BLUE WELLINGTON

eNews September 2011

Next meeting:
Wed 5 Oct 6-8pm, Meow café: Cook Strait whale migrations and marine mammals of the Wellington region. With special guest speaker Nadine Bott, Marine Mammal Scientist, Department of Conservation.

An exciting and rare opportunity to hear from one of New Zealand's leading whale researchers on the whales of the Cook Strait. Their numbers, behaviour and recovery from near wipe out during the whaling years.

Nadine will also talk about other marine mammals in our area - why we are so lucky and what we can do to help safeguard them. A busy lady with heaps of exciting stories to share—not one to be missed!

Conservation week is here!

Every year DOC encourages us to show our love for New Zealand through fun-filled conservation events. This year is no different, with more than 15 events around Wellington and Kapiti. Giving our seas a hand is part of that. To find out more about the below events and HEAPS more, visit www.conservationweek.org.nz.

Island Bay Rocky Reef Treasure Hunt, Sunday 18 September, 12pm to 2:30pm
Join Victoria University's marine gurus on this exciting, hunt for marine treasure. There will be five stations along the coast where you can ask questions about conservation and about Taputeranga Marine Reserve, as well as funny games and prizes for all children who participate. At the end there will be a raffle of super awesome surprise prizes for the best clue hunters—a great one for all the family!
For more information, email Ursula ursula.rojasnazar@vuw.ac.nz.

South Coast Clean Up, Saturday 17 September, 11am to 12pm
As part of the Ocean Conservancy's International Clean-up Day, 12 local groups and members of the public are banding together to pick up rubbish from Owhiro Bay to Breaker Bay. This follows a successful first combined community group clean-up of the south coast in 2010. Many hands make light work - join us to help make this a fun, easy job. Bags and gloves will be provided. If you have your own gardening gloves please bring them along.

Meet us at Houghton Bay (see no. 4 on map below) and look out for the person in a high viz vest. All rubbish will be gathered up at 12.15 and taken to Lyall Bay to form one large pile. There will be a sausage sizzle outside Wild Style Surf Shop and Café afterwards, where participants can mingle and meet each other. To find out more, email southcoastcare@gmail.com or visit the Wellington South Coast Clean-up on Facebook.

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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.

Greater Wellington's environmental pollution hotline

Under the Resource Management Act, it is illegal for anything other than rainwater to go into stormwater drains. If wastewater or liquid household wastes such as detergents, oils or paints get into the stormwater drain, they will pollute streams, aquifers, harbours or the sea.

People pouring substances such as cement and paint down the stormwater drain could face enforcement action. If you see any incidents of pollution going into our city's waterways, call the council's pollution hotline on **0800 496 734**.

Biosecurity hotline

The arrival and uncontrolled spread of unwanted saltwater organisms is an ever present threat to New Zealand's unique marine environment. If you spot an unwanted beastie call MAFs Biosecurity emergency hotline on **0800 80 99 66.**

Conservation business: Dive & Ski HQ

Big ups to Claire and the crew at Dive & Ski HQ in Petone. They've been at it again with an awesome underwater clean up effort at Petone.

The weather couldn't have been better for the Petone Wharf Clean Up. The council sponsored a big waste container for the rubbish that was collected from the water and rubbish collected from volunteers along the beach and the Hutt River bank.

Waste along the beach was mostly plastic parts and food wraps as well as McDonalds packaging closer to the car park. Along the wharf they found a couple of mobile phones, fishing lines and of course a couple of camping chairs and fishing rods blown off the wharf—it was good to see that there was virtually no recycling waste in the water! Nice one guys!

Critter of the month

Red rock crab (*Plagusia chabrus*)

A commonly seen rocky reef crab, often found hanging out in cracks and crevices. They are fast movers and can reach up to 75mm in carapace (central body) length.

Did you know?

The New Zealand sea lion is the deepest diving sea lion in the world. Female sea lions have been recorded to dive to depth of over 600m!

Image: Louise Chilvers

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