

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

DECEMBER 2009



Plus wishes for a **JOYFUL 2010** to dolphin lovers everywhere

From Horace and his team of loyal voluntary supporters:
Jackie and Terry, Kris and Robin, Joan and Pat, and Melanie

CONTENTS

EDUCATION.....	3
DILO the Dolphin by Horace Dobbs continues to bring joy this Christmas.....	3
Swanland Primary School Book Week Activities	3
Swanland Primary School has designated 2010 as ‘The Year of the Dolphin’	4
“MARCO POLO CRUISE” 1st February - 15th March 2010 to the Amazon and the Orinoco.....	5
Dilo and the Isle of the Gods Serialisation: CHAPTER 8	6
NEWS	8
Moko the dolphin seeks out human company in New Zealand.....	8
Mother Dolphin Survives	11
Dolphins play football with jellyfish.....	12
Smith to direct inspirational "Dolphin's Tale"	13
Pitch of Blue Whale Songs Is Declining Around the World, Scientists Discover	14
Safety in numbers: The starlings have a whale of a time	15
Horace Dobbs reveals how this picture by Kate Westerway was taken	16
FRIENDS' NEWS	17
Interview with Leah Lemieux	17
Letter from Jana Morhardt	17
Poem from Joan Robson	18
New Hope for our Seas	18
News from Human-Dolphin Connection	18
Invitation from Andrew Parker, DolphCom Solutions: Be one of the first to join us on the most amazing life-changing whale swim program available.	19
Dolphin Healing Retreats with Patricia Schmidt, CTRS, Aquatic Specialist	19
Message from Michelle Sachs and the Ocean’s Essence Team	20
GIVE A GIFT OF DOLPHIN JOY TO THOSE LESS FORTUNATE THIS CHRISTMAS.....	20
NOTE FROM THE EDITOR	21

EDUCATION

DILO the Dolphin by Horace Dobbs continues to bring joy this Christmas



For information on Dilo and the series of books
by Horace Dobbs visit:

<http://www.dolphinfriend.com/html/dilo.html>

Dr. Horace Dobbs gives interactive talks he calls “Playshops”. In his playshops Horace tells how a chance meeting with a friendly wild dolphin led him to write 6 books for children about a make believe dolphin he named

Dilo

Swanland Primary School Book Week Activities

Horace tells his audience how
Everyone can write a book

Dolphin “X” FACTOR in School

Between 3.30 and 5.30pm on Wednesday 25 November 594 dolphins were gathered together in Swanland Primary School (nr Hull) to compete for the Best Plasticine Dolphin Sculpture Award.

The idea of getting all the children in the school to make plasticine sculptures of dolphins came to Head Teacher, Ray Woodward, after seeing a BBC 2 programme in which James May entered a plasticine garden in the Chelsea Flower Show. This followed on from an invitation to local dolphin celebrity Dr Horace Dobbs, Director of International Dolphin Watch (www.idw.org) and author of six children’s books about dolphins, to take part in the School’s Book Week. Horace showed one of his dolphin films in assembly and afterwards gave each of the older children an exercise book in which to write their own dolphin story helped by their parents/carers and anyone else prepared to lend a hand. Horace

offered a prize for **the best Story judged in a Secret Ballot by the pupils** in each participating class to be presented at an Award Ceremony at the School Christmas Fair held on 25th November and was thrilled by the very **high literary standards** of the children's entries. Horace was also delighted to see the creative artistic diversity shown by the children in their sculptures. Horace said "I was amazed at the quality of their efforts, dolphins are actually quite difficult to sculpt. Most kids have a natural fear of sharks but a natural affinity for dolphins. It is something that is very deeply inbuilt.

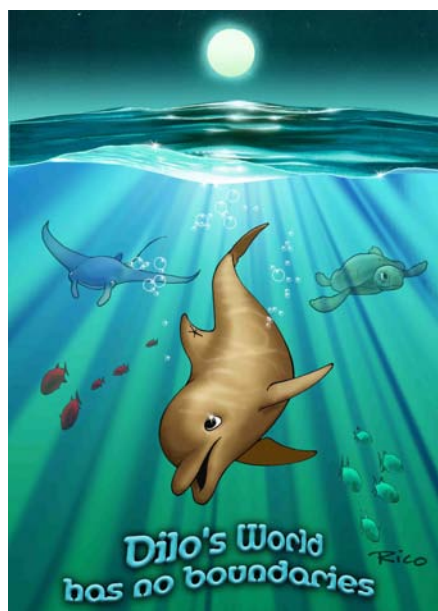
When the Head Master suggested that the sculptures should be exhibited at the Christmas Fair, Horace decided that this would provide an "X" Factor type opportunity for the public i.e. those attending the Christmas Fair, to judge the best of the 594 dolphins that were on display.

