

International Dolphin Watch (IDW)

Has an unblemished reputation as a non-profit organisation dedicated to helping dolphins since it was founded by Dr Horace Dobbs in 1978.



Friends of IDW NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2010

2010 IS THE YEAR OF THE DOLPHIN IN SCHOOLS

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Education

2010 IS THE YEAR OF THE DOLPHIN IN SCHOOLS

Ever since he created International Dolphin Watch (IDW) in 1978 Horace Dobbs has seen EDUCATION as one of the best long- term solutions for protecting dolphins by bringing to youngsters' attention the joy dolphins can bring into their lives and the threats that face these delightful sea mammals.

Dr Horace Dobbs invites schools around the World to participate in 2010 THE YEAR OF THE DOLPHIN to improve literacy, education and an appreciation for conservation of the marine environment. Email your ideas to idw@talk21.com



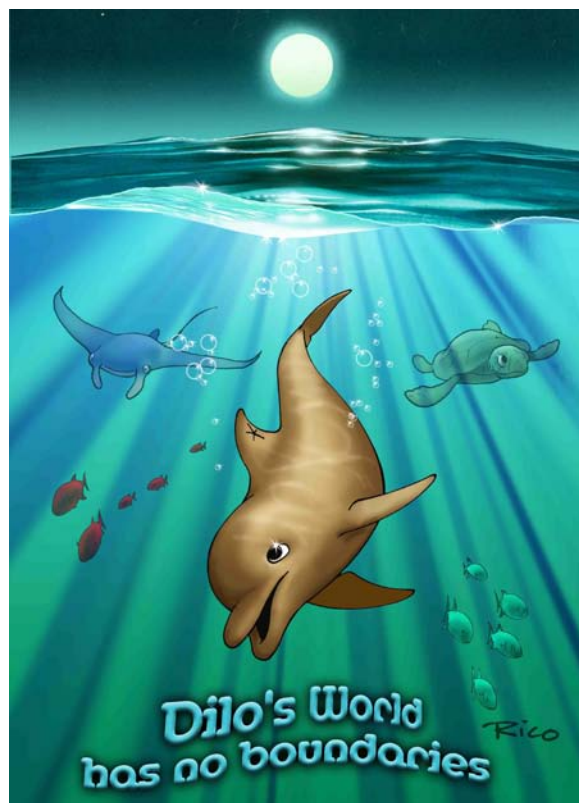
Message from Dr. Horace Dobbs

I am pleased to report that my recent six week trip across the Atlantic and then along the Amazon and the Orinoco was a huge success. We saw dolphins in the Amazon, in the Orinoco and the Azores although the trip was not designated as a "wildlife cruise".

I gave 15 film lectures, including one on the Galapagos Islands, and these opened up a new audience for my crusade for nature conservation.

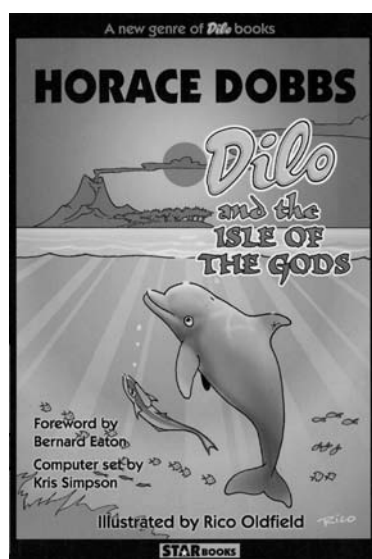
A FACE TO FACE presentation with the Cruise Director Richard Sykes was videoed. A DVD on this will soon be available in which I present the Dilo books plus a selection of clips from my dolphin films that I presented during the cruise.

Wonderful and inspiring things are happening with Dilo worldwide.



Dilo and the Isle of the Gods Serialisation: CHAPTER 10

(Continued from January Newsletter)



10. The black giant

Dilo set out to find out more about the ISLE OF THE GODS.

Over the next few days and nights the dolphin formed a map of the island in his head. Sometimes he floated on the surface and looked at the land. There were lots of seabirds. But most of the time he explored the island underwater. He cruised around the rocks. In some places they shelved gently downwards. In others they dropped steeply into the depths. It was like exploring an underwater mountain.

Dilo found a cave. It was pitch black inside.

The dolphin turned on his magic sound. The cave went in a long way. Right at the back two large eyes glinted in the darkness. Something was moving. Was it a fish? If it was it was much bigger than any other fish Dilo had seen on the island so far. The dolphin was curious. He wanted to know who lived in the cave. Dilo was concentrating so hard

