Ambassadors assemble: (from left) Lily, Jarrod, Julie Wynne, Will and Emily with their Dolphin Research Institute award at St Louis de Montfort’s Primary School. Picture: Gary Sissons

Marine ambassadors make splash

SEVERAL Kingston schools received environmental awards at a ceremony hosted by Kingston council at Chelsea Town Hall this month.

More than 100 students graduated as marine ambassadors as part of a student leadership program run in partnership with the Dolphin Research Institute.

St Louis de Montfort’s Primary School, aptly located at Dolphin St in Aspendale, was named ambassador school of the year and the school’s marine ambassadors program coordinator Julie Wynne was named coordinator of the year.

Ms Wynne said the school had volunteered to have its marine ambassadors talk to new students enrolling in the ‘i sea, i care’ program to share their learned knowledge about how actions can impact on ocean environments.

“I think it’s probably one of the best programs for teaching children about sustainability and the environment and the kids teach the teachers,” Ms Wynne said.

She said the program was integrated into the school’s leadership program.

Highlights of the program including a swim with dolphins at the end of the year-long program before graduation as a marine ambassador.

Students also visit litter traps to see for themselves how litter thrown on the ground can end up washed out to Port Phillip Bay causing a negative impact on sea life.

Aspendale Gardens Primary School was named ‘i sea, i care’ program new school of the year. Kingswood Primary School’s Maggie Crofts was supporter of the year and Rowan Torkington at St Joseph’s Primary School was ambassador of the year.