

HKDCS PAST ACTIVITIES – LAND-BASED OBSERVATIONS

New Year meeting with the Finless Porpoise



On Sunday February 26, 2006, two HKDCS committee members – Leo and Patty – together with 15 members, set off enthusiastically to the finless porpoise land-based observation sites at Mong Tung Wan, Lantau. Leo was the only one who has seen porpoises before and became the focal point for questions.

We took the No. 3M bus from Tung Chung to Pui O from where we took the Chi Ma Wan country trail to get to the Mong Tung Wan porpoise viewing points. We couldn't help but take the walk at an easy pace because of the stunning scenery along the way and in the end, we reached the viewing points 30 minutes later than scheduled.

Mong Tung Wan has two porpoise viewing points: one good for seeing the waters around Mong Tung Wan and Pui O, the other for Chi Ma Wan and Shek Kwu Chau. The participants were divided into two groups for the two viewing points and swapped after an hour.



We stayed at Mong Tung Wan for about two hours. At first, we all jumped at the sight of every single wave, thinking that it could be a porpoise. Disappointingly, we didn't see a single porpoise throughout the stay. Most of us felt deflated but looking on the bright side, some were glad because porpoises which appear in these waters can possibly be hit by high-speed boats. And with many fishermen working in the area there may be less food available for porpoises.

The activity gave the participants the opportunity to understand the threats faced by porpoises which, in many ways, is a more valuable lesson than that of seeing the animals themselves.



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