

## **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**

1<sup>st</sup> October 2006

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# Personality of the Month

## Peter MacDonald

Peter MacDonald will need no introduction to the many members of IDW who have met him during visits to the Moray Firth in Scotland. One of the greatest joys of working with IDW is the pleasure and privilege of meeting others who share the love of dolphins. When Horace first met Peter, he was a Postman, one of the very few who could spot dolphins as he made his deliveries. Peter's good fortune in being able to see dolphins didn't end when he came home from work, he lives in the lovely Moray village Findochty known locally as Finechty. His home on the cliffs has wonderful views of the spectacular coastline.

Peter saw his first Moray Firth dolphin from his kitchen window in 1989. He was soon sharing his garden with visiting dolphin watchers, a large sign proclaiming it the Dolphin Watching Station. Pete was always generous with his time and tea and when a small caravan was donated, he set it up in his garden as a place for dolphin addicts to stay. In 1993 Peter and his family took care of Horace when he visited the area and IDW's association with him has continued ever since.

Peter is the co-ordinator of the Friends of the Moray Firth Dolphins. The group was set up in 1991 with just 5 members. It has grown to 250, membership is open to all. Then, the Friends were the only group recording the dolphin's numbers and activities. Now they work with other organisations



including the SeaWatch Foundation. The Friends has its own boat, Delphis. Peter takes out members to see the dolphins and to record sightings along the fantastic coastline. He takes amazing photographs and film, which he uses in talks given to schools and a wide variety of community groups. He also takes guided walks along the cliffs, sharing his enthusiasm and wide knowledge of the dolphins, birds, sea and landscape.

The Friends of the Moray Firth Dolphins website is an excellent source of information for anyone wanting to know more about sightings and events in the area, [www.loupers.co.uk](http://www.loupers.co.uk). *Loupers?* It's a local name for the dolphins, they are sometimes known as 'louper dogs'



The unique Rainbow Hostel is Peter's latest venture. The garden caravan has gone, but for a modest sum it is possible to stay in Pete's house, sharing his fantastic Moray Firth views from garden, kitchen, bathroom and bedroom. With luck and good weather, you can watch dolphins from this stunning location or join an exhilarating trip on board Delphis.

To contact Peter, Email [dolphinpete@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:dolphinpete@tiscali.co.uk)

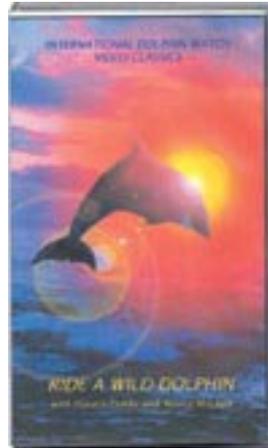
## Bargain of the Month

**BUY ONE GET ONE FREE**

**Buy any one of the following 4 videos and get one free!**

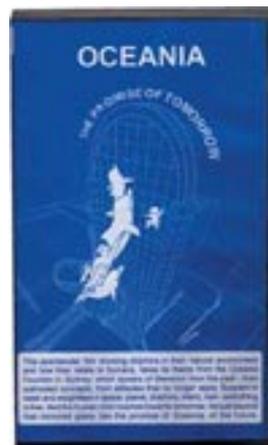
### *Ride a Wild Dolphin*

- a ground-breaking film about a wild dolphin named Donald, off the coast of Cornwall.



### *Oceania*

- the past, the present and the future of the human/dolphin relationship.



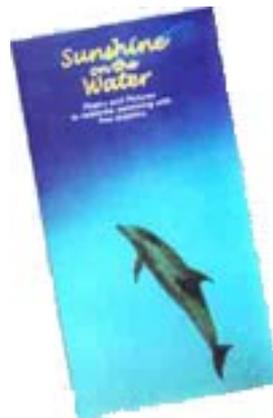
### *The Dolphin's Touch*

- a deeply moving film about the healing power of wild dolphin encounters in Dingle, Ireland.



