

## A NEW WORKSHOP FOR AMBASSADORS!

We made a big change this year to welcome Casey Ambassadors on Moonraker Dolphin Swims in Port Phillip Bay! We had brilliant conditions on all of our trips with sunshine and magically clear seas!

Ambassadors had a ball swimming with the seals at Popes Eye Marine Park and the beautiful seadragons at Portsea Pier! What an opportunity to get up close to these wonderful animals, and squeals of excitement could be heard throughout the trips!

These experiences help Ambassadors gain a deeper understanding of our precious marine environment, with many commenting they were even more motivated to act for our amazing blue planet!

Thank you to Moonraker, our wonderful partners at City of Casey for their amazing support, and to the fantastic ISIC teachers, parents/carers for supporting Ambassadors throughout the year!



## ST JOSEPH'S CRIB POINT AMBASSADORS KICKING GOALS!

We are so proud of our St Joes' Ambassadors' achievements this year, including mangrove planting and data collection, presentations about ISIC, mangroves, and Clean Up Australia Day, mentoring local kindergartens, planting 2000 trees for National Tree Planting Day, Peer Teaching sessions with preps, creating whale toys to raise money to adopt a whale, writing a book about the bay, and creating recycled and grown products for St Joe's Christmas stall. Amazing effort!!

Thank you so much to our St Joe's Ambassadors and their amazing ISIC teacher Dominique Taylor for supporting them throughout the year!!



## I SEA I CARE WINS A 2024 VICTORIAN MARINE AND COASTAL AWARD!!!

We are so proud of the DRI Education Team and our fantastic community of councils, teachers and parents/carers who make this program so successful, and of course our Ambassadors who inspire us every day to keep advocating for this beautiful blue planet!! The 'i sea, i care' Ambassador Program received the winning award for 'Inspiring Community Engagement and Education' at the prestigious 2024 Victorian Marine and Coastal Awards.

What makes this accolade particularly special is that it is shared by the 9,000 young leaders and council partners who have contributed to the development of 'i sea, i care' over the past 23 years. Thank you to City of Casey, City of Greater Dandenong, City of Kingston and Mornington Peninsula Shire, for their passionate and loyal support!!

## DRI RESEARCH UPDATE: POKE HAS A NEW CALF!

Tracking calf survival is a crucial part of DRI Research and also the most challenging. We require multiple images of close mother-calf pairing before concluding the calf belongs to a particular adult. The image shows a dolphin called Poke, taken on 30 July, and the size of the calf and multiple images of this pairing lead to the conclusion it was born in mid-July and is certainly Poke's calf.

Tracking calves requires minute attention to marks from teeth rakings on their skin caused by other dolphins. These fade but are replaced by new marks, so regular surveys are crucial to follow the success of mother dolphins and their calves. Poke is #2 in the Port Phillip Common Dolphin Catalogue, and she has been seen nearly every year since 2005, with her latest calf being her seventh! Some calves have become parents to the third generation in Port Phillip. This knowledge is crucial to understanding the success of dolphin communities and the health of their environment.

