



Another Wonderful Maui Dolphin Day!

Thank to our funders: WWF, Forest and Bird, Tindall Foundation and the Raglan Lions Club. Special thanks for support and funding from the Department of Conservation.

Thanks to the stallholders who brought us fun activities to teach us about the environment that we share with Maui Dolphin. We hope that everyone came away with an idea of what they can do to help save Mauis. You can keep rubbish out of the ocean by picking up litter or refusing plastic bags. Or download the Best Fish Guide app on your smart phone, so that you can make informed decisions when buying seafood. You can join KASM for just \$10 a year to help in their battle against seabed mining. Or get up the mountain checking traps to restore biodiversity from mountain to sea with the Karioi Maunga ki te Moana project.



Diving deeper

The night before Maui Dolphin Day, a panel of experts came to Raglan to dive deeper into Maui Dolphin conservation.

The DOC marine science team shared the recent survey results showing there are 57-75 Maui Dolphins left. DOC is now working to identify research that will be used to update the Maui Dolphin Threat Management Plan in 2018. Stay tuned to feed into that plan next year!

Dr Wendi Roe from Massey University shared her research into Toxoplasmosis, a parasite transmitted through cat faeces that has killed a number of Maui Dolphins. She highlighted there is still a lot we don't know, like how the parasite makes it way from land or even exactly what Maui dolphins eat.

Local scientist Dougal Greer from eCoast shared his work creating models which predict how substances move within the harbour and out to the coastal environment. The Waikato Regional Council (WRC) coastal science team also shared the results of their ongoing water quality monitoring programme which ensures it's safe to take food and to swim in water along our coast.

Kristel Van Houte from Karioi Maunga ki te Moana spoke about restoring local biodiversity and how the forest connects to the sea. Their work controlling predators, including feral cats, benefits not only seabirds but also the marine environment and Maui Dolphins.

Rick Thorpe from WEC spoke of tangata whenua concerns for Popoto/Maui Dolphins over the last 30 years. WEC hopes to connect with the many community organisations (like HarbourCare and Xtreme Zero Waste) who are already doing amazing work to protect our marine environment, to further develop a coordinated community strategy for Maui Dolphins.

There is no single easy answer to Maui Dolphin conservation, their decline is an indicator of the health of our whole marine ecosystem, the fish we eat and the water we play in. No one agency or one community has the answer but Raglan is seen as a community that can lead the way. Bringing together researchers and the community has lead to meaningful discussions and we can continue to look for solutions. With the huge event turnout and positive public feedback, the WEC is keen to hold more evenings like this in the future. Those on the expert panel were impressed by a community that were "switched on, engaged and asked such good questions" - Dr Wendi Roe.

We need to share information. Agencies and researchers need to hear from communities to work better with them, and communities need to know what is going on so they can take action "Our land actions are important. We need to collaborate..It's about team work" - public feedback. We look forward to more discussions like this and more actions in the future!

They ran, they jumped and they paddled!!

Alongside the Whaingaroa Environment Centre's Maui Dolphin Day, the annual Xtreme Zero Waste Recycled Raft Race went off with another great splash!! Even with only 6 rafts, this race is still a whole lot of fun.

Well done to the winners:

1st Place and Best Raft – Raglan Kindergarten

2nd Place – Xtreme Zero Waste – Xtreme Jetstream

3rd Place and Best Junior Raft – Waitetuna School

A big thanks to the other rafts: The Scottish Grunt and Kura Street Raiders – well done!!

Our wonderful Whaingaroa Business Community played a big part in the race, through generous donations, each and every entry got a prize pack at the end of the day. A big thanks to LJ Hooker for their cash donation and supplying a safety boat on the day. After all of the hard work these guys put into their plans, creations and racing a little (or big) prize at the end helped make it all that little bit more worthwhile....thanks again Whaingaroa!!

The race would not be possible, without the support of our local water safety organisations, thanks again Raglan Volunteer Coastguard for your support.

The wonderful support from Raglan Kayaks ensured all rafters had life jackets and gave parents the opportunity to jump into a Kayak, if they wished to follow their children on their raft, they also provided extra eyes on the water during the race – thanks again Raglan Kayaks.

So Whaingaroa....only 11 months to go until RACE TIME AGAIN!!....we look forward to seeing you all there next year. - Xtreme Zero Waste



Thanks to local EnviroMatters sponsors:



TRUST WAIKATO
TE PUNA O WAIKATO