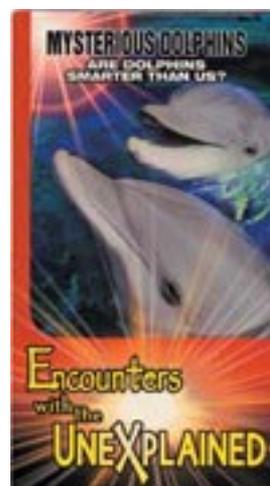
*Sunshine on the Water*

- beautiful footage of the spotted dolphins in the Bahamas, complete with an illustrated book of poems.



**PLUS** *Are They Smarter Than Us?*

a video that explores the intelligence of dolphins



**ABSOLUTELY FREE**

**Offer closes 1st November 2006**

**All available from the Dolphin Shop priced at  
£14.95  
<http://www.dolphinfriend.com/>**

# Conservation

## IRISH WHALE AND DOLPHIN GROUP FORGES AHEAD

In 1991 the waters around the island of Ireland were designated as a Whale and Dolphin Sanctuary, the first in Europe. This year IWDG has produced a magnificent folded map of Ireland showing 42 listed whale and dolphin watching sites surrounded by a fine selection of photographs. On the back is an identification guide illustrating the 8 species that make up the majority of Irish cetacean sightings. Profiles of all of the 24 species that *may* be spotted are available on the IWDG website [www.iwdg.ie](http://www.iwdg.ie)

“The IWDG has a long history of collaborating with the Irish fishing industry,” says Simon Berrow in his Policy Article in the IDWG News Magazine, Summer 2006. Evidence for this is the Commercial Fisheries Policy Document produced by the IWDG which carries 9 recommendations on how commercial fishing should change and evolve in a way that:

1. Maintains abundant and healthy cetacean populations into the future.
2. Secures the health of the eco systems that support these populations.
3. Help to create and maintain viable fisheries for Ireland’s coastal communities.

The magazine also gives details of the Irish Fisheries Board’s launch on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2006 of a new grant aid scheme to introduce environmentally and fuel-efficient methods of fishing. The article includes an illustration of some of the pingers for which grant aid is available.

The final page of the magazine includes a map indicating the names and telephone numbers of the IDWG network of contacts who will visit stranded animals and collect records of those sighted at sea.

The Irish Whale and Dolphin Group (IDWG) is dedicated to the conservation and better understanding of whales and dolphins in Irish waters through study, interpretation and education.

For more information and details of membership of IWDG visit [www.iwdg.ie](http://www.iwdg.ie)

Help us put an end to whaling

[www.whalesrevenge.com](http://www.whalesrevenge.com) is trying to get a million people  
to sign a petition to stop whaling.  
Please click this box and add your name.

## Dilo Corner



### DILO'S AMERICAN COUSIN

Dr. Dobbs,

I would like to personally thank you for the wonderful children's book series about Dilo the Dolphin. My 8-year old daughter Victoria has been ecstatic about dolphins all year thanks to your imaginative and fun stories. We also feel quite special seeing that the books are personally signed with the small fish you obviously add to bring a smile. In any case, smiles, childhood enthusiasm and great enjoyment have been our treat because of you. Thanks again.



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NILSEN, MICHAEL SH

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By the way, my daughter had the unique pleasure of going to Discovery Cove earlier this year, when we travelled to Orlando, Fl. Since I did not plan very far ahead (her interest in dolphins started in late January), the only day we were able to get reservations to swim with dolphins was Easter Sunday, but what a special day it was. Victoria's picture kissing Rascal gets the same marvellous comments from whoever sees it. She was so excited about meeting dolphins first-hand that her hands would not stop shaking like flapping flippers. And the patch

above Rascal's left eye is amazing similar in idea to the star on Dilo's dorsal fin. Rascal must be Dilo's American cousin.

Since we adopted Fungi, the Dingle Dolphin in March, my daughter is now counting the months until she gets to travel there to find him. My wife promised her a visit when she is 10 years old. I am sure she will never forget this promise.

Please feel free to add this to your Testimonials if you have them on your site. Your work on dolphins is terrific and the magic in your stories on Dilo is very special and likely to be very long lasting. I hope you plan to write some more. Best wishes from New York City.

Michael J. Nilsen and Family (Diana, Victoria, young Mike and Patrick)  
Brooklyn, New York, USA.

