

Nandor Tanczos, Green MP, visits OceansWatch Yacht



Nandor Tanczos, Green MP, paid a visit to the OceansWatch yacht, *Magic Roundabout*, in Whangarei Town Basin on Friday 9th May and met with the crew. As Nandor's parliamentary portfolio includes the Environment he was interested to find out about OceansWatch's marine conservation projects.

Magic Roundabout, who has been gifted to OceansWatch for use as a marine research vessel, will be conducting surveys of coral reef health in Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea this year, as well as helping locals to establish Marine Protected Areas.

The crew consists of skipper Chris Bone of Matapouri, Mel Taylor OceansWatch representative in Australia, James Pitman a marine biologist from the UK and fourteen year old Jessica Watson, who intends to become the youngest person to sail solo, non-stop and unassisted around the world!



Nandor Tanczos, seated front, with L to R Jessica Watson, Chris Bone, Lucy Hill, , Mel Taylor, James Pitman and Lily Kozmian Ledward on board *Magic Roundabout* in Whangarei Town Basin

Nandor talked with Jessica about her ambition to sail alone across the world's wildest oceans, discussing her route eastwards from Australia and under Cape Horn and the Cape of Good Hope, concluding, "It's another world to me!"

Nandor admitted that his only sailing experience was about 15 years ago on a yacht from Auckland to Coromandel, otherwise he'd only ever been on ferries and anyway he gets seasick!

Jessica has done various passages up and down the East coast of Australia and one offshore trip with friends from Vanuatu to Queensland. Although her parents are Kiwis, the family, Emily 16, Tom 12 and Hannah 10, have lived in Queensland for 20 years. She started sailing at eight years old and has spent many holidays on the family's 52 foot yacht.

Jessica is currently working on sponsorship for a 34ft yacht for her record attempt and plans to leave after her 16th birthday in May next year.

You can visit her blogspot www.youngestround.blogspot.com

She is happy to have joined *Magic Roundabout* and the OceansWatch team to gain more valuable offshore experience.

OceansWatch is keen to foster budding adventurers like Jessica. Last year James Castrission, 25, sailed to Papua New Guinea on an OceansWatch yacht in order to gain experience for his record crossing of the Tasman in a double kayak with Justin Jones, 24. Their arrival in New Plymouth in January this year set the record for the first two-person kayak crossing of the Tasman.

For more information on OceansWatch and their marine conservation and humanitarian work, visit

www.oceanswatch.org