*Horace will report on the winners of the **BEST STORY** and **BEST DOLPHIN PLASTICINE SCULPTURE** competitions in the next Friends of IDW Newsletter.*

Swanland Primary School has designated 2010 as 'The Year of the Dolphin'

*Dr Horace Dobbs invites other schools to join the Swanland School Project and make 2010 **THE YEAR OF THE DOLPHIN IN SCHOOLS AROUND THE WORLD** and to send him their ideas for children to join in the dolphin fun and activities to improve literacy, education and an appreciation for conservation of the marine environment.*

Email your ideas to: <mailto://idw@talk21.com>



“MARCO POLO CRUISE” 1st February - 15th March 2010 to the Amazon and the Orinoco



International Dolphin Watch Honorary Director **Dr Horace Dobbs** is on his travels again. Horace departs from London on 1st February on board the *Marco Polo* on a six week cruise that will take him to Amsterdam, Lisbon, Tenerife, Mindelo, Belem, Almeirim, Alter Do Chao, Piritins, Manaus, Boco do Valeria, Santerem, Paraiso, Boca Do Jari, Macapa, Ile Du Diable, Puerto Ordaz, Scarborough, Bridgetown, Ponta Delgada and back to London.

As a guest Enrichment Speaker Horace will give 15 presentations packed with facts and stories with his usual enthusiasm and humour. He will of course cover his greatest passion, **dolphins**, about which he has written many books. However, this long cruise will also give Horace the opportunity to include other topics such as

his days as a pioneering underwater cameraman and show films about the many extraordinary adventures he has had exploring the seas of the world – including some of those he recounted in his book *The Great Diving Adventure*.

Horace always enjoys chatting to passengers and hearing about their cetacean experiences, especially when he is wandering around the deck watching out for birds, whales and dolphins. There is a lot of information about this and other Marco Polo Cruises on

http://www.igluccruise.com/marco-polo/1st-february-2010_c39990

INTRODUCTION

Cruise Enrichment Speaker Dr Horace Dobbs

“I’m the richest man in the world. Life is as exciting now as it’s ever been,” he says.

Dr Dobbs was thoroughly enjoying his job as the head of a medical research team working on drugs that influence the brain when a chance encounter with a friendly wild dolphin in 1974 completely changed his life. It gave him an opportunity to combine his love of research with his other passion – exploring the undersea world.

Horace knew that dolphins are intelligent and have brains as large as those of humans. He also knew that encounters with dolphins lift our spirits. “How do they do that?” was one of the questions he asked himself. His quest to find the answer to this apparently simple question has taken him on an amazing and adventurous journey to many parts of our planet.

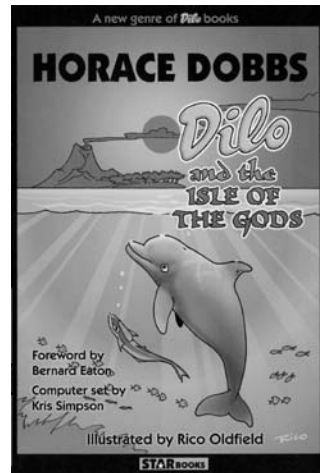
Horace has written numerous books and had his own TV series.

During this cruise Horace will give fifteen presentations during which he will explore with his customary enthusiasm and humour some of the many projects and expeditions he has embarked upon plus his thoughts and ideas for the future.

Horace hopes that by joining in with the spirit of his talks and film shows, his audience will experience **the sense of joy and freedom** that our cousins in the sea - the dolphins - have imparted to him.

Dilo and the Isle of the Gods Serialisation: CHAPTER 8

(Continued from previous Newsletter)



8. *The mysterious giant*

THE RISE AND FALL OF THE TIDES IS ONE OF THE WAYS DOLPHINS MEASURE TIME.

After swimming for six high and six low tides, about three days in human time, Dilo heard the first sounds of the gods. They were very faint. He could feel them inside his body. The dolphin turned on his magic sound. The Isle of the Gods was too far away to give an echo. But something else did. It was big and it was close to the surface.