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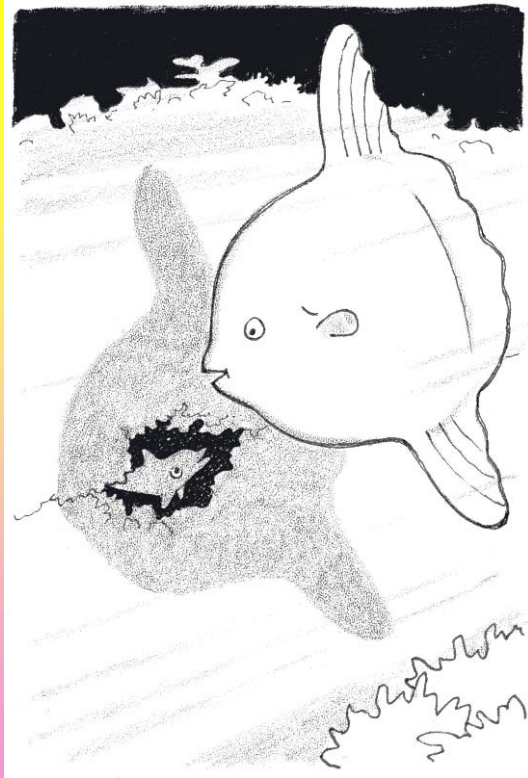
peering into the cave that he forgot that danger can come from behind.

A large black shadow was moving menacingly across the rock face. When the shadow reached the entrance to the cave Dilo suddenly became aware that a creature, even bigger than the one in the cave, was behind him. For a moment Dilo was filled with fear. He swam into the mouth of the cave for safety and spun round to face the danger head on. It was not a menace at all. It was a mola mola. As the mola mola continued on its way Dilo remembered something his mother had told him.

"The mola mola is also called the sunfish or the moonfish. That's because they like to lie on the surface, sunbathing or basking in the light of the moon. They are quite harmless. Sometimes they grow to a huge size."

The mola mola continued swimming past the island. It took no notice of Dilo. Its shadow continued to move across the reef. Then the mola mola changed direction. It headed towards the open sea. As it did so its shadow changed. Instead of a frightening black circle the shadow became a thin strip.

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There was a simple reason for this. The mola mola is shaped like a gigantic black disc with two big fins. When seen head on it is quite thin.

"I know about sunfish," thought Dilo to himself when he had fully recovered from his shock and was swimming away. "But I still don't know what's in the back of that cave."

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CHAPTER 11 will be in the next issue of the Friends of IDW Newsletter. An electronic copy of the complete book can be downloaded from <http://www.lulu.com/content/2713995>

Some Common Dolphin Facts

Facts from Elise Bailey, Cetacean Biologist from Victoria University.

Dolphins, whales, and porpoises fall under a scientific order called cetaceans. These animals are mammals and like all mammals:

- Breathe air
- Give birth to live young
- Feed on mother's milk
- Have hair

Dolphins live in social structures called pods, and can remain in these pods their entire lives.

Dolphins are very social animals and display a variety of behaviours to communicate like:

- Aggression or Threats
- Socialization or Play/Interaction
- Sexual or Breeding
- Vocalizations
- Resting or sleeping

Dolphins have no vocal cords, and most of the sounds emitted are created via the blowhole, at the top of the head. They make sounds such as:

- Barks
- Chirps
- Whistles
- Grunts
- Click Trains

Dolphins have fantastic eyesight both above and below the water.

In dark or murky environments, the dolphins utilize a unique form of sound (bio-sonar) called echo-location. They can actually see using sound. By means of “the melon”, an oil filled gland at the top of the head, they focus sound waves and project these waves outward, to scan their environment. The sounds return, giving the dolphins a detailed view of their world.

Common dolphin markings are vibrant in color and take a sort of hourglass pattern. Each dorsal fin is uniquely different, because of the nicks and cuts, along with an intricate white pattern. This coloration enables researchers to more easily identify individual animals. The dorsal fin is used for photo-identification, and is just as unique as a finger print.

Common dolphins are among some of the fastest swimming dolphins, reaching speeds of up to 40km/h.

(C) Elise Bailey 2010

More dolphin facts and answers to frequently asked questions

Please visit the International Dolphin Watch web site on http://www.idw.org/html/faq_s.html

Please tell me more on how does dolphin sonar work?

Dolphins (and other toothed whales) can produce high pitched clicks. When these clicks hit an object, some of the sound will echo back to the "sender". By listening to the echo and interpreting the time it took before the echo came back, the dolphin estimate the distance of the object. (That's why sonar is also called echolocation: with information from the echoes, a dolphin can locate an object). Depending on the material the object is made of, part of the sound may penetrate into the object and reflect off internal structure. If the object is a fish, some sound will reflect off the skin on the dolphin's side, some of the bones, the internal organs and the skin on the other side. So one click can result in a number of (weaker) echoes. This will give the dolphin some information about the structure and size of the fish. By moving its head (thereby aiming the clicks at other parts of the fish) the dolphin can move its head. Also the frequency of the sounds of the medical probe is much higher than a dolphin's sonar. Therefore the level of detail the echoes can provide is much higher in the medical probe.

NEWS

Slaughter of Whales and Dolphins

On 22nd February 2010 The UNITED ANIMAL NATIONS and the INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE FOR ANIMALS held a public court case against the slaughter of whales and dolphins practiced by Japan, Norway, Iceland, Greenland and the Faroe Islands at C.I.C.G Centre International de Conferences of Geneve.