## Friend's News

*"The more we see the more we must be able to imagine; and the more we imagine, the more we must think we see."*

Gotthold Ephraim Lessing,  
*Laocoon* (1766)

Hi Everyone,

It's been a while since Whale Song and I wanted to share what's been happening on this side of the fence. There is no doubt there has been a shift in the transformational energies of this planet. The shift is evident and almost instant in creation and it appears all around. All you have to do is be aware; once you are aware the 'secret' is out of the bag so to speak. Who has seen that movie /documentary "the secret"?

Now, find it and watch it. We are what we think we are!

A few weeks ago I shared about a journey I had on board the 50ft Cat Imagine in Port Stephens. In that meditation / channelling we were promised some tools by our Whale friend. We were told that we were ready to accept the information they were hinting at providing us. I'm here now to continue that communication. I have no idea what is about to come forward so now, let's begin.

Gather one's imagination for the following journey dear ones. For you are about to enter the minds eye of creation. We have come to share with you a dream. This dream is for all man-kind and the current caretakers of the lands above the water. The so called evolved beings called homo-sapiens. We the cetacean nation are ready to share with you the keys to your evolutionary journey. The ones you have so painstakingly avoided for most of this latest century. We have watched whilst you have made war most consistently on each other and the planet for nearly 300 years. In increasing intensity have you battered a once pristine ecosystem until it is now barely held together by threads of energy. The universal life principals of adaptability functionality and sustainability and the nature of this cosmos is as thus. Life is life, it shall adapt for that is what life does. Threaten sustainability and you shall incur adaptation to the next most functional form therefore sustainability is assured. Into what form shall life adapt? That is the question brothers and sisters!  
In what form?

We ask you the land dwellers, the ones with hands to seek a higher level of intelligence. We ask you to seek communion with us as members of the nations of intelligent and evolved beings that co-

**inhabit this planet at this juncture. We call you to join with us and to explore that connection in the most joyous way possible. In the wild, on our terms where we can come and go as we choose. We ask you to join in the concept that we are all one. To raise your vibration by whatever method works best for you to enjoy your time here on the planet. We invite you to visit with us for we have individual messages for you and for all who come with an open mind and a joyous heart. We have the message of joy that we carry with us all days and share willingly. We call this divine creation. It is the space that we choose to occupy day in day out and we love our consciousness. The consciousness of whales and dolphins. Peace, love, excitement, joy and wondrous interactions of playfulness. Study our ways, share with others our joy, be like us in parts of your lives and discover the passion residing within you all. We bring you the message that your life is one of joy; with small effects one may improve one's perception therefore improving one's health and outlook thru small gifts. These gifts are hugs, smiles, laughter, sharing and connection. Come and connect with us often, bring your children and let them share with you how they felt when we meet.**

**We ask humbly your continued vigilance in seeking your own truth. We know that not all who find their way to these words will hear the message; we know some will hear nothing at all. Yet we call for your attention. We ask your acknowledgement for we understand that to acknowledge us means that you have acknowledged the most important equation YOU. The gifts that we bring you thru this and further communications are the gifts of Whale Song. We are one with you our two legged friends. WE support your continued evolution and we await your communion. We await your interest. We await the coming of age. That age is upon us now brothers and sisters. In your own ways, look around you. Observe the truth. That you are creating this amazing world of contrasts, the black and the white of it the up and the down of it. The alpha and the omega. It comes from you as shall all change! The change that benefits all and of course the change that benefits the few! The days await your powerful creation. From your hearts and feelings, you hold the keys! Our songs resound within the ocean depths; information locked within shall enlighten and astound you. Listen with your hearts to the sounds of your oceans family. The time is now.....**

**With love from wherever**

**Andrew Eric Parker**

**18<sup>th</sup> September 2006**

**[www.dolphcom.com.au](http://www.dolphcom.com.au)**

Thank you for this message received from Heike following her dolphin experience on a Wildquest – Human Dolphin Connection Retreat

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



To see and meet the dolphins makes me so happy inside. I feel the smile on my face, like being a child again. There is nothing else important any more; I am there, present, and everything is exactly right how it is. I feel included, a part of the bigger picture. It seems there is a connection made to the group, like friends forever - even if you don't see them any more in your life. The connection the dolphin energy makes, is a connection of the heart. There is not a mask to wear, there is no role to play, there is only yourself, connected to whatever is around you and surely to the dolphins.

