



The BubbleNet

Fostering in humanity a deeper and more harmonious relationship with the living Ocean.

Since 2015, when we founded Ocean Spirit, we've been working on a variety of projects and initiatives all with the underlying theme:

**The need for greater harmony between humans and all other life
who share our big, beautiful blue home.**

We feel it's time to move away from the current anthropocentric perspective, to an *eco-centric* viewpoint in which all life has intrinsic value beyond what it offers humankind.

We are loving the journey Ocean Spirit is taking us on – giving presentations, writing articles and books, running workshops, working with schools and creating videos that inform and educate on serious ecological issues. These issues are human generated - we are responsible - which also means we have the power to respond and take action.

An example of this is our relationship with plastic. In only six decades we have gone from plastic free to global ecological catastrophe - we are literally drowning in plastic. But everywhere there is a huge groundswell of grassroots response to 'stem the tide'. We've been playing our part through education and advocacy; working with businesses to help them transition away from single use plastic; coordinating with community groups to organize clean-ups and of course, just getting out there and *Picking-It-Up* ourselves (see our [Just-Pick-It-Up](#) Facebook page).

Currently we're working with three home schooled girls who are testing whether 'compostable' coffee cups and lids really do compost in a home compost bin (check out their initial results [here](#)).

We are both working jobs outside Ocean Spirit to support ourselves, but Ocean Spirit is demanding more and more of our time, which is great...! but to be as effective as possible in our work for the planet, it needs to become self-supporting. We'd love to have the freedom to devote more time and energy to being a catalyst for the change our planet so desperately needs.

At the beginning of this year we were introduced to Patreon - a web portal putting 'Doers' and 'Donors' together in a mutually beneficial and on-going relationship - People supporting People and sharing a creative journey. It gives us a greater sense of working together with like-minded people like you and gives you the opportunity to share in our passion for living in harmony with this beautiful planet we call home.

It's built on the original concept of 'Patron of the Arts' and is a way of supporting projects, work and action that you'd love to see happening in the world, but aren't necessarily in a position to do yourself.

We gave the concept a lot of thought and decided that it is the perfect way to enable our Ocean Spirit work to continue to grow and be supported.

So at the beginning of June we launched our presence on Patreon.

Focusing on 3 themes - Exploration, Education, Conservation - we are cultivating positive action:

- Running workshops and talks in schools
- Presenting and running workshops at conferences
- Working with businesses at a local level to phase out single use plastic and replacing it with 'forever' alternatives
- Consulting on ecological issues from an holistic perspective
- Making informative and educational videos
- Writing books and Publishing articles
- Teaching

Support positive action

To find out more about our work and supporting us as a Patron:

Click [here](#) to go to our Patreon page.

We'd love to have you on board! If you think our work is worthwhile, then please consider sharing this on your networks.

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What are we currently up to!?

We've had a busy year so far settling into the Tutukaka Coast in Northland NZ. We're finding lots of kindred spirits here and feel incredibly blessed to call the Coast home. It's a stunningly beautiful part of the planet — picture perfect beaches, dramatic headlands, cliffs, dunes, rocky shores, sandy shores! It's all here with the South Pacific Ocean stretching into the distance...

Being a coastal community means we're on the front line of a worldwide plastic pollution catastrophe and over New Year, together with friend and neighbour Nora www.thewildstate.com we came up with a wish to see the Tutukaka Coast Plastic Free. Wow, what a journey this has led us on! We'd no idea how many people are hungry to change, to create new "normals"! Inspired by our New Year wish, the Wahi Bar, our local café in Tutukaka Marina, just announced they are going to stop supplying takeaway coffee cups as from 1st August this year!! They have forever cups for sale instead. Watch the surprise we got when we went to get a coffee - [here](#).

We've run presentations in various local schools from kindergartens to high schools; we've given talks in Whangarei library and on the Coast, as well as hosted a diving / snorkelling trip out to our local marine reserve at the Poor Knights Islands during New Zealand Sea Week. We've experienced incredible support from individuals and businesses and even a group of home schooled girls up country who are running a compostable coffee cup challenge for their 2017 science project.

Click [here](#) to access our Youtube channel.

You can enjoy a selection of our videos by clicking on them here:

Tutukaka Coast Plastic Free launch video: <https://youtu.be/AWc9qpeLwVk>

Great Coffee Cup Challenge 3 https://youtu.be/rkTq9PHAP_I

GoodFor NZ's First Zero Packaging Store <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KnX7OmxSiJl>

39 Gillies St, Kawakawa <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5diKxo781kM>

Ngunguru School Rubbish Heroes https://youtu.be/TjvavvU_tXk

Love Tutukaka Forever Cups! <https://youtu.be/BuPcWAPpjtM>

In July we will be in South Island by invitation of various groups, to give talks based around the Living Ocean theme. We plan to continue filming for our series on "Marine Reserves Work". Glenn will be diving in the Tonga Island Reserve (brrrr — too cold for Janey as we're talking winter at a latitude of 41 South...! We live at 35.5S) taking underwater footage with our flash new camera and underwater housing! The Marlborough Sounds area is sadly suffering from the effects of salmon farms and we plan to interview locals about their feelings on this highly controversial subject.

