosters a strong sense of 'Marine and Coastal Self-Esteem' and stewardship for the truly unique marine values in Victoria. Since 2000, the program has developed our 'i sea i care Ambassadors' as peer educators, leaders, public speakers and environmental champions. Each school chooses up to 6 Ambassadors (not limited to) to attend one workshop each term, where they learn about the value of our marine environment, how we are always connected to it and how to teach the wider community to care for it.



The program was developed by Dolphin Research Institute to showcase to Victorians that “what lives around our coast is too precious to lose”. Our surveys highlight Victorians misconceptions about the significance of our unique marine ecosystems and species, when more than 90% of Victorians value the marine ecosystems in other states above their own. This is a critical block to success for everyone who works on coastal and catchment issues.

Although we usually have a small number of students, the program is designed so that those students bring all their learning back to school and benefit the community by improving/changing behaviour, culture and make the school more sustainable in its daily life.

Our Educators

This program is delivered by fully qualified educators who know the effort it takes to plan and run a successful education program for a group - because we've all done it during our teaching careers!

We are a group of passionate marine educators, marine scientists and outdoor educators who want to share our knowledge and experience with the next generation of environmental leaders. We use best practice pedagogy and change behaviour techniques to encourage and inspire young people and their families to live sustainably.



YEAR OVERVIEW

WORKSHOPS

Motivational Boat Trip

This powerful and motivating workshop gives the ambassadors an opportunity to get up close to the incredible and unique marine life that lives in Victoria. This workshop marks the start of their journey to become champions for the marine environment and gets them very excited for the year ahead. Lookout for dolphins, seals, seadragons, seabirds and lots of other unique marine life as they snorkel or sightsee on Moonraker Charters in Port Phillip Bay.



Peer Teaching

Ambassadors learn how to teach junior students about the treasures of the marine environment, the issues with marine debris sources and pathways to the ocean in a hands on engaging format. This workshop takes place at different host schools around the regions. Here the Ambassadors develop the skills and confidence that will help them communicate their environmental message to their school communities and beyond and effectively communicate how incredible Victoria's marine environment is and the many actions, big and small they can take to protect it.



YEAR OVERVIEW

WORKSHOPS

Catchments, Litter and Pollution

Ambassadors make the link between inland areas and the bays through rivers, creeks and drains. Students will see first hand how our choices and actions are impacting the environment around us. The human impact is explored through litter surveys and collections, learning about storm water harvesting, investigating the invertebrate diversity of wetlands, frog identification and testing for water quality.



Coastal Management

Learn how the coast has been cared for, by people (and animals) for 50,000 years and how the focus has changed overtime. This raises the question: How do we care for it going into the future? This session focuses on native and introduced flora and fauna species and gives the Ambassadors opportunities to give back by planting and weeding. A fantastic addition to the program is delivered by Living Culture with a focus on caring for country through bush medicine, indigenous artefacts and consumable flora.



School Commitments

Each school will choose one or more goals to commit to as a school. This can be anything that can reduce our human impact on the world. You may choose to bring nude lunches once a week or not drop rubbish in the playground or both. Please note some schools within a council sponsored region may select from a group of commitments established by their council.

Ambassadors and their coordinators will organise to meet up regularly to discuss learning post workshops and work on any activities involved with achieving their commitment. Ambassadors are strongly encouraged to present to their peers at assemblies, the junior students in class and the wider community at Probus/Rotary/other community groups.

A model we strongly recommend to use throughout the year and encourage whole school participation is featured below:

Term 1

Moonraker Workshop

First iChat - hear from Dolphin Research Institute

Ambassadors and Coordinators begin to discuss what they would like to achieve over the year and a plan of how to do it

Term 2

Peer Teaching workshop presenting to Preps to Grade 2s

Second iChat - Conservation heroes and ways to get involved

Ambassadors and Coordinators working on plans to implement commitment

Speak at school assembly on their commitment as a school

Term 3

Catchment workshop

Third iChat

Peer teach to Grade 3s and 4s about what they learned at Catchment workshop

Ambassadors and Coordinators meet up to work on post workshop activities

Term 4

Coastal Workshop

Fourth iChat - presenting report what they have achieved over the year

Peer Teach to Grade 5s and 6s about what they have achieved over the year

iChats

Once a term Dolphin Research Institute will host global iChats online that Ambassadors from all regions can join. The first iChat is for ambassadors to find out what we, as an organisation are doing for the local marine environment. They can hear from real dolphin and whale researchers, university interns, our stakeholders as well as learn about what Ambassadors from other regions have been working on. This is a chance to ask any questions and get inspired by the incredible work being done in the marine conservation field. iChats in Term 2 will focus on local environmental heroes with ways to get involved. The final iChat in Term 4 will be a mini conference style for the students to share their achievements over their year as an i sea i care Ambassador.



