



PHOTO: AAP

WHAT'S NEWS

Shortest Man

A 72-year-old man from a remote valley in south-western Nepal has been declared the shortest man ever documented after being measured by Guinness World Records officials. Chandra Bahadur Dangi stands just 54.6cm tall and has been declared the shortest human adult ever documented. Last week, Guinness World Records presented Dangi with two certificates for being the world's shortest living man and the world's shortest person ever recorded in Guinness' 57-year history.

Sea Week

SEA Week, a major annual campaign to increase understanding and appreciation of the sea and its living organisms, is held in March each year. Organised by the Marine Education Society of Australasia, Sea Week is a time for all of us to get to know our ocean, its habitats, characteristics and inhabitants better. The theme for Sea Week, to be held this week, is Marine Debris – Clean It Up.

Sea splash

Beyond the beach and below the waves of Australia's 10 million square kilometres of ocean you can find some of the most rich and diverse forms of life on Earth

OUR waters include all five of the world's ocean temperature zones: polar, sub-polar, temperate, subtropical and tropical – all containing a wide range of marine habitats.

Our marine environment is perhaps the most diverse and unique on the planet, but it is also incredibly fragile and is in need of more care.

Increasing threats from pollution, population pressure, excessive fishing, coastal zone degradation, climate change, declining quality in marine and coastal waters/sediment, loss of marine and coastal habitats, unsustainable use of marine and coastal resources, lack of marine science policy, lack of long-term research and monitoring of the marine environment, lack of strategic planning in dealing with marine pests are all factors that have an impact on our waterways.

Australians are renowned as a nation of beach and sea lovers. Our swimmers, lifesavers, surfers and sailors are world famous. We use and benefit from the ocean and coast in a number of ways.

- Recreational activities like boating, swimming, snorkelling and scuba-diving
- Tourism – Coastal regions support a significant tourism industry
- Fisheries – creates an industry that provides a source of nutrition and is of significant economic benefit generating income and jobs.
- Energy and Resources – reserves of oil, gas and minerals which are located beneath the sea can be extracted to meet our energy and resource needs.
- Shipping – oceans are used to transport goods, people and cargo around the world.

AUSTRALIAN WATERS HAVE

- over 4500 fish species and 500 corals; 166 shark species; 110 species of seabirds
- Six of the world's seven turtle species; the flatback turtle is unique to Australia
- Half of the world's 220 species of seahorses and seadragons
- About 30 of the world's 50 species of sea snakes, around half are unique to this continent
- the largest area of coral reefs in the world
- the highest diversity of mangrove species in the world
- 6000 shipwrecks lying beneath the waves
- The largest single coral reef in the world – The Great Barrier Reef

Oceans and coasts are important to the animals and plants that call them home, but if we are to continue to reap the rewards from these environments we must look after them. If we don't change our habits we will have a sea of trash not a sea splash.

DID YOU KNOW

ABOUT 4% of our oceans are protected in marine national parks (sanctuaries) where the wildlife is given a break from fishing and other extractive uses. Most of this is represented in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

Once an item becomes part of marine debris it can take up to hundreds of years to break down. Some examples: paper towel 2-4 weeks; milk carton 3 months; cigarette butt 10 years; Styrofoam cup 50 years; glass bottles 300 years; aluminium can 200 to 500 years.

TASK TIME ONLINE



GO online by visiting your newspaper's website. You'll find the address on the front page. Look for the NiE logo at the top of the page and click. This will link you to APN's NiE webpage.

Sea Splash not Trash

The amount of rubbish that ends up in the world's oceans is increasing. The figures will probably shock you. In this week's online activity your task is to make a chart to show the percentage of different types of rubbish found in the ocean. There are also some interesting videos posted that focus on the subject of marine debris.



QUIZ TIME

Each week we will test your knowledge on what's been happening in the news. For the answers visit NiE online.

- 1 WHO did the Australian Socceroos beat 4-2 in Melbourne last week to top their group in the 2014 FIFA World Cup qualifying campaign?
- 2 WHICH pop superstar turned 18 last week and received a \$100,000 sports car as a gift?
- 3 WHICH A-League Football team has had its licence terminated by Football Federation Australia?

NiE Newsletter

Coming in March is the new NiE Newsletter. Sign up now to receive a weekly update of great ideas for you to use in the classroom. Go to your newspaper's website. You should find the address on the front page. Look for the NiE logo in the menu bar and click. Find the link to subscribe to our new NiE newsletter where you'll be able to access more information about APN's Newspapers in Education programme.

NEXT WEEK'S TOPIC:

Seeing Clearly