The verdict can be downloaded free of charge under:

<http://www.presseportal.ch/de/pm/100019151/?langid=2>

The United Animal Nations (UAN) is not going to rest with the Geneva International Court of Justice for Animal Rights' sentence of February 22, 2010. Its secretary general, Franz Weber, delivered the verdict to the guilty fisheries ministers of Japan, Norway, Iceland, Greenland and the Faroe Islands with the demand to cease an activity that is classified by the civilized world as criminal and recognised as such by the court on all counts.

At the same time he sent the verdict to the Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd as an encouragement to bring Japan, as planned, before the International Court of Justice in The Hague, if its whaling fleets do not disappear from the international waters of Antarctica.

But that's not enough: the verdict concerning the suit by the organisations OceanCare, Switzerland, Pro Wildlife, Germany, Dyrenes Venner, Denmark, Elsa Nature Conservancy Japan and another fifty international complainant organisations went to the President of the European Parliament, to the Presidency of the EU Council of Ministers, the President of the European Commission, the Council of Europe, the United Nations, UNESCO, World Health Organisation, and to the International Whaling Commission with the demand to brand whaling and dolphin massacres as piracy and theft from the international community and to inform the world in no uncertain terms about the dangers of eating whale and dolphin meat impregnated with highly toxic substances.

Whaling and dolphin hunting nations will, henceforth, no longer be allowed to rest until their unnecessary as well as environmentally destructive activities are brought to an end. For the good of the planet

Vera Weber

FONDATION FRANZ WEBER - United Animal Nations / International Court of Justice for Animal Rights

Should Orcas be kept in captivity for our entertainment?

25th February 2010 - Jean-Michel Cousteau comments on the tragedy on February 24th, 2010, when trainer Dawn Brancheau was dragged into the water and killed by Tilikum, an orca at Sea World's Orlando park. This is the third death associated with Tilikum while in captivity. The tragic death of the trainer suggests that maybe we have outgrown the need to keep such wild, enormous, complex, intelligent and free-ranging animals in captivity, where their behavior is not only unnatural, it can become pathological.

See statement on:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fp8MkPyBE5A>

California surfer receives whale of an escort during marathon paddle

By Pete Thomas

www.grindTV.com

1st April 2010

When Southern California surfer Jodie Nelson set out Sunday to standup-paddle nearly 40 miles from Santa Catalina Island to Dana Point, she hoped it would inspire her best friend, who has been involved in a long and exhausting struggle with breast cancer, to keep fighting.



Nelson, 34, whose mother and aunt are cancer survivors, also hoped her nine-hour test of endurance would raise money for two cancer charities and heighten awareness about a plight affecting millions of women. What Nelson could not have known was that a 30-foot minke whale would swim alongside her 14-foot board and accompany the surfer as she stood and paddled for two of those nine hours, thus joining the cause. "It was a day that all of us involved will never

forget," Nelson said, in reference to Angela Robinson, her best friend, and the rest of a crew aboard an escort boat.

Minke whales are not commonly seen off Southern California, and those spotted by boaters are often elusive. So when a mammal Nelson named Larry joined her endeavor to become the first woman to make this long paddle, she took it as a sign.

"To me it was a total God thing," the San Clemente resident said. "We prayed at 4 that morning that God would reveal his beauty and creation and nature, and allow me to endure this long trek, so for me it's not such a huge surprise that this happened."

Larry did not merely swim close to Nelson. He rolled around repeatedly alongside her and blew bubbles beneath her board. A film crew was on the escort boat and CNN, Fox News and ABC are just some of the networks she says are interested in the story and footage.

Alisa Schulman-Janiger, an American Cetacean Society whale researcher, said minke whales can be friendly but added: "This type of quality encounter is highly unusual."

Nelson raised only about \$6,000 in advance of the paddle, disappointingly short of her target of \$100,000 for the Keep a Breast Foundation and Boarding for Breast Cancer. A few of her celebrity friends let her down, she said, but when this story reaches a national audience she expects the pool to grow considerably.

"I thought, 'I don't need so-and-so,' " she said of a particular celebrity, whom she declined to name." Because I honestly feel like Larry is going to help us reach the \$100,000 mark with our fundraising effort."

Larry or no Larry, completing a standup paddle over 39.8 miles of ocean and sharks speaks volumes about Nelson's strength, stamina and determination.

Larry took her mind off the task for two magical hours, but her mind never strayed from the cause. "I can't even begin to compare what I did to what cancer patients are going through," she said. "But I wanted to put myself out there in a dangerous and scary, overwhelming situation; something that was big and just to show people that you can win that battle with that big, scary thing called cancer.

"I wanted to draw some kind of parallel and just encourage people to keep fighting."



Those wanting to help Jodie with her mission can do so via her page on the *Keep a Breast Foundation* web site <http://www.keep-a-breast.org/> .

Moko the dolphin missing some teeth

NZ Herald

1st April 2010

Moko the dolphin is missing a number of teeth, probably from grabbing and dragging anchor chains on boats, the Department of Conservation (DOC) says.

