

## Olav Heyerdahl

### Biography



Olav is a crew member of the Plastiki expedition, which seeks to draw attention to the health of our oceans in particular the large amounts of plastic debris, by showcasing waste as a resource and demonstrating real world solutions through the design and construction of the Plastiki.

Born in June 1977, Olav grew up in Lillehammer, Norway. Olav is a trained carpenter and holds a degree in Civil Engineering. He is the grandson of Thor Heyerdahl whose 1947 'Kon-Tiki' expedition took the intrepid crew across the Pacific Ocean in a replica of an ancient Inca raft made from balsa wood and other native materials.

In homage to the Kon-Tiki, Olav undertook the 'Tangaroa' expedition in 2006 seeing him alongside a crew of five build an updated raft that included a centreboard and a steering technique called "Guarras". It is Olav's belief that if his Grandfather was building a raft today this would have been his chosen engineering technique.

During his time at sea, Olav drew comparisons from today's Pacific and that of the Ocean his Grandfather crossed in 1947. Using the original Kon-Tiki log book and Thor's personal diary, the crew noted a number of significant oceanic changes; in the Humbolt current there was a new colossal path of garbage and marine debris, also, whilst the Kon-Tiki's most common meal had been tuna, the Tangaroa could only catch one tuna in their entire trip. Olav and his team completed the same route the Kon-Tiki as well as a return leg in only 70 days.

The Plastiki expedition will be Olav's second sailing expedition, he hopes to draw on both his own and his family's experience of the South Pacific whilst adding his voice to help highlight the plight of our oceans by encouraging individuals to take positive action for our Planet. Along with David de Rothschild and the Plastiki crew they will help deliver a spectacular global message in a bottle.



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