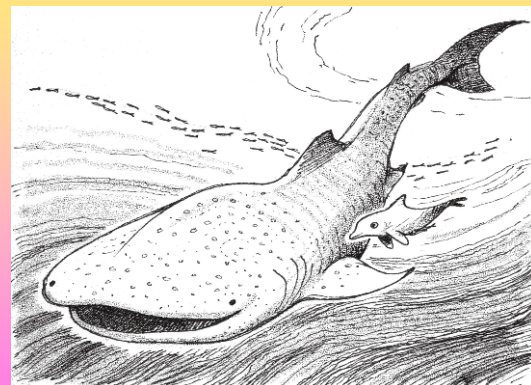
Dilo progressed towards it. The sonar echo was getting clearer. It was about the same size as a whale. The object was making no noise. That was strange. Whales, especially humpbacks, usually sang when they were on long journeys. So what could it be? Tina told Dilo to be careful. Whales were friendly. If this was not a whale it could do them harm. What if it was a Great White shark?

Dilo approached slowly.

Page 43

Gradually the mysterious monster became clearer. Dilo could see it now with his eyes. It was moving steadily forward. It had a huge tail that it swirled lazily from side to side.

“Do you know what it is?” whispered Rema.
“No, I haven’t seen one before”



“Well it isn’t a whale. Their tails go up and down like mine.”

“Do you think it’s a giant shark?” Rema quivered.

Page 44

"I don't know."

Dilo continued to keep his distance. He used his sonar and his eyes. This monster didn't have teeth. It had small eyes on each side of its wide mouth.

Underneath its broad head swam a shoal of pilot fish - like those he had seen under the turtle.

The giant's back was covered, with pale spots. Ribbons of sunlight danced across its body. It was beautiful. But it was also something else. It was majestic. Yes, that's the word. This giant creature was majestic.

"It's not menacing like a shark," said Dilo, who was getting ever more adventurous.

Dilo decided the giant would not harm them. So he moved in closer. Very gently he stroked a pectoral fin along the giant's body. The giant's skin wasn't smooth. It wasn't slimy. It was rough - like sandpaper. The giant didn't take any notice. It just kept swimming.

Rema was impressed with Dilo's boldness.

"Imagine getting a ride on that," she said clinging tightly to Dilo's belly.

"Why don't you then?"

Page 45

"I think I'll stay on you for a bit longer," replied Rema.

"Coward"

"No I'm not," responded Rema, who was feeling tempted to swap rides. "I'm sensible. Anyway I've decided I want to go to the Isle of the Gods."

Dilo was getting bolder by the minute.

"This is pushing our luck too far," cried Rema as Dilo swam just ahead of the giant's huge, closed mouth.

Dilo felt himself being pushed forwards. For a few moments he enjoyed a free ride. Then he dived down and let the majestic monster swim over him.

"Tina the turtle is very wise," he eventually said to Rema. "When I see her again I will ask her about that mysterious giant."

Page 46

CHAPTER 9 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>

NEWS

Moko the dolphin seeks out human company in New Zealand

Delinquent dolphin Moko causes terror in the surf

*By Paul Chapman in Wellington
Telegraph.co.uk, 09 Dec 2009*

A bottlenose dolphin who tips over waterskiers, headbutts surfers to steal their boards, and makes amorous advances on young women is creating havoc in a New Zealand harbour.

But since moving along the east coast to the seaside resort of Gisborne he has transformed from gregarious youngster to teenage tearaway, terrorising some swimmers so much they refuse to go back into the water. Six people have needed rescuing by lifesavers in recent days as the dolphin has become more aggressive. Among them were two 12-year-old girls who were both injured when they were "mugged" by Moko for their boards. And a 16-year-old surfer was stranded 500 yards offshore after the delinquent dolphin stole his board.

Gisborne man Dean Makara said he was knocked out of his kayak. "He thinks he's just playing but he doesn't know what playing is," Mr Makara said.

In an earlier incident, an exhausted woman swimmer feared she would drown after Moko refused to let her return to shore because he had not finished playing with her.

Now the city council has become so alarmed it has warned it will fine anyone who tries to swim with the creature, while conservation officials plan to bombard summer holidaymakers with leaflets listing do's and don'ts.

John Adams, of the Department of Conservation, said: "What might appear to be a small nudge to a dolphin can be a major blow to a person.

"He is a wild animal, so there is a real risk of danger there."

Grant Fussell, president of the local surf club, warned that Moko could try to mate with a human female partner.

"He relates more to humans than to other dolphins. There is a danger he could literally become a lady killer."

There have also been calls to appoint a "guardian" to safeguard Moko's interests.

Advocates for the creature have sprung to his defence, saying they are horrified at headlines dubbing him "Moko the Menace".

Dave Head, an environmentalist who has studied Moko, angrily dismissed reports that the dolphin was a sexual predator.