The friendly dolphin had been living in waters near Whakatane since January, when he moved on from the East Coast.

DOC spokesman James Holborow told NZPA that Moko was recently checked over and found to have lost eight teeth, possibly from "when he plays with anchor chains or mooring chains or ropes", according to the way the teeth were missing.

DOC was concerned that Moko may develop a secondary infection from the tooth loss. A team of vets and pathologists were studying photos of Moko's teeth and may pay the dolphin a visit to check his condition.

DOC had appealed to members of the public who had photographed the dolphin while he lived in Gisborne to send them photos.

Moko was not showing any change in behaviour, and would not have difficulty eating, as dolphins did not chew like humans did, Mr Holborow said.

FRIENDS' NEWS

SAVING LUNA goes Worldwide

<http://www.mountainsidefilms.com/savingluna/Press.html>

LUNA in Britain

More than two million households watched Luna in Britain on February 24, Luna's biggest single audience yet! It was shown on the BBC's flagship nature program, "Natural World," edited to 59 minutes.



The film, re-titled "A Killer Whale Called Luna" for the broadcast, received a very high rating on the BBC's "Audience Index." The rating, 89 out of 100, tied Luna for the most popular film on "Natural World" this season. Thank you, Great Britain!

We've had a flood of wonderful emails, Facebook postings, and other communications from people who saw the broadcast. Many have signed on to receive this newsletter. Welcome! The broadcast earned high marks from TV critics, including critics' picks in most of the UK's biggest newspapers. Here are some of the comments:

"An extraordinarily touching film." Critic's Choice, *The Daily Mail*, London

"Far more arresting than anything Hollywood could serve up." Critic's Choice, *The Times*, London

"Riveting." Critic's Choice, *The Sunday Times*, London

"An amazing story." Pick of the Day, *Radio Times*, London

LUNA in NZ

SAVING LUNA had its New Zealand broadcast premiere on Thursday, March 25, at 8:30 PM on Rialto Channel 25. In case you or your Kiwi friends missed it, there are a few repeat showings - more details at [the Rialto website](#).

LUNA on CANAL D

LUNA will premiere in French Canada on Canal D on [Sunday, April 18 at 7:00](#). This will be a first - the feature-length version of the film has not been shown anywhere else before in French.

LUNA on APTN

A 42-minute version of SAVING LUNA will be broadcast in Canada on Wednesday, April 28 at 7:30 PM on APTN's "[Reel Insights](#)."

Aquatic Marine Viewing Experience (A.M.V.E.)

Dolphin Swim Australia launched the first permitted commercial dolphin swim ever in New South Wales on Saturday the 27th February 2010.

Billed as a 'breakthrough in Dolphin / Human interaction' the Aquatic Marine Viewing Experience (A.M.V.E) has dolphin enthusiasts lining up to enjoy an in-water dolphin swimming experience right here in Port Stephens.

The brainchild of Director Andrew Parker of local adventure training company DolphCom Solutions and Frank Future, leading spokesman for the whale and dolphin watch community and experienced Captain of the luxury ocean catamaran "Imagine", Dolphin Swim Australia commenced operations with a fully booked series of three trials that went off without a hitch last Saturday.

For tour dates and details of the Programme visit <http://www.dolphinswimaustralia.com.au/>.

Message from Ric O'Barry

The Cove Wins the Oscar! *All Eyes Turn To Japan*

If you watched the Oscars, you saw me and Director Louie Psihoyos accept the Best Documentary awarded by the Academy. Wow, what an incredible moment!

Without your support, this would never have happened. So, even though I wasn't able to thank you all at the podium, I thank you all now.

But this has never been about winning awards. Our job is to end the slaughter and stop the poisoning. And now our work in Japan begins anew. We must focus like a laser on getting *The Cove* and our message to the Japanese people.

But there are threats on the horizon. Officials in Japan are threatening repercussions against university and community groups that dare to show *The Cove*. Dolphin-killing fishermen's unions are threatening lawsuits against theatres that show the film. There are even some signs that I could face arrest in Japan, even though I've broken no laws whatsoever.

We won't give in to this pressure. Instead, I am making plans to spend months in Japan with our Save Japan Dolphins Team. I want to be wherever we can find an audience. Our message will particularly resonate with young people, to whom we need to reach out with the dangers of mercury-contaminated dolphin meat and the slaughter of dolphins they love as much as we do.

[If you can help me, it will make a world of difference.](#)

The Oscar telecast is the most-watched TV show in Japan! And they, and more than a billion other viewers, saw *The Cove* movie win!

But now I also need your help in sending a clear message to Japan's Minister of State for Consumer Affairs and Food Safety, that the sale of mercury-laden dolphin meat must end now: Sign and send the petition at: [thepetitionsite.com/4/ban-the-sale-of-dolphin-meat](http://www.thepetitionsite.com/4/ban-the-sale-of-dolphin-meat)
<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/4/ban-the-sale-of-dolphin-meat>

We need help in promoting the Japanese version of *The Cove* in the next weeks before *The Cove* opens at Japanese theatres. We need help for travel, video promotion, website outreach, legal defence, and screening *The Cove* outside of theatres in libraries, universities, and town halls in Japan.

