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[SERC 8550:] Re: Pacific swimmer to be message in a bottle

rafer

Tue, 15 Dec 2009 10:59:12 -0800

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Somebody give that man an honorary membership quick!!!!!!

On Dec 15, 10:51 am, "P.Weiss" <sfbay_swim...@yahoo.com> wrote:

> From Sydney Morning Herald

>

> <http://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/pacific-swimmer-to-b...>

>

> Pacific swimmer to be message in a bottle

> NICK GALVIN

> December 14, 2009

>

> Global warning... Richard Pain, 45, a Sydney film-maker and environmentalist, is planning to swim 9000 kilometres across the Pacific Ocean. Photo: Nick Moir

>

> AS IF swimming 9000 kilometres from Japan to the US is not enough of a challenge, Richard Pain is also planning to plough through the middle of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, a floating mass of plastic junk almost the size of the Northern Territory.

>

> "I realise it's completely mad," said the filmmaker, 45, who is selling his

> Randwick home to raise some of the money needed for the project.
>
> "But I'm aware there is a lot of green fatigue in the broader population.
> This is a way to try and raise awareness by doing something more compelling.
> It's like trying to do an environmental version of Super Size Me."
>
> Mr Pain, a keen ocean swimmer and environmentalist, said he was unfazed by
> the fact no one had ever managed to swim across the Pacific.
>
> He said he had inherited his athletic build and determination from his
> father, a bronze medal-winning rower at the 1952 Helsinki Olympic Games.
>
> Mr Pain is planning to swim inside a six-metre-long bottle made from
> thousands of used water bottles, which will act as a shark cage and a
> reminder of the plastic waste that is threatening the Pacific Ocean.
>
> The bottle will be towed by a boat with his fiancée, Natasha, pregnant with
> their first child, on board.
>
> "I want to create that iconic media image that everybody picks up and says,
> 'Oh my God, there's a man in the middle of the ocean in a gigantic water
> bottle,' " he said.
>
> He is also making a documentary about the attempt.
>
> Mr Pain has been obsessed for years with the massive garbage patch that is
> trapped by currents in the North Pacific. "You look down into it and it's
> nightmarish," he said. "All these birds are eating it and dying, and now it's
> entering the food chain."
>
> He is training daily but expects it will be up to 18 months before he is
> strong enough to set off on his record-breaking attempt, which will take up
> to 45 weeks. It will be critical for him to ride the Kuroshio current to have
> any hope of completing the task.
>
> As well as increasing awareness about pollution, Mr Pain wants to raise \$1
> million for research into the North Pacific Gyre, the body of water filling
> with plastic rubbish.
>
> "The ideal would be for me to walk in the water in Japan, the land of
> plastic, start swimming and emerge months later on Santa Monica Beach with
> Richard Branson handing me a cheque and looking at his watch and saying, 'You
> made it with five minutes to spare.'"
>
> richard-pain-420x0.jpg
> 60KViewDownload

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