





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. Thursday marks the launch of the *Love your Coast* movement on the West Coast.

The clean-up on the coast will be wide ranging, and involve over 500 school children and adult volunteers from a number of communities, including the three main centres. Please find attached a map of 10 locations from Karamea to Okarito, including the main centers of Westport, Greymouth and Hokitika.

All adult volunteers are invited to celebrate the final event of the series, in Greymouth on Thursday night from 7pm (Venue TBC).

Te Wai Pounamu Foundation who was behind last years award-winning local festival A Day at the Beach have teamed up with Sustainable Coastlines to coordinate events together. The West Coast event follows on from previous events in Auckland, Wellington ad Christchurch on the 6th, 7th and 8th involving nearly 5,000 kiwis across the country's main centres.

All the rubbish collected will be audited by workers completing community service in Greymouth, overseen by experienced auditors, and all plastic rubbish is being separated and repurposed, by being turned into plastic crates by Range Industries.

On Friday 10th 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 6th 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 7th December. A large-scale coastal cleanup of the harbor and the South Coast. wellington@loveyourcoast.org



- Christchurch: Wednesday 8th 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 9th December. A large-scale series of coastal cleanup 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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