



# Newsletter

## “Here’s your captain speaking”

### My Diary

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#### A reason to worry

It all started with rumours about severe development plans at our beloved and protected Iztuzu Beach in Dalyan. Evidently there are plans that have already been submitted to the authorities in Mugla concerning the building work. Plans seem to involve a “turtle hospital”, a hotel and a jetty, all on 22.000m<sup>2</sup>.

#### All for the benefit of the turtles???

There is a public meeting in Dalyan on Saturday, 5th October, where we and all the others who care for the nature of Dalyan hope to learn more about these worrying plans for building on the beach.

We will keep you informed on Facebook website

Participant of the



Issue 8

September 2013

#### Dear Friends,

‘Time flies’ it is said and this summer in Dalyan has certainly whizzed by and here we are feeling the first cool breeze of autumn each evening. It has been a bumper year for the Kaptan June Sea Turtle Conservation Foundation, with many more visitors coming to our Iztuzu beach hut. Turkish people were more numerous than ever before and citizens from many countries kept us on our toes trying to explain sea turtles and their needs. Affan, our multi-lingual hut manager, was much appreciated, even managing a few words of Japanese on one occasion.

I wish there were good news on the propeller guards programme but alas, many local boat men have refused to accept these devices we offer and install for free of charge. At present we await the test results of a study made by a prestigious engineering company, Lloyds British Testing Limited of Istanbul. We hope that Dalyan boatmen will forget their prejudices and agree to install our propeller guards, thereby helping the turtles and the many caring tourists who prefer to use a boat displaying our sign – *Turtle Friendly Boat*.

You can find information about turtle friendly boats and their caring kaptans on our website. In late May/early June, Sir David Bellamy and his wife, Rosemary spent a week in Dalyan. It was indeed a delight to listen to David’s words of wisdom, re-unite him with Iztuzu beach and relive the heady days of campaigning to save the beach and turtles from irreparable touristic developments in 1987.

On the eve of the Bellamy’s departure we organized a fun art auction in the lovely gardens of the Dalyan Resort Hotel. David jokingly vetoed making a speech saying, ‘No speech, but I do like to mingle’. And mingle he did whilst we folk sipped rose and pleasant music played by a young lady harpist reached our ears. All in all, a very happy evening which raised TL 3,550 for our Foundation’s benefit.

You, our friends will be aware that we give great importance to education to promote environmental awareness. Several groups of school children have visited our hut in the past 12 months. Local schools are favoured and in July a delightful group of young ladies (12-16 years old) entertained us with a *Caretta* turtle song

they had composed. The Internet now keeps us in contact with these special girls from Orhaniye, near Marmaris.

I am still swimming at Iztuzu beach early in the mornings 5 days a week and then I go to our beach hut nearby to meet visitors and sign copies of my books. Our manager Affan and volunteers tell the story of the beach and give information about sea turtles and their needs. We invite all guests to sign our petition against turtle viewing and feeding. These activities can cause great suffering to the endangered sea turtles, for example, propeller wounds, ingestion of fishhooks and lines and inability to dive.

A visit to *Dekamer Rehabilitation Centre* at Iztuzu bears witness to the evils of turtle exploitation caused by local boats and their passengers. We hope to win protection for the sea turtles with many thousands of signatures and invite you to visit us on Facebook, Twitter or our website, passing on to your friends our message so that they know the facts about sustainable tourism. Many of you may have enjoyed the Sunday evening quiz game that takes place at Sinan’s Restaurant in the Gulpinar area of Dalyan. Valerie Aldous and other friends act as quizmasters. Sinan, the restaurant owner, kindly offers a free round of drinks to the winners. The quiz entrance fee is a modest 3 TL per person and our Foundation is the fortunate recipient of each week’s kitty. In 3 years, our foundation has received TL 5383.65. This donation has mainly been used for a specific purpose – propeller guards for Dalyan’s tourist boats (some 600). Please help the turtles by using a turtle friendly boat and please urge the other kaptans to accept a guard without delay.

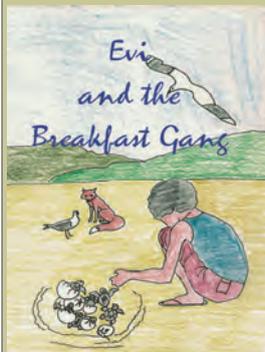
It has been a pleasure to meet many of you this summer and I look forward to renewing our friendship in 2014 in Dalyan and at our beloved turtle beach. Good luck, take care and keep those messages coming!  
Sincerely, Kaptan June.





This year, we tried to reach even more children, because they are the ones, who will be of influence in some years. For this reason, we have produced children's books in three languages, special T-shirts and some turtle toys.

HAYTAP, the association for animal protection in Turkey, gave us great support in this effort. They sponsored us with the reprint of 3.000 books "Evi and the Breakfast Gang".