Japan has 126 million people; only 600 have seen *The Cove* so far. Those who saw it were shocked and dismayed that this slaughter was happening in their country. We need to enlist their help and the help of millions of their fellow citizens to stop the Japanese government from issuing 23,000 permits annually to slaughter dolphins. We need to seize on the momentum now to pursue an end to the slaughter, once and for all!

[Will you help us get the truth out?](#)

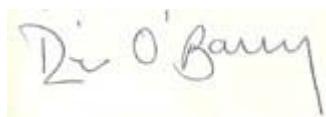
Thank you for your generous support of our efforts!

If you would like to add your support for the campaign – go to:

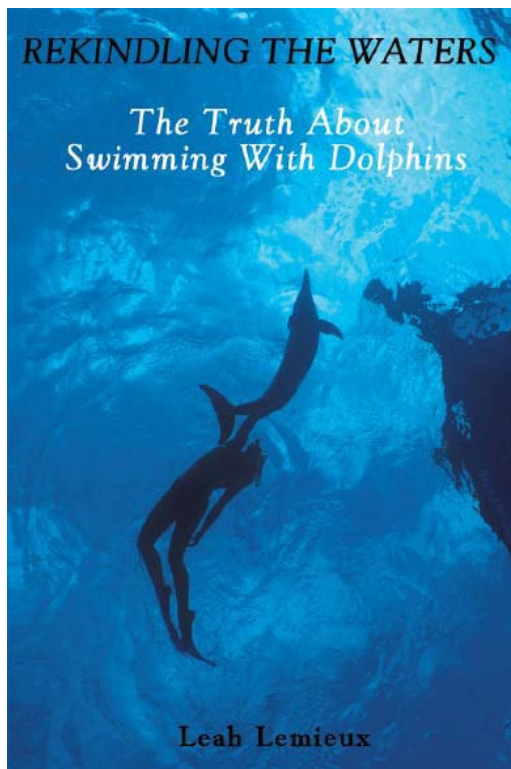
<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/4/ban-the-sale-of-dolphin-meat>

SAVE JAPAN DOLPHINS COALITION: *Earth Island Institute, Animal Welfare Institute, Elsa Nature Conservancy of Japan, In Defence of Animals, Campaign Whale of the UK, and OceanCare of Switzerland*

<http://www.savejapandolphins.org/>



Ric O'Barry
Campaign Director, Save Japan
Dolphins Campaign



Presentations by Canadian author Leah Lemieux

Leah Lemieux is hosting screenings of the award-winning, must-see dolphin film **THE COVE**, followed by a short lecture updating viewers on the situation and how they can get involved. Leah will also give a brief introduction to her recent book *Rekindling The Waters: The Truth About Swimming with Dolphins* followed by audience Q&A.

Dates:

April 22nd Special Earth Day Event -
Falmouth College, Cornwall, The Poly
Cinema, 24 Church Str. 7:30pm

April 23rd, Plymouth University,
Devonshire, Jill Craigie Cinema, Roland
Levinsky Building, 6:30pm

May 4th Banchory, Aberdeenshire,
Scotland, The Wood End Barn Arts Centre
Cinema 7:30pm

May 8th, Whale & Dolphin Conservation
Society Wildlife Centre, Spey Bay, Scotland
2pm.

May 8th, Findhorn Universal Hall, Findhorn
Scotland 7:30pm.

Baja Whales and Wildlife Tour

By Ray Barry

My wife, Dee, and I flew to San Diego California in February 2009 where we met up with the group of 24 plus two naturalists, and with a crew of six, to join a 90ft boat called Searcher to spend 12 days looking for whales and any other wildlife, including flora and fauna that we could see from the boat, or landing on some of the islands in the Sea of Cortez.

The photo of the Mother and Baby Bottlenose Dolphin was taken in the Laguna San Ignacio, the breeding grounds of the Grey Whale. They were part of a small group just having fun! We spent two days here observing the Grey Whale at very close quarters from smaller boats called pangas, even having the chance to touch a calf, which for some reason their mothers encourage them to experience and they have been seen pushing their calf towards the boats.

Over the remaining days while motoring south, rounding the tip of the peninsula into the Sea of Cortez we had very good views of Whales and Dolphins, including Humpbacks (breaching) Sperm Whales (including Dwarf) Orcas, a pod of 13, at times so close to the boat you felt you could almost touch them!!



Orcas had not been seen in the area for five years, how lucky we were. On one of the days we came across a pod of Dolphins ('Common', I believe) that was so large you couldn't count them, the Captain estimated 1000 approximately!!



I have not mentioned the largest mammal of all yet, the Blue Whale - well until now, over the course of our time at sea, 12 days, we had eight separate encounters with these magnificent creatures, some with a calf, the sights and smell, yes I mean smell of their 'breath' will stay with us both forever.



