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Newsletter

Term Three 2025

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CATCHMENT WORKSHOP

We had a great time at our Catchment Workshop starting at Narambi Reserve with Greenworks explaining the huge costs to collect and transport litter from traps all over Melbourne. They lifted the litter bags from traps, highlighting the huge volumes of litter discarded in our parks and streets.

Ambassadors then participated in a Healthy Waterways Workshop which included a water pollution testing lesson, and a hunt for macroinvertebrates with a focus on their pollution tolerance. Ambassadors learned how wetland filtration systems trap pollutants not caught in litter traps such as chemicals from lawns. Students then participated in a frog identification session, highlighting how different frog species help determine the water catchment condition, and the Ambassadors raced to identify frogs by their calls.

At the Mornington Beach we conducted a litter collection and sort session focusing on sources of litter, and how to report collection results. Thank you to the team from Greenworks and Melbourne Water, and the ISIC teachers and parent/carers for transporting the Ambassadors to the Workshops.



RESEARCH NEWS

Say Hello to Traveller and Her Newest Calf! Traveller is the Research Team's first proof of common dolphins moving between Port Phillip and Bass Strait, which is something we'd suspected for years, but the DRI Research Team now have the evidence. Hence the name, 'Traveller'.

This image of Traveller and her calf was taken during a recent survey which recorded a massive group of 80-100 dolphins feeding on vast schools of baitfish in Port Phillip!

Traveller was first photographed in Bass Strait, off Phillip Island, in June 2016. She surprised us in 2021 by showing up inside Port Phillip with a calf. Since then, she has returned almost every winter, accompanied by many other 'transients' that are only seen during the colder months.

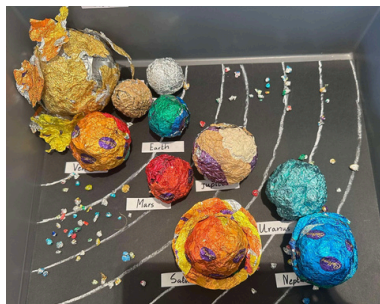


AMBASSADOR HIGHLIGHTS: World Oceans Day

We were blown away to hear of so many amazing World Oceans Day events organised by ISIC Ambassadors! You should all be very proud of your achievements so far! Just a few of the amazing WOD events included St Therese, Cranbourne, who's WOD event raised an awesome amount of money DRI alongside educating their peers about the remarkable life in our local marine waters, and how we can all act to protect their precious environment. Fantastic effort!

Clayton South Primary had an incredible WOD fundraiser, and they did a wonderful job raising awareness of how our litter ends up in the sea through their slogan 'Only Rain Down the Drain'. Keep up the great work team!

St Joseph's Crib Point ran a WOD bake sale to fundraise for DRI! Students and families got creative with ocean themed baked goods and raised substantial funds for DRI! Our team even received their own special delivery! Thank you to Ms Taylor and her Ambassadors for their hard work and the delicious treats!!!



CHELESA PRIMARY KICKING GOALS!

The ISIC Ambassadors at Chelsea Primary ran a creative competition to raise awareness for aluminium foil recycling including many tips on how to recycle properly! Mrs Clipperton and her Ambassadors ran a competition encouraging students to bring in used clean foil and contribute to a class creation.

There were so many special creations and categories including the Heaviest Category and the Most Creative Category! What a fabulous way to educate the entire school on how they can all help reduce their impact by learning about the issues with aluminium, and how to help by reducing single use aluminium by learning how to recycle it correctly.



COMING UP: DOVETON SHOW

Looking for something awesome to do this school holidays, and have fun while you help the planet? Join the DRI team to talk all things whales, dolphins and marine conservation at Myuna Farm on Sunday, September 21! This year marks a very special 20th show and we are so excited to yet again join the [City of Casey](#) for this fabulous family friendly, waste wise event!





The Littlest Penguins

Normally when we think of penguins, our minds take us to the icy wilderness of Antarctica. But did you know that our local Port Phillip beaches are home to our very own penguin population? And not just any type of penguin - the smallest penguin species in existence!

Little penguins, also known as fairy penguins, are so small you'd be forgiven for not noticing them waddling along our shorelines or splashing on the water's surface. They are the only penguin species found on mainland Australia.

Standing 40-45cm tall, their feathers are a blue-grey, and they sport a white belly. This colouration helps them camouflage into the water when seen from above and below to hide from predators like seals and sharks.

St Kilda Breakwater on the east of Port Phillip is home to the only colony of little penguins in the Bay, made up of roughly 1,400 little penguins.

Hundreds of these tiny penguins waddle out of the bay at sunset every evening and make their way to their nests with a mix of speed and clumsiness, often sliding on their bellies and squawking at each other along the way!

The Breakwater in St Kilda which was built in 1956 is a perfect home for these penguins, as it provides a variety of cosy nesting spots between the rocks that form the structure. It is also large enough to support a colony with close access to a good food source.

Research has suggested that the little penguins at St Kilda feed

almost exclusively on anchovies, a schooling pelagic fish. Other little penguins, such as those found at Phillip Island typically feed on a range of small fish including pilchards and garfish, as well as squid and crustaceans.

When hunting, little penguins dive between 5 and 20m to find their food. To keep them warm and waterproof, they secrete an oily fluid from their tails, which they rub over their feathers...



To read the rest or find out more about our **Discover Port Phillip: Water & Wildlife stories** scan the QR code.