The booklet tells the story of hatching sea turtles and the dangers they face in this critical moment of their life. It is distributed with a set of colours pencils so the children can fill in colours in the black and white sketches. This enables us in this winter to go in the schools and distribute and discuss these books to a great number of children

## Life in the hut in summer 2013:



A group of American tourists visited Turkey with 'Hidden Places', a tour group who visit unusual destinations. The highlight of their trip to Dalyan was asking to meet Kaptan June and visit her hut and learn about the Foundation.

At the beginning of the season, we erected several signs for our foundation centre at Iztuzu beach and in Dalyan itself. There had been complaints in the past of tourists not finding us easily. As we hoped, visitor's feedback showed, with these signs our visitors actually found it easier to find us.



Recently at the hut we were privileged to meet a group of acrobats belonging to a touring



circus. The 3 sisters and male companion stayed and chatted with June, very interested in what we are doing and achieving and supporting us with their purchases from the gift shop. The story of how the beach was saved and being able to meet Kaptan June and get their books specially signed by her was the highlight of their day.

## Why become a volunteer?



Hi, I am Charlotte Rose, the newest volunteer at the Kaptan June Sea Turtle Conservation Foundation. I have had close connections with Kaptan June and Dalyan for over seventeen years. My parents first visited Dalyan in 1988; it was then that they met June after reading about her determined dogma towards saving Iztuzu beach from development. Captivated by her resolute fight to protect the turtles and the beach, they returned to Dalyan in 1996 with the kids in tow (my brother and I)!

I too was fascinated by June's story and immediately read her first book (Kaptan June and the Turtles) whilst on holiday in Dalyan. It made quite an impression on me as a fifteen year old and from then on I became an avid supporter.

Seventeen years later, I am back in Dalyan, this time for longer than just a couple of weeks, so it seemed a natural progression for me to become a volunteer for the Foundation. With the skills I have acquired from my background and training in PR and Communications, I will work together with the Foundation to enrich their already established reputation. Over the coming months we will be focusing on social media, if you aren't connected with the foundation already you can find us here:

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/KaptanJuneSeaTurtleConservationFoundation](http://www.facebook.com/KaptanJuneSeaTurtleConservationFoundation)

Twitter: [@DalyanTurtles](https://twitter.com/DalyanTurtles)

Also, if you have any photographs of Dalyan (past and present), Kaptan June's Hut, Iztuzu beach or any other interesting things from your visits to Dalyan, please send them to us on email :[kaptanjuneseaturtleconservationfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:kaptanjuneseaturtleconservationfoundation@gmail.com) or via Facebook.

## Volunteering for the Foundation?

According to Wikipedia "Volunteering is generally considered an altruistic activity and is intended to promote good or improve human quality of life. In return, this activity can produce a feeling of self-worth and respect. There is no financial gain involved. Volunteering is also renowned for skill development, socialization, and fun. It is also intended to make contacts for possible employment."

Well, this definition shows what it all is about. Volunteers are crucial for non-profit organizations. Without them, we could not run our centre at the beach, distribute flyers and other material, organize events and do all the little things that have to be done and that you don't see. Our foundation feeds financially on the sale of turtle protection related souvenir or educational material in our centre and donations. Yet volunteers and the good will and help of many that support our cause make it live. This summer we worked again with a stable team of loyal volunteers and many others, who joined us just for a certain time to help to make our work for the turtles a success.

Nevertheless we will always be glad with enthusiastic newcomers who want to join this group, because we expect every year to be even busier than the last one.

If you want to join us, may it be for a long or short time, please contact us, either in the centre or by email, so we can talk in detail what you could do, according to your skills and feelings.

**Would YOU like to be volunteer or do you know someone else who would ...**

**PLEASE contact us: [kaptanjuneseaturtleconservationfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:kaptanjuneseaturtleconservationfoundation@gmail.com)**

## Who are we?

### In this part we introduce to you people that are active in our Foundation

In this issue Sue Taylor, member of the board, accountant of the foundation and organizer of each and everything tells about herself.

I am a shearer's daughter, the eldest of 3 children, born and bred in the country town of Wellington, New South Wales, Australia. My family moved from the country to the Central Coast of NSW when I was 15 to a town right on the ocean, how wonderful, after very hot summers and cold winters in inland Australia. My family struggled with the move both financially and emotionally but eventually settled and my Mum still lives there today. My interest in travel was instigated by a spinster aunt who used to visit regularly, and, from the age of 12 I remember thinking that one day I would travel the world and discover all these exciting places my aunt spoke off. I had no idea of course how I was going to achieve that but it became 'a passion to be fulfilled'.



I married quite young at age 18 and was married for 27 years before my husband succumbed to cancer some 12 years ago.

I have one daughter, Renee who is 37 and 2 wonderful grandchildren, Ruby aged 6 years old and Bodhi aged just 1. They are a joy to me and I miss them dearly. My husband and I travelled from the moment we were married, firstly hitch-hiking in New Zealand for 6 months and then travelling each year through Asia and the South Pacific with our daughter in tow. We moved many times, nearly every 2 years as my husband was always on promotion; this in itself became a way of life.

