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WORDS & PHOTOS: DAN TROTTER



TIMES ARE *changing*

The world's oceans are changing, of course one could argue that the world's oceans have always been changing and this would be true. The problem is that these changes are occurring so rapidly and the changes so drastic that the processes in the ocean which life depends are under direct threat. Water temperatures are increasing globally; nutrient loading of the marine environment caused by terrestrial human activities is proceeding almost unchecked, and the ocean's acidity is higher than it has been in the last 20 million years. As a direct result of these and other factors there are real concerns that the ocean's ability to regulate the earth's oxygen/carbon dioxide balance is in serious peril. The basis for this concern is that as the ocean becomes more acidic less and less of the organisms at the microscopic level of the food chain will be able to survive, their very structure dissolved by lower pH





marine life than any other big city on the planet, the aim of the crew at underwater Sydney is promote awareness and foster protection for the magnificent life right on the doorstep of Australia's largest city.

"The biggest threat to the world's marine environment is lack of awareness. People only protect what they know and love... and our oceans are out of sight, out of mind and out of luck. *The marine world urgently needs a good publicist!*

There's plenty of great work being done to protect the marine environment, but few people know about it and even fewer support it. What's needed is a model program that; 1) makes people love their own local marine life, 2) helps them get to meet it, and 3) inspires them to help protect it. A model program that can be easily implemented on a local, regional and



levels in the worlds oceans. Additionally increased nutrient loading results in higher phytoplankton production which in turns depletes available oxygen from the water a process know as eutrophication. Coupled with dramatic changes in ocean currents some scientists are predicting that ocean functions may irrevocably change, impacting hundreds of millions of humans in catastrophic (and largely unimaginable) ways, this directly then includes the ability of the planet to support human life.

To learn more about the issues affecting the processes of the oceans and the impacts of climate change out the various blogs available through the link here; <http://www.climateshifts.org/?p=5391>

UNDERWATER SYDNEY

Underwater Sydney is an organisation set up by a group of passionate Sydney based marine enthusiasts aimed at revealing the



secrets of Sydney's underwater world to all Australian's and visitors. The belief is that education and awareness are the first steps towards creating understanding, care and respect for the marine world.. Sydney Harbour is one of, if not the most bio-diverse harbours in Australia and is recognised internationally as having better

national basis. A program that can really make a difference.

I recently spoke to Richard Vevers the founder of Underwater Sydney and here's what he had to say;

Check out the website and subscribe to the newsletter and whilst you are at it, encourage your friends to join also.

<http://underwatersydney.com.au/>

SIMS SYDNEY INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE

With such great biodiversity swimming around our harbour city, it makes sense that Sydney Harbour is the perfect setting for studying marine life and the impacts of large-scale human activities on the marine environment.

The Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS) was founded in 2005 as a partnership between four universities (University of Sydney, UTS, Macquarie



University and the University of NSW.) The institute was set up as a collaborative research institute. It brings together scientists from different marine science disciplines to study and monitor the organisms and process within the harbour and beyond. SIMS also has partnerships with a number of State and Federal government departments, which are essential to the success of the Institute in achieving its aims.

As stated on the SIMS website "It is the principal marine research institute on the South-East Australian coast providing a focal point for:

- world class collaborative marine research;
- provision of marine research for policy makers and managers;
- research training and teaching in the marine sciences; and
- national and international collaboration.



"The biggest threat to the world's marine environment is lack of awareness. People only protect what they know and love..."



Research at SIMS covers a broad spectrum of the marine sciences. A flagship research project in development at SIMS is aimed at working with our partners to monitor the health of Sydney Harbour and explore management tools for the future. This long term project will document the full range of marine species in Sydney Harbour, with the aim of creating a baseline for future studies. It will explore the interactions of natural and man-made stressors on marine populations to identify the factors with the greatest negative impact. And it will aim to develop knowledge and skills for the creation of a resilient waterway for the future.

For more info or to sign up to their newsletter check out;

<http://www.sims.org.au/> ↴