Professor Mark Orams, a marine science expert, said the problem was that Moko had transformed into an exuberant and insolent hormone-pumped teenager. "And a male teenager at that." Here you've got a very lonely bottlenose dolphin who loves human contact, but he's getting too big and strong for it. "In a sense he's seeking something from humans that he should be getting from other dolphins."

Don't blame Moko!

The Gisborne Herald, 8th November 2009

Some of the district's veteran water users are horrified at the escalating exaggeration over the district's dolphin — dubbed last night by TVNZ as "Moko the Menace" and potentially a killer dolphin.

A Close Up programme honed in on the dangers of Moko's growing size and frisky behaviour, particularly in deep water. Other media followed suit this morning, focusing on the possible hazard presented by the fun-loving mammal.

Olympic kayaker and surf lifesaving instructor Alan Thompson said he was horrified at the reports, which he said were grossly exaggerated and over-dramatised.

It was an absolute privilege being in the water with such a large and friendly marine mammal.

Keeping safe while doing so was just a matter of common sense, he said.

"I have taken my 14-year-old daughter swimming with him."

Likewise, his son was photographed playing in the river with Moko. The dolphin was playing tag with a kayak paddle that day.

"I told him that was a million-dollar photo because there would not be many kids in the world who would ever have that experience."

On the other hand, he saw a mother letting a child of about eight go out in the water on a flutter board to play with him.

"Flutter boards are his favourite toys and, of course, he is going to try to take it — it's plain common sense.

"If you don't like the way he plays, then don't go out in the water.

“If he wants to play while you are surfing and you don’t want to play, then go somewhere else,” he said.

“Surfers have cars — Moko doesn’t.”

He was referring to complaints from some surfers over Moko’s games with their boards.

Surf Lifesaving Gisborne manager Debbie Hutchings has “very real fears for Moko’s safety” after the dolphin was “shut in” at Wainui Beach by surfers who “smacked” him with their boards.

The surfers were trying to recover a “stolen” surfboard.

“In order to get it back, they tried to cage him in,” Mrs Hutchings said.

“They were using boards to try to push him away. They were basically hitting him to get it back.”

However, Mrs Hutchings said it was more likely surfers assaulting Moko would come off second best.

Moko is at least 2.5 metres long and not yet considered an adult. Adult bottlenoses can reach 2.8m and swim at 5 to 12kmh.

The advice from Mrs Hutchings on stolen boards is “let him take it”.

“He has come to learn that that’s a game for him. But there are real risks of a person being injured if Moko’s playing gets too rough or of someone finding themselves out of their depth where they are so far out at sea they might have real trouble getting back.”

The Department of Conservation has continued its advice from two years ago when Moko was playing at Mahia — don’t give toys like bodyboards to him to play with.

Mr Thompson says those taking a negative approach to Moko’s presence should “get a life”.

“It’s absolute bulls..t,” he said.

Experienced fishermen and surfers are disturbed by the tone some media reports are taking.

Former national surfing champion Teddy Colbert, who has been riding waves for more than 30 years, echoes Alan Thompson’s words.

“It is a privilege for most of us who get out there, to be hanging out with him. To me he is only a danger if you want to be stupid. If you are terrified of him being big and bad, then

don't get in the water with him.

“It is an honour to have Moko and experience first- hand Mother Nature and Tangaroa. I have never heard of dangerous dolphins, only people being saved by them,” he said.

Fishermen Kelly Welsh and his father Barry have had regular encounters with Moko and say he has been no trouble.

“What people need to understand is that the sea is his domain and we are visitors,” said Kelly.

Some Maori people view Moko's presence as a message from Tangaroa.

Tangata whenua Barney Tupara says Moko's visit is intriguing Maori.

“For our people, our relationship with the creatures in the sea is very close. We are sad when a shark or whale dies because they are kaitiaki — guardians of the sea. To us, Moko has come to these shores for a reason, perhaps for us as a community to have a better understanding of the impact we are having on creatures in the sea.

“We play in the sea, but it's foreign territory for us — they live, abide and thrive there. If he is being aggressive or overly playful, don't be afraid of him — he might be telling you to move to a safer place, or that you're disturbing something under the water.

“Work with him, and listen to him.”

Editors Note: Please send your views, comments and experiences of dolphin encounters? <mailto:jackieconnell@btinternet.com>.

Mother Dolphin Survives

Nelson Mail, 7th December 2009

A dolphin and her calf were found stranded in Nelson Haven on Saturday.

The mother survived the stranding and swam away after being transported to Cable Bay and refloated, but her calf died.

