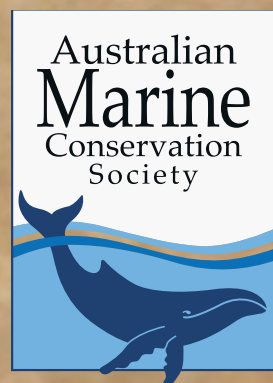


# Australian Marine Conservation Society



ANNUAL REPORT 2013



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## AUSTRALIAN MARINE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

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Front cover image: Turtle reaching the sea © AMCS

# THE AUSTRALIAN MARINE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

## 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

The Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) is the voice for Australia's ocean wildlife. We are an independent charity, staffed by a committed team of professional and passionate scientists, educators and advocates who have defended Australia's oceans for almost 50 years.



Credit: The largest fish in the world, the mighty whale shark, migrates through the world's tropical oceans and in Australia are most commonly sighted at Ningaloo World Heritage Marine Park on the Western Australian coast.

© Vanessa Mignon

# Director's REPORT

2013 was a year of progress and challenges for the Australian Marine Conservation Society as we worked to protect our oceans and coasts, and the marine life calling them home.

Late in 2012, Australia created the largest network of marine reserves on the planet, across Australia's commonwealth waters. Over a decade of work across successive Australian governments underpinned this achievement. However, the change of federal government during 2013 saw implementation of the marine reserves suspended and the announcement of a review into the network. AMCS will engage with the review to ensure the strong scientific and public support for these new national parks in the sea is honoured.



AMCS Director Darren Kindleysides

Nevertheless, in state waters, Australia continues to move forward in creating new marine reserves – places where our ocean wildlife can live, breed and flourish in peace. AMCS welcomed the Western Australia Government's creation of new marine reserves to protect the pristine Kimberley coastline. The State Government of Western Australia created the Lalang-garram Camden Sound Marine Park, protecting the primary calving and nursery site for the world's largest humpback whale population.

AMCS has defended the Great Barrier Reef since the 1960s – from oil drilling and coral mining, overfishing, shark finning – and now the threat of large-scale port development, dredging, dumping and a shipping superhighway. Earlier this year we launched one of the biggest campaigns in our history that has seen tens of thousands of Australians joining the 'Fight for the Reef', generating enormous public pressure. Progress is being made. Plans have been withdrawn for a massive coal port in the Fitzroy Delta. We also helped secure a \$40 million commitment from the government to establish a 'Reef Trust' to fund the restoration of the Reef.

During 2013, wildlife conservation legend Bob Irwin also joined the campaign to protect the Reef. He appeared in an advertising campaign and visited communities along the Reef's coast to encourage community action to protect the Reef. It is important that we also thank and recognise the generous support of The Thomas Foundation, particularly their commitment to match dollar for dollar the funds we raised in our June Fight for the Reef appeal. Thank you for helping support this critical battle.

This year we launched the Good Fish Project – Australia's first sustainable seafood initiative for chefs. Supported by some of the country's leading chefs, we're helping restaurants around the country serve more environmentally-friendly fish to their customers.

During 2013 AMCS supporters helped provide equipment to wildlife carers that rescue and treat sea turtles and seabirds which have been tangled in or ingested plastic debris. AMCS also developed and distributed school curriculum materials on plastic pollution of the oceans.

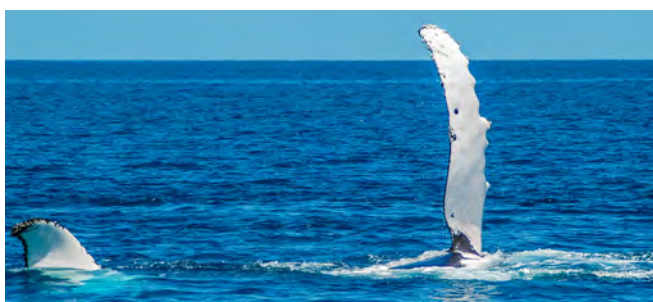
In June Australia's historic legal challenge against Japanese whaling in the International Court of Justice finally began in the Hague. Our government has been steadfast in mounting legal fight against Japan's 'scientific research' whale slaughter in the Southern Ocean. The Court's decision will be handed down in 2014.