HYBRID | SEA | CARE

COMING IN 2025

This alternative option is being developed and trialed in 2024 and is aimed at schools outside of the Melbourne Metropolitan Region and along the Victorian coastline that have a keen interest in marine stewardship and the development of young leaders.



ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

AMBASSADORS

Leadership, Independence, Empowerment

So you've been selected to be an ambassador, what an honour! Whoever gave you this role you must think you have what it takes to show leadership and become a champion for the marine environment. We want you to get the most out of it as possible, this is your project and whatever comes out of this program will be up to you! Your coordinator is there to support you as well as organise transport and permissions, but this is YOUR ROLE.

We want to empower you to use this voice for the marine environment, whether that is talking about it to your whole school, the local kindergarten, other primary schools not involved in i sea i care, your grandparents Rotary clubs, Lions clubs, local radio, your sports clubs, scouts, guides, anyone really! There are plenty of ways to really get involved besides just attending the four workshops. We have had ambassadors join a beach patrol group, start a compost bin at their school, speak on local radio, written songs/poems/stories/plays to perform at assembly there are hundreds of ideas!

Once a term, we will host iChats for you to join online. These will occur after school so it is up to you to ensure you attend. The final one in Term 4 will be like a mini conference where you will be able to showcase all the amazing work you have been doing over the year and give you a chance to see what other ambassadors have been up to.

We hope that by the end of the year you feel like you have gained a sense of achievement, had a whole lot of fun and feel confident in sharing your knowledge and passion for the importance of sustainability. We strongly believe the skills you have gained throughout the program will give you the ability to create a real difference in protecting our beautiful marine environment!



ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

SUPPORTERS

Your role as a coordinator

The coordinators role is to support and guide the students, but it is expected they run the program themselves. You are responsible for organising their attendance (permissions, transport etc.), ensuring a suitable adult can accompany them to each workshop, setting up peer teaching within their schools as well as passing on the role to the next coordinator if you can no longer commit.

We highly recommend you create a folder to store the emails we send with important information needed for each workshop so you can access them easily once you are preparing for an upcoming workshop and we want to reduce the amount of unnecessary emails that can clog up our inboxes. We also understand you are already busy with your everyday teacher roles so we are happy for ambassadors to directly email us if they have any questions about the program and their projects.

Whilst we love having teachers attend the workshops (and it is certainly helpful for the first year), many schools send parents and other staff instead to reduce the costs of CRT. We also ask that you display the iSeaiCare quarterly newsletter around your school and send it home to all the parents.

Coordinators Basic Checklist

- ☐ Enrolled in ISIC for the year
- ☐ Chosen Ambassadors
- ☐ Sent parents enrolment documents to parents of ambassadors
- ☐ Enrolled in the first workshop
- ☐ Sorted permissions and transport to first workshop
- ☐ Ensured all parents have enrolled their child and ask for copy of answers
- ☐ Enrolled in the second workshop
- ☐ Sorted permissions and transport to second workshop
- ☐ Enrolled in the third workshop
- ☐ Sorted permissions and transport to third workshop
- ☐ Enrolled in the fourth workshop
- ☐ Sorted permissions and transport to fourth workshop



ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

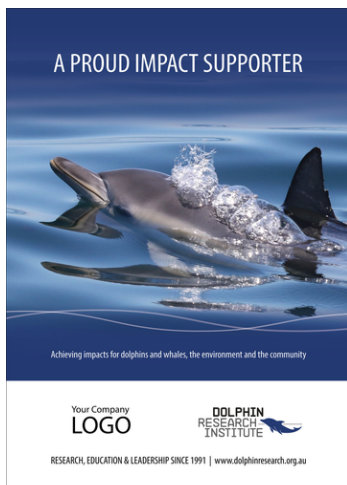
SUPPORTERS

Your role as a parent of an ambassador

Congratulations on your child being selected as an i sea i care Ambassador! We ask that you support your child's passion and commitment throughout the year and ensure they come to the online iChats each term which will be outside of school hours (more information on page four). We also have tshirts to purchase (see image below) that we encourage ambassadors to wear to each of their workshops as well as whenever they are speaking at assemblies or taking action in the community. We believe this creates a strong statement and will remind others when seen, to look after their marine environment. Occasionally some star ambassadors want to take part in the whole program and still do more! If your child wants to participate in their own individual project in the community (see image of Jaiden and the girls below) please support and encourage this. We would also love to hear about it! Please upload onto our website or email us.



We have had some amazing parent helpers over the years who have donated their time to drive the ambassadors to and from their workshops and supported the students to go above and beyond in their environmental activities outside of school. We couldn't do it without you!



