



# BLUE WELLINGTON

eNews October 2011

## Next meeting:

Wed 7 December 6-8pm,

Meow café:

**Joint Christmas party with our Wellington Forest & Bird buddies.**

Come and join us for an end of year knees up. Learn about the Wellington branch of Forest & Bird and our other conservation groups — Greening Wellington, Climate Action Group, native plant nursery and more.

A chance to relax and unwind, celebrate all the awesome conservation work we do and enjoy a bite and a drink with other Wellingtonians.

## THIS weekend:

**Educate to Eliminate—**

**Taranaki wharf clean up**

Join Blue Wellington in our support for this annual event, organised by The Dive Guys.

**When: Saturday 19th, 10am**

**Where:** Taranaki wharf—by Circa Theatre and Macs Bar on the waterfront.

This year promises to be another goodie, with both the Mayor and local Green MP Gareth Hughes donning the wetsuits and diving beneath the murky harbour waves in a bid to help clean up this pollution hot spot.

We'll be de-crittering the rubbish pulled up and the Marine Education Centre will be on hand to display the cool beasties for a while before they're put back in the sea. Find out more on our [events calendar](#).

## Rare Hector's dolphin makes a visit to the harbour

A rare Hector's dolphin was spotted in Wellington harbour this week. Hugely exciting and potentially very encouraging news in terms of the species recovery.

Hector's dolphins are primarily associated with the south Island, where they number just under 8000.

Found only in New Zealand, this endangered species made its first appearance in Wellington in January 2009. Prior to this there had been no live sightings of Hector's dolphins. A dead dolphin washed up in Petone in 1978, providing the only evidence they might have been in the region.

More information on this new sighting can be found at this [link](#). We also encourage you to check out this cool [video](#) of the last appearance of Hector's dolphins in the harbour in 2009.

After successfully campaigning for increased protection measures for Hector's dolphins, Forest & Bird is continuing to campaign for a national ban on set net fishing—the single biggest known human threat to this threatened species. For more info on the campaign and to find out how you can help, click [here](#).



## Polluted stormwater discharge notices

Blue Wellington is on a list to receive notices about stormwater pollution events. As part of our campaign to rid our waters of poop and other contaminants, we're making these notices public. The most recent notice:

*16 Nov 2011: WCC Stormwater Discharge Notification: a wastewater overflow has occurred that may affect the **Overseas Passenger Terminal Area**. Swimming or aquatic activities are not recommended for the next 48 hours.*

Keep an eye on our [news page](#) for more updates.



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## Events coming up...

There's some great events coming up over the next month or two. Check them out:

### Lyall Bay Beach clean up

Join this awesome bunch of local residents and caring citizens for another monthly clean up of this popular beach.

**When:** Sunday 4 December

**Where:** Meet at 10am @ Wild Style surf shop by the roundabout at the bottom of Onepu Rd. Gloves and bags provided so just turn up and lend a hand - all help appreciated!

### World Volunteer Day—5 December

Why not mark this international day of voluntary action by giving our seas a hand.

Whether it's getting out and cleaning beaches, digging trash out of drains or just consciously making sure you don't add to the pollutants entering our waterways, harbour and south coast—it all helps!

More info on World Volunteer Day [here](#).

### Island Bay dune plant care working bee

Join the Island Bay Coast Care group in helping to regenerate this awesome stretch of dune—that not only protects cool coastal critter but protects us and our homes too.

**When:** Saturday 10 December

**Where:** Meet at 9:30am in front of the fenced sand dune.

For more info and events visit our [events calendar](#).

## Vote for Nature

A Vote for Nature is a vote for the New Zealand we love and want to pass on to our children.



Forest & Bird has drawn up a list of the policy goals we think are important for the future of New Zealand [here](#).

Forest & Bird has asked the political parties to commit themselves to these objectives. You can see their responses [here](#).

We can ensure Nature's voice is heard in the election by asking our local candidates to support these commitments and to state their position. We should tell them we want them to work towards a sustainable future which protects our environment and secures our future. On November 26, we should weigh up their responses and Vote for Nature when we vote.

