



Education Program

Overview



[www.OceanCrusaders.org](http://www.OceanCrusaders.org)

# Welcome

- Welcome to the Ocean Crusaders Education Program.
- We are going to learn how to help some of our friends who live in the ocean.
- You will learn that some things we use every day are actually hurting them.
- And finally you will learn how to help them so that one day you can go and meet them.



# Who am I?

- My name is Ian Thomson but my friends call me 'Thommo'.
- I started Ocean Crusaders as I love the ocean. I work on it, and in it as I sail and dive for a living.
- Seeing my ocean friends hurt made me upset so I decided to do something about it.
- Now I want you to help me.



# Why I started Ocean Crusaders?

I used to drive a big yacht and we ran diving tours of the Great Barrier Reef in Queensland, Australia.

This particular day, after a lot of rain the night before, I decided to pick up the rubbish floating on the water. I picked up everything you see here. There are plastic bottles, hats, thongs and even the big blue barrel.

Later that day I found this dead turtle. I love turtles and seeing a dead one was not very nice. It made me very sad.

So I decided to do something about it.



# Let's meet my friends

I think we all know who this is?

**Yes, it's NEMO.**

He's a clownfish or Anemone Fish. He lives in the coral that you see here.

In fact the relationship between the coral and Nemo is very special. They both look after each other.

Nemo protects the coral from other animals trying to eat it by attacking them.

And the coral protects Nemo as it is poisonous to other fish. Nemo actually has a suit of armour to protect him from the coral.



# Humpheaded Mouri Wrasse

This is one of my best friends, Elvis  
He's a Humpheaded Mouri  
Wrasse.

He's about 1.5m (5 feet) long, so  
bigger than most of you.

He has big lips and we know what  
they are good for, yep, kissing.

Every time I go diving I go down  
and give him a big kiss on the lips.  
He loves it. He's really friendly and  
his girlfriend is too. Her name is  
Priscilla.



# Manta Rays

Manta Rays are the spaceships of the sea. They can grow up to 8m (26ft) in width.

When they swim over the top of you, it is like you are being invaded by aliens.

Even though they are so big, they actually eat one of the smallest creatures in the sea, called plankton.

Plankton is so small that you can't even see it, so the Manta Rays eat lots and lots of it.

They are harmless to humans.



# Whales

Do you know what type of whale this is?

It's a Humpback Whale. They live all over the world and can travel up to 25,000km every year.

They spend summer in the polar regions but in winter they travel to warmer waters to mate and breed.

They can range in size from 12-16m (39 – 52ft) when fully grown.



# Sharks

Who's scared of sharks?

We are going to learn that sharks are actually our friends and that we need to protect them. They've been on the planet for more than 420 million years. They are the kings and queens of the oceans yet because of humans they are in danger of extinction.



# Timmy the Turtle

Timmy the turtle is my best friend. When I see him diving he comes over and swims with me. Turtles can live for up to 200 years.

Unfortunately they can die from so many different things that humans do to them.

They mistake plastic bags for jelly fish, then eat them. They get caught in nets left in the ocean by fisherman and they even get hit by boats.

We need to do what we can to save these guys and you can help me. I'll tell you how later.



# World Record

In May 2010 I set off to break a world record by sailing around Australia all by myself.

I did this to raise awareness of the damage plastic bags and plastics do to the environment.

I broke the world record by taking 26 days off the old record. I'm now in the Guinness Book of World Records.

It took me 42 days, 5 hours & 33 minutes.

This is the boat I used on the record. If you look closely, you'll see a no plastic bags logo on the sail at the top.



# Now I teach

Now I spend my time teaching school students like you all about the issues that my friends are facing. You've just met some of my friends and they are really cool friends to have. They can be your friends too.

It's really important that I teach you how to help them as I can't do everything myself.

I NEED YOUR HELP.

Together we can save our friends from all the issues they are facing.

SO CAN YOU HELP ME?

Okay, Let's look at the issue.





# Plastic is everywhere!

- The bottles you drink your water and softdrink out of are made of plastic.
- Some of your lunch boxes are plastic.
- Plastic bags are all over the place.
- In fact, plastic is everywhere and it is hurting our oceans and the animals in them.
- The problem is that animals eat plastic or get tangled in bags or nets and this can lead to them dying.



# The statistics

The world uses approximately 500 billion plastic bags each year.

**THAT'S 500,000,000,000**

That's 150 per person for everyone in the world.

If we joined them end on end they'd circumnavigate the world

**4,200 times!**



# The statistics

The world drinks over 200 Billion litres of bottled water annually.

Did you know that to count to 1 million would take you 11 days. So imagine how long it would take to count to 200,000,000,000

The average size of a bottle is around 500ml (0.5 liters) so that means 400 billion water bottles, which most of them are plastic and everyone has a bottle cap.

It's a lot of plastic.

