

## PEER TEACHING WORKSHOP SUCCESS!

The Peer Teaching workshops continued through Term 2 and we are just so happy to attend workshops in person and get to meet all of our wonderful Ambassadors! The students also enjoyed meeting Ambassadors from other schools, the novelty of meeting in person has not worn off for any of us!

We began the workshops by teaching the Ambassadors some very useful tips and tricks for effective and engaging communication and then ran them through a series of ocean-related activities. The Ambassadors loved learning about the local species and they had some amazing ideas about the actions we can take to help the environment!

The Ambassadors practised teaching each other, and many started off very nervous but quickly gained the confidence to practice with and support their peers. They did a brilliant job of teaching the younger class and had their audience's rapt attention from start to finish!

Our Ambassadors embraced the spirit of leadership as they supported each other throughout the workshops! Thank you so much to St. Josephs and St. Finbar's for hosting the workshops and as always to the wonderful teachers, parents and carers that transported Ambassadors to the workshops!



**CLIMATE CHANGE 2022** *We shouldn't think about this year being the hottest in the last 100 years, but the coolest year in the next 100. Climate Change isn't a cliff we fall off, but a slope we slide down. The window for action is closing fast.*

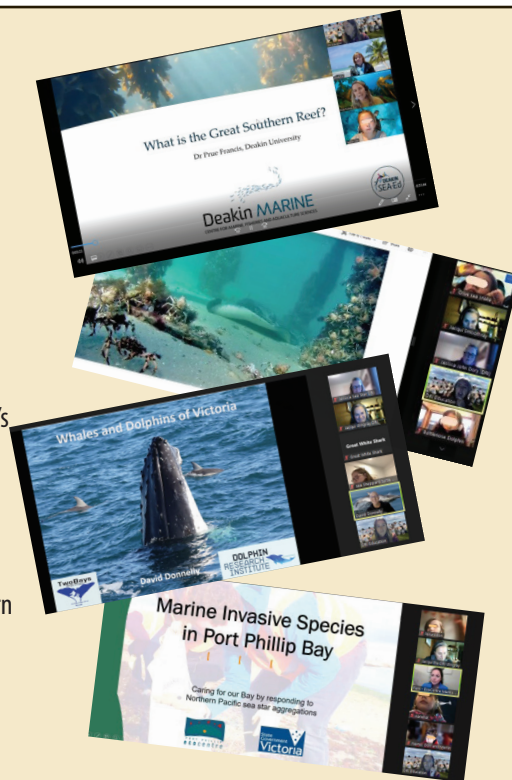
## PHILLIP ISLAND WHALE FESTIVAL 1-3 JULY

Come and join us at the fabulous Phillip Island Whale Festival on the second week of the holidays (1-3 July) as we join whale mascots Wanda and Laena to celebrate the annual arrival of some of the ocean's most majestic creatures! Phillip Island's coastal waters play host to Humpback and Southern Right whales and even the occasional Orca! DRI staff will be running some great dolphin and whale ID activities, and you also can learn how to spot whales, meet our researchers, chat to the DRI team at our stall, and this year we are bringing back our 19m inflatable whale for our 'Whale out of Water' program so you can step inside our giant beast! For information head to [www.dolphinresearch.org.au](http://www.dolphinresearch.org.au) or phone on (03) 5979 7100 or on Facebook, and for other online and on-site events head to [www.islandwhales.com.au](http://www.islandwhales.com.au) or follow Island Whales on Facebook and Instagram. We can't wait to see you all there!



## CELEBRATING WORLD ENVIRONMENT WEEK 2022!

We celebrated World Environment Week with a daily online ICHAT in the lead up to World Environment Day on the 5th June! We had some amazing guest presenters who dedicate their lives to working and volunteering in the marine conservation space! DRI's own Research Officer Dave Donnelly kicked things off with a presentation on all things whales and dolphins, and he talked about some of his amazing experiences overseeing The Two Bays Whale Project, Killer Whales Australia, and his DRI field research on our resident dolphins! Mandy and Jacqui presented on the annual Spider crab migration and our beautiful rays, focusing on why these species are so special, some of the issues they face, and the success of recent community campaigns to protect them. Next was Fam Charko from the EcoCentre who presented on invasive species and in particular the Northern Pacific seastar. Fam talked about the EcoCentre's current project to train local communities about how to identify and report infestations, and how the public can be trained how to remove these seastars from their local waters in a way that is safe and ethical! The final ICHAT was presented by Dr. Prue Francis from Deakin University who works at the Queenscliff Marine Science Centre as part of the Deakin Marine Group conducting research on the Great Southern Reef! The Ambassadors were amazed to learn all about the GSR, including that it is much bigger than the more famous Great Barrier Reef but is just as important as its extensive kelp seaweed forests are some of the most productive ecosystems on the planet! THANK YOU so much to all of our guest presenters, and to our Ambassadors for their amazing questions and comments!



## AMBASSADOR FEATURE - Sophie sends a message to protect the seals for World Environment Day

### i sea, i Care, I Feel for The Seal

*Completely at peace and completely free,  
Not in a zoo, this is where they should be.  
This has to be a once-in-a-lifetime chance,  
Watching a whole herd of seals as they splash and dance.*

*Have you ever seen seals in their own home,  
Where they have an entire ocean to roam?  
There's no barrier at all between you and the seal,  
And stingrays gliding beneath you, this can't be real!*

*I'm seeing seals that aren't behind a cage, case or glass,  
I've always wanted to do this, so finally at last.  
I'm seeing the seals where they truly belong,  
Where they know their own rights and they do no wrong.*

*Protected by law, they have no fear,  
We cannot hurt them even though we are so near.  
But what if we are, without knowing the truth,  
What if to them, we are mean and uncouth?*

*Throwing our rubbish into their land,  
Polluting their home, their sea and their sand.  
50 years from now, do YOU want to swim with the seals?  
So you have to be careful, my warning is real,  
If you want to see seals living in their own home,  
Then make sure that they have a clean ocean to roam.*

Melbourne Ambassador Sophie wrote this beautiful poem after swimming with the seals at Chinamans Hat during our Moonraker Workshop! This experience had a powerful impact on Sophie, and she wrote a poem to share with her school and broader community to inform them about the seals, and how we can help protect them.



Zoe graciously allowed us to video her reading her poem, and we used it to celebrate World Environment Day! We will continue to use her poem as a tool to help educate the community on the importance of keeping our environment healthy. The video of Sophie reading her poem is on our website. THANK YOU so much Sophie you are an absolute inspiration to us all!

## DRI RESEARCH UPDATE- We have 5 new calves!

The DRI Research Team is so excited to announce the addition of 5 new calves to the Port Phillip common dolphin community! When the our catalogue was published in 2021 it detailed 70 dolphins, and recently the 84th dolphin was added! There will be a special Ambassador Feature in the Term 3 Newsletter about Our Lady of Fatima Primary undertaking a school-wide 'Pick Up 3' movement to help keep the bay lovely and clean for the new dolphin calves!

