

Divers tackle ocean junk

Divers from Waiheke Dive and Snorkel pulled 83 pieces of rubbish from the depths of Enclosure Bay on Saturday in a clean-up operation.

A 14-strong team of divers, snorkellers and beach volunteers (pictured right) combed the beach and the ocean floor for most of the morning, and returned with 17 plastic bags, 12 glass bottles, five chunks of brick and a range of other unusual items from golf balls to pieces of old rope.

"A grand total weighing just over 5 kg was removed in total which, when you think how light a plastic bag can be, is quite a weight of rubbish," said the director of Waiheke Dive and Snorkel, Adam Whatton.

"We are pleased to report that the waters of the bay itself were relatively clean. However, we are saddened to say that the vast majority of the trash had been left on the beach and shoreline and was either 'fresh' or has clearly not been in the water for long."

Their efforts were part of a Dive Against Debris initiative by Project AWARE - a non-profit charity working internationally in shark conservation and against marine litter.

Waiheke Dive and Snorkel runs a clean up dive and beach clean at least once a month, with the next one scheduled for 6 January at 9am. More information can be found on their website. • *Richard Jones*



Keen volunteers Kelley Wigton and Lee Ormsby trawled the deep for litter.

Winegrower's treble

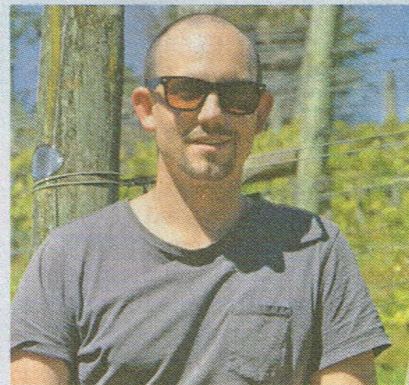
Obsidian's Assistant Vineyard Manager Tim Adams has added another feather to his cap, taking home three prizes at the Young Horticulturalist of the Year Awards.

Finishing second in the overall Young Horticulturalist of the Year Award, Tim also won the Bayer Best Practice Award and the Countdown Best Speech Award.

As runner up in the national competition, Tim receives a Massey University Study Scholarship worth \$5,500, \$750 worth of ICL Speciality Fertiliser products and a \$100 NZ *Horticultural* magazine subscription for one year.

He also receives a \$2,500 scholarship for winning the Best Practice Award - which focuses on crop management practices and sustainability- and \$500 in cash for winning the best speech award.

Tim, 30, is already an award-winning winegrower, having won the Bayer Young Viticulturist of the Year competition in Marlborough in September



Tim Adams earlier won the Bayer regional and national winegrower competitions.

- the first time the award went to the northern region.

He has been with Obsidian for the last 16 months, having worked previously at Mudbrick on Waiheke and on Mornington Peninsula, south of Melbourne.

• *Richard Jones*