

## BAYSIDE WORKSHOP CATCHMENT FUN!

We had all four seasons for our Bayside Catchment Workshop! The day started at the Elster Canal where Mandy explained the issues with the litter that is not caught in the litter traps travelling down our drains into our creeks and bays. We then headed over to the new Elsternwick Park Nature Reserve which was once a golf course and is now being transformed into a refuge for wildlife and the community! Jacqui and Jess ran a Healthy Waterways Workshop which included a water pollution testing lesson, and a hunt for macroinvertebrates to identify their tolerance to pollution in the watershed! Ambassadors were amazed to learn how important these wetland filtration systems have become to trap the pollutants such as oil, and the toxic chemicals we use to treat our gardens and lawns.

Jess then conducted a frog identification session and explained how the presence and absence of different types of frogs help us to determine the condition of a water catchment, and the Ambassadors raced each other to identify different frogs by their calls. We finished off with a litter collect, sort and report session amongst the carpark bushes at Elwood Beach and Ambassadors then braved the blustery winds to learn how to conduct a beach litter survey. We would like to thank our wonderful teachers and parent/carers for giving up their time and transporting the Ambassadors to the workshop!



**CLIMATE CHANGE 2022** In 2015, the world agreed to limit warming to 1.5 degrees, we are currently on track to hit 2.7, leading to further impacts like sea level rise. This will affect many coastal communities around the world, including our own around Port Phillip Bay and Western Port

## AMBASSADOR CREATIONS TO HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR OUR PRECIOUS MARINE ENVIRONMENT!

**RAFFLE** To celebrate Spring and the Weedy seadragon mating season we have a **fundraising raffle** featuring 2021 ISIC Mentee Lola's fabulous male and female Weedy seadragons in water colours! **For ONLY \$2 per ticket** you could win one of these fantastic creations, for yourself or as a perfect present for your seadragon loving friends or family! Tickets are available at our workshops, online at this link: <https://www.dolphinresearch.org.au/suppor.../make-a-payment/> at our office in Hastings, or if you see us out and about! Raffle closes 1st December with a live draw!



**CALENDAR** We are thrilled to announce our **Ambassador created 2023 calendar!** Order online (details to come) or pay in person. Calendars are **only \$15**, so why not buy for your family, friends, your school, even yourself! Ambassadors have hand-drawn all of these beautiful images and supplied great information blurbs all in the name of raising much needed funds to help to support our Education workshops!



**EXAMPLES ONLY**  
 The 2023 calendars will have an information blurb on each amazing animal, researched and written by Ambassadors to go with their beautiful hand-drawn pictures.

## NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK 2022 ICHATS

For National Science Week 2022 Daily ICHATS we once again had some wonderful guest presenters including the amazing Ben Francischelli, who is a Vertebrate Palaeontologist and he presented his work on ancient whales and sharks around Victoria! We also learned all about the amazing annual Spider crab migration and aggregation that happens right on our doorstep in Western Port and Port Phillip Bays every winter. Our guest presenter was the awesome Dr Elodie Camprasse who talked about her exciting research on Spider crabs with Deakin University. We loved our AUSLAN ICHAT learning signs with Michelle Hughes! We are very passionate about inclusivity at DRI and we loved learning some ISIC theme words such as *'i sea i care'* and Reduce, Reuse and Recycle! Missed an ICHAT? We send recordings of our ICHAT sessions to your parent/carers, so you won't miss out!



## EXCITING UPDATE FROM THE DRI RESEARCH TEAM

A recent break in the bad weather provided the DRI research team with a rare opportunity to conduct a common dolphin survey off Phillip Island. The day started out with thick fog which later cleared to a beautiful calm, clear day. Several common dolphin groups were located with plenty of images taken for comparison to the Phillip Island common dolphin catalogue. They were also lucky enough to encounter a humpback whale which kindly lifted its fluke for an identification image. The team returned to Port Phillip for two further surveys and they located large numbers of common and bottlenose dolphins, seals and a vast number of birds. Now the real work begins with our Research Fellow Leanne and Assistant Research Fellow Ella working through the hundreds of images.

Would you like to join our Citizen Science programs PodWatch and the Two Bays Whale Project? All the details can be found on our website!

## ICCHAT SESSIONS STILL AS POPULAR AS EVER!

In 2022 we continue to host our regular ICHATS due to popular demand! This term we had some fabulous topics including another session on FAST FASHION and how the choices we make when buying new clothes can have a huge environmental impact. Ambassadors learned that even at a young age they have much power to make change and they are keen to challenge themselves to buy what they need versus just what they want! Another ICHAT focused on the litter issue and how raising awareness about issues such as nurdles can lead to real change in how industry discards plastic waste. The final ICHAT was led by our Ambassadors who volunteered to present on a range of environmental topics including some fantastic school projects, and the many amazing actions their schools are taking to reduce their environmental footprint! We were so inspired to listen to their stories and as always they help us to just keep on swimming! Missed an ICHAT? Do not fear, for all of our online sessions a recording is emailed to your parent/carers, and even if you attended these videos are a valuable resource for use in school assignments and to raise awareness at home by watching with your families.

