

# Cleaning inside outside the ocean

Adventure's Edge Dive & Outdoor Centre for the fourth year in a row hosted an annual Project Aware International Cleanup Day for Mossel Bay on Saturday, 25 September.

The day started out with a small crowd gathering outside of the dive centre on Diaz Beach, composed of a group of (hippie) helpers from George and some Australian drifters who were passing through and just couldn't let an "opportunity to do some good for the ocean and have an after party braai go past!

A few minutes later and the team from Reef Divers rocked up, followed by bus loads of children brought in from Agape children's home and Tyholora primary school by the mini van (Combi) sponsored from Oceans Research and the Adventure's Edge Quantum taxi and LDV (bakke).

Add to this the team of students from Oceans research and all the willing locals that joined and the once sombre mood of Saturday morning broke out into a seemingly catastrophic collection of volunteers!

**First order of the day was for the divers to**

kit up and disperse to the underwater cleanup sites designated for some much needed TLC.

They were split into two groups and monitored by Daniel Rogers, Johan of Reef Divers and the dive team from Adventure's Edge.

**Next up - divide and conquer!**

The shore crews were split into four groups headed up by team leaders made up of the Oceans Research Students, Beverly and her husband and Thozoi of the George Museum.

Plastic bags and protection from the mess in the form of latex gloves were issued to all and lists were made to ensure logistical control of all the children, after which all were off to the beaches.

Four areas were chosen to cover the bay and four teams to cover the designated areas.

They were the rocks from Diaz beach to De Bakke Chalets covered by team "Captain Planet," from the chalets to De Bakke beach covered by team "Zambezi Shark," from De Bakke Beach to Santos Beach covered by team "Great White," and finally the area from the harbour wall up to the point covered by team "Tiger Shark."

Nadine did an amazing job of recording the entire event photographically which required a lot of running around and some serious talent in catching the mood of the day.

After the commotion of deploying and retrieving all the teams and their trash, all gathered for the counting and braai at Flames Restaurant in Bland Street, where 86 beerwors rolls and plates of salad sponsored by Adventure's Edge were devoured.

A total of 55 bags of trash, three tyres and three crates of fishing tackle mess was counted and listed to assist in statistics for Project Aware in the ongoing fight against



Many hands make little work.



While the divers dive out rubbish there were volunteers on land cleaning up the beaches.



Divers getting ready to clean up the bottom of the ocean.

pollution.

Winners of the prizes sponsored by Reef Divers in George are as follows Adam Johnstone, Walter Bartman and Jonathan Nel.

Adventure's Edge Dive & Outdoor Centre would like to thank everyone who made the beach cleanup in Mossel Bay a reality.

Without the concerted effort of people like Arno Munro, Beverly Boer (and her husband), Amanda Human, Reef Divers in

George, Oceans Research (Enrico Gennari) and their diligent students, without whom we would not have been able to coordinate the children of Agape Children's home and the school children from Tyholora Primary in Theembalethu George.

Also thanks to Adventure's Edge staff Millette Kruger, Edyard Terblanche, CJ Coetzee, Westley Wynne and Jade Cort. Special thanks go to Adam Johnstone and Oceans Research for the assistance with

transportation on the day as well as Thozoi of the George Museum for coordinating the children from Tyholora Primary. Daniela Rogers of Training Edge for filling out the 81 certifications as well as food coordination.

Thanks also go to Flames Restaurant for providing everyone with an "after cleanup" venue free of charge for the 86 plus participants and Nadine Welch for her professional photography of the event.