

# Learning about sea creatures at Changi Beach

Families visiting Changi Beach can look out for sea creatures that are native to our shores, including a black and orange sea snail called the noble volute and the pink warty sea cucumber.

But before hitting the beach, check out what they and 23 other sea creatures look like in *Let's Discover Our Seashores, Singapore!*, the latest book in the *Let's Discover, Singapore* series.

The book, which will be launched on June 19, was written by Emeritus Professor Chou Loke Ming, 75, and his daughter Diana Chou, 45.

Ms Chou was inspired to write the book after visiting Changi Beach during low tide last year with her husband, Mr Eng Yong Liang, 46, and their two sons, Benjamin, nine, and Julian, 11.



Emeritus Professor Chou Loke Ming (fourth from left) with his daughter Diana Chou, her husband Eng Yong Liang and their two sons, Benjamin and Julian (in red), at Changi Beach last week.

ST PHOTO: ARIFFIN JAMAR

The former pre-school teacher had struggled to answer her sons' questions about a pink sea cucumber they spotted.

So she took photographs of it and sent them to her father, a marine biologist whom she calls her "encyclopaedia", and he told her about its name and traits.

Prof Chou, a research affiliate at the Tropical Marine Science Institute, said: "Diana thought that it would be useful if people like her, who have little knowledge of marine biodiversity, have a book featuring various sea creatures that

they can refer to when they go to the beach."

The book contains photos of animals commonly found on Changi Beach during low tide.

By scanning QR codes in the book, readers are linked to online videos of five sea creatures – the tube worm, orange-striped hermit crab, pink warty sea cucumber, smooth sea cucumber and the eight-armed seastar – taken by Ms Chou and narrated by Prof Chou and his two grandsons.

About one to three minutes long each, the videos feature the crea-

tures' behaviours during low and incoming tides.

For instance, an eight-armed seastar is shown straightening its arms, which have small, flexible tube-like structures, allowing it to move faster when the tide comes in.

Another video shows a pink warty sea cucumber extending its tentacles when fully submerged to feed on plankton and food particles.

"Usually when people go to the beach, they won't stop to notice the funny behaviours of sea creatures," said Ms Chou, now a stay-home mum.

"The videos help stimulate children's curiosity and allow them to learn visually and aurally."

Prof Chou added: "We hope that children will learn to appreciate and respect marine biodiversity, and (have) the correct ethics when they see these creatures."

**Chong Xin Wei**

- The book will be sold in bookshops such as Popular, Times and Kinokuniya at \$19.90 for the hard cover and \$13.90 for the soft cover, before GST. The authors will hold a storytelling session on June 19 from 3pm to 3.40pm at Times Waterway Point in Punggol.