At the end of November we launched our 'Shark Fin Free' cities initiative. Working with partner organisations, we're encouraging Australian councils to join in the global 'shark fin free cities' movement, where administrations ban the sale of shark fins.

Despite mounting pressures on our oceans, and perhaps because of it, I have been heartened to witness the growth in community support for action to better safeguard Australia's marine environment. For example, the number of people volunteering to help AMCS and our campaigns has grown from tens to hundreds in the space of the year.

I continue to be very grateful and inspired by our supporters who have volunteered, donated, encouraged and cared enough to stand up and make a real difference for Australia's marine life.

Darren Kindleysides  
AMCS Director



# Campaign REPORT

The health of our oceans matters. Our seas control our climate and produce half of the oxygen we breathe. The world's oceans also provide animal protein for more than a billion people, and a source of recreation for many more. AMCS campaigns on the big issues facing our seas. We work to challenge unsustainable fishing practices, secure networks of marine parks and protect and recover our threatened marine species. Promoting healthy and vibrant oceans and marine wildlife is vital for the future, in a world with increasing human population, limited resources and the uncertainty of global climate change.

## FIGHT FOR THE REEF



“The Reef is one of the seven natural wonders of the world, but our governments seem to have forgotten that fact. The Reef belongs to all of us, not to big industry to use as a dredge dumping ground and shipping superhighway.” Bob Irwin

The Great Barrier Reef is under threat from successive governments fast-tracking mega port developments, dredging and dumping of millions of tonnes of seabed, and encouraging a shipping superhighway. There are a raft of proposed port expansion developments along the length of the Reef's coastline, including plans for the world's biggest coal port at Abbot Point, just 50 km from the Whitsunday Islands.

Thanks to generous funding from The Thomas Foundation, AMCS and WWF Australia partnered in 2013 to establish the Fight for the Reef campaign. Within twelve months it has become one of the most significant environmental campaigns in the country, with a groundswell of people uniting against the industrialisation of our national treasure.

In March, AMCS hosted a visit to Australia by world renowned marine conservationist Professor Callum Roberts. Callum joined us to study the areas of the Great Barrier Reef's coastline that are most threatened by industrialisation. He also delivered the annual 'Thomas Conservation Oration'. Callum gave a stirring call to arms, advising that our oceans are in peril, but it is not too late to act.



Brisbane rallies for the Reef

In April we launched television adverts featuring our reef champion, Bob Irwin, followed by a tour with Bob of key regional centres along the Reef coast, raising awareness of the growing threats to the Reef and the local community. Then in August over 3,500 people marched in the streets of Brisbane in our Rally for the Reef.

The campaign has made significant progress. We have established a campaign office in the Whitsundays to work closely with concerned tourism operators. While we were unable to stop the Federal Minister approving dredging and dumping of 3 million cubic metres of seabed for the Abbot Point expansion, the decision generated huge community outrage.

Plans have been withdrawn for a massive coal port in the Fitzroy Delta and for one of the proposed port terminals at Abbot Point. We also helped secure a \$40 million dollar commitment from the Coalition Government to establish a 'Reef Trust' to fund the restoration of the Reef. Thank you to everyone who has supported AMCS and the Fight for the Reef campaign.



Australia's track record of poor management of industrial development along the Great Barrier Reef's coast has raised serious concerns from the World Heritage Committee. Unless significant progress is made in key areas recommended by the World Heritage Committee, the Reef could be listed as "World Heritage in Danger".

On January 30 2014 WWF-Australia and the Australian Marine Conservation Society released a scorecard rating the Australian and Queensland governments' progress against the World Heritage Committee's recommendations since 2012. The scorecard was supported by a technical report providing justification for the scores.

Below is an updated scorecard on the status of implementation of the World Heritage Committee's key recommendations prepared for the 38th Session of the World Heritage Committee in Doha, Qatar from 15 - 25 June 2014. This updated scorecard shows the rank given in the first assessment in January 2014 and the new rank as of June 2014, together with a brief description of the reasons for the June ranking.

