

HUMPBACK ICON PROJECT NEWS

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

DECEMBER 2008

A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW HIP CO-ORDINATOR

Welcome to the December edition of HIP News.

A lot has been happening since the last HIP update in July and the campaign has gone from strength to strength.

Three new HIP participants have come on board, not to mention my 'adoption' as the new HIP project coordinator. I can be contacted on (02) 9288 4900 or by email at bbennett@ifaw.org if you have any questions.

Please read on for all the latest news including the announcement of Tonga's Royal Patron for whales, celebrity and award news, and updates from HIP communities on recent events and activities.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to HIP and I look forward to working with you in 2009 in our ongoing fight to protect whales and their habitat.

On behalf of all of us at IFAW we wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Best wishes,
Belinda Bennett-Gow



Belinda with her dogs Monty and Sashi.
© IFAW

Plan for National Whale Day 2009



Following on from the huge success of its inaugural National Whale Day, IFAW is encouraging all HIP communities to take part in the activities for 2009. The date will be announced early in the New Year.

In 2008, 25 communities held events to celebrate cetaceans, from Marion Bay in Tasmania to Hervey Bay in Queensland and Albany to Exmouth in Western Australia. Events ranged from whale watching trips, exhibitions and beach clean ups to fairs, performances and parades.

Visit the website for ideas from the 2008 celebrations, www.ifaw.org and don't forget to send in news and photos from your events.

www.iconproject.com.au

HIP is an IFAW project based on an original concept by Surfers for Cetaceans and in collaboration with the The Oceania Project and The Centre for Whale Research (WA)

Tails for whales

We need your help to keep up the pressure on the Australian Government to fulfill their pre-election promise to stop whaling.

Our Tails for Whales campaign currently features 877 portraits of people making a whale tail with their hands in support of whale conservation.

Help us spread the word by asking your contacts and networks to visit

www.project551.org and add their photo, and don't forget to add your own photo, and help us stop Japan from killing more whales.

Make a whale tail with your hands and upload your photo at www.project551.org



Tonga's Royal Patron for whales

In honour of the Tongan Royal Family's commitment to protecting whales, Her Royal Highness Princess Salote Mafile'o Pilolevu Tuita was officially declared the Royal Patron for Whales in the Kingdom of Tonga on 3 October at an event hosted by IFAW, the Tonga Visitors Bureau, Vava'u Tourism Association and the Tonga Whale Watching Operators Association.

HRH Princess Pilolevu Tuita accepted the title in honour of her father, the late King Tupou IV, who banned all hunting of whales in Tonga by royal decree in 1978 – four years before the global moratorium on commercial whaling by the International Whaling Commission.

"Tonga is a world leader in whale conservation. Decades of commercial whaling took a severe toll on whale populations across the Pacific. In a demonstration of true leadership King

Tupou IV took action," said Erica Martin, Director IFAW Asia Pacific. "Now the torch has passed from father to daughter as Princess Pilolevu Tuita continues her father's legacy."

Tonga has one of the fastest growing whale watching industries in the world, which is expanding at a staggering rate of 22 per cent and injecting more than US\$2 million (Pa'anga \$4 million) into the Tongan economy each year.

Whales and dolphins are ecologically, culturally and economically important in Tonga and the wider Pacific. However, whales are not saved. Today they face many threats including climate change, noise pollution, bycatch in fisheries and whaling.

Tonga's continuing leadership in whale conservation gives true cause for celebration.

The event was held in Vava'u and was attended by national and local government representatives, community leaders, whale watching operators and the local community.

Noise pollution drowning out marine mammals

According to a new IFAW report launched on 8 September noise pollution now poses such a serious threat to marine animals that urgent international action must be taken to counter it.

'*Ocean Noise: Turn it down*' highlights how steadily increasing man-made noise - particularly from shipping, sonar and seismic surveys - is interfering with marine mammals' communication, dramatically altering their behaviour and injuring and even killing some whales and dolphins.

"Ocean noise is an invisible but potentially deadly form of pollution. IFAW is calling on governments to recognise ocean noise as a pollutant and act now to turn it down," said Jorge Luis Basave, IFAW Asia Pacific Campaigner.

The report tells how ocean noise pollution is causing marine mammals to abandon habitat and vital activities such as feeding, as well as altering their surfacing and diving. Some whales have been forced to change their calls as they struggle to make themselves heard and the distance over which blue whales can communicate has been reduced by a staggering 90 per cent.

To download a copy of the report please visit www.ifaw.org or email info-au@ifaw.org



Her Royal Highness Princess Salote Mafile'o Pilolevu Tuita accepting the title of Royal Patron for Whales in the Kingdom of Tonga on 3 October 2008. © IFAW/Melino Maka



A MESSAGE FROM IFAW ASIA PACIFIC DIRECTOR, ERICA MARTIN

Turn the fleet around

“On the 17 November 2008, in defiance of international pressure and several laws, the Government of Japan’s whaling fleet slipped out of harbour on route to the pristine Antarctic whale sanctuary to kill nearly 1,000 whales, including endangered fin whales.

