





## Big beach party as 5,000 school kids and volunteers hit the coast in massive nationwide clean-up operation.

Next week nearly 5,000 school children and adult volunteers will embark on a series of ambitious coastal clean-ups around Aotearoa/New Zealand.

These large flagship events in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and on the West Coast, signal the birth of a new nationwide movement that the organisers envisage becoming an integral and long-term feature of New Zealand beach culture.

The series kicks off with a huge clean-up of Rangitoto Island on Monday, involving up to 2,000 people. Wednesday marks the launch of the *Love your Coast* movement in Christchurch.

Over 800 Canterbury secondary students will take to the beaches and waterways in 20 different locations, between the University of Canterbury and Spencerville, stretching around the coastline to Allandale Reserve (Lyttelton). In addition, 150 adult volunteers from community groups with a vested interest in clean coastlines will also participate.

The clean up begins at 10am, finishing at approximately 2pm and organisers are calling for all Cantabrians to show they care about their coastal environment by turning up and pitching in.

Co-ordinated in conjunction with Sustainable Coastlines and Te Wai Pounamu Foundation, the event follows on from similar events in Auckland and Wellington on the  $6^{th}$  and  $7^{th}$  involving nearly 5,000 kiwis across the country's main centres. A similar clean up will take place on the West Coast on the 9th.

For those interested in helping, here is a <u>logistical map of 20 locations</u> being cleaned, stretching from the University, out to Spencerville and around the coast to Lyttelton Harbour, including The Avon and Heathcote Rivers and Estuary and a few kilometers of nearby coastline. Further information can be obtained from www.loveyourcoast.org

All participants will gain free entry to the after function, which kicks off at 3.30pm at The Bedford. Musicians "A'preeshiate" will be performing and there will be a guest MC and giveaways.



The day after the clean up finishes all rubbish collected will be audited by workers completing community service: overseen by experienced auditors.

Plastic rubbish is being separated and repurposed, by being turned into plastic crates and bricks by Range Industries.

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> reporters can expect to have graphed results, photographs, and details of the kinds of rubbish polluting our coasts.

The event schedule is as follows:

- Auckland: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December. A large-scale coastal cleanup of Rangitoto Island with free ferry transfer made possible by Fullers Ferries and Auckland City Council. auckland@loveyourcoast.org
- **Wellington: Tuesday 7**<sup>th</sup> **December**. A large-scale coastal cleanup of the harbor and the South Coast. wellington@loveyourcoast.org
- Christchurch: Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December. A large-scale coastal cleanup of the Heathcote and Avon Rivers, the Estuary, and New Brighton. christchurch@loveyourcoast.org to register your interest.
- West Coast: Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December. A large-scale series of coastal clean-up between Karamea and Franz Josef, involving schools, organisations and all members of the community. westcoast@loveyourcoast.org

Further information: www.loveyourcoast.org

http://www.facebook.com/pages/Love-yourCoast/119334551458105

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