



Humpback Whales spotted in Montserrat!

The teams on both the Philippines and Montserrat site are feeling refreshed, and ready to get stuck in after their Christmas break!

The Philippine's staff have already welcomed their first cohort of volunteers and scholars, and will start collecting data in Napantao shortly, with surveys in Himayangan planned for the future. Napantao is home to some of the most beautiful reefs in the Philippines so the team are in for a treat!

The Montserrat site is quiet for another week and a half until it reopens to volunteers in early February, so the staff are hard at work prepping for their arrival. It will be a few months before the swell in Montserrat calms down enough to allow our marine project to start up again, so this is a fantastic opportunity to concentrate all of our efforts on the terrestrial program. One species that isn't bothered by the high swell and low visibility is the humpback whale. This was proved when the staff was graced with views of a mother and her calf in Isles Bay! What a fantastic start to this years' expedition! Keep an eye on the CCC [Blog](#) for the latest news on any further sightings!



The view from the Philippines site, Southern Leyte, at sunset.



One of the students shows off their beautiful Raptor mobile.

Philippines

Anyone who has worked on an expedition knows that although it's good to have a plan it will inevitably change throughout the week. The staff on site get used to working around factors such as weather and sea conditions but one thing we didn't expect to affect site was the Pope's visit! Pope Francis visited the Philippines as part of his six day tour of Asia, and took the opportunity to visit Tacloban, the area worst hit by Typhoon Haiyan. The security measures in the Philippines during the visit were extensive including limiting communication by shutting down all of the local mobile telephone networks. This of course included our site's local network. Thankfully for the volunteers on site the decision was taken to ensure a safe dive by limiting the depth rather than cancelling it completely and the day's work continued, albeit slightly modified. Flexibility is the watch word!

Montserrat

The library sessions were put on hold over the Christmas holidays but they were back with a bang last weekend with the first session concentrating on raptors (birds of prey). Science Officer (SO) Hazel Thornton led the session, assisted by fellow SO Jack Coupland, and Project Scientist Shawn Daniel. The session was kicked off with a discussion on the physiological characteristics that have evolved in raptors, such as sharp talons, keen eyesight and large wingspans. This led on nicely to the food chains that are key in supporting these majestic birds, and the species that are found in Montserrat, such as the American Kestrel and Osprey. No session would be complete without a craft session and the kids certainly didn't disappoint with their colourful and inventive raptor food chain mobile. What a great start to this year's sessions!

The Lifesigns Group

Coral Cay Conservation is part of the Lifesigns Group, a group of companies specialising in expeditions, medical training & hostile environment solutions.



Whilst we're waiting for the first expeditions to set off in March we thought that this month we would concentrate on the lifesigns family, so the spotlight falls on Kerrieanne Forbes, Expeditions Manager for Adventure Lifesigns. Many of the expeditions that Kerri leads involve a physically challenging element to really get teams working together and supporting one another, therefore during this run up period Kerri's weekends are dedicated to training. Last weekend saw Kerri taking part in the Brooks Hellrunner. This 10 mile off-road race involves challenging hills and freezing water plus the 'Bog of Doom', which sounds too much like the 'Bog of Eternal Stench' to be anything good! We're very proud to say that Kerri placed a fantastic 393/1472!. Unfortunately we weren't able to get hold of a post run mud-splattered photo of Kerri but don't worry we'll make up for it after Tough Mudder 2015!

Offer of the month!

You'll need to get your skates on for this offer! The fifth person who books on to a CCC expedition AND mentions 'NewsJan20' gets 25% off the cost of their expedition! T&C's apply. Offer applies to both the Montserrat and Philippines site and can be used for both marine and terrestrial projects. No minimum expedition duration required. Expedition start date must be within 2015. Offer applies to expedition cost only. Offer expires 23rd February 2015. Cannot be combined with any other offer.