

GREENPEACE

# *kākārīki*

Your support in action

Issue 155 - May 2025

## **THE RAINBOW WARRIOR RETURNS TO AOTEAROA**

- > **COMMEMORATING 40 years since the bombing**
- > **TAKING ACTION for the oceans**
- > **DEFENDING nature around the world**
- > **and so MUCH MORE for our planet**

# JOIN THE RAINBOW WARRIOR'S EPIC VOYAGE



© Lorenzo Moscia / Greenpeace

© John Miller / Greenpeace



## COMMEMORATING 40 YEARS SINCE THE BOMBING OF THE RAINBOW WARRIOR

*This July marks 40 years since that tragic night when French Government secret service agents bombed the Rainbow Warrior, in an attempt to neutralise the ship and prevent Greenpeace from protesting against nuclear testing in the Pacific.*

On 10 July, French Government secret service agents planted two bombs and sank the iconic Greenpeace ship as it prepared to sail to protest nuclear testing in the Pacific. The Portugal-born Greenpeace photographer Fernando Pereira was killed in the attack.

Despite this horrific event and Fernando's death, the campaign to stop French nuclear testing in the Pacific was eventually successful and his legacy lives on. The *Rainbow Warrior* was attacked because our movement was having an impact. The French Government feared the power of people standing together for the Earth.

40 years on, we're still honouring Fernando's legacy and standing up for nature — thanks to people like you.

*The Rainbow Warrior recently completed a 6-week mission around the Marshall Islands at the invitation of the Marshallese community and government.*

*This significant trip took place 40 years after Greenpeace crew evacuated over 300 people from the Rongelap atoll to Mejjatto island, after toxic nuclear fallout from the US nuclear Castle Bravo test rendered their ancestral lands uninhabitable. It was the last journey of the first Rainbow Warrior.*

The Marshallese people are now facing further harm and displacement from the climate crisis. This voyage aimed to elevate calls for nuclear and climate justice, and to support vitally important independent scientific research into the impacts of decades-long nuclear weapons testing by the US government.

365 days a year, 24 hours a day, Greenpeace ships are at sea somewhere in the world. This is only possible because of the thousands of people like you who keep our campaign work afloat!



The Rainbow Warrior Arrives in Majuro, Marshall Islands, March 2025 © Bianca Vitale / Greenpeace

# THE RAINBOW WARRIOR RETURNS TO AUCKLAND

*On this significant anniversary, we are honoured to be welcoming the current Rainbow Warrior back to Auckland in July.*

It will be a time both to honour the legacy of Fernando, and to keep the spirit of the *Rainbow Warrior* alive in the face of the climate and biodiversity crises of today.

Today, we face a challenge as urgent as ending nuclear testing. The oceans – which regulate our climate, provide food for billions, and house much of Earth's biodiversity – are in peril. And once again, the *Rainbow Warrior* is leading the call for change.

Right now, powered by your support, the *Rainbow Warrior* is in the Tasman Sea calling for its protection through the creation of an ocean sanctuary. The Tasman Sea is one of the most beautiful and biologically rich places on Earth, home to vulnerable sharks, turtles, whales and dolphins and ancient deep sea corals. But destructive industrial fishing means that the rich, abundant life of the Tasman Sea is disappearing fast.

*Every voyage the Rainbow Warrior takes is only possible because of your support.*

The same movement that stood against nuclear testing and eventually prevailed is now fighting to save the oceans.



## COME ABOARD!

*The Rainbow Warrior will be in Auckland in July - and we'd love for you to come visit!*

*Go to [greenpeace.nz/onboard](https://greenpeace.nz/onboard) to find out more, and sign up to be kept in the loop about the special events that will be taking place, including online.*

*We can't wait to see you there.*



*...for being part of the Greenpeace crew.*

# JOURNEY INTO THE DEEP: SEAMOUNTS EXPEDITION

*Far out in the high seas of the South Pacific, beneath the blue waves, vast underwater mountains known as seamounts rise from the ocean floor. They provide homes to up to thousand year old coral, fish and migrating whales.*

*Yet surprisingly little is known about what lives there. What we do know is that seamounts and the life that relies on them are under serious threat and need urgent protection.*

One of the greatest threats is bottom trawling.