Motueka Department of Conservation biodiversity manager Gavin Udy said DOC received a call about the two common dolphins on Friday, but they were unable to be located.

The department received a second call on Saturday and the mother dolphin was located straight away in the haven, near Boulder Bank Drive.

By that time, the tide was on its way out and the animal was pretty high and dry, Mr Udy said.

The calf, which was less than a week old, was found in the haven near Marybank Drive.

The dolphins were driven to Cable Bay to be refloated, but the calf died of shock en route, Mr Udy said. The mother quickly got her bearings and swam away after a few minutes.

Dolphins play football with jellyfish

Remarkable footage has been taken of wild dolphins apparently playing football using a jellyfish as the ball.

Telegraph.co.uk, 16th October 2009



The bottlenose dolphins, which were off the Welsh coastline at the time, were caught on video for the first time playing jellyfish football Photo: newsteam / Sea Watch Foundation

A team of marine biologists claimed they witnessed dolphins swim under a jellyfish and, with a quick flick of its tail, shoot it out of the water.

The bottlenose dolphins, which were off the Welsh coastline at the time, were caught on video for the first time playing jellyfish football.

And one dolphin is seen flipping the jellyfish 6ft in the air.

Scientists suggested their game could go some way to explaining why dolphins in captivity are so skilful with balls in sealife parks around the world.

Jonathan Easter, 23, who saw the dolphins at play, said: "One thing is for sure, they were having fun.

"There were floating blobs of jelly and the dolphins were flipping them about.

"They swim under the jellyfish, then at the right moment flick their tail up to give it a good 'kick'.

"They were not always accurate but when they had a direct hit the jellyfish were literally kicked out of the water.

"We have been studying individual dolphins in Welsh waters for some time but we got more than we expected from this trip.

"These incredible images provide a privileged insight into the lives and behaviour of bottlenose dolphins.

"But this behaviour has never been seen before and it presents more questions than answers!"

Some of the Barrel jellyfish reportedly died from being flipped.

Marine biologists from the Countryside Council for Wales, Sea Watch Foundation and Marine Awareness North Wales were studying bottlenose dolphins in Cardigan Bay, off the Welsh coast.

The area has Britain's largest coastal population of bottlenose dolphins.

Every summer, between 150 and 250 dolphins inhabit the waters, which form significant breeding and feeding grounds.

Smith to direct inspirational "Dolphin's Tale"

By Borys Kit

Reuters, 9th December 2009

LOS ANGELES (Hollywood Reporter) - Charles Martin Smith has been hired to write and direct "A Dolphin's Tale," inspired by the true story of a dolphin called Winter who was rescued off the Florida coast and taken in by the Clearwater Marine Aquarium.

The movie version, from Warner Bros.-based Alcon Entertainment, centers on a boy who befriends an injured dolphin who lost her tail in a crab trap. The boy motivates everyone around him to help save the dolphin by creating a prosthetic appendage to replace the dolphin's tail. The marine mammal's strong survival instincts become an inspiration to people with special needs throughout the world.

Alcon marketing president Richard Ingber saw the story on NBC's "Today" and tracked down the rights, which were shared by the aquarium and its employee David Yates.

Smith has experience with material concerning animals and kids, having directed the first "Air Bud" movie in 1997. The long-time actor most recently directed "The Stone of Destiny," starring Robert Carlyle and Kate Mara, which has garnered praise on the festival circuit.

Pitch of Blue Whale Songs Is Declining Around the World, Scientists Discover

ScienceDaily (Dec. 9, 2009)

The sound level of songs blue whales sing across the vast expanses of the ocean to attract potential mates has been steadily creeping downward for the past few decades, and a scientist at Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego and his colleagues believe the trend may be good news for the population of the endangered marine mammal.

Mark McDonald of WhaleAcoustics in Bellvue, Colo., along with John Hildebrand of Scripps Oceanography and Sarah Mesnick of NOAA Fisheries Southwest Fisheries Science Center studied blue whale song data from around the world and discovered a downward curve in the pitch, or frequency, of the songs. The decline was tracked in blue whales across the globe, from off the Southern California coast to the Indian and Southern Oceans.

"The basic style of singing is the same, the tones are there, but the animal is shifting the frequency down over time. The more recent it is, the lower the frequency the animal is singing in, and we have found that in every song we have data for," said Hildebrand, a professor of oceanography in the Marine Physical Laboratory at Scripps.

The study's results are published in the most recent issue of the journal *Endangered Species Research*. The researchers examined a list of possible causes for the frequency drop—from climate change to a rise in human-produced ocean noise—and believe it may be explained by the increase of blue whale numbers following bans on commercial whaling activities.

