

THE PLASTIKI PREPARES TO SETS SAIL ON FINAL AND MOST CHALLENGING LEG TOWARDS SYDNEY

11th June 2010: The Plastiki and her crew, led by expedition leader David de Rothschild are presently in Western Samoa making final preparations and re-adjustments to this unique vessel for the concluding sections of the expedition which are set to be the most challenging of the entire voyage. Since departing from San Francisco in March the crew have sailed over 5,500 nautical miles and witnessed first-hand the fragility of our Oceans. David de Rothschild recalls,

"When we look underneath the boat, the hull is covered in a fine, extra layer of plastic and as you run your hand across your face you see countless molecular size plastic fragments, known as mermaid's tears. It is tragic. From above, the oceans still looks beautiful and untouched but just below the surface is this toxic stew that could quickly end up on our dinner plates. The issue is far more ominous than people imagine, as these commonly known 'garbage patches' are not just floating islands of trash but a swirling poisonous soup. The problem is subsurface – tiny pieces of material in the process of breaking down and floating in the top layer of the ocean where most species live, feed and breed."

The Plastiki is no ordinary vessel. It has been engineered almost entirely from approx. 12,500 reclaimed plastic bottles and Seretex a self-reinforced PET, a uniquely recyclable and relatively unexplored material. One which has never been used to make anything like a boat before, and, although we've experienced moderate winds, the effect of over 5,500 nautical miles of movement upon a largely experimental vessel in equatorial heat has taken its toll on the structure of the Plastiki. This makes minor structural re-enforcements necessary as, when the Plastiki leaves Western Samoa this weekend, bound for Australia, she will be heading into an ocean area that is far more dynamic in terms of weather systems. The crew and the technical team behind the project have taken every precaution and have every confidence that Plastiki will rise to the challenge of the final stage of her remarkable voyage and after a highly productive stop in Western Samoa the sea is calling once again.

For the final leg the Plastiki crew will once again be joined by former crew members Vern Moen (Myoo Media) and Max Jourdan (National Geographic Filmmaker) whilst they say a fond farewell to Luca Babini and Singeli Agnew and introduce Matthew Grey, the expedition's project director.

The Plastiki expedition is a platform to fuel conversation and find unique solutions to reduce, reuse, recycle, rethink and ultimately refuse our use of dumb, single use plastic. One of Plastiki's global goals is to see a 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 it's achievable if we work together on making small changes in our lives like the [MyPlastiki pledge](#).

To follow the adventure, feed your curiosity, track the crews' individual stories, witness the challenges that our oceans and its inhabitants face and learn what you can do for our Planet, please log into the expedition's online mission control: www.theplastiki.com for regular updates, GPS positioning, crew blogs, photography and mini-films.

For fact sheets, photos, b-roll and biographies please visit www.theplastiki.com/press

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