In November Ocean Spirit will be presenting a Living Ocean workshop at [The Natural Phenomena Conference](#) ~ a nature education conference in the outdoors ~ We'll be spending 3 days in the company of inspirational speakers from around the globe who believe Nature is a powerful teacher and experiencing how risk is her ally! 3 days in a tented camp literally on our doorstep — only 15 minutes drive away!

July 2017 is International Plastic Free month (shouldn't they all be..!?) and we're screening the extremely powerful film, **A Plastic Ocean**. Released in 2016, it has already won seven international film awards. If you needed a motivator to get you cutting back on your plastic consumption... this is it!

We are also running a campaign here on the Tutukaka Coast to gain support for our local stores to go plastic bag free.

We hadn't anticipated getting quite so involved in the world plastic crisis, but the issue is too enormous and too devastating to ignore. Approaching the issue at every level is essential to effect change and we feel that our best contribution is at a grassroots level. It only takes a split second decision to change our individual behaviours, to start a tsunami of change throughout the whole human race.

Kindred Spirits

On our web site www.oceanspirit.org we have a Kindred Spirit page. Here we profile people and organisations that align with our philosophies and values. We are continually adding new friends and are open to recommendations!

Sea Change Wester Ross is an organisation actively protecting and promoting the coastal Ocean and her inhabitants around the shores of Wester Ross in Scotland. Watch their 23 minute film, *The Bountiful Sea: the story of the Wester Ross Marine Protected Area* <http://www.nts.org.uk/marine> (scroll down to click on Inverewe underneath the map.)

Ila France Porcher

Shark ethologist and spectacular wildlife artist Ila France Porcher, is releasing a new book called, [The True Nature of Sharks](#). Now available for pre-order on Amazon. "... sharks reveal that they are self-aware They enjoy socializing, communicate through posturing and gestures Unlike many other animals, including humans, they do not fight."

Creature Feature - Octopus



These beautiful creatures have long fascinated humans! Whilst diving a few years ago in the Poor Knights Marine Reserve off the Tutukaka Coast, Glenn experienced a very special encounter with a small octopus. By sharing some of this encounter with you we hope to convey their magic *At first I didn't notice anything unusual, but then, clear as day I saw it; an eye staring straight back at me. Once I had it as a point of reference, the owner of the eye materialised in the form of a small octopus.*

Apart from his eye the perfection of his camouflage was complete, but as soon as he sensed I'd blown his cover he morphed into a dark, spiky and very menacing 'monster', nearly twice the size he'd been just a moment ago.

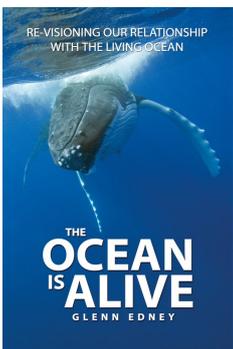
As I started taking photos I noticed that every time the strobes fired the poor wee fellow flinched But more than that, his distress was obvious in the rapid colour and pattern changes pulsing across his body. Feeling guilty, I laid my camera on a nearby rock and pondered how I might 'apologise' for my rudeness. For lack of any better idea, and to satisfy my own curiosity, I defaulted to the very human response of extending the 'hand of friendship'.

For quite some minutes we sat there eyeing each other up, me with my bare hand extended palm up, while the octopus kept all eight of his arms tightly coiled under his now uniformly pale body....

Eventually curiosity got the better of him and he slowly unwound one of his arms and inched it towards my outstretched hand. The fine tip of his arm made contact with the tip of my index finger, hesitated momentarily, then continued forward until it was about halfway up my palm. The sticky sensation of his suction cups moving across my bare skin was unlike anything I'd experienced before. Each cup seemed to be acting independently, holding my hand in place with a muscular grip and yet exploring the folds and creases of my skin with supple dexterity. Each cup is equipped with chemoreceptors, so besides feeling my hand, he was also 'tasting' it. All this time his skin was pulsing pale shades of green and off-white in faint patterns, while the texture lost its spikiness and became uniformly smooth.

He continued exploring my hand, extending his already impressively stretched arm even further until it reached my wrist and the neoprene cuff of my drysuit..... with slow, deliberate movements the octopus started disentangling his seven other arms in preparation for a closer look at this odd, bubble-blowing giant that seemed to have most of its body covered in dead skin.

Thus, I now found my new friend materialised on my hand, with various arms wandering up my drysuit sleeve, exploring the dive computer on my wrist and reaching across to bring my other hand closer. And there we stayed, with me lying prone, elbows resting on the sand, forearms outstretched and hands cupped like some kind of organic 'easy chair', while the octopus rearranged his arms into a tightly coiled pillow to rest on.... (Read on in greater detail in "[The Ocean is Alive](#)")



On Special for Plastic Free July....

The Ocean is Alive

US\$12.00 print version 4th—10th July the Kindle version is only US\$1.99.

Available worldwide through [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) [amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk) and affiliated sites.

www.fishpond.com.au or www.fishpond.co.nz

Ocean Blessings from - Janey and Glenn



www.oceanspirit.org

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