



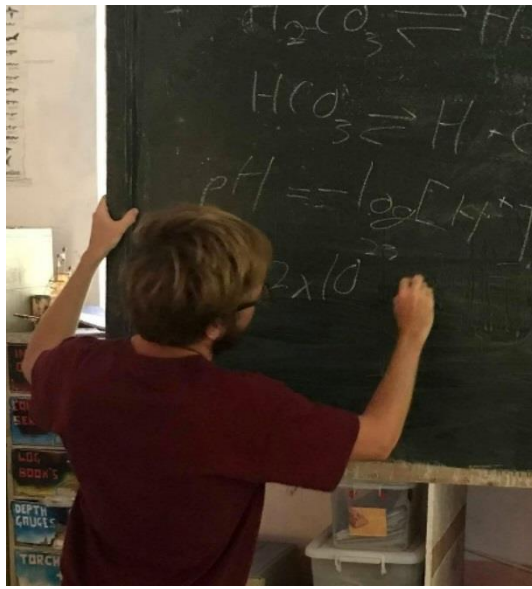
Heading off for a Recce in the Wilds of the Philippines!

Earlier in the year our Head of Operations, Tristan Brown, headed off to the Philippines to undertake a recce for a school trip planned later in the year. As [Coral Cay Conservation](#) (CCC) has been based in the Philippines for almost its entire 30-year history it's a country that we know very well, but there's always more to see and do, so it was with excitement that Tristan set out on his 2-week recce.

The school groups heading out with [Adventure Lifesigns](#) will be traveling all over the mainland and neighbouring islands, taking in the rural and city scenes that the Philippines has to offer. They will also be visiting our CCC team in Napantao to undertake a building project with the local community, and one of the groups will gain their PADI Open Water diving qualification. Tristan had a packed itinerary so there was a lot to accomplish in a short stay. Recces aren't a holiday, they involve a wide range of duties. From the mundane but essential - checking fire extinguishers in accommodation and prices of goods in supermarkets; to the adventurous - trying out a new trek in the Banaue region. The Banaue region with its UNESCO World Heritage certified rice paddies proved to be a highlight of the whole recce. Parts of the trek were in fact much too challenging for the students and won't feature on the itinerary, but luckily many of the viewpoints are reachable by transport so they will still be able to feature in the itinerary. We can't wait to tell you all about their reactions to seeing some of the most awe-inspiring views Tristan has ever seen.

A visit to the Philippines wouldn't be complete without a site check on CCC in Napantao so just before heading home Tristan caught up with the team and undertook some essential tasks. These included procuring a 'lawnmower' in the form of a goat from the local village to keep the grass in check, and a cheeky dive on our beautiful house reef... just to check that the equipment is in full working order of course ;)!

Our school expeditions will be heading out late Summer so we'll be sure to let you know all about their adventures in-country!



Angus takes the class through the chemistry behind ocean acidification. Photo – Project Scientist, Charlotte Heney.



Alan uses a heat gun to secure identification tags to each of the climbing ropes. Photo – Ian Forbes

Coral Cay Conservation

One of the brilliant aspects of expeditions is that you meet people from all over the world with different skills and experiences, it would be silly not to share this knowledge so every Saturday staff and volunteers are invited to give a presentation on a topic of their choice.

Volunteer, Angus, who has been with us since last year on a Minerva Fellowship (learn more [here](#)), jumped at the opportunity to share his passion for Ocean Chemistry, after undertaking his Bachelors in chemistry at Union College, USA. The talk focused on what water actually is, its bonding properties, the pH of water, and ocean acidification. This involves some complicated theories but Angus did an excellent job of making the information accessible. One very topical fact that the team learned was that pH is measured on a logarithmic scale, so the recent decrease in ocean water from a pH of 8.2 to 8.1 is actually a 30% rise in acidity. It was a laid back, fun and inclusive talk with everyone asking questions and trying to remember their high school chemistry classes.

