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Global and local news update, a tribute to Bill Ballantine, profile of Wade Doak, and rahui signage for Deep Water Cove.

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**"Marine Reserves turn the clock back for me to past glories. But none can replace vanished sights like the huge hapuku herds I once swam with or the giant tube sponges, black coral trees and mighty packhorse crays..."**  
**Wade Doak**

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Welcome to our November news.

First, we would like to acknowledge the life of a true legend of marine conservation, [Bill Ballantine](#), who died this week, aged 78. Without his many years of advocacy work, Fish Forever may not have existed. You can read Vince Kerr's tribute [here](#).

It's been a big year for ocean sanctuaries. Palau has just approved a [500,000 sq km sanctuary](#). Earlier this month at "Our Ocean" conference, Chile announced a 630,000 sq km marine park surrounding Easter Island, and another smaller one around Desventurado or the San Felix Islands. The US also put forward proposals for protected "marine" areas in [Maryland and Wisconsin](#) and hinted at more substantial proposals to come.

This news followed John Key's announcement at the UN General Assembly in late September that the [Kermadec Marine Reserve](#) would be increased from 7450 sq km to 620,000 sq km, extending it from the 12 nautical mile limit to the 200 nautical miles of New Zealand's exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

These positive steps are clouded by the [fifth consecutive failure to agree MPAs in Antarctica](#); in spite of China coming on board in support of the Ross Sea proposal, Russia continues to block progress.

Meanwhile, we continue to await the release of New Zealand's discussion paper that will address potential revisions to the Marine Reserves Act. In the next newsletter we will explore in detail how this proposal might look, and how it could impact marine conservation in our coastal waters.



Gem nudibranch, photo courtesy [Paihia Dive](#).

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FISH FOREVER November 2015

**Voice of Land and Sea:** We're delighted to announce the launch of a series of engaging talks that will reveal fascinating aspects of the Bay of Islands ecological landscape, celebrate its uniqueness and challenge us to be guardians of it.

More information about this series will circulated soon, but put a date in your diary for the first of the series: Jochen Zaeschmar will present his research on False Killer Whales on **Thursday 19 November, 6pm** at the Scenic Hotel in Paihia.

**Fish Forever Summer Festival of Exploration!** We are also planning on setting a few challenges for those that like to get their feet wet. Have a look at [Lena Huia's project](#) for a clue. This summer programme will have elements suitable for children and families, as well as more experienced explorers. There will be more detail about this fun project soon.

In the mean time, we look forward to seeing you at the **Bay of Islands Show** on Saturday 14 November, in our usual spot.



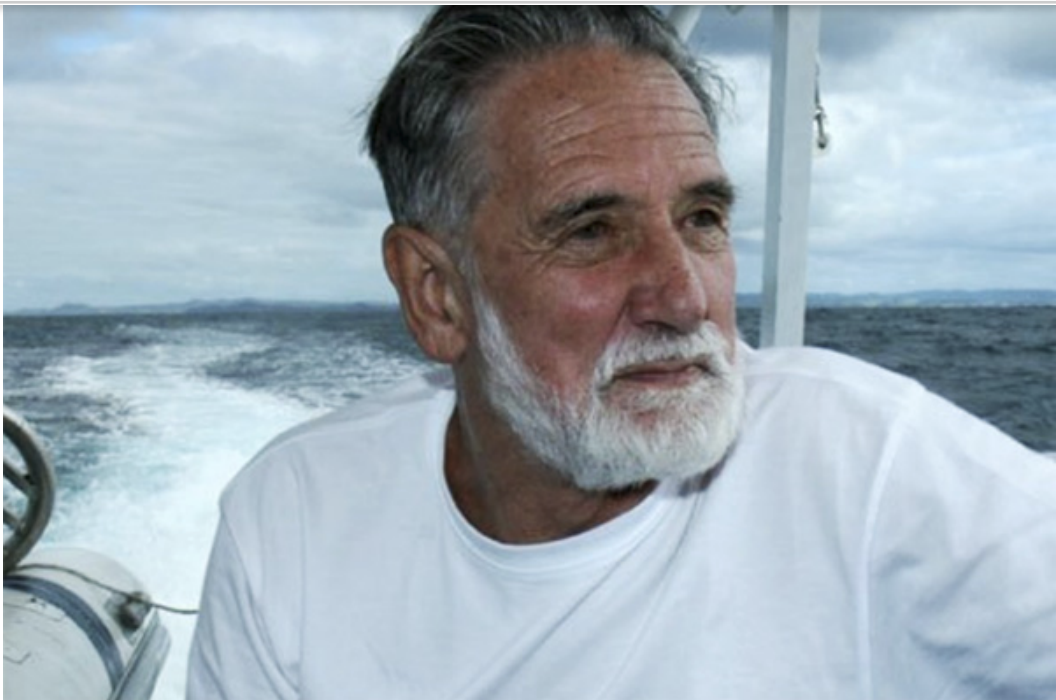
***New Zealand's rare false killer whales; regular visitors to the Bay of Islands*** by Jochen Zaeschmar, 6pm on Thurs 19 Nov, at the Scenic Hotel in Paihia. (Photo: Mazdac Radjainia)