While the function of blue whale songs is not known and scientists have much more to learn, they do know that all singers have been determined to be males and that the high-intensity, or loud, and low-frequency songs propagate long distances across the ocean. Blue whales are widely dispersed during the breeding season and it is likely that songs function to advertise which species is singing and the location of the singing whale.

In the heyday of commercial whaling, as blue whale numbers plummeted, it may have been advantageous for males to sing higher frequency songs, the researchers believe, in order to maximize their transmission distance and their ability to locate potential mates (females) or competitors (other males). "It may be that when (blue whale) densities go up, it's not so far to get to the closest female, whereas back when they were depleted it may have been that the closest female was a long way away," said Hildebrand.

In the 1960s, when blue whale numbers were substantially reduced and recordings of the animals were first made, there may have been a trade-off in which the male suitors chose to sing higher frequencies that were louder and heard over greater distances, Hildebrand said. In more recent years, as population sizes have increased, it may now be more advantageous for males to sing songs that are lower in frequency rather than louder.

"When they make these songs they need to use most of the air in their lungs," said Hildebrand. "It's like an opera singer that sees how long he can hold a note. The (male) songs are made to impress the females and/or other males, so I think that's how the boy blue whales are impressing the girls, or are showing off to other boys: by making a loud and long song."

The scientists say the same downward pitch phenomenon may be true in other whales such as fin and humpbacks, but the blue whale song, with a comparatively easier song to analyze, is a good springboard to study other species. Hildebrand says such knowledge about whale songs could be important in monitoring whale populations and recovery efforts.

During the study the researchers analyzed thousands of blue whale songs divided into at least 10 worldwide regions. These include the Northeast, Southwest and Northwest Pacific Ocean; the North Atlantic; the Southern Ocean near Antarctica; and the North and Southeast Indian Ocean. Blue whale songs have been recorded for the last 45 years through scientific and military applications by seafloor seismometers tracking regional earthquakes and dedicated whale acoustic recording packages.

In addition to NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service's Southwest Fisheries Science Center, Mesnick is affiliated with Scripps' Center for Marine Biodiversity and Conservation.

This research was funded by the U.S. Navy, NOAA and the National Science Foundation.

Safety in numbers: The starlings have a whale of a time

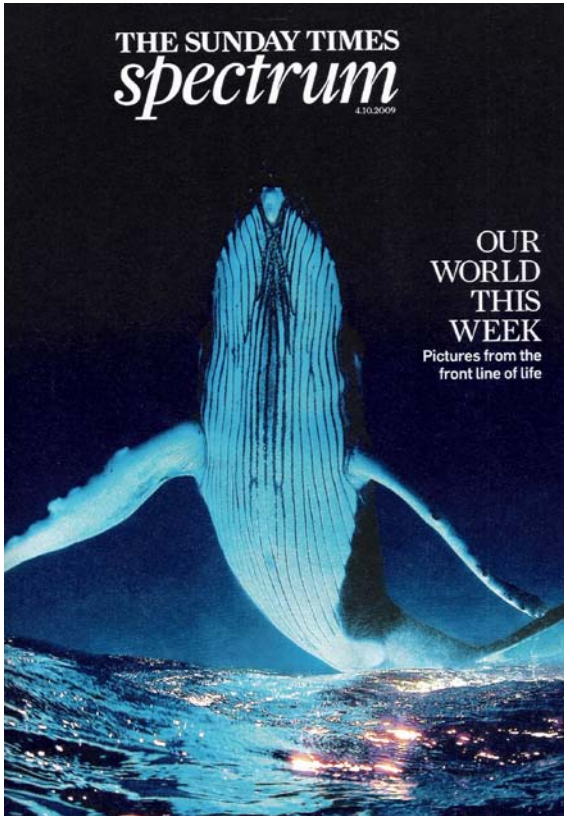
By Daily Mail Reporter, 2nd December 2009



Behold a sight that would have Captain Ahab rousing his crew and roaring: "Point that harpoon at the Heavens lads!"

For up in the sky lies the shape of a gigantic whale. This awesome airborne Moby Dick is not fictional but a work of nature – comprised of countless starlings moving in formation in the winter breeze.