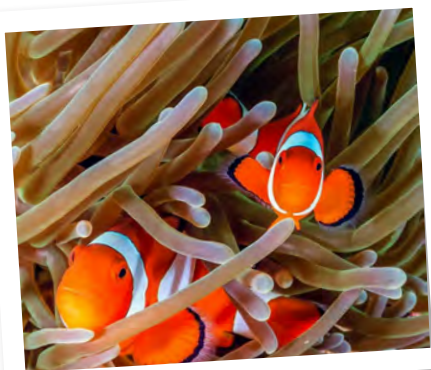
WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND UPDATED ASSESSMENT		STATUS AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT	STATUS QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT
#	<b>WHCS PORTS</b>		
	No new port developments outside existing major ports; no new development impacting on World Heritage values of the Reef.		
		JANUARY 2014	
Status update	<b>Australian and Queensland governments:</b> The final Queensland Ports Strategy was released on 5 June 2014. The Strategy designates four Great Barrier Reef ports as Priority Port Development Areas (PPDAs) for growth and bans dredging for new or expanded ports outside the PPDA boundaries for 8 years (to 2022). However, this does not apply to dredging and port expansion proposals that are already in the assessment process (eg. Cairns) and will not prevent port developments that do not require dredging (eg. trans-shipping in near-pristine areas like Cape York). The timeline to complete the proposed Master Plan Guidelines for PPDAs is unknown, so there is uncertainty about measures to protect high value conservation areas within each proposed PPDA. Despite assurances given to UNESCO that protection for the Fitzroy Delta, Keppel Bay and north Curtis Island would be detailed in the Ports Strategy, this has not occurred.	JUNE 2014	

Good progress or completed Some concern Major concern, either no progress or actions contrary to recommendations

PAGE 1/3

Images (clockwise) from top left:

1. Beautiful anemone fish
2. AMCS Reef campaigners Felicity Wishart and Lissa Schindler with Callum Roberts (centre)
3. AMCS and WWF released a score card on Australia's management of the Reef
4. AMCS Reef Community Campaigner Cherry Muddle (left) with June Norman, Reef Walk champion
5. The iconic heart shaped coral
6. Invitation to The David Thomas Conservation Oration 2013, featuring Professor Callum Roberts
- 7 Aerial shot of the Great Barrier Reef
8. Whitsunday residents fighting for the Reef
9. Dredge spoil - approved by the Federal Government in 2013 to be dumped on our Reef



# SHARK CONSERVATION

With up to an incredible 73 million sharks killed every year, predominantly for their fins, it's no wonder that the IUCN has assessed that one-third of all open ocean shark species are threatened with extinction.

Huge and increasing demand for shark fins gives sharks the dubious privilege of being amongst the most valuable animals in the sea; it has also made them the most vulnerable.

Sharks are considered 'keystone species', which means that as top predators, they are extremely important in maintaining the balance in marine ecosystems. Removing too many sharks from an ecosystem can lead to a monumental shift in the equilibrium between predators and prey all the way through the food chain.

AMCS continues to work with fisheries agencies and the government to improve the management of unsustainable shark fishing, including the continued export of Australian shark fins. We continue to campaign for Australia to follow the lead of countries such as Palau, the Maldives and Honduras who value the tourism and ecosystem benefits of healthy shark populations and have banned shark fishing altogether.

In late 2013, the Premier of Western Australia announced a shark cull policy. AMCS has been actively opposing this policy through the media and engaging our supporters. Sharks are extremely important to the health of our oceans and maintaining the balance in marine ecosystems. Many of Australia's shark species, like the great white shark, are already in decline and threatened.

## FOI INVESTIGATION

After months of frustrating investigation, the Australian Marine Conservation Society put in a Freedom of Information (FOI) request and uncovered the shocking fact that Australia exported an incredible 178 tonnes of dried shark fin in 2011-12 to end up as soup.