The departure is normally celebrated with a high-profile departure ceremony but this year the fleet left under the radar.

IFAW repeated its call on the Australian Government to take international legal action to stop the whalers and fulfil its pre-election promises and bring a stop to this killing.

With your continued support through the HIP, we will continue to increase pressure on the Australian Government to bring an end to the sham that is scientific whaling.”

For more information visit www.stopwhaling.com.au and take action.

Famous faces add their support

Popular Australian actor Paula Duncan and iconic singer Christine Anu recently showed their support of IFAW helping to raise campaign awareness.

Both Paula and Christine are passionate about animal wel-

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fare issues and wanted to show their support by recording personal messages in support of IFAW’s campaigns.

Celebrities receive many requests for their endorsement from a huge variety of organisations so IFAW is extremely grateful for their support. You can see their messages online at **www.ifaw.org**



Australian singer Christine Anu helping IFAW celebrate its inaugural National Whale Day in June 2008. © IFAW

Novocastrians sing out for latest adoptee

Newcastle City Council held a whale naming ceremony at Dixon Park Surf Club to kick off the city’s national whale day celebrations.

Students from Kotara High School designed and painted a banner welcoming Newcastle’s adopted whale Wittiliko. Wittiliko is named after an Aborigin-

al word for singing.

A permanent sign has also been erected at Dixon Park Beach to encourage Novocastrians to keep an eye out for Wittilliko on it’s migration along the coast.



Nicole McLachlan, Newcastle HIP Coordinator, unveiling the sign at Dixon Park Beach. © IFAW

IFAW UK win Green Awards

A huge congratulations goes to IFAW UK, who won two prestigious awards for excellence in green communications at the 3rd Annual Green Awards in London.

IFAW lifted the top prize in two categories, with the MP Humpback Adoption, sister campaign to the HIP, winning Best Direct Mail.

The Green Awards were set up to recognise and reward creative work that communicates the importance of Corporate Social Responsibility, sustainable development and ethical best practice.



The IFAW UK team accepting their Green Award. © IFAW

HIP community update - what's happening and where!

New HIP participants

We are delighted to welcome **The Town of Cambridge (WA)**, **Redland City Council** and **Stradbroke Island (QLD)** as the newest participants to the HIP.

The **Town of Cambridge** held a whale naming competition through the local primary schools. Little Squirt was chosen from Alex Mullins who won a trip with the ranger and a cash prize for coming up with the winning name.

The competition was announced at the Town of Cambridge Sustainability Lifestyles Festival on 12th October 2008, which encourages residents to take up more sustainable lifestyles. Little Squirt featured in the advertising for the event and also made an appearance at the Cambridge Library during Coast Care week.



Mosman

A banner was created by the 1st Mosman Scouts to welcome Gamarada, Mosman Councils adopted humpback whale on her migration. The banner reads "Mosman welcomes Gamarada and the humpback whale migration."

Gamarada was named by Mosman Reconciliation. Gamarada (pronounced Gamada) comes from the Sydney Aboriginal language and means friend.

The banner is on display around Mosman to remind the community of the plight of whales in the ocean as they face threats from international whaling and marine pollution.



Warringah and Pittwater

Warringah and Pittwater organised a mini event in conjunction with the Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment Festival in October.

Local people added their 'pledge' of things they would do in their daily lives to keep the waterways clean (and therefore their adopted whales, Kiah and Kira's home), basically trying to get people to consider how all things are connected and how care of the ocean begins on land.



Willoughby Council

600 students from Artarmon Public School made a whale-sized message to celebrate Spout, Willoughby Council's adoptee. In February, six year old pupil Sam McKay won the whale naming competition with his entry of 'Spout'.

"Water comes out of their spout and that's why I chose the name," the Year One pupil said.

IFAW honours animal heroes

Six animal heroes across Australia recently received prestigious IFAW Action Awards as part of the 16th IFAW Animal Action Week. The winners were chosen after IFAW called for Australia-wide nominations of people who do exceptional work with wild or domestic animals.



Winner of the Award for Wildlife Rescue, Marny Bonner © IFAW

For a full list of the winners please visit www.animalaction-week.com.au

Ocean Care Day

This year many HIP communities participated in events for Ocean Care Day.

Bondi Pavilion, the Marine Discovery Centre and Waverley Council held a festival on Sunday 30 November which included an IFAW whale exhibition, rock pool walks, children's workshops plus heaps of entertainment.

Whale ahoy!

Sealife Experience and Tasman Wildlife Tours sent in this photo of a recent encounter with a southern right whale close to Cape Hauy in Fortescue Bay, South East coast Tasmania.



On Sunday 7 December the Manly Environment Centre hosted their 15th Annual Ocean Care Day Festival - featuring over 50 eco exhibitors, marine talks, live music, children's activities, Maori Pavillion, artists' display tent, Manly Yacht Club Race, and much more.

The festival was a fun, interactive all-inclusive community event with the aim to raise awareness of the range of environmental issues we face today.