**Heike di Benedetto**

# *Ocean Heart*

*Dolphins & Whales*

*With*

*Helen Faulkner*



(Photo copyright Janine Symanik)

*Ocean Heart was born from of a deep love of the dolphins & whales and a desire to share this with you*

*Ocean Heart is a journey of the heart, bringing you the essence of these divine beings in beautiful, joyful & inspiring ways*

*Ocean Heart celebrates Dolphins & Whales with  
"Dolphin Delights" Events & Presentations  
Dolphin & Whale Healing Sessions  
Inspirational Art*

*Helen Faulkner*

*[info@oceanheart.co.uk](mailto:info@oceanheart.co.uk)*

*[www.oceanheart.co.uk](http://www.oceanheart.co.uk)*

"Ocean Heart" brings you the energy of the Dolphins & Whales through Events, Presentations, Healings and Visual Art. I hope to transmit to you the essence of the Dolphins & Whales in its purest form so that in turn you are able to experience their energy; their deep Peace, their exuberant Joy and most importantly their Love. As a Humpback Whale once told me "Love is the Greatest Power in the Universe".

# Wake-up-call at Puponga Bay

By

**Birgit Baader, New Zealand**

*This is a very subjective personal perspective of the stranding of 120 pilot whales at Puponga Bay, New Zealand. It is not a scientific report, rather an attempt to describe the lasting influence the whales at Puponga Bay had on myself. They initiated an inner process, which continues until today.*



## **Whale Family**

(Picture from Günther Hauer/Dolphin Media)

Last year, three days before Christmas, we heard in the news that some pilot whales were stranded in Puponga Bay (South Island, New Zealand) – about 2 hours away from our current home in Stephens Bay. It was Tuesday evening, the kids in bed, but I was prepared to drive into the night to see what I could do. I called the Department of Conservation (DOC) and asked for directions, but they told me that they had closed the beach overnight and nobody was allowed to go there. However, they would need a lot of help early the next morning.

I felt very restless and my heart wanted to go and do something *immediately*, not wait. But eventually I decided to pack the car, sleep a few hours, and wake up the kids early to arrive at Puponga before sunrise.

We drove through the night with mixed feelings – what would expect us at Puponga Bay?

“Mum, I am not quite sure if I can handle that – I do not want to see dying whales – that’s so sad”, I heard the voice of my 14 year old daughter Julie from the back of the car as we approached the bay. I had no idea either what it was going to be like, but the pull to go there was so strong that I did not think about something else.

The closer we came the stronger the feeling of peacefulness grew inside of us! Now, we could see the giant black shapes on the sandy beach lit up by the first sunrays. They were so many. We parked the car, grabbed our backpacks, sunhats, buckets and shovels and run over the sand. A few people from the DOC were coordinating the helpers, giving advice, explanations, and organizing technical equipment like the water supply with fire hoses, buckets, shovels, blankets, etc. We had to make sure that the skin of the whales did not dry out, so we wrapped them (leaving the blowhole, fin, eyes and mouth free), poured water over them and dug trenches around them trying to relieve their heavy bodies. We also had to take care that they did not lose the balance, roll over to one side and accidentally break a fin.

What impressed me most was the calm, concentrated atmosphere at this beach stretching out far at low tide. Whales and people everywhere – children, adults, calves, bulls, mothers, fathers – all acting together, fully aware of what was at stake, focussed and calm! I would have expected a sad, depressed atmosphere, maybe hectic activity. Nobody knew at that stage if the whales would be able to swim out into the open sea with the next high tide. They did not manage to get out by themselves in the previous night. Instead it was not sad or depressed at all. Some laughed, some sang, some worked calmly, some meditated, some were chatting away - over all there was something like a magical positive field at this beach: a field of caring, love, deep peace, joy and empathy! Very intense. So many different personalities and ways of being – hippies, serious new-age-followers and yoginis, local farmers, experienced marine biologists, tourists, families with young children, babies, journalists, workers from a nearby construction site... too many to count – and all of them acted together as one body, each cell different, but together very effective. Harmony, balance... magic... the whales – they did not panic, but surrendered with inner strength and grace.