I could expand on this forever...I haven't mentioned the early mornings, the early to bed (worn out with excitement), the knowledge of the Captain and the naturalists, the bird life, the different flora and fauna of the islands, it was just fantastic!

CONSERVATION

Ganges and Indus River Dolphins on the Endangered List

Dammed and stranded: dolphins must be saved

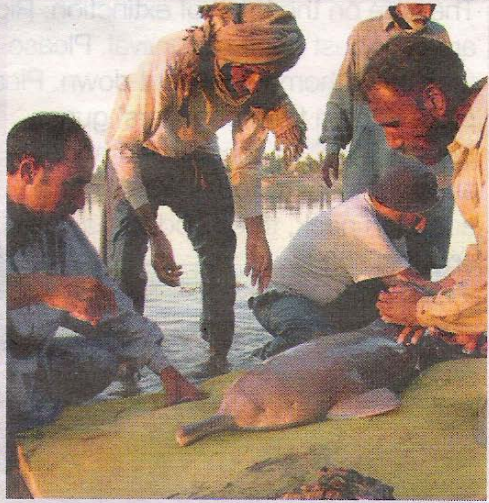
Dam construction has taken its toll on freshwater wildlife in India and Pakistan. Because dams fragment habitats and reduce water flows, the Ganges and Indus river dolphins – both on the endangered list – are restricted to small areas and therefore become more susceptible to threats such as pollution. This habitat restriction also leads to inbreeding, which over time weakens the species.

The Ganges river dolphin was once found throughout the river systems of India, Nepal and Bangladesh, but these days dam development has restricted it to isolated stretches. Similarly, the Indus river dolphin in Pakistan was once familiar throughout the 3,500km-long river and its tributaries, but it is now divided into isolated populations by irrigation dams and is restricted to a 1,375km-stretch of the Indus.

WWF has co-ordinated surveys of Ganges and Indus river dolphins and the threats they face. In India, we are encouraging local communities along 164 kilometres of the upper Ganges to counter river pollution by using natural fertilisers, improving sewage management and reforesting the river bank.

In Pakistan, WWF rescues dolphins stranded in irrigation canals and is promoting the development of dolphin corridors. For more information, go online to wwf.org.uk/livingganges

© Françoise Xavier Pelletier / WWF-Canon



THE TIMES 23.3.2010

Ditched Plastic Washing Up On UK's Beaches

*By Lulu Sinclair
Sky News*

26th March 2010

A laboratory incubator, a message in a bottle from "Sly Sally", half a boomerang and a pile of spring onions are among the strange items collected from beaches of Britain.

Thousands of drinks bottles and carrier bags, as well as a joke severed finger and a set of vampire teeth, were also among litter lying on beaches.

Plastic, from small shreds to carrier bags, made up almost two thirds of the litter found.



It also made up a higher percentage of the overall total than in previous years, [the Marine Conservation Society's](#) annual survey found.

The conservation group is particularly concerned about plastic rubbish because of its damaging impact on wildlife.

From seals entangled in fishing nets and lines to leatherback turtles which have swallowed plastic, the rubbish kills and injures many marine animals every year, the MCS warns.

And instead of biodegrading, plastic breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces.

In some parts of the ocean there are now six times more of these particles than there are plankton, the tiny organisms that form the bottom of the food chain.

"Our seas and beaches are becoming overwhelmed with plastic litter, which not only looks horrible, but kills and injures many of our fantastic marine animals," said the MCS's Rachel Bailey.

"Over 260 species of marine wildlife become entangled in litter, or mistake it for food."

Plastic fragments also attract toxic chemicals which are then eaten by marine animals, potentially providing a path for the toxins to move up the food chain to humans, the conservation group warned.

The list of most commonly picked up items from UK beaches was topped by small and larger pieces of plastic, which together accounted for a fifth of the items gathered.

Food wrappers, plastic rope, plastic caps and lids, drinks bottles, fishing nets and cotton bud sticks - which are often flushed down the lavatory and not caught by sewage works - were all among the top 10 most frequently found items.

Our seas and beaches are becoming overwhelmed with plastic litter, which not only looks horrible, but kills and injures many of our fantastic marine animals.



While overall levels of rubbish on UK beaches last year fell by 16% during the past year, the continuing amount of plastic waste is overwhelming UK beaches and harming wildlife, says the Marine Conservation Society.

But litter levels are much higher than when the annual survey started in 1994, with the amount of overall rubbish picked up increasing by 77% and plastic debris rising by 121%.

For further information and how you can help visit:

<http://www.mcsuk.org/?gclid=CM2V7t2q1KACFRg8lAodeCbdsA>

PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH

AMANDA STAFFORD



Amanda is the founder of The Dolphin Connection which is an established company specializing in swimming with dolphins and whale watching in the Azores and worldwide. Her latest venture is now in Egypt.

<http://www.dolphinconnectionexperience.com/>

<http://dolphinswims.co.uk>

Dr. Horace Dobbs was always such an inspiration to me as a young person becoming a member of International Dolphin Watch and listening to Horace tell his wonderful stories were truly a light of hope and possibility. The more we witness others following their “calling” the more we can liberate ourselves and follow our own path. I really acknowledge Horace’s sense of fun, ageless wisdom and endless curiosity and fascination for life’s adventure. He is an inspiration for those of us playing in the sea of life like dolphins.

