



### CCC join Barangay Punta for a Community Day!

At Coral Cay Conservation (CCC) it's very important that we involve the community in everything we do, from the moment we arrive into a new Barangay, to assisting the locals in creating their own locally managed Marine Protected Area (MPAs). To help spread the word about what CCC discovers on completion of our work in a Barangay, we hold both a community day for all locals and a 'Reef Rangers' session for the local kids. These are both great opportunities to explain what CCC have been up to in their waters and make the data a little more accessible for all. Both events share some common elements - education, games, a chance to see the beauty of the reefs for themselves, and of course fun!

The Philippines' CCC team recently completed their MPA surveys in the waters of Barangay Punta and were joined by young and old from the Barangay on one of the local beaches for the community day. The day kicked off with a beach scavenger hunt organised by CCC volunteer, Jack, and then a rather wild round of charades headed up by Expedition Manager Intern, Gareth. Once the group had settled down it was time to get their brains into gear and learn about coral ecology and the range of life forms to be found in the ocean. The students were then joined by some of Punta's Reef Rangers who were eager for another chance to explore Punta's reefs, it wasn't long before everyone had bounded into the sea complete with masks and snorkels.

The day was great fun and everyone went home with a smile on their face. These days with the community have the added benefit of also being a great chance for CCC's volunteers to come face to face with our locals, who play such an important part in the work that we are doing. Check out the CCC [blog](#) for more stories from our sites.



Project Scientist, Rory Graham's ingenious boxing fish!



Who can resist a sneaky selfie after they've just climbed a mountain?!

## Coral Cay Conservation

Each fortnight or so the Montserrat team hold a library session for the local children. For Science Officer, Peta Day's, third library session, the theme of 'fish that fight' was chosen! The class looked at why fish fight and do not simply swim away, and the defences of some different species including: triggerfish, surgeonfish, damselfish, lionfish and scorpionfish. The presentation was ended with the important fact that these cool fish (usually) don't seek to hurt people but are just using the defences they are equipped with to protect themselves and their territories. So, although it always pays to be careful, we should all take the opportunity to go in the sea and check some of them out for ourselves!

The craft session had the children drawing one of the fish from the presentation, or letting their imaginations run wild and creating their own fighting fish. The class favourite turned out to be a (thus far) undiscovered species the elusive boxing fish! Project Scientist, Rory Graham's contribution!

Many of the class attendees are in the local choir and had rehearsals for most of the morning, so it was great that they made the effort to join the session once they'd finished. CCC volunteers, Jessica and Julia, made fantastic classroom assistants helping the children with their designs, and are both looking forward to being involved for the rest of their stays.

## Recent Events

A very well earned congratulations has to go to CCC's Head of Operations, Tristan Brown, who was successfully certified as a Summer Mountain Leader over the weekend!

The Mountain Leader qualification proves that the holder has been trained in leading groups through the mountains and valleys of the UK. Candidates undergo 5 days of assessment on topics such as navigation, group management, hazards and hiking equipment, just to name a few. Before they are allowed to undertake the assessment, students must also carry out and log at least 40 quality mountain days, and gain experience in wild camping. Trying to fit this around family and work commitments can be rather a challenge so it's not too surprising that for most candidates it can take a number of years to achieve.

Tristan's assessments were split between 2 locations to give the students a chance to show their skills in differing topography. Firstly, 3 days in the Brecon Beacons, and then the 2 final days at the foot of Tryfan Mountain, in Snowdonia, Wales. Each student took it in turns to navigate and lead the group through mountain treks and river crossings whilst using compasses, triangulation and micro-navigation. The group had a very wet time of it with nonstop rain for 3 of the days but still, they emerged victorious. Good job Tristan!

## Future Events

The countdown has begun for Adventure Lifesigns! With less than 4 weeks until school expedition season kicks off Head Office is a hive of activity, in an environment which, in all honesty, is starting to resemble a trekking goods store! Anyone who has joined an Adventure Lifesigns tour before knows that they generally involve hiking, camping and community project work so we guess it's not too surprising that we find ourselves surrounded by mossy nets and tents each year! The first groups will be heading out to Nepal and Borneo, closely followed by tours in Peru, Zambia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. It's going to be a busy few months! We'll be sure to keep you updated but in the meantime why not follow their adventures on Facebook?

## Offer of the month!

This month's offer is a little closer to home. As expeditions aren't for everybody we wanted to give you the chance to enjoy a 15% discount on a holiday let, set in the foothills of the Pyrenees in the picturesque village of Marquixanes. Whether you want to go diving, mountain trekking or simply sit on a harbour enjoying a fresh bowl of mussels and a cold cocktail, this is the base for you. For more information please visit <http://www.frenchcataloniaholidaylet.co.uk/>. When booking, please quote: 'CCCNewsJune' to take advantage of this generous offer from a loyal Coral Cay Conservation supporter. Terms & Conditions: Offer expires 30th November 2016. Offer is only redeemable through mention of 'CCCNewsJune' at the point of booking. This offer is only valid for bookings made for stays in September, October or November 2016. Offer cannot be combined with any other offer. Offer subject to availability.