Julie and Noa (3) were attracted to a group of five calves, talking to each other, making whistling noises, and moving around, trying to escape this airy environment, or maybe just wishing to get closer to their comforting pod members. A man meditated nearby and laid his hands on their forehead, Julie sang and helped to keep them wet and they calmed down, so patient, surrendering to the circumstances. I had been drawn to a very big bull, one of the biggest whales I saw there. He was extremely calm, only blowing from time to time. His weight rested heavily on his fins and his intestines were pressed against the sand. A lot of whales die because their weight literally crushes their inner organs. We tried to not only keep the gentle giant wet and in balance but also relieve his fins as much as possible. The sun rose higher and higher and we all hoped that the sensitive skin of these beautiful creatures would stand these extreme conditions until

the tide would come in at 2 pm. The longer we were at the beach, the more I forgot everything else around me. It was like being in a dream or trance like state of mind. To be so close to a whale has an immense impact. I do not think that it is only because of their impressive size. It is hard to describe it with words, but I experienced myself (and also learned from others) that it feels like something is “shifting” deep inside. Some are aware of this effect, others not – however, you can see it in the eyes and the faces of people who had the chance of a close encounter with whales.

In my experience, the whales search and make contact with us in accordance with our present state of awareness. Depending on our individual consciousness, on our emotional, intellectual and spiritual development and of course, on our ability to be receptive and to open up they are communicating with us, sending us messages and trying to exchange information in whatever form we can receive it. Some people cannot stop laughing and feel very exhilarated, energized, delighted, some become deeply emotional, long buried emotions surface and are freed. Some “see” pictures or receive messages via “special” thoughts – whatever it might be, it always implicates an opening and is a very authentic, direct and hearty experience.

Our little team tried to protect the skin of “our” whale and give him a little bit of relief. We took turns so that everyone could have short breaks. During those moments I was just sitting next to his head, my hands resting on his sensitive smooth skin, gently massaging the muscles around his blowhole, talking to him. Three times he opened his eyes and looked at me. I will never forget the depth and intensity, the warmth and gentleness of his gaze. He radiated an amazing wisdom, knowing and patience, and seemed to surrender totally to his situation. Open to whatever happened, open to receive, open to perceive.

The tide was now coming in – slowly, way too slow for my impatient being. A digger dug trenches between the black bodies and their human carers, crawling around them like tiny little ants. The whales, lying close to the beach, were supposed to swim back into the deeper waters through these channels.

Two more hours until high tide...Everybody was working and hoping, more helpers came, others returned to their homes to get some rest. A woman came to us, she heard about the stranding in the news while driving to a business meeting and spontaneously, without thinking, drove four hours to help.

Some people distributed sandwiches, fruits and drinks, others played with the little children to give them a break. Julie cared for Noa and took him back to the beach as the water began to rise. I wondered whether the water would be deep enough for our big whale to reach the open sea. He was so heavy, and it seemed way too shallow for him to swim.

Whenever those doubts surfaced, a strong confidence suddenly overcame me – whatever happens is all right. It is hard to describe and I do not know if these feelings originated with the whale, but whenever negative thoughts or doubts welled up in me, I was “comforted” promptly.

The last hour we were standing in one metre deep water, trying to get the whales “into position”. We were told that we had to gather the whales before 2 pm, guide them into deeper water, and let them swim together as a group. This was important, because otherwise some of the whales might swim back, trying to reach their pod members who were still closer to the beach, or get disoriented. The water now covered our whale bull completely and we gently massaged his fins, rocking his massive body to and fro to relax his muscles and help carers into deeper waters, but our whale was still stuck on the ground, not able to swim. Time was running short. With the help of a large blanket pulled through under his belly we finally managed to drag him through the shallow water into the nearest trench. I was so grateful, and he seemed to be too. He stretched and made some cautious movements. I suddenly could feel how powerful, agile and skilled he was in his element. As we passed some younger, obviously very excited whales, he made some deep sounds, which calmed them down. To my astonishment neither he nor the other whales tried to swim away from us! They all let themselves be guided into deeper water by us tiny little humans. They totally surrendered, trusted, stayed quiet, let us lead the way. How easy for them to get away with one flap of their flukes. They certainly knew better than we how to act in water, when and where to swim, didn't they? The ocean is their home, after all. But they stayed and waited with us – even when the water was deep enough for them to swim!