There are many opportunities to get involved outside of the school and support Dolphin Research Institute and this program as a parent. We regularly host fundraisers and auctions to support our work as well as take part in local community events such as the Island Whale Festival that we encourage you and your family to attend.

We also offer Business Impact Supporter partnerships to help us achieve our goals. As we are a not-for-profit organisation, all of your support goes straight back into Victorian marine research, conservation and education. Please get in touch if this is something your workplace would be interested in! \$2500 and \$5000 supporting partnerships are available.

FEES & CHARGES

Admin: \$275

This funds up to 6 ambassadors to attend 4 standard workshops (one per term) and the online sessions we provide throughout the year.

Extra Students: \$5 per student

Per student over the first 6 for their i sea i care badge

Indigenous Program: \$11 per student

Added to the admin fee at the start of the year to participate in Indigenous program during the Coastal Workshop (Cost covered by Casey and Dandenong Council for 2024)

Additional Fee for Moonraker: \$80 Swim, \$42 Sightsee (per person)

The boat snorkel in Term 1 is an additional cost to the above admin fee. These prices are at half the cost of a standard Swim or Sightsee ticket. This will be invoiced to the school after the workshop.

Total Fee Example for 4 Ambassadors from Melbourne

$\$275 + (\$11 \times 4) = \$319$ Admin Fee (incl cultural program) at beginning of year

$\$319 + (\$80 \times 5) = \$719$ Admin Fee with Moonraker (4 Ambassadors and Coordinator Swimming)

Total Fee Example for 10 Ambassadors from Morn Pen

$\$275 + (\$5 \times 4) + (\$11 \times 10) = \405 Admin Fee (incl cultural program) at beginning of year

$\$405 + (\$80 \times 10) + \$42 = \1247 Joining Fee with Moonraker (10 Ambassadors Swimming and Coordinator Sight Seeing)

Funding Partnerships

Some of the regions are sponsored externally by the local Council which makes a huge difference to achieving our impacts! Thank you to our council partners whose valued support allows our to reach schools that might not always get the same opportunities and create a positive change for the marine environment no matter where you live!



New schools are entitled to a free, one hour presentation to the Grade level of potential ambassadors

CURRICULUM LINKS

Economics and Business

Resource Allocation and Making Choices

- Describe the difference between needs and wants and explain why choices need to be made (VCEBR001)
- Explore the concept of opportunity cost and explain how it involves choices about the alternative use of limited resources and the need to consider trade-offs (VCEBR002)
- Identify types of resources (natural, human, capital) and explore the ways societies use them in order to satisfy the needs and wants of present and future generations (VCEBR003)

Consumer and Financial Literacy

- Identify influences on consumer choices and explore strategies that can be used to help make informed personal consumer and financial choices (VCEBC004)
- Consider the effect that the consumer and financial decisions of individuals may have on themselves, their family, the broader community and the natural, economic and business environment (VCEBC005)

English Speaking and Listening

Literacy- Interacting with others

- Participate in formal and informal debates and plan, rehearse and deliver presentations, selecting and sequencing appropriate content and multimodal elements for defined audiences and purposes, making appropriate choices for modality and emphasis (VCELY367)

Ethical Capability

Understanding Concepts

- Examine how problems may contain more than one ethical issue (VCECU009)

Decision Making and Actions

- Explore the significance of 'means versus ends' by considering two ways to act when presented with a problem: one that privileges means and one ends (VCECD012)
- Discuss the role and significance of conscience and reasoning in ethical decision-making (VCECD013)

Geography

Geographical Knowledge- factors that shape place and influence interconnections

- Environmental and human influences on the location and characteristics of places and the management of spaces within them (VCGGK096)
- Factors that influence people's awareness and opinion of places (VCGGK097)
- Influence of people, including the influence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, on the environmental characteristics of Australian places (VCGGK094)
- Australia's connections with other countries and how these change people and places (VCGGK098)

Media and Visual Arts

Present and Perform

- Plan, produce and present media artworks for specific audiences and purposes using responsible media practice (VCAMAP031)
- Create and display artwork considering how ideas can be expressed to an audience (VCAVAP031)

Personal and Social Capability

Social Awareness and Management- collaboration

- Identify the characteristics of an effective team and develop descriptions for particular roles including leadership, and describe both their own and their team's performance when undertaking various roles (VCPSCS0032)

Science

Science Understanding- Science as a human endeavour

- Scientific understandings, discoveries and inventions are used to inform personal and community decisions and to solve problems that directly affect people's lives (VCSSU073)

Science Understanding- Biological Sciences

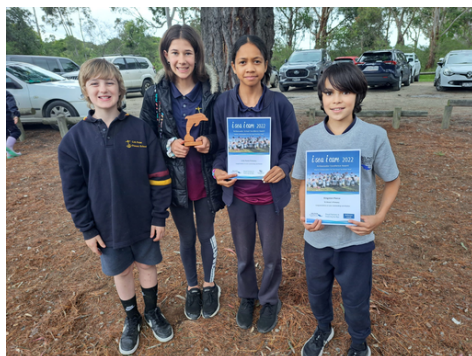
- The growth and survival of living things are affected by the physical conditions of their environment (VCSSU075)

Science Inquiry Skills- Communicating

- Communicate ideas and processes using evidence to develop explanations of events and phenomena and to identify simple cause-and-effect relationships (VCSIS088)

This is a sample of the curriculum links this program covers. Please enquire if there are additional learning requirements you desire.