Next week's talk on microplastics will be delivered by Pete, the Field Base Manager, so make sure to keep an eye on the [blog](#) where you can hear how it went.

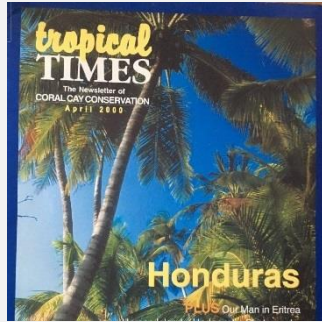
Recent Events

Company Manager, Ian Forbes; and Logistics Coordinator, Alan Fowler; recently made the journey to Shoreham-by-Sea to undertake a Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) check at the [Adur Centre](#). The centre offers a host of activities including wall climbing, mountain biking, and paddlesports so the two had their work cut out for them.

Every 6 months the Adur Centre submits to a full kit check in order to ensure that it is abiding by the Activity Centres Act 1995, Work at Height (Amendment) Regulations 2007 and the Lifting Operations Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998. Luckily, Ian is a registered RoSPA approved PPE Inspector so with Alan assisting was able to undertake all the required checks.

It's a good four days' work, with every item, from ropes and carabiners to helmets and buoyancy aids, being numbered and checked for damage and wear. Each item must also be checked against any accident reports to ensure that they have not been put through atypical stress. It's great to know that the kit has been signed off as safe to use for another 6 months, perhaps next time they'll have a chance to test it out, just for research purposes of course!

Future Events



We are pleased to be able to share a message sent by one of our CCC alumni, Jo, calling on volunteers and staff who might be interested in a 20-year CCC reunion. She even managed to dig up one of our newsletters from April 2000, what a blast from the past! Take it away Jo!

Coral Cay Conservation Reunion – staff and volunteers from 1999-2000.

Looking back at the Millennium...



"Calling on volunteers and staff who might be interested in a 20-year reunion for Coral Cay marine and land expedition members in the Philippines, Cagdanao and Negros, and Honduras from the years 1999 to 2000.

I volunteered on Cagdanao Island, off Palawan, Philippines, from October 1999 to January 2000, and am thinking of organising a reunion, depending on how many people show interest. The venue will probably be London and will be determined by numbers. A potential date is Saturday 12th October 2019."

If you are interested in attending, please email jo@jomoulds.co.uk directly and don't forget to share this message across social media to spread the word far and wide!

FAST TRACK YOUR FUNDRAISING!



Keep the fundraising momentum going this March when you register your expedition with FREE fundraising website, [easyfundraising](http://easyfundraising.com).

It's quick and easy to start raising FREE cashback donations! When you, your family & friends use the easyfundraising site to shop online with over 3,600 big-brand retailers such as Amazon, eBay, Sainsbury's, Just Eat, John Lewis & Partners, M&S & Pets at Home – YOU receive a free donation!

Online shopping & so much more...

As well as raising through online shopping, you and your supporters can also raise free donations without spending a single penny! A single supporter could raise up to £30 for YOU when they sign up for free trials with Audible, SSE, Apple Music, Now TV & so many others! To start raising free funds, register your expedition first for FREE with easyfundraising!

Offer of the Quarter

We are giving **25% off** our upcoming [Off-Site Safety Management](#) (OSSM) two-day course, taking place at our Head Office in Surrey, on the 4th - 5th April, usual cost £175 + VAT.

OSSM is designed for adults working with both young people and adults where they will be required to plan, manage and evaluate off-site safety policies, procedures and activities. It addresses the content of legislation in this area and provides training for practical application.

Just contact our UK Operations Coordinator, Pauline, at ukoperations@lifesignsgroup.co.uk / 01483 810785 for more details, and don't forget to quote 'Newsletter - March 2019'.

Terms & Conditions: Offer applies to the 4-5th April 2019 OSSM course only. Offer is only redeemable at the time of booking and cannot be combined with any other offer. Offer subject to availability. This offer has no monetary value and no cash or product alternative will be offered. Usual Terms and Conditions apply.