For rest of story see: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1232385/Stunning-natural-display-thousands-starlings-form-shape-whale.html>



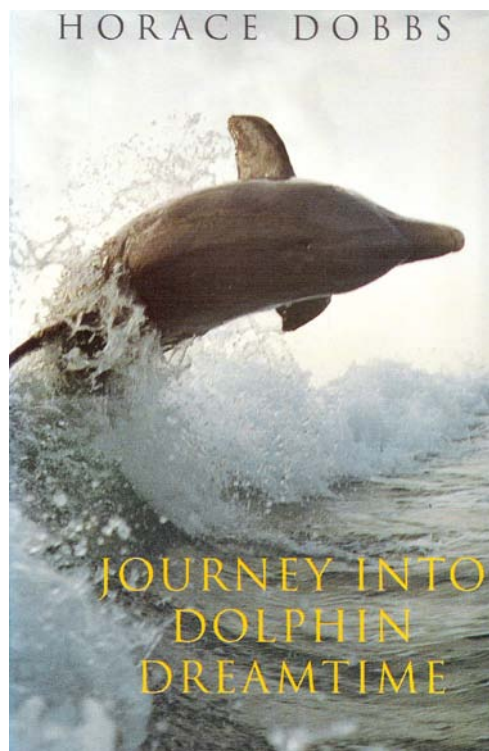
Horace Dobbs reveals how this picture by Kate Westerway was taken

It reminded him of his wonderful experiences off the island of Providenciales in the Turks and Caicos with a friendly wild dolphin named JoJo and the photograph he took of JoJo with Dean Burnall.

“When I looked at my photograph of Dean with his finger in JoJo's mouth I twigged on how Jane Westerway got her amazing picture”.

" Although Kate's powerful picture looks like a whale leaping out of the sea it is actually an underwater photograph of a whale descending into the depths

AND THEN TURNED UPSIDE DOWN"



FRIENDS' NEWS

Interview with Leah Lemieux

Please have a look at this interview about swimming with captive dolphins and my book 'Rekindling The Waters', posted on the Humane Society International website:

http://www.hsus.org/hsi/oceans/marine_mammals_in_captivity/swim_with_the_dolphins_actions/rekindling_the_waters_121009.html.

Naomi: What is the most amazing encounter you've ever had with wild dolphins?



Leah: I was swimming off the coast of the big island of Hawaii very early in the morning, when I encountered a pod of spinner dolphins. We visited for a while and then went our separate ways, though I could still hear their sing-song whistles in the water. I was pretty far from shore—nearly a mile and in deep water. I looked up to discover I was being stalked by a pair of blue marlin, both nearly 12 feet long! I knew I was in trouble. I did the only thing I could think of: I dove deep into the water column and did my best imitation of a dolphin distress call. The marlin were almost on me—but amazingly my call was answered, and an instant later a group of nine male spinner dolphins came zooming into the fray like fighter planes! The dolphins surrounded me and the marlin vanished. My heart was pounding, but looking into the dolphins' eyes calmed me. They slowed their pace, kept me

Leah Lemieux

in their midst and actually escorted me back into the shallows. I don't know if I would have died that day if it weren't for those spinners, but I certainly avoided a nasty encounter thanks to them.

Many thanks and Happy Holidays to you All!

Leah Lemieux

<http://www.RekindlingTheWaters.com>

Letter from Jana Morhardt

Hello Dr. Dobbs

My name is Jana Morhardt and I am from Germany. Sorry, but my English is not so good. This year I was on holiday in Egypt – Hurghada. It was very great. Every day we were on a boat out at sea. One day we saw dolphins and it was so amazing. One of the dolphins came to me, and swam with me. Since I was a child I have liked dolphins, and my dream was to see dolphins. And now in Egypt I swam with dolphins! It was amazing! I have a video, you can see it here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xip_Vm7f-Ho. It is short - but I like it so much!

I read the book "Mit Delfinen schwimmen" (swim with dolphins?) from Bobbie Sandoz and there I read your name and so I looked on google and found your internet site. I hope to hear from you.

Best Regards from Jana

Poem from Joan Robson

BROKEN TRUST

I heard a gun
a rabbit died
and there's another by its side
I heard a gun
now lifeless bird
tumbles, twisting down to earth
I heard a gun
the stag is dead
no longer King of all he led
Unsuspecting, not one knew
what the hand of man could do

New Hope for our Seas

WWF-UK <mailto://info@wwf.org.uk>

It took ten years of campaigning, but our perseverance has finally been rewarded with a new UK Marine and Coastal Access Act. For the first time, the UK government now has a legal duty to look after marine species and habitats.

We couldn't have achieved this success without the thousands of campaigners who helped us - pressing the government to draft a bill, and encouraging hundreds of MPs and peers to vote on it, eventually achieving this big win for our seas. Thank you!