Around 1995 I went on a dolphin odyssey around the world meeting many other extraordinary dolphin people, attending dolphin conferences and of course meeting wild dolphins at any opportunity. These trips were always exciting adventures and somehow were always gifted with beautiful synchronicity and magic. I had read a book called *Dolphins, Telepathy and Underwater Birth* by Timothy Leary in which the author had met lots of dolphin people and I literally copied this journey, taking many of my own side roads to see where it would take me. There is something very liberating to allow the journey to unfold and let go of too much planning. I grew a lot through those experiences and was much enriched spiritually. Somehow I became clearer about my purpose and the work I had to do in bringing more people in contact with dolphins and their own inner joy, freedom, pleasure and playfulness (the dolphins being masters of these qualities). Also learning to love the ocean and aquatic life means we will want to care for our oceans.

The journey of living a life with a more open heart, compassion, care and altruism...in service all seemed to be part of the message. I had already been working for many years as a Therapist and bodyworker, group leader, birth educator and doula with underwater birth. I realised through these life experiences, I had “re-invented” myself finding a freedom from conformity and past patterning, thus finding more of the “real me”. I also work with clients who want to liberate themselves and transform various aspects of their lives. It is so rewarding to watch people transforming and growing, integrating disassociated parts of themselves and regaining a real perspective on what they want to create in their lives.

In 1996 THE DOLPHIN CONNECTION was born in a blaze of publicity, as our inaugural trip to Ireland’s west coast was accompanied by a Sunday Times reporter. We took a group to swim with a pod of bottlenose dolphins in the Shannon estuary. The group included children

with autism, families, babies and children born in water and a selection of dolphin lovers, all up for a magical adventure. Indeed it was and the encounter with the dolphins was spectacular. It was full moon, dusk and the dolphins came and surrounded the boat, doing aerial displays, in full celebration, leaping over the people in the water. As I look back it almost seems too surreal to be real, but that is what occurs sometimes when we are with the dolphins, we are taken to “non-ordinary reality” an “other” world. I have studied shamanism and really feel there is much to learn about connecting with the other realms where there is a deep knowing, a magical connection to existence in which a deep love and gratitude for life is found – *a spiritual connection*.

So back in Ireland, the encounter appeared on the Sunday Times October 1996 and my office phone rang constantly for 10 days, I could not make an outgoing call as the line was constantly busy. I realised we needed to run an event for these people about



dolphins and also offer some dolphin adventures.

I then had dreams about some remote islands that reminded me of New Zealand but were in the northern hemisphere. It turned out these were the Azores. The Azores archipelago is situated in the Atlantic Ocean 1000 miles west of Portugal. It is the only land between America and Europe.

With much synchronicity, we gathered information and support making contact with wonderful characters who own boats and hotels in the Azores.



We took our first DOLPHIN CONNECTION group there in July 1997. To this day we still work with these people that have such a passion for marine life and responsible tourism and I love and respect them. They have helped to create some truly memorable and life changing holidays for guests over the years.

The love affair with dolphins and the deeper implications of making a connection with them both in the wild and in one’s ‘wild’ heart continues to guide and inform what I do and where I go.

NEW VENTURE – TAKING OVER THE REIGNS FROM THE LATE RUTH CORNER

DOLPHIN SWIMS – Wild and Free

‘Dolphin swims’; formerly ‘Wild and Free’ has been operating in The Red Sea, Egypt for the last 13 years.

I was asked by Robert Corner (Brother of the late Ruth Corner - see September 2009 Issue of Friends of IDW Newsletter) if I would take over the dolphin swims Venture in Egypt.

Malcolm and I went there in November 2009 and were so impressed by the boat operators, the dolphins and the resort we decided to take it on.

Now 4 months later, after a lot of hard work we have already sent our first clients and we are inundated with bookings!!

“It is a great privilege to continue the dolphin swims in Egypt, continuing the work of the late Ruth Corner who, with Khaled Saed, as a husband/wife team, hosted many holidays swimming with the wild dolphins of the Red Sea”.

Ruth’s memory lives on in the continuation of this business in which her passion for wild dolphins, marine conservation and dedicated service to the guests will be continued with a renewed commitment from us in this very special location. I am very excited to be able to introduce you to our programs at the resort and our very special group boat safaris which will be hosted by our team.

Now under new management, we use the same eco-village resort and guides who previously hosted Wild and Free clients.

Khaled Saed will act as our representative “on the ground” and will be responsible for the transfers and getting you there safely, introducing you to the key people and generally making you feel most welcome on arrival. We also have our own boat safari team who will host groups on the live-aboard safari boat”.

The spinner dolphins in Egypt are so interactive and playful, we are really excited to spend more time with them and it is my plan to conduct a research project there **...it feels like the next stage of the work I am supposed to do is unfolding...it is something to do with communication and...it is indeed a great honour and privilege to continue what Ruth



Corner began. She was a friend and colleague and did some amazing work with dolphins; we can feel her presence guiding our steps in Egypt as we develop the company and also add our own style from years of experience in the dolphin swim business.