FISH FOREVER TALKS TO WADE DOAK

This month we put some questions to [Wade Doak](#). Wade is an experienced diver, prolific author and researcher, a marine reserve advocate and an all-round enthusiast for ocean systems and the biota that inhabit them. He has always supported Fish Forever’s work and so it’s a pleasure to be able to let him speak for himself here.



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***Wade, you have had so many adventures and done so much in your life - is there a single really stand-out accomplishment for you?***

Marrying the very best of women, diving partner, photographer and soul mate.

***What is your favourite dive?***

I honestly cannot arrange my millions of dives in any sort of hierarchy. Each time I breathe beneath the water I feel privileged. My generation were the 'first finners'; first humans to fly beneath the sea. I have just completed a 500-page book detailing them (to be published by Quarto). I have kept good records of my dives from 1954. I have been obsessed with the undersea world in every sense of that word.



***Fish Forever has proposed two marine reserves in the Bay of Islands. What are your views on the areas put forward?***

If the protected areas are not big they are not worth having. Too many reserves have been whittled down to get them accepted. I once attended a seminar at Goat Island Marine Reserve on B.I. MR. (Barrier Island marine reserve tbc). The consensus of the attendees was as above; a learning curve for me. My scientist friends can provide ideas as to minimal areas. I would leave that aspect to them.

***Sylvia Earle calls them "hope spots"; you call them "wet libraries of the sea". What makes marine reserves quite so magical?***

Marine Reserves turn the clock back for me to past glories. But none can replace vanished sights like the huge hapuku herds I once swam with or the giant tube sponges, black coral trees and mighty packhorse crays that I have illustrated my books with. I have lived too long. I once dived areas that are now dry land, saw cray feelers extending from intertidal pools, vast expanses of scallops, mussels, paua, all needing to live in high density at close proximity to breed. I recall flourishing kelp forests now kina barren deserts. I could never believe that those valuing kaimoana would oppose replenishment zones so vehemently. I guess they just don't know how much we have lost. Without Marine Reserves they will never know. Nor will those who follow us.



***Given the WWF's recent report, and all the factors that negatively affect our ocean, do you still have hope?***

The ocean of our planet is doomed to high acidity, and all that follows as a consequence,

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unless we reduce carbon output. Already oyster farmers in the Pacific Northwest have to raise spat in pH-adjusted tanks. There is no argument about this. Atmospheric carbon levels determine the acidity of the ocean. When we make carbonated drinks we enjoy the acid bite. But we are carbonating the sea.

We were saddened to hear the recent news of Bill Ballantine's death

[RAHUI SIGNAGE: Deep Water Cove](#)

Three news signs are going up in Maunganui Bay (Deep Water Cove) very soon. These are an extra reminder for people that there is NO FISHING in this bay. These signs have been funded by three local dive operators - Northland Dive, Paihia Dive and Dive Zone - who are repeatedly having to approach people on the water to alert them to the fact that this is a no-take area. Nice one guys.



[A TRIBUTE TO BILL BALLANTINE, 1937-2015](#)

by Vince Kerr

Without any doubt Bill's contribution to marine conservation is legendary stuff. I would argue that Bill sits in a class of his own in our short New Zealand history of marine conservation. Last year he released a paper reviewing 50 years of experience with marine reserves; the fact that it is 50 years of his own direct experience is testament to his commitment.

There are endless stories of Bill's amazing campaigning, teaching and mentoring over years, from one end of New Zealand to the other. In action he never hesitated to challenge people whilst giving them patient attention; a master of revealing the underlying fallacies of an opposing argument - respectfully - swiftly followed by an invitation to change position. He studied this basic interaction with people with the same brilliance and deep thought he gave to all his work.

Bill taught by example: he had incredible strength and endurance as a teacher and campaigner and he expected as much from his students. What most New Zealanders don't know is that Bill's work on the 'principles' of marine conservation led the way to advances in science and practice all over the world.

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One day a scholar will look back at how many ne concepts Bill contributed to marine conservation; it will be impressive. I have witnessed at close quarters how his mind works in achieving these things. Working with him always challenged and inspired.

Bill changed my life; it is that simple.

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