News from Human-Dolphin Connection

For information on the WildQuest Human-Dolphin Connection please visit <http://www.wildquest.com> . With Christmas just ahead of us we have a surprise for you. We have added an extra week to our 2010 program for families with children under 12. So we now have a family week in July as well as one in August. This is a great opportunity for the whole family to come and join the WildQuest Pod and share the dolphin energy. To support families with children, we do offer kids discounts. Do check with Arlyne in our reservations office for more details.

Did you also know that with our new on-line booking system we can hold a place for you for 2 days? Of course it depends on availability and you can read more about this feature on our [How to book page](#).

Some of our 2010 programs are already Nearly Full. We would love to see you here in Bimini next year to share our love and passion for the dolphins, the ocean and this beautiful island with you.

Invitation from Andrew Parker, DolphCom Solutions: Be one of the first to join us on the most amazing life-changing whale swim program available.

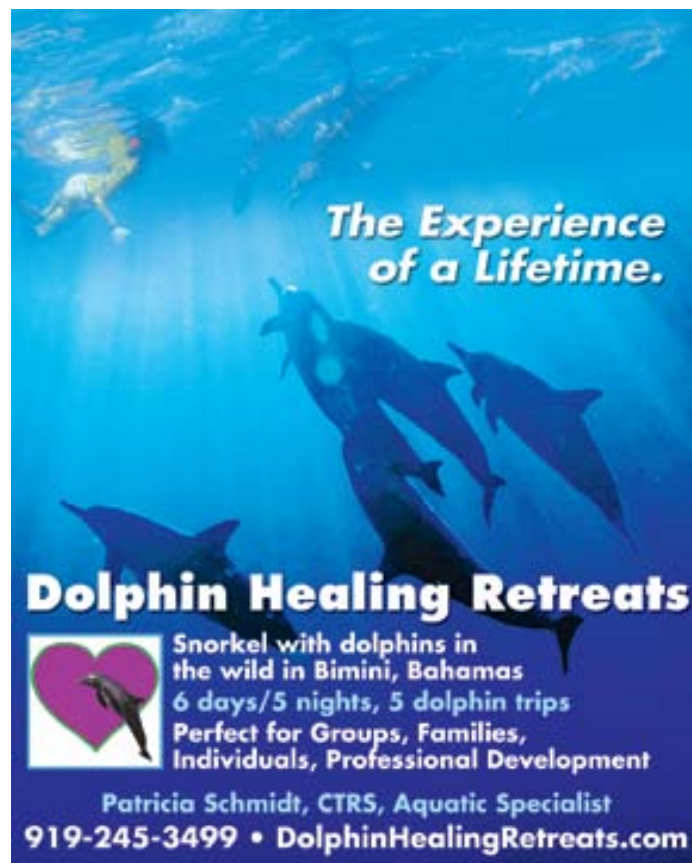
**Whale Song August / September 2010 Ha'apai Tonga
Book Now**

<http://www.dolphcom.com.au>

2009 was absolutely AMAZING. Under the watchful and caring eye of Glenn Edney we enjoyed some of the most profound and exciting Humpback whale encounters of my life! Ha'apai is unique in Tonga! Here there are a very limited number of people and even more limited number of whale swim operators. Glenn's boat Cat Knapp is the best in this location and the Ocean Blue adventure's approach is respectful, caring and it works!

Join us as we get to know some of our world's most amazing and intelligent beings, the Humpback whales. [CLICK HERE TO VIEW WHALE SONG VIDEO CLIPS 2008](#)

**Dolphin Healing Retreats with Patricia Schmidt, CTRS,
Aquatic Specialist**



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of a Lifetime.*

Dolphin Healing Retreats

Snorkel with dolphins in the wild in Bimini, Bahamas
6 days/5 nights, 5 dolphin trips
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Message from Michelle Sachs and the Ocean's Essence Team



GIVE A GIFT OF DOLPHIN JOY TO THOSE LESS FORTUNATE THIS CHRISTMAS

Operation Sunshine Family Therapy Programmes

Registered Charity 1121315

<http://www.operationsunshine.org>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS - 100% of donations made will go towards making dreams come true for special needs children

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE THAT HAS SUPPORTED
INTERNATIONAL DOLPHIN WATCH AND CONTRIBUTED TO THE
FRIENDS OF IDW NEWSLETTER OVER THE LAST YEAR.**

**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
<mailto: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 or adopt a dolphin** through the Dolphin Shop http://www.dolphinfriend.com/html/dolphin_shop.html.

Friends of IDW can advertise on <http://www.dolphinfriend.com>. Email our Webmaster Terry Connell on <mailto:terry.connell1@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 and encourage them to contribute to future Newsletters.



**Jackie Connell
EDITOR**