## SHIP'S LOG

### Day 1 Getting ready to go!

And it's a go. After over a year of planning, we're here in Wellington – getting the ship ready to head out and explore ocean life in the deep – including seamounts, underwater hills and knolls.

Today we began fitting out the vessel with all the equipment we need for our voyage.

### Day 4 All aboard!

All crew, scientists, and the

Greenpeace team have joined the vessel in Port Wellington. We are working down to the wire to ensure all equipment is ready to go so we can depart at 2200.

### Day 7 Transit (and dolphins!)

We're still transiting out towards the High Seas. We stopped to do our deepest test yet, taking the DropCam to 300 metres.

We're greeted with dolphins off the bow as we head towards the edge of NZ waters!



Dolphins swim next to us © Greenpeace Aotearoa  
The DropCam is lowered into the water © Greenpeace Aotearoa

## Day 8 *Seamounts at last!*

We've made it to the High Seas and reached our first seamount. The DropCam hit 600 metres and captured stunning footage of deep sea life. Spirits were high as the team crowded around the screens as deep sea fish appeared! This site's been protected from bottom trawling for years, and now we get to see what's thriving below. Most of the crew ended up huddled around the monitor on the bridge in the afternoon to watch the action.

## Day 11 *Coral Encounter Site*

We reached the Lord Howe Rise early this morning – the same area where 37kg of coral was hauled up by a NZ trawler last year, triggering a temporary closure.

At first, it was all deep blue, but by 1100 we'd found the seabed – and with it, a handful of Orange Roughy!

There were cheers from the team on deck – for many, it was their first time seeing this deep-sea fish. This was a super surreal moment for me after years spent campaigning to protect them.

## Day 12 *Deep sea (and a swim!)*

We completed two long runs with the DropCam today in ideal conditions, reaching depths of 1200 metres – right in the heart of coral habitat. The footage coming through is unreal.

After the first dive, the captain gave the green light for a swim. Floating in the Tasman Sea, hundreds of kilometres from land, with a hidden world a kilometre below - absolutely unforgettable.

## Day 14 *Challenger Plateau*

We've arrived back at Challenger Plateau to finish surveying the sites we had to move on from last week due to weather. The waves are too high to put the gear down, but there's still a lot to do, including cataloguing what we've found so far.



Ellie Hooper, oceans campaigner, looks at images from the deep sea cameras. © Greenpeace Aotearoa

## Day 15 *So much destruction...*

Today we surveyed for four hours, but we just saw screen after screen of coral destruction.

Everyone was feeling pretty sad and exhausted by seeing the aftermath of bottom trawling, so we all took a break to sit on the bow and stare at the sea. But that destruction, after also having seen the beauty of the deep sea on previous days, made me more determined than ever to keep campaigning for ocean protection.

## Day 10 *Our first signs of devastation*

Just after 0700 we put the DropCam into the water and we surveyed a large area of a heavily fished seamount south of the Lord Howe Rise.

The images were really sobering, but we didn't get to complete our survey as the conditions turned, and we had to bring the camera back up. We've decided to relocate to the Central Lord Howe Rise area, further north-west of where we are now.



Two people hold a banner in the Lord Howe Rise area where a NZ bottom trawler pulled up coral last year © Greenpeace Aotearoa



Coral rubble in a known bottom trawling track in the Tasman Sea © Greenpeace

## Day 16 *Cheers & high fives*

After yesterday, I was feeling apprehensive that we'd just see more of the same destruction. We dropped down to a few different spots to maximise our chances of seeing some pockets of biodiversity.

Something out there knows we needed cheering up, because within minutes of getting to depth we're given some of the best shots from our voyage so far.

