

Press Release

Sir Peter Blake Marine Education & Recreation Centre, 2008 Winter Lecture Series “The Sea Around Us”

The ever popular series of ten Winter Lectures on the theme “The Sea Around Us” will take place at the Sir Peter Blake Marine Education Centre in their heated venue at 1045 Beach Road, Long Bay on Friday evenings commencing 16th of May at 7.30 pm. All of these well illustrated lectures are by experts in their fields. The diverse range of topics are related to the sea in some way :

May 16	Sharks, Crocs and Wolves of the Sea	Kennedy Warne
May 23---	Deep Water Gold _____	Keith Gordon
June 6 ----	Six Legs and More _____	John Davies
June 13----	Catch Fish, Not Cables _____	Ian Gavin
June 20----	Protecting Auckland’s Historic Heritage _____	Ian Lawlor
June 27----	Mud Matters: Mapping Life in the Deep _____	Dr Mary Livingstone
July 4-----	The Ecological and Fishery Benefits of Marine Reserves _____	Dr Roger Grace
July 11 ----	The Bailey Clan _____	Harold Kidd
July 18 ----	The Return of the Viking Ships _____	Anne Rimmer
July 25 ----	Discovering the Underwater Life _____	Tony and Jenny Enderby

A donation of \$6 helps towards MERC Disadvantaged Fund.

Surely a truly challenging and important Lecture Series.

FURTHER DETAILS OF THE LECTURERS AND THE SUBJECT OF THEIR ILLUSTRATED LECTURES.

Kennedy Warne - Sharks, Crocs and Wolves of the Sea – Tales from an Underwater Reporter Kennedy Warne, founding editor of *New Zealand Geographic* magazine, has tackled several underwater assignments for US-based *National Geographic* since 2002. In this talk he will show slides and describe his aquatic adventures in South Africa, Botswana and the Gulf of St Lawrence.

Keith Gordon commenced sport diving in the early 1950’s and has been involved with shipwreck research and exploration projects around New Zealand, the South Pacific and SE Asia. A career in aviation was expanded to include the use of new technology including remote operated vehicles and submersibles to explore deeper shipwrecks. Keith is author of “Deep Water Gold” the story of RMS *Niagara* and co-author of the eighth edition of the book “New Zealand shipwrecks”. He has been involved with numerous documentary films on shipwreck exploration including the National Geographic and Discovery TV channels. He is a Director of SeaROV Technologies Ltd., a company specializing in underwater exploration, a member of maritime archaeological institutions, historical diving societies and a Fellow of the Explorers Club. **DEEP WATER GOLD - RMS Niagara revisited :**

The story of RMS Niagara, a famous Pacific liner sunk in 1940 with eight tonnes of gold bullion in Hauraki Gulf by the German raider Orion. Keith Gordon links past with present in relating the history of the Niagara, the German raid, the epic gold salvage ventures and exploring the shipwreck in deep water. A famous ship, wartime action, lost treasure and underwater exploration – a true New Zealand adventure story to hold the interest of all.

John Davies – Six Legs and More - Televising Round the World Yacht Races.

During some thirty eight years of editing, directing and producing Television in New Zealand, a particular triumph was being able to bring to the public the thrilling and daunting moments of these races – including Sir Peter Blake on Steinlager and Grant Dalton on Endeavour. The technical challenges were equally daunting for TV production in those heady days.

Ian Gavin – Catch Fish, Not Cables - Submarine Cables, linking NZ to the World

As Senior Technical Specialist, Telecom, Ian is well qualified to talk on this subject. He is an electrical engineer and has been working on the engineering, installation and operation of the undersea cables in NZ for 19 years. He has been involved in the installation of 4 fibre optic undersea cables from NZ to Australia and Hawaii, including time at sea on the cable laying ships. He joined the NZPO in 1979 and spent his first 10 years obtaining an engineering degree followed by 6 years in Telecom Whangarei office doing design work on underground cables, overhead telephone lines and telephones exchanges, from the old manual switchboards through to the latest computerised telephone exchanges. He is a keen boatie and owns a classic bridge Decker launch. He is the Launch Captain of the Classic Yacht Association of New Zealand and also a volunteer Small Boat Safety Advisor for Maritime New Zealand.

