

## First Stop – The Line Islands!

**After 39 days and 3617 nautical miles at sea the Plastiki crew have reached Christmas Island within the Republic of Kiribati and the Line Islands. Having now completed nearly half of the distance as the crow flies to Sydney, and sailed the longest, most remote leg of the journey they arrived at Christmas Island on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April.**

Christmas Island or Kiritimati Atoll is situated firmly within the tropics; just one degree above the equator, Christmas Island makes up 70% of the Republic of Kiribati, a nation encompassing 33 Pacific atolls and islands.

Upon their arrival they were greeted by 100 locals aboard a rusty boat named the Moa Moa, with sun blushed tarps draping from her every corner it was a very welcome sight for the crew to behold. Amidst furious waving and shouts of welcome, the Plastiki was guided into a mooring just off the lagoon entrance, here the crew quickly disembarked and set their feet on dry land after 39 days at sea; a momentous occasion for the six sailors which was quickly celebrated with a cold drink and chocolate.

The day after arrival, fresh and invigorated from a full night's sleep, the team were officially welcomed by the local community with a beautiful traditional ceremony of song and dance. Invited to the local high school; the crew spent an afternoon talking to 1,000 high school students on the topic of recycling and the need to raise awareness of this issue. Learning about the local challenges, the group discussed possible innovations and solutions that could be actioned on both a global and local level to improve their environment.

When departing San Francisco the crew were not sure what to expect from the Plastiki, yet after continuous maintenance and monitoring they have arrived in virtually as good a shape as they'd left. During their stay not only will they re-stock the boat, replenish the hydroponic garden, check for and perform minor repairs, they will importantly get to know the local community.

The crew hope to experience and learn about the customs, traditions and ecological challenges by talking to local environmental and agricultural groups and by visiting a number of wildlife projects and bird sanctuaries. The Plastiki will continue to be a conduit for conversation not only articulating the problems but inspiring action of the many available solutions.

Once they are prepared for the next leg of the adventure we will see a couple of the crew pass the Plastiki baton on to two new-comers. Filmmaker Vern Moen will be swapping out to spend time with his wife and new born son in Long Beach, California.



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Taking Vern's place will be Luca Babini; a distinguished Italian photographer based in New York. Luca has photographed the progress of the Plastiki throughout the design, development, build, sea trials and soon the second leg of the expedition. Another change in the crew will be Olav Heyerdahl passing over to Graham Hill. Graham is the founder of Treehugger.com, amongst other activities he spends his time scheming about how to help humanity and make a difference environmentally.

Most important is to remind ourselves why the crew are taking this epic journey from San Francisco to Sydney. Through their blogs, tweets, photos, videos and word-of-mouth they are hoping to inspire individuals, groups, companies, schools to make small and larger changes in their day to day lives and to remind anyone and everyone that they can make a difference for humanity and our environment.

One of Plastiki's global goals is to see a 75% or more reduction in the amount of human made waste heading out to landfill and sea. We believe that with a small shift and some smart thinking everyone could reduce their use of new plastic bottles, plastic bags and Styrofoam. It's achievable if we work together on making small changes in our lives like the [MyPlastiki pledge](#) or remembering the 4R's: reduce, reuse, recycle and rethink.

Take a look at the crew's latest video from Christmas Island: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=192bMNQ3n-w>

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To make your pledge for a plastic free ocean and more positive, ecological initiatives please log on to [myplastiki.com](http://myplastiki.com)

For further information please go to [www.theplastiki.com](http://www.theplastiki.com)

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