

Wednesday 16 April 2008

Discover the amazing marine creatures that lie beneath the ocean

AWARD winning photographer Dave Harasti will share his passion for the underwater world and some of its most fascinating inhabitants in a free public presentation at Nobbys Beach Surf Life Saving Club on Thursday May 15 from 6.30 to 8.30pm.

As well as photographing an array of marine creatures, he is currently undertaking PhD research on seahorses whose habitats are among the most threatened in the world.

In a recent article on the subject, Dave revealed over 25 million dead and live seahorses are traded globally each year for use in traditional medicines, aquariums and the souvenir trade.

Dave has been diving for 11 years and has won several major photography awards. While he has dived in some of the most exotic locations around the world his favourite sites are in his own 'blue backyard' of Nelson Bay.

The Nobbys Beach presentation is being conducted as part of the Marine Discovery Series which has covered a broad range of topics from the reproductive habits of marine animals to the biology of Port Jackson Sharks. All have featured scientists with extensive knowledge and a shared passion for preserving our marine resources for future generations.

The Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority (CMA) has initiated the series of educational presentations as part of their overall strategy to improve awareness about our marine environments that, unfortunately, we know so little about.

'Most people don't explore the underwater world like they do other environments so this is our way of helping them do that – even if it is on dry land,' Chairman of the Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority, Dr Wej Paradise said.

'Dave's presentations are unique and informative and it is surprising to see the stunning marine life he has photographed just off the New South Wales coastline,' he said.

People of all ages and backgrounds are encouraged to come along to the Nobbys Beach Surf Life Saving Club on May 15 for the talk, which will commence at 6:30pm. Bookings are not required. For more information on the Marine Discovery Series please call Joel Tyndall on 0428 117 914 or Kym Bilham on 4921 0458.

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For media related information contact the Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority's Community Education Manager, Tiffany La Gerche, ph:(02)4938 4932 or 0427 980 002