Ian's talk will cover the history of the undersea cables (from the first one in 1876), why we use the cables (as opposed to satellites), how they form the main broadband links to the rest of the world (quite topical these days), the design and installation of the cable systems and the ongoing maintenance issues. He has plenty of interesting photos and will bring along some cable samples for people to look at.

Ian Lawlor – Protecting Auckland's Historic Heritage – Past, Present and Future Ian is an archaeology consultant and historian who has been working with ARC on Long Bay. This talk will link the work that he completed for the ARC on Puketutu Island, Long Bay and Weiti Station, and includes some of the research he is currently doing on John Hugh Boscawen (1851-1937) who he believes to be NZ's first landscape archaeologist ('an unsung hero')

Dr Mary Livingston – Mud Matters: Mapping Life in the Deep - As Principal Scientist for the Ministry of Fisheries, Dr Livingston has been a participant in voyages of the NIWA research ship "Tangaroa" to areas in the Ross Sea, Antarctica. Many new discoveries will be described as to how life has adapted to both the cold and extreme depths of the ocean. Survival on board requires human adaptation as well.

Dr Roger Grace – The Ecological and Fishery Benefits of Marine Reserves

Dr Roger Grace is a self-employed marine biologist and underwater photographer, and has been doing contract work on marine reserves and parks for the Department of Conservation and its predecessors, and the ARC, since 1972. He is also a contract photographer for Greenpeace, and has been on many ship-based expeditions with them all over the world since 1990.

Subtitle words for this lecture could include: How good is management of our fisheries? Does "partial protection" in MPA's work? Shocking results of 30 years of crayfish monitoring in fully protected, partially protected, and open fishing areas.

Although it doesn't specifically involve Long Bay, the topic is very relevant, and could give an insight into what changes in marine life we may expect in Long Bay marine reserve over a long time period, and how other reserves have recovered after protection from fishing. I could also take the opportunity to make a brief presentation on what I think could be worthwhile monitoring exercises that volunteers could carry out, with initial guidance, to show long-term changes in the reserve.

Harold Kidd – The Bailey Clan – 20th Century Boat Builders of Auckland.

This talk will deal with Chas Bailey Sr and his many descendants who were skilled boat-builders all over NZ, skilled helmsmen and sometimes scallywags.

Harold Kidd has co-authored articles on Vintage topics in NZ and overseas boating magazines for over 20 years, as well as writing several books on early yachting and boatbuilding; co-author of "*The Logans*" and now well advanced with a book on their contemporaries and rivals, the Baileys.

Anne Rimmer - The Return of the Viking Ships

A historian and author, "*Tiritiri Matangi*." Anne is currently visiting Scandinavia for further research on the subject for this talk not just about the old Viking voyages 1000 years ago, but also about present-day people excavating buried or sunk Viking ships, researching the Vikings' boat-building techniques, accurately reconstructing the boats and successfully sailing them.

Tony and Jenny Enderby – Discovering the Underwater Life in New Zealand's Marine Reserves.

New Zealand has a long coastline with a wide range of underwater habitats and species but few totally protected marine areas. The talk will show some of this spectacular marine life in marine reserves between the Poor Knights Islands and Stewart Island. Once established, marine reserves become the jewels along the coast with greater abundance of fish, invertebrates and seaweeds. The wealth of marine life is often largely unknown to the non-diving public.

Jenny and Tony Enderby live at Leigh on the Northland coast, near the marine reserve at Goat Island. This gives them the opportunity to dive and observe the changes in their local marine reserve and led to their first book "Goat Island Marine Reserve". While compiling their books, "Diving and Snorkelling New Zealand" and "A Guide to New Zealand's Marine Reserves" they travelled around New Zealand and dived as many marine reserves as the weather would allow. The photographs from these travels will be the basis of the presentation. There will be an opportunity to purchase their books.

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