Scan the QR code to take a look at a video of what we saw:



## Day 23 *Our Last Day*

Today, we finally surveyed a seamount within New Zealand waters! This area on the East Coast of the North Island is known to have cold water methane seeps - highly sensitive environments that we wanted to document.

Our lead scientist got us almost immediately to the right spot on the seabed, and there was a lot of excitement as we saw all the markers of the presence of seeps.

Today is our last surveying day. We've done what we came to do. After many days having the unique privilege to view the habitats of the deep, I've realised I'm going to miss this.

# WHAT WE FOUND

*When we set out to explore the secrets of the deep sea on our Seamount Expedition, our aim was to survey seamounts, or underwater mountains, using deep sea cameras and record what we found.*

*What we found was both heartbreaking and inspiring.*

We witnessed first-hand the devastating impacts of bottom trawling. Even after years of campaigning to protect seamounts and coral, and knowing how the heavy bottom trawling nets bulldoze the seafloor, seeing hour after hour of destroyed coral on this scale was a shock.

But despite uncovering the destruction, the expedition also gave us hope. We saw thriving pockets of biodiversity, from colourful sea sponges, to ancient corals.

When bottom trawling is taken out of the picture, the ocean can recover and thrive. With your help, we've been campaigning to get trawling off seamounts and other vulnerable areas and we'll continue to fight for ocean protection - including in the Tasman Sea.

This journey is only just beginning, and we can't wait to share what's next.

Scan this QR code to watch your THANK YOU from Ellie.



*This journey was only possible because of you. Your support helped us expose destruction and uncover beauty, and together, we're one step closer to protecting these precious ecosystems."*

- Ellie, Oceans Campaigner



### Did you know?

*The Orange Roughy, a deep sea fish we saw on our trip, can live to over 200 years old!*

*Learn more by doing our Orange Roughy Quiz:*



THANK YOU!

# YOU'RE TAKING ACTION AGAINST BIG DAIRY'S DESTRUCTION

*100% grass-fed - yeah, right...*

*Fonterra quietly removed the prominent and misleading '100% New Zealand grass-fed' label from its Anchor butter packaging in February.*

Greenpeace filed a lawsuit this past September to challenge the claim, arguing that Fonterra's own grass-fed standard allows up to 20% of a cow's diet to consist of palm kernel – a product linked to rainforest destruction and climate change.

In February, Fonterra removed part of the offending logo from the butter packaging – before the case had even gone to court! This is a move we see as an admission of guilt as our lawsuit against the dairy giant progresses.

But despite removing the contested label, Fonterra's new packaging still claims that Anchor Butter is 'grass-fed', without clarifying its definition - or the links to rainforest destruction.

This remains misleading, as customers expect grass-fed to mean just that – not a diet supplemented with palm kernel.

Thanks to you, we will continue our lawsuit - and other work - to hold Fonterra accountable.

In fact, you might have seen Greenpeace activists doing just this recently - you can read more on the next page!



## TAKE ACTION!



*Nearly 18,000 people have joined us in urging Fonterra to end its reliance on palm kernel. Together, we're sending a powerful message: we will not back down.*

### IF YOU HAVE 1 MINUTE

*Sign the petition calling on Fonterra to phase out palm kernel on all of its farms.*

[greenpeace.nz/PK](https://greenpeace.nz/PK)

### IF YOU HAVE 2 MINUTES

*Share the petition with 5 friends.*

### IF YOU HAVE LOTS OF TIME

*Volunteer with Greenpeace! We have both online and digital volunteer opportunities, including helping out at water testing events, painting banners or tracking deforestation.*

[greenpeace.nz/GPVolunteer](https://greenpeace.nz/GPVolunteer)



## TAKING A STAND FOR THE RAINFOREST

*In March, Greenpeace exposed evidence that all five palm kernel suppliers exporting to New Zealand are complicit in illegally operating palm mills in Indonesia.*

*Soon after, further research confirmed that palm kernel use in New Zealand's dairy industry is directly linked to environmental destruction – proving why it must be banned.*

An investigation uncovered that New Zealand dairy is linked to deforestation inside the Rawa Singkil Wildlife Reserve.