# Dangers of plastic

- 100,000 marine creatures per year die because of plastic entanglement or suffocation. That's turtles, sharks, whales, manta rays and seals all dying because of plastic.
- 1 million plus sea birds die of the same thing.
- 2.7 million tonnes of plastic bags go into landfill every year
- That's 300,000 bags a minute or 18 million per hour. Now that's a lot of plastic.
- Take more than 1000+ years to break down.



# Plastic in our ocean

- It is believed that there are 46,000 pieces of plastic in every square mile of ocean.
- Imagine if I poured 46,000 pieces of rubbish into your playground, you wouldn't like it would you? Well that is what is in every area of the ocean the same size as your playground.
- It's a lot of plastic.



Water sample from the ocean showing plastic pieces

# How does it get there?

All my rubbish goes to the tip so how does it end up in the ocean?





So light it flies

Plastic bags get caught in the wind and fly away.



# Into drains

When they fall they go to our drains.....





Washed out to sea

And eventually into our oceans.....



Some go elsewhere



# Swan love



# Deer feeding on rubbish



# Wrong uniform



# A case of mistaken identity

In the oceans it's a case of mistaken identity, where plastic bags look like jelly fish.



# Smothering our reef

Plastic bags smother our reef and kill them off.



# Dolphin food

Dolphins have been found with up to 300g (10.5oz) of plastic in their stomachs. That's a plastic bag full of plastic bags.



# Chocolate cake

Turtles love jelly fish. In fact they like it just the same way that you and I like chocolate cake. Little do they know it may kill them. This poor turtle thinks it's about to eat chocolate cake!



# Getting caught in nets

Getting caught in a stray net (Ghost Net) is another danger to animals in the ocean.



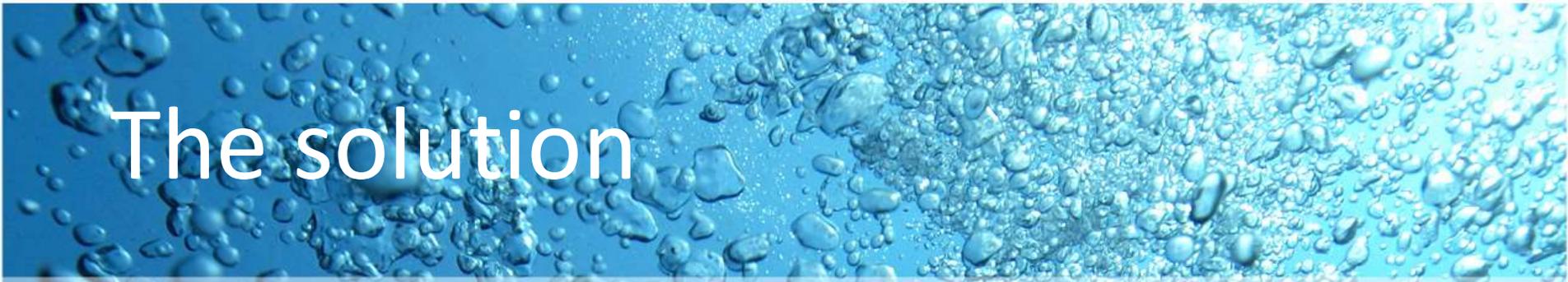
# The ultimate tragedy

160 years old when found barely breathing. This guy was lucky, very lucky, he was rescued and the plastic removed.



Would you swim here?





# The solution

Now we know the problem, what can we do?

**Prevention is better than a cure.**

If we don't make the rubbish,  
we don't have to clean it up.

If we don't litter,  
we don't have to clean it up.

# Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

- Reduce the number of plastic items we use.
- Reuse items as many times as possible.
- And if we are finished with them, we need to recycle them.



# Reduce

- We need to reduce the amount of plastic bags we use. Use green bags.
- If each family around the world used 1 less plastic bag each week that would be 80.5 billion bags less a year.
- You can say NO to plastic bags.
- Educate others to say no.



# Reuse

- If we do need to use bags, bottles or plastic items, we need to reuse them.
- Use them for bin liners.
- Make them into things like jumping ropes, string bags or decorations.
- Use milk bottles to make a raft like this one and then race your mates.



# Recycle

- At the end of the day we can recycle them
- Whilst recycling is not effective cost wise, it is better than putting them in the bin.
- Most shopping centres have plastic bag collection bins
- Furniture can be made out of plastic bags.



# A simple equation

If you say no to plastic, the oceans will love you.



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# Your missions

## **Mission #1** – Green bags to the car

When you get home, ask mum and dad if their green bags are in the car. If not, then you can put them in the boot so that when they go shopping they have the bags with them. That way they never forget them.

## **Mission #2** – Recycle plastic bags

Your next mission is to gather all the plastic bags at home into one or two big bags. When you next go shopping, drop them in the recycling bin. That way they don't end up in the tip and escape to the sea.

## **Mission #3** – Say no to plastic bags and bottles

Every time you are offered a plastic bag or bottle, try to say no. The bag you say no to may just save the life of a turtle.

# Happy turtles

If you help me by completing all these missions, then I believe all the turtles will be really, really happy.

In fact, they might even look like this.....