## Humpback baby boom

Last month we told you all about Humpback whales migrating through Cook Strait on their journey north to warmer, tropical waters.

This month we hear good news about their activities once they arrived at their destination—babies. And lots of them!

Record numbers of baby humpback whales have been recorded in Tonga over the last few months. Interestingly, for the third year running, the ratio of male to female babies favoured the ladies. More info [here](#).



(Image: Nadine Bott)



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## Eyes and ears

Help our local marine enforcement officers by reporting any illegal or suspicious activities.



Call **0800 4 Poacher** (0800 4 76224) for illegal fishing or **0800 DOC HOT** (0800 362 468) for wildlife or marine reserve related issues.

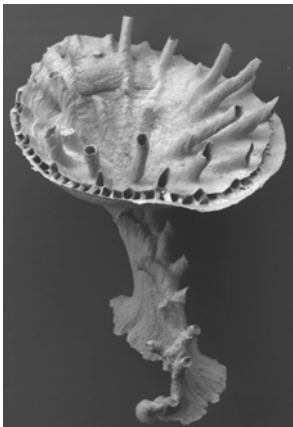
## Did you know?

Only about 5% of the food produced in the sunlit waters of the sea's photic zone makes it down to the dark zone.

## Critter of the month

**New deep water bryozoan**  
(*Discantenna tumba*)

A tiny denizen of the Graveyard Seamount on the Chatham Rise. It was named for the resemblance of the erect fertile part of the colony to



a dish antenna; tumba, Latin, means grave, and alludes to the provenance of the bryozoan. The disk part is only 2.57 mm diameter and the depth at which the species lives, attached to volcanic rock, is 953-1097 m.

Image& words: Dr Dennis Gordon, NIWA

## SOS time again for NZ sea lions

It's that time of year again when the Ministry of Fisheries sets a kill quota for the number of threatened NZ sea lions that can be killed in fishing nets.

Every year NZ sea lions are drowned in unacceptable numbers in squid trawl nets around the remote Auckland Island in the Sub-Antarctic waters south of mainland New Zealand. They are also killed by capture in the nets of other trawl fisheries operating in the area.



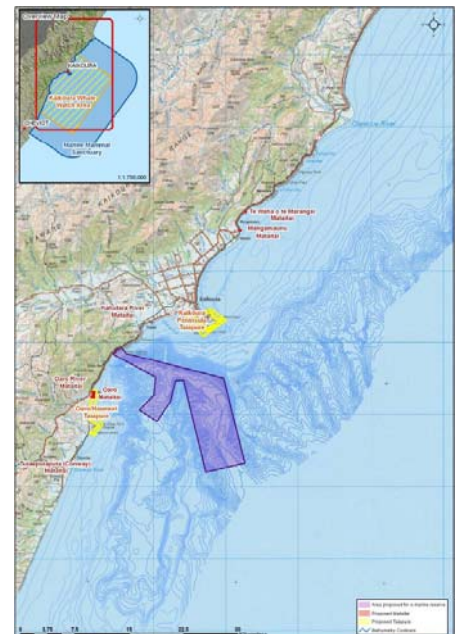
Despite years of Forest & Bird engagement with the Ministry and the fishing industry, little has changed. If anything, tactics have been employed to try and mask the death of these animals in fishing nets.

Please help give our vulnerable NZ sea lions a voice by making a submission on the 2012 sea lion kill quota. The proposed quota has not been released yet but is expected any day. Keep an eye on [Forest & Bird's sea lion page](#) to find out about our campaign, our position on the kill quota and how you can make your voice heard too.

## Give nature a voice in Kaikoura

Local Kaikoura fishing/conservation group Te Korowai o Te Tai o Marokura are seeking feedback on proposals for marine protected areas along its coast. The strategy is a good starting point but Forest & Bird believes Te Korowai has not met all of the objectives of the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Policy. For example there is just one marine reserve proposed and it is a very bizarre shape that protects local fishing grounds at the cost of protecting unique marine life.

To find out more and to give nature in Kaikoura a voice, please visit Forest & Bird's page [here](#) before 2 December.



Proposed marine protected areas, showing bizarre shaped marine reserve in purple.

