



Wednesday 15 October, 2008

Media Release

For Immediate Release

## **Marlborough Sounds Eco-Tour Operator Now Carbon Neutral!**

Picton-based Dolphin Watch Ecotours is thrilled to be the first Marlborough (and possibly the first New Zealand) cruise operator to offset all carbon emissions for its vessels.

Dolphin Watch Ecotours Owner/Director Amy Engelhaupt says she is excited to add this important component to their already environmentally responsible award-winning tourism operation. "We always try to do everything we can to be responsible operators and care for the environment we work in. We contribute to research and conservation in many areas and conserve, re-use and recycle whenever possible. We can't change that our boats use fuel but now we can do something about the emissions they do put out."

Ron and Gerry Marriot's Queen Charlotte Wilderness Park at Cape Jackson allows Dolphin Watch Ecotours to sponsor areas of indigenous eco-system restoration where farmland has been converted back to flourishing native bush that's now used to sequester carbon dioxide – all of which is audited through NZgreen ([www.nzgreen.org.nz](http://www.nzgreen.org.nz)). Carbon Offsetting is a technique whereby an emission of say, 1 tonne CO<sub>2</sub> is offset by combining it with another process that absorbs 1 tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> so that the operation as a whole can become carbon neutral. "Not only can we assure our passengers they need not worry about the boat's emissions, but from our tour to the top of Motuara Island Bird Sanctuary we can actually point out the land in Queen Charlotte Wilderness Park that has been designated to off-set the carbon emissions from their particular trip."

Dolphin Watch Ecotours is fully licensed by the Dept. of Conservation and operates swimming with dolphins tours and scenic wildlife cruises to Ship Cove, Motuara Island and the Queen Charlotte Track. The owners, Dan and Amy Engelhaupt, are both trained marine biologists specialising in the study of whales and dolphins. They collect data aboard every tour and use the business resources to further studies in the area, including sponsoring the Cook Strait Humpback Whale Survey each winter.

"This is our opportunity to be responsible for our actions and we hope other tourism operators will join in the effort."

Amy Engelhaupt, Director

PO Box 197 Picton Phone: 03-573-8040 Fax: 03-573-7906  
Website: [www.naturetours.co.nz](http://www.naturetours.co.nz) Email: [info@naturetours.co.nz](mailto:info@naturetours.co.nz)