

MOONRAKER WORKSHOP WHAT A FABULOUS DAY!

The weather turned it on for our final Moonraker Workshop with sunny skies and clear waters! Ambassadors from Mornington Peninsula, Melbourne and Kingston had a blast on the boat with some snorkelling for the very first! Everyone was so excited to swim with the beautiful seals, stingrays and seadragons! It was also such a treat for those sightseeing with lovely sunny skies and plenty of wildlife to enjoy from the deck of the Moonraker!

Many Ambassadors commented that they felt so much more confident after embracing the challenge of snorkelling, and that this experience made them even more motivated to teach their communities their new knowledge about our precious marine creatures and how to help them! Thanks to Torie, Dave and the Moonraker crew for a fabulous season of workshops and of course our wonderful council partners, parents, teachers and carers who transported our lucky Ambassadors to the workshops!



"Nature is not a place to visit, it is home." Gary Snyder.

PEER TEACHING ISIC WORKSHOPS ARE ALWAYS SO MUCH FUN!

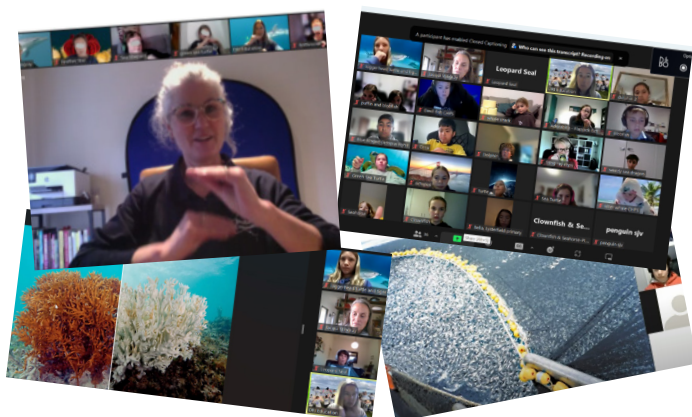
We all had such a fantastic time during our Peer Teaching Workshops! We began with some tips for effective communication, and then ran Ambassadors through some fun ocean-related activities about our local marine species, the issues they face, and how we can all act to protect our precious marine environment. The Ambassadors practised teaching each other and supporting each other throughout the sessions, and then they became the teachers, and did a brilliant job teaching the younger grades!

Many Ambassadors commented that they were so nervous at the beginning of the session, and were surprised how much fun they had teaching the activities! It is so inspiring to watch the Ambassadors gain the confidence so quickly to learn and effectively teach the younger students, and their support for each other was a pleasure to witness! Thank you so much to our host schools Princess hill, Woodlands, Heany Park, Upper Ferntree Gully, Frankston, and St Macartans Primary Schools for hosting, and the ISIC teachers and parent/carers for transporting Ambassadors to the workshops this term, without you these experiences would not be possible!



WORLD ENVIRONMENT WEEK DAILY ICHATS

In the lead-up to World Environment Day on the 5th June, we hosted a daily ICHAT series with live and recorded presenters who work and volunteer in marine conservation! The Humpback migration is underway and David Donnelly, DRI's Field Research Officer, thrilled Ambassadors with stories of dolphin and whale encounters and some of the issues due to a changing climate and increasing human populations. Our recorded sessions included Paleontologist Ben Francishelli and his field research on fascinating Australian fossils, Dr Prue Francis from the Queenscliff Marine Science Centre and her research on the Great Southern Reef, and finally Marine Biologist Fam Charko who presented on a community project to address the impacts of the Northern Pacific seastar in our local waters. HOW DID YOU CELEBRATE World Environment Week? Don't forget to let us know of any special events so we can proudly promote your efforts!



I SEA I CARE ICHATS ARE BACK FOR 2023!

Back by popular demand, our online ISIC ICHAT sessions support our Ambassadors throughout the year. The first ICHAT focused on learning Auslan signs with Michelle Hughes! We loved learning some of our theme words such as *'i sea i care'*, and Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, and we can't wait to use some of our newly acquired signs during our workshops! Other great ICHATS focused on Climate Change facts, issues, and solutions, and sustainable fishing on local to global scales and how we can all help to protect our oceans from irresponsible fishing. If you miss an ICHAT session do not fear, the recorded session links are posted to your parent's/carer's emails.

DRI RESEARCH UPDATE ON MARINNA AND FAMILY!

In 2012, a dolphin called Jean gave birth to little Marinna. Marinna suffered a horrible injury to her back when she was only four, and it was a miracle she wasn't paralysed or killed! She seemed to heal well, with a deep scar on her back as a sign of her accident.

Then in 2021, something extraordinary happened - Marinna became a MUM! - but there is more...Marinna now has a second calf! The photo on the right shows Marinna with her new calf taken on 11 March - the calf is likely only a few weeks old! Marinna's calves are adding to the third generation of this remarkable community of common dolphins! In 2022 we recorded the birth of six calves!

The knowledge of dolphins recovering from severe injury, calving and calf survival is crucial to understanding the health of this dolphin community. Because they are top-order predators, it also reflects positively on the health of the ecosystem they rely on. The End. No, not really -- thanks to some special mums, this is becoming a never-ending story! Head to our DRI socials or website for all the news on our wonderful dolphins and whales! Also don't forget the PHILLIP ISLAND WHALE FESTIVAL online and on site activities 30th June-2nd July. Meet the research team, and participate in a range of super fun activities!

