



Gecko - Gold Coast and Hinterland Environment Council Assn Inc.

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MEDIA RELEASE
For immediate release

Gecko Guest Speaker Night – Guardians of the rescues

Reports of stranded whales capture our attention as we wait anxiously for news and hope for success. Why do strandings take place and how do rescuers go about saving these animals? Gecko – Gold Coast and Hinterland Environment Council is hosting a Guest Speaker Night on the topic on 22nd June and welcomes everyone to come along and listen to Steve Whitehouse talking about his many years of experience in this field.

The Marine Mammal Medic (MMM) course, developed by Steve Whitehouse in the 1980s, equips volunteers with the techniques to assist in rescues of cetaceans (marine mammals which include whales, dolphins and porpoises). Mr Whitehouse is currently the Stranding Rescue and Technical Advisor at Whale Rescue, a non-government organisation with over 40 years of hands on rescue experience. The MMM course and inflatable pontoon system that he designed have proven so successful that they are now used in 13 countries and have been attributed to saving over 10,000 cetaceans globally.

Mr Whitehouse is regularly consulted by environmental and government organisations for rescue advice and has a wealth of experience working with cetaceans. He will share with us his knowledge of whale strandings and the pioneering work being done by Whale Rescue internationally. His role in the guardianship of marine mammals has been recognised by the Queen and we are equally honoured at Gecko to present him as a guest speaker.

Gecko's Guest Speaker Nights are a series of monthly talks by industry professionals and experts on varied environmental topics. The series provides the community a free opportunity to engage with and learn more about current environmental issues and related matters. Gecko would like to acknowledge the generous support of Currumbin RSL to assist in hosting these nights.

This Guest Speaker Night is held on Wednesday 22 June at The Cove @Alleys, Currumbin RSL, 165 Duringan Street, Currumbin, 6.30pm for a 7pm sharp start.

Come early to order a meal and a glass of wine before the event.

For interviews please contact Steve Whitehouse:

Email only before 17th June: stevevk4@bigpond.com

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For media contacts after the date please contact events@gecko.org.au or call 0410 706 697.

ENDS.