

JACKS BEACH COASTAL WORKSHOP FUN!!

A great finish to the year for our Melbourne Ambassadors at Jacks Beach, Warringine Reserve! We were thrilled to have Hudson and Skyla from Living Culture who wowed Ambassadors with stories and ancient artefacts from our rich indigenous history, and all had a blast learning how to make fire and throw a spear.

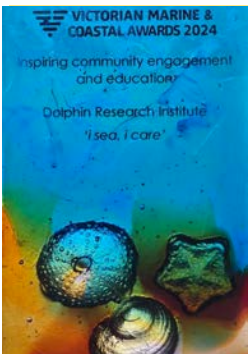
Ambassadors also enjoyed a walk and talk with the Anthony, Dylan and Zali from Nature Links learning about the indigenous and non-indigenous flora and fauna, and some of the issues our beautiful native creatures face in this area. We finished off with a fun climate change game, and a special afternoon tea.

Thank you SO much to our wonderful partners at Mornington Peninsula Shire, Nature Links, Living Culture and as always the amazing ISIC teachers, parents and carers for going above and beyond to support our Ambassadors throughout the year and also transporting them to our workshops. Without these amazing humans this program would simply not be possible!!



ST JOSEPH'S CRIB POINT AMBASSADORS KICKING GOALS!

We were so excited to hear about our St Joes' Ambassadors' achievements this year, including mangrove planting and data collection, assembly presentations about ISIC, mangroves, and Clean Up Australia Day, mentoring local kindergartens about their local beaches, 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 and guiding 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 images show 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.