More and more whales, surrounded by humans, gathered in shoulder deep water. We were so close together as sardines in a tin waiting for the sign to let the whales go. Some DOC members wanted to accompany them with their boats, making sure that they find their way out in the open sea. The rest of us were supposed to hold hands and form a human chain to prevent the whales from returning to the shore. I had no wetsuit like many others and was standing with jeans and sweatshirt up to my shoulders in the cold water. So I decided to say goodbye to this giant leader and his family. Although I was reluctant to leave I felt that I could not do anything more at this point – and my land family was waiting and needed me, too.

While sitting at the beach with Julie and Noa, watching the whales swim out into the open sea<sup>1</sup>, I received a clear and detailed “message” from the whale bull – I could literally see him while perceiving his “words”. I recorded his message onto my little tape recorder I always have with me to grasp precious thoughts and insights:

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<sup>1</sup> Some of them actually did come back a second time, but could be guided back again. Ten whales gave their lives at Puponga Bay.

*Free yourself from judgements.  
Important is only our intention motivating us.  
Develop a consciousness of Oneness – all is one.*

When I asked him why strandings<sup>2</sup> like this happen, I “heard” the following answer:

*Among other things, strandings of our species are a sign that the balance is lost. We whales are ambassadors; we want to draw your attention to the fact that “something” is out of balance. We bring you (humans) together and try to work on you through our radiance (gentleness and love energies). We establish contacts to help increase human consciousness and awakening so that these impulses also spread through other humans. This is important for survival on earth.*

*The balance must be restored.*

We whales try to wake you up. We have chosen the path of gentleness and free will, and our consciousness evolved differently from yours since we chose the “way into water”. You humans have chosen the “way of substance and matter” on land and therefore went through a different evolution of consciousness. You evolved the physicality, qualities like hardness and firmness in your habitat on land.

*Our aim now is to establish harmony and balance. Otherwise the earth / substance will come to an end resp. will be destroyed.*

These intimate hours spent close to the whales and within their “magical field” are still working inside of me. There was a “connection” made, the intensity of which I am only beginning to realize in hindsight. The whales at Puponga Bay and the message above keep me thinking and established a deep inner contact, which grows stronger and clearer day-by-day. I think, besides other effects, strandings include some important lessons for us humans for a healthy life on earth: surrender, trust, peace of mind, inner concentration resp. concentration on the inner world (contemplation), gratitude, innocence, powerful calmness, respectfulness, empathy, sense for community, love, gentleness.

Every individual contributes its full potential while taking into consideration the needs of the others; teamwork; harmonious concert, playing and living together for the best of all. Strength, physical power and gentleness, vulnerability, peacefulness is no contradiction. Ideally, these qualities are complementing each other in great harmony, leading to true power and magic. I think it was this vision of “full potential” which impressed me most. Did the whales also want to show us OUR potential and power when they let us lead and guide them? Did they wish to teach us a lesson in self-confidence, free will, and self-mastery?

Their messages – if we can say so – touch many different aspects of our life on earth. However, for me the essence lies in raising the consciousness for balance (which implicates seeing our imbalances and how we endanger natural balance) and developing a spiritual and interspecies awareness.

*Thinking back at the whales of Puponga, I have the feeling that in certain respects we are the stranded ones. While helping the whales to get back into the “flow of life”, the power of life (which is the water), we help and heal a good bit of ourselves.*

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<sup>2</sup> As already mentioned at the beginning, I did not focus on the scientific perspective of strandings in this article. Scientists suppose that whale strandings occur because of many different reasons: disorientation (whales have difficulties to echo-locate in shallow waters, are disturbed by noise pollution, etc.); altruistic resp. social behaviour (e.g. whales want to be with accidentally stranded ill or inexperienced young pod members); physical disorders (infestation with parasites, lack of food, etc.) – however, most of these reasons can be put down to human activities. Our environmental behaviour, including our technologies and so called progressive developments, lead to an imbalance, which affects every aspect of life.

