

Jade Bothma: Founder Oceano Reddentes NPC

The Ocean is my role model. It is everything to me. It gives us oxygen, food, life and heaps of entertainment. Our oceans are slowly dying and in my small way I feel I need to give back to this vast body of water which gives us so much. This is why I started Oceano Reddentes. Which is why I am building a house for a homeless person out of eco bricks. I have pledged to always protect the ocean and educate those around me about plastic waste and the ocean. I am working towards studying marine biology hopefully in Australia one day. I am 14 years old and started my non profit when I was 12 years old. I love being an ocean activist and spending as much time in the ocean as possible snorkelling, free diving, surfing and sailing.

OCEANO REDDENTES: means the ocean revives.

Vision: Saving a fish's home by building a home and community structure for someone in need.

Mission: Saving the sea one piece of plastic at a time.

HOW IT STARTED

It all started when I was watching my favourite documentary called Chasing Coral.

I really wanted to help the coral reefs being bleached but there are not many coral reefs where I live in South Africa. I wondered how someone as young as me could make a difference. I have always wanted to help people.

Beach clean ups are done but what happens to the plastic collected? Where does it end up? Our landfill in Cape Town is right by the beach. Lots of the plastic sent there is eaten by sea birds and ends up blowing back into the sea.

I came up with an idea to make eco bricks for five minutes every time I go to the beach or go surfing and encouraging surf programs and people visiting the beach and at home to do the same.

WHAT OCEANO REDDENTES FOCUSES ON

EDUCATIONAL AWARENESS:

Beach Cleanups: I host monthly beach cleanups where we sort and recycle everything that can be as well as make beach eco bricks with non recyclable plastic. The idea is to educate people about recycling and stop plastic from being sent to landfill. Collecting data makes people at the cleanups aware of what waste they are picking up and how changing what they buy can affect the environment. We have a little bit of funding so we are now able to employ 4 waste pickers at each cleanup. This means a lot to me as waste pickers recycle 90% of South Africa's waste and they are not respected or treated well enough.

BEACH CLEANUP STATISTICS FOR 2019: <https://www.instagram.com/p/B7avFGoppiP/>

Surf outreach programs: Waves For Change to teach the kids how to ecobrick and show the children how plastic negatively affects the ocean and environment. We plan to build therapy benches out of waste collected with the children.

Educational talks: Educating the youth is very important. As the youth, we are the future who can change the world. School talks and social media videos/ campaigns. I will be working with Frank Solomon and Waves for Change teaching the children in Hout Bay about the environment and the ocean from March this year on alternative Saturdays.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH:

Plastic waste: We tally specific things and brand data at our cleanups. This is to identify what waste problems are at each beach (plastic, drugs, cigarettes, alcohol, fishing industry etc.) and to work with companies over time to make changes.

I feel science research is very important to help stop plastic pollution and save the earth from the climate crisis we are facing.

NATURAL BUILDING WITH ECO BRICKS:

We are building a house for the caretaker and his family of The Bhongholethu Foundation as well as a sewing room for the ReLife project which teaches adults from Masiphumelele how to sew. We are busy working with Stellenbosch University fire testing eco bricks with natural building materials, clay, lime and hemp. Fire testing is currently under way and The first testing phase will be completed by the end of March 2020. We are waiting for the results at the end of 2020 to apply of planning permission to build the first eco brick house in South Africa. Hopefully pioneering the way forward for more community structures and houses to be built. This is the first time in the world that fire testing of eco bricks has been done.

Eco bricks are a temporary solution. The Idea is to store the plastic in bottles with lids in a safe space where it will be preserved. Preventing it from going to landfill and from ending up in the sea. Thinking forward to 100 years plus when the house comes down. The plastic will be contained in the bottles. I trust that science will have a solution to deal with the plastic bottles and that by then they can be disposed of in a way that does not negatively affect the environment.

PARTNERS: I like partnering with other organizations because I feel together we are stronger and can help the environment more.