This critically important habitat – home to endangered Sumatran orangutans and tigers – is being destroyed by illegal plantations. New Zealand is the world's largest importer of palm kernel, used as a supplementary feed for industrial dairying. Every year, dairy cows in New Zealand are eating almost two million tonnes of palm kernel imported from Southeast Asia.

And yet, Fonterra markets its Anchor butter as "grass-fed"! But, thanks to people like you, we're protecting rainforests and the wildlife who rely on them. That's why Greenpeace Aotearoa activists took bold action at Port Taranaki to disrupt the unloading of a thirty thousand tonne palm kernel shipment sourced from Indonesian rainforests and bound for Fonterra dairy farms.



*Knowing that Greenpeace supporters like you had our backs gave us the courage to take this action. We couldn't have done it without you - thank you for standing with us to protect the rainforest!"*

- Sinéad

Palm kernel imported to this storage facility is sourced from palm plantations in Southeast Asia linked to rainforest destruction and illegal operations.

Greenpeace activists locked themselves to the facility's pillars, halting operations. Meanwhile, two brave orangutans (okay, activists in orangutan suits!) scaled the roof and unfurled a massive banner reading "Anchor: Rainforest Killer".

Greenpeace uses peaceful and creative direct action to confront powerful industries trying to prioritise profit over the planet. We can only do these brave actions with the support of people like you, thank you.

# GLOBAL VICTORIES

## YOUR WINS AROUND THE WORLD

When you donate to Greenpeace, you are defending nature in Aotearoa and around the globe. Thank you for putting your passion into action for our environment.

Here are just a few highlights from recent months:

Greenpeace clean up a stretch of the Klang river, Malaysia © Greenpeace



## MALAYSIA

### PLASTICS BANNED

After years of campaigning, the Malaysian government has announced a ban on the use of single-use plastic bags in forest reserves, national/state and marine parks. This is a significant step toward reducing plastic pollution and protecting the country's precious ecosystems.



## UK & NORWAY

### DEEP SEA MINING COMPANY GOES BANKRUPT

Norwegian deep sea mining company, Loke Marine Minerals, owner of UK deep sea mining company, UK Seabed Resources (UKSR), declared bankruptcy in April - on the same day that Greenpeace activists shut down a deep sea mining conference in Bergen.

Loke had dreams of becoming the world's largest deep sea mining company, holding licenses in the Pacific as well as setting their eyes on the Arctic. Deep sea mining is a dangerous emerging industry, which continues to suffer setbacks as global opinion turns against the industry due to the severe harm it would cause to deep sea ecosystems.

Activists Shut Down Deep Sea Gambling in Bergen © Jason White / Greenpeace



## THE NETHERLANDS

### NATURE PROTECTED

A court has ordered the Dutch government to cut nitrogen pollution in protected nature, after Greenpeace brought a case arguing that they were failing to address critically high levels of nitrogen oxide pollution - mostly from farming and transport.

Greenpeace stand in front of the Palace of Justice in The Hague holding a banner reading 'No Future Without Nature' and green signs reading 'Protect our nature'. © Marten van Dijk / Greenpeace



## INSPIRING SUPPORTERS



*I have been a supporter for many years. I am now 77. I worry about the state of our planet's health, and how it has declined over my lifetime. I wholeheartedly approve of Greenpeace's activism, and the holding up to scrutiny of governments and planet polluting industries."*

- Robin

*Robin is one of our group of incredible supporters who have left a gift to Greenpeace in their Will.*

To find out more about how to leave a gift in your Will, contact us:

**e** [my.legacy@greenpeace.org.nz](mailto:my.legacy@greenpeace.org.nz)  
**ph** 0800 22 33 44

You can also find more information on our website. Visit [greenpeace.nz/GiftsinWills](https://greenpeace.nz/GiftsinWills) or scan the QR code:





**THANK  
YOU!**

**RAINBOW WARRIOR**

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**Any questions? Get in touch:**

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