# Meet the Editor

## Jackie Connell

Jackie Connell has always been concerned about the environment and the need to bring a more meaningful and spiritual aspect into our lives.

In 2000 the direction of her life became crystal clear when she first heard Dr. Horace Dobbs speak on The Johnny Walker show on BBC Radio 2 about his latest book 'Dolphin Healing' and his research 'Operation Sunflower' to help people with mental disabilities. She set about making contact with Horace, finding out as much as possible about his work and that of International Dolphin Watch by volunteering her services.

During this time Jackie was working as a Secretary/Administrator at the Open University Business School, supporting academics, monitoring budgets, preparation of working papers, preparing lectures, typing and editing books, organising events and travel etc. It was not long before she was putting her expertise to good use helping Horace and International Dolphin Watch in her spare time. With the help of a small team of volunteers, she organised 2 very successful 'Dolphin Healing' conferences held at The Open University.

After the first conference in 2000, one of the Presenters, Richard Conibear who set up a Charity to support other special needs families after his son was born with cerebral palsy, asked Jackie, together with her husband Terry, if they would consider being Trustees for the Charity. The Open University supported her charity work by giving her an Award for Personal Development and funded her to attend a training course in London 'Working for a Charity' which covered all aspects of managing a charity.

At the next 2-day International Conference, to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of International Dolphin Watch, in December 2003 people came from all over the world and many said that it was the best conference they had ever been to and had changed their lives for the better (you can see a conference Report on <http://www.dolphinfriend.com/>). At this conference a prototype portable Dolphin Dome was on display. This was to be used to research whether the benefits of a dolphin encounter could be reproduced without using live dolphins, but with technology, sounds and images of dolphins. Whilst this concept is currently being explored further, Jackie is helping Horace with The Dilo Dome – a smaller, inflatable, relatively inexpensive dome in which children can experience some of the therapeutic effects of dolphins using Dilo, a fictional dolphin created by Horace. Jackie hopes that research from both domes will help to make the healing power of dolphins universally available to all and will eventually lead to large static domes incorporating a pool, technology, virtual reality, various alternative therapies, arts and crafts – recognising the potential of all who live with disabilities, dignity, spiritual integrity and contribution of every individual.

Having personally experienced the effects of swimming with dolphins in their natural environment in the Bahamas whilst she was on holiday in Bimini, Jackie now wants to share that wonderful experience with as many people as possible, especially those with disabilities. Having gained support from individuals and organisations in Bimini and those that have experience in working with people with mental and physical disabilities, she set up a non-profit organisation 'Operation Sunshine' - family therapy programmes for special needs. She believes it is important not to focus just on the dolphins, but to include alternative therapies, appreciating the environment, learning about different cultures by integrating with the local community and working with the school children on arts and crafts. This dream is now becoming a reality. Supported by volunteers who share Jackie's vision, fundraising is ongoing (information can be seen on [www.operationsunshine.org](http://www.operationsunshine.org)).

Jackie feels very fortunate to have the support of her devoted husband Terry who shares her vision and also works as a volunteer in support of International Dolphin Watch and maintains the IDW web site [www.dolphinfriend.com](http://www.dolphinfriend.com).

January 2006 Jackie resigned from her work at the Open University, allowing her to spend more time to develop her passion to help dolphins and special needs and is looking forward to a future full of dolphin joy.

## Note from the Editor

**I DO HOPE YOU HAVE ENJOYED THIS NEWSLETTER.**

If you would like to advertise on [www.dolphinfriend.com](http://www.dolphinfriend.com) or be included in the **UP AND COMING EVENTS** or **MY DOLPHIN STORY** section on the website, then Email our Webmaster Terry Connell on [terry.connell@ntlworld.com](mailto:terry.connell@ntlworld.com).

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