There seems to be so much synchronicity and “guidance” around my direction with this work, I can only think there is another hand or should I say “fin” directing the course of events and my job is to keep listening and follow with the best I can. We have supported



people’s personal journeys, they come to meet the dolphins for their own personal reasons and beautiful healing occurs which can be full of emotion, celebration, moving on and coming to terms with life events.

I think the dolphins, the conditions and the wonderful climate are the perfect place for dolphin swim experiences and invite you to join us!

Come play with these wild dolphins!

Swimming with these dolphins is an amazing and magical experience of joy and delight as they are very playful and interactive with the swimmers. They lead the interactions and we actively discourage guests not to chase or disturb them in any way. They are very curious and we wait for the right mood when they approach us.



Our local guide free dives with them and they love his underwater acrobatics! You can watch from the surface as they swim alongside you or play with them by swimming underwater. The area is far away from mass tourist resorts and our ethos is not to negatively impact the dolphins' natural behaviour or habitat. We follow strict guidelines that respect the dolphins.



All interactions with the dolphins are on their terms, we let them approach us and do not disturb them when they are resting. They hunt outside in the open ocean at night and return to the protected calm waters of the reef by day to rest, play and socialize”.

We use only environmentally responsible operators and offer our guests expert guidance in developing confidence and safety in the sea.

Relax

You can also snorkel around the beautiful coral reef with the brightly coloured fish before returning to the boat to relax on the decks, take a siesta, sunbathe and enjoy the freshly prepared food from the on board chef. Enjoy the sunsets from both boat and the beach.

When not on the boat, there are many extra activities to enjoy such as desert camel rides, souvenir shopping and visiting ancient Egyptian monuments.



The Programme offers 2 styles of holidays swimming with dolphins in the Red Sea:

Swim with wild dolphins boat safari and land based resort

5 nights at resort and 2 nights, 3 days on live-aboard boat safari at the dolphin reef

Eco village beach resort

7 nights at resort and day trips to swim with the dolphins

For further information visit: <http://www.dolphin-swims.co.uk>

Phone:

Outside of UK: +44 1273 882778

From UK: 01273 882778 or 01273 882778

Dolphin Swims – Wild and Free Conservation Initiatives

Conservation Initiatives:

- **Responsible Tourism in EGYPT**
We work only with Egyptian owned eco – resorts, companies who employ local workers. By coming here, you help to provide employment for local people who would otherwise not have the opportunity to earn good wages in work that allows them to follow their traditional employment on the sea.
- Our local boat company, crew and guides have an environmentally responsible policy. They act to cause low impact on both the coral reef and the dolphins by educating the swimmers and divers. They have a special anchoring system which does not harm the reef and is a permanent fixture which a crew member has to swim underwater in order to secure the boat. They issue the guests with non plastic bottles which can be re-filled and re-used after being cleaned.
- Together we are involved with a dolphin research study. This is to monitor the behaviour of the dolphins by collecting data from studying their behaviour. We have arranged for marine biology students to work on this study, hosted by our boat company using photo ID, and documenting patterns of behaviour, especially with regards to the “moods” of the dolphins in order to ascertain the best times to enter the water that will not disturb their rest time. The intention is to use this data to provide a protocol for a low impact effect from the tourists who visit this off-shore reef. The study is due to commence in April 2010. There is a long term plan to create a “Dolphin School”.
- TAT (Tourists against Trash) to clean up the desert.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER - PLEASE KEEP YOUR STORIES COMING

**WE ARE CREATING A GLOBAL NETWORK OF DOLPHIN LOVERS
THAT CARE ABOUT OTHERS AND THE EARTH WE SHARE.**

Email your news and comments on articles in our newsletters to me at jackieconnell@btinternet.com.

The Friends of IDW Newsletter is FREE but if you would like to support the work of IDW to help dolphins and people, you can still **make a donation through the Dolphin Shop** http://www.dolphinfriend.com/html/dolphin_shop.html.

Charity (Patron – Dr Horace Dobbs): If you would like to support the registered charity ‘Operation Sunshine Family Therapy Programmes’ bringing dolphin joy to families of children with special needs, donations can be made through: <http://www.operationsunshine.org/html/fundraising.html>

Friends of IDW can advertise on <http://www.dolphinfriend.com>. Email our Webmaster Terry Connell on terry.connell1@btinternet.com.

Please contribute to future Newsletters and send me your views, comments and experiences of dolphin encounters. Email: jackieconnell@btinternet.com.

EDUCATION is a major function of International Dolphin Watch and has therefore always striven to encourage youngsters to take part in dolphin activities. I hope therefore, that you will enrol as many children as you can to become DOLPHIN FRIENDS, encourage them to contribute to future Newsletters and participate in 2010 YEAR OF THE DOLPHIN IN SCHOOLS.



**Jackie Connell
EDITOR**