



Marine life the treasure of the Greek seas

The Greek seas are a home to several protected species of large marine animals that are threatened with extinction, such as sharks, dolphins, seals and turtles - including some large whales, according to the environmental organization "Archipelago".

The more than 18-meter-long sperm whale, which weighs roughly 50 tons, is the most common whale species found in the Greek seas with a current population that numbers less than 2,500 adult members and dropping. A smaller whale species that forms small groups is also common in sea regions with large depths.

Most of the 47 different species of sharks found in the Mediterranean live in the Greek seas and face an increased risk of extinction due to the rising demand for their fins. Sharks are being captured alive and their dorsal fin is cut off before they are thrown back into the sea, with minimal chances of survival.

The dolphins, sea turtles and seals found in the Greek seas are also threatened with extinction. Sea turtles, with the "Caretta-caretta" loggerhead being the most widely known species, are faced with great risks - especially during the summer months when many of them are killed by speedboats, or drown after being caught in fishing nets.

Another endangered species is the *Monachus monachus* monk seal, whose global population numbers approximately 450 members, with over half of them living in Greek seas. Equally important but lesser known to the general public are the 'meadows' of *Posidonia oceanica*, a species of seagrass, and various types of corals. Both are threatened because their regions have not been mapped and no one knows exactly which areas need protection.

The seagrass meadows are home to more than 300 species of flora and 1,000 species of fauna. Equally high in biodiversity are the coral reefs that need more than 7,000 years to form and, if destroyed, take centuries to be restored.

London 1948 Olympic torch ON SALE

An Olympic torch, said to be from the post-war 1948 games in London, is being sold on an internet auction site.

The seller is from Greece and lives near to the birth-place of the modern games, Athens.

The man, who calls himself Artoneli, said he bought the torch 20 years ago from an old man who lived nearby.

He is trying to raise about £7,500 and insists the torch is genuine. He is also selling a torch said to be from the 1956 games in Melbourne, Australia.

"It is genuine," said

Artoneli, who speaks only a little English.

"I have kept it at home for 20 years and now I am selling it in time for the next Olympics in London."

Many made

On his website he describes it as "100% genuine" and "very rare".

Some 1,720 torches were made for the 1948 London Games, and a similar number for subsequent games.

The Olympic flame is lit at Olympia in Greece, where ancient games were staged, then carried in a relay across the world to the host city.

The torches carrying the flame are passed between athletes. When individual torches burn out, their



bearers are sometimes allowed to keep them.

In 1948, 20 torches were used between Dover and Wembley. A few have turned up for auction in the UK in recent times.

A spokesman for London 2012, the body coordinating the London games, described the eBay

auction as "interesting".

He said his organisation did not have one of the 1948 torches, but some of the sponsors probably possessed the cherished memento.

"I don't think we will be bidding for it," he said. "We have to keep a close eye on expenditure."

A Place in the Universe

When truth has no burning, then it is philosophy, when it gets burning from the heart, it becomes poetry - Sir Muhammad Iqbal, Persian and Urdu poet, philosopher and politician

Poets and no doubt philosophers too will gather at Marrickville Library for a Multicultural Poetry Reading next month.

Poets will present and read their own work, in their own language and in English. The theme this year is 'My Place in the Universe'.

The evening will allow people who do not have English as their first language to enjoy poetry in an intimate setting. Up to 15 poets will present two or three examples of their work.

Some of the poets include:

- Mario Licon Cabrera - came to Sydney from Mexico in 1992. His third collection of poetry, *La Reverberación de la Ceniza*, was

- Yota Krili - Panayota Krili, known as Yota Krili, was born in Kerastari in Greece and migrated to Australia in 1959.
- Con Kazantzidis - born in Australia. Con will speak to the theme, 'My Place in the Universe'.

published by Mora & Cantia Editores in 2005.

- Frank Chan Loh - born in Malaysia, migrated to Australia, and an acknowledged playwright, poet and novelist.

- Ludwika Amber - born in Kowary, Poland and arrived in Australia in 1982. Has published many books of poetry in both Polish and English and edited *Green Winter*, an anthology of Polish poetry and prose from Australia.

- Deborah Ruiz Wall - born in Manila but lived most of her life in Sydney. Currently involved in photography, poetry, journalism, and Aboriginal and Filipino storytelling projects.

- Maritza Campusano - Chilean-

born poet residing in Australia, where she has worked with the NSW Department of Education.

- Tatiana Bonch-Osmolovskaya - originally from Russia, Tatiana is a research student of UNSW in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

- Uma Kali-Shakti - of Rajasthani descent, born and brought up in the South Pacific.

A playwright/poet/writer/ performer / director/producer.

- Yota Krili - Panayota Krili, known as Yota Krili, was born in Kerastari in Greece and migrated to Australia in 1959.

- Rudi Krausmann - born in Mauerkirchen, Austria and now lives in Sydney.

- Con Kazantzidis - born in Australia. Con will speak to the theme, 'My Place in the Universe'.

'My Place in the Universe', a Multicultural Poetry Reading, will be held at Marrickville Library on the corner of Marrickville and Petersham Roads in Marrickville on Friday 30 October 2009 from 6.00pm to 8.30pm. Light refreshments will be served. Bookings are essential and can be made in the Library or by phoning 9335 2166 or 9335 2174.

Uncle and nephew tragically drown on bay



Two Greek fishermen tragically drowned on Friday night whilst fishing in Port Phillip Bay near Frankston. The bodies of 41 year old Paul Katelas and his 71 year old uncle George Emmanuel were found on Saturday after an extensive air and sea search on the bay. Cranbourne resident and father of three, Paul Katelas, was due to celebrate his daughter's first birthday on Saturday. George Emmanuel was well-known in the Greek community as he had served as President of the Lassanis Club of Kozani.