GALLERY



FAQS



For Coordinators

Can I host a peer teaching workshop?

If you wish to host a peer teaching workshop we ask you to provide the following:

- One large space to accommodate up to 40 students plus adults and junior grades for the demo
- A second smaller space to divide the group in half
- One or two junior grades (P-2) for 30 minutes before their long break (usually between 12:30 - 1:30pm)
- Morning tea for the adults bringing students

I need important documents for my school, where can I find them?

Important documents such as Risk assessments, Public Liability Insurance, Documents needed to send home to parents can be found on our Website under Education Docs.

I can no longer be a coordinator, what do I do?

We require you to find another coordinator at your school and notify us with the contact details of the new coordinator.

I have sent the parent enrolment document to the ambassadors parents. How will I know who has filled in the forms?

When you send the parent enrolment forms home, please ask them to send you a copy of their answers, this will allow you to keep track of who has enrolled and be aware of photography permissions and tshirt orders etc.

Do I have to attend every workshop with the ambassadors?

Certainly not! We just ask that the ambassadors attend with a supervising adult who must stay for the entire workshop. This can be a parent or guardian or another teacher approved by your school. Please note that the supervisor attending the snorkel workshop is expected to swim if their ambassadors are swimming.

For Ambassadors and Parents

What do I need to bring to each workshop?

For the Catchment and Coastal workshop you will just need to bring yourselves with your lunch, water and a hat. For the Peer teaching you will need the above, plus a notebook and pen. All equipment is provided for the Moonraker workshop, but if you have your own long wetsuit/mask/snorkel/fins, we recommend using them. Please also bring bathers, towel, extra warm clothes (windproof jacket, jumper, beanie) to put on between swims, preferably in a large zipped bag. Please also bring food and drink. There are often snacks (noodles, chips, donuts) to buy on the boat.

As a parent, I want to support this project and join the workshops. Is this allowed?

YES PLEASE! We love when parents come along to our workshops, we encourage it. Please note if any parents wish to come on our Moonraker trips they will be charged for a swim or sightsee ticket. This will be invoiced to the school.

I have done a project in my community or school that I want to tell you about, what should I do?

We love hearing about all the things you're doing at home! Head to our website to upload your story with an image and once we approve it, other ambassadors can be inspired by your commitments.

I want to do something to help support i sea i care and Dolphin Research Institute but I am not sure what. Do you have any ideas?

There are millions of ways you can support us. You can directly support us through one of our initiatives like Adopt-a-Dolphin or Adopt-a-whale, Impact Supporter or donations. Some more creative ways include writing a song/poem, host a bake sale, write an article for a local newspaper, speak on the radio even just telling your friends and family about us can help make a difference!

ABOUT OUR ORGANISATION



The Dolphin Research Institute is an independent not for profit marine conservation organisation that has provided marine research and education services since 1991. We work through key impact areas to deliver long-term outcomes to protect Victoria's dolphins, whales and their environment.

With over 30 years of [dolphin research](#), we know our resident dolphins through fin identification and regular surveys; our data-base is extensive and ever-expanding! We also know that our supporters feel proud of our work. It is a tangible way for them to be able to say "Yes, I'm helping these dolphins now, and for their future."



Four impact areas to drive change



1. Dolphins & Whales



2. Environment



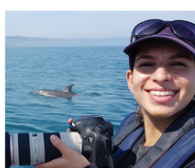
3. Community

4. A Strong Organisation

We value our role as a community organisation and understand the importance of offering opportunities for [volunteers and interns](#) to contribute to our work, whilst gaining valuable skills and experience they can use throughout their career.

We are incredibly appreciative of our wonderful [citizen science](#) community who not only provide us with valuable dolphin and whale sighting data, but also dedicate their time by participating in our citizen science programs. The information provided by our citizen scientists contributes to our understanding of Victoria's dolphins, whales and their marine environment, and how we can best protect them.

[Dolphin Distancing](#) is one of our initiatives to create a better community around dolphins and whales by giving them space. Jump on board and be part of this wonderful group of people doing the right thing by dolphins and encouraging others to do the same, visit our website for more information.



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