I have a love of design and an enthusiasm to achieve and built my first house when I was 19 years old. With the opportunity of moving every couple of years I designed and built many houses and enjoyed living all over NSW. I worked in a number of banking institutions and later as a bursar for the Department of Education. My higher education was achieved at evening college and distance education.

After my husbands death, my daughter took up a work option in Canada and I decided to purchase a round the world ticket, put my backpack on and travel for 1 year to see where life would lead me, a real 'sea change'!

Travelling through Asia and then working for 3 months on the Inner Hebrides island of Iona, I continued my trip visiting Turkey, planning only to spend a month here. After 10 days of travelling through this wonderful country I decided to extend my stay and discover more of the Black Sea Area. Unfortunately massive flooding put paid to that plan and thanks to the travellers bible 'Lonely Planet' I decided to head south and arrived in this place called 'Dalyan'. I immediately fell in love with this area and stayed for a couple of months before continuing my journey, visiting France and then Canada and the USA. On arriving home I decided to take a further 1 years leave and flew back to Dalyan to give myself a '12 month window of opportunity'. Well as they say that is all history and I have lived in Dalyan for the past 11 years, doing what I know best, designing and building my own home and then some other project villas of which I still own today. I have diversified back into Australia as well, with a property in the Hunter Valley Wine Country and one in north western NSW. I spend 3 -4 months a year in Australia visiting family and friends and enjoying an 'endless summer'!

My work with the Foundation commenced many years before we became a Foundation. June, myself and other interested parties helped to raise the funds needed by the Turkish Government to become a registered charity and it was a very proud moment when we stood in the offices of the Noter in Denizli and became just that. I had worked in an environmental school in Australia in the 1990's and my interest in the environment was sparked and I continue to be a volunteer and a Board member in the capacity of accountant for the Kaptan June Sea Turtle Conservation Foundation today.



*We want to thank  
our sponsors  
for their support*



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*and many others...*





THE KAPTAN JUNE  
SEA TURTLE  
CONSERVATION  
FOUNDATION

Our e-mail address is:  
[kaptanjune.seaturtle.foundation@gmail.com](mailto:kaptanjune.seaturtle.foundation@gmail.com)

See our website:  
[www.dalyanturtles.com](http://www.dalyanturtles.com)

find us on  
**Facebook**

On TWITTER:



**YouTube**

On YouTube:

Just click the pictures below  
or search in YouTube for  
"Kaptan June" and you will  
find many videos concerning  
June's and the Foundation's  
work



## All that is vulnerable needs to be protected

### Feedback from our Youngest Friends

We had more PR-material for children this year and we are very pleased with the interest. We would like to share some nice feedback with you

Turtle  
Turtles cannot speak to us, but I'm sure that if they could they'd say: please do not feed us, indigestion is not good. We try our best to stay away from boats that cruise at night, but we are guided wrongly by the iridescent light. Kaptan June has saved us from building up our nesting grounds and putting up silver mounds to show where our eggs are, and to preserve them till it's time. We don't want to swim in a greasy pile of slime. Please conserve the delta -

if you used the facilities provided, the beach need not be divided. Beauty comes at a price, same as if you want to make yourself look nice.

Save Us

Sea turtles need help

Flora Fergusson, UK, aged 10

Kaptan June has written several books, which you can purchase at her hut on the bus side of IZTUZU beach, near the car park. You could also visit the hospital which is near the hut. You may even get the chance to have your book signed!

June gives out propellor guards to any boat that wants one in Dalyan. The guards prevents the turtles from being bashed up by the propellers. You can see survivors of this injury at the hospital. You can also see how fishermen blame hit the turtles because the men want the fish and so do the turtles. There are survivors of this injury also at the hospital.

come to Kaptan June's hub to find out more about the turtles and make a donation. You may even have the chance to meet Kaptan June Haimoff herself!

Moonlight is guiding you, calling you home.  
Boat lights confusing, you are not alone.  
Tourists in thousands are taking their toll.  
A Facebook snap is their ultimate toll.  
Luring you in with their crab and their bread.  
Why don't they you should not be fed?  
The boat engines roar. You should not be here.  
Their commotion and cheering should fill you with fear.  
Uncaring crowds for a while point and peer.  
They gape and they snap, then go back to their beer,  
A tourist attraction is what you've become.  
Making snapshots for thousands, and money for some.  
Ethereal creature of beauty and grace.  
Only loved for the money you bring to this place.  
Maimed & destroyed for the sake of a sight.  
Engine blades turning, through days and through night,  
Cutting off limbs and leaving for dead.  
But they got their photos and then off they head.  
The engines do roll, the boat turns to leave,  
Making space for the next party, there's no reprieve.  
And I sit and pray for you, beautiful one.  
What will we do when the last turtle's gone?

Jan Fergusson, UK

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