The FOI also revealed that not only are Australian fisheries feeding the global appetite for shark fin, we're bringing fins in from countries with poorer fishing regulations than our own, countries that still barbarically fin live sharks and dump their bodies overboard, often still alive, leaving them to suffocate or bleed to death.

Sharks are long-lived, slow to breed and vulnerable to fishing pressure, yet they are still caught in over 70 fisheries around Australia.

© Vanessa Mignon



# CREATING SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

The United Nations reports that 80 per cent of fish stocks around the world are now either overfished or fished right up to their limit.

Global catches peaked in the 1980s and have been in decline ever since. Researchers estimate that populations of many big fish species have been decimated – the big, long-lived and slow growing apex species groups like tuna, swordfish and sharks.

While Australia has a reputation for managing our fisheries better than most, we continue to exploit overfished species such as orange roughy (which can reach 100 years of age), gemfish and southern bluefin tuna.

And in the process of catching our fish, we continue to accidentally catch and kill a raft of non-target species as bycatch, including threatened sea life such as dugongs, dolphins and Australian sea lions.

We are making progress in areas of bycatch reduction and gear modification, but there is still an urgent need for Australian fisheries management to move towards an 'ecosystem-based approach' where the full impact of the fishery on the ocean ecosystem is considered in determining how the fishery is managed.

AMCS's sustainable fisheries program seeks to reverse the trend in overfished and under-valued oceans, and bring real sustainability to the fisheries around our coastline.

## SUPER TRAWLER

On 6 March 2013, the FV Margiris, renamed the Abel Tasman (and known as the 'Super Trawler') left Australian waters. The super trawler was temporarily banned in 2012, but only left Australia's waters after sustained advocacy by AMCS and local community and fishing groups; and a failed legal challenge.

The fishing vessel was larger than any other used in Australia, and was brought in by the Small Pelagic Fishery to catch mainly blue and jack mackerel and redbait.

The super trawler has the capacity to stay out at sea and fish for a long time, catching and processing 240 tonnes of fish every 24 hours. This industrial fishing vessel's arrival raised immediate concerns for AMCS, as the scale of fishing was unprecedented in Australia. We were greatly concerned about the effects this large-scale fishing would have on local fish stocks, as well as threatened species like Australian fur seals and dolphins.

Along with other environmental groups and recreational fishing organisations, AMCS questioned the government on the lack of science behind the arrival of the super trawler. Our continued pressure, along with several thousand emails from AMCS supporters and 90,000 signatures from concerned citizens helped convince the government that something needed to be done.



School of Bigeye Trevally © AMCS

Margiris Super Trawler  
© Pierre Gleizes and Greenpeace





# GOOD FISH PROJECT

The Good Fish Project aims to help chefs find out what 'sustainable seafood' means, and what serving it can mean to their business. It aims to rattle up the chain of influence, and help chefs navigate the course of sustainable seafood.

The Good Fish Project spells out why healthy oceans and sustainable seafood are in the long term interests of the fishing and seafood industry and the community.

It also seeks to engage chefs on sustainable seafood, fishing methods, aquaculture and wild fisheries, promoting success stories from sustainable chefs and restaurants around the world.

Critically, the website also provides a point source where chefs can share their sustainable seafood experience. The website contains a blog where chefs can compare notes on sustainable seafood suppliers, seasonality, recipes and other helpful tips.

For more information visit  
THE GOOD FISH PROJECT website:  
[www.goodfishproject.com.au](http://www.goodfishproject.com.au)  
Heartfelt thanks to the Ian Potter  
Foundation for their support  
for this project.



AMCS secured funding to create the groundbreaking Good Fish Project, for chefs who love their seafood and also their oceans.

AMCS works closely with sustainable seafood chef Richard Webb from Swampdog Fish and Chips in South Brisbane.

photo by Sam Charlton.

# MARINE PARKS

Marine National Parks are vital for protecting our ocean's wildlife and habitat.

Marine scientists recommend that at least 20-30% of each marine habitat should be fully protected to ensure our oceans remain healthy and productive. Currently less than 3% of the world's oceans are fully protected.

Scientific studies continue to show the benefit of these areas for marine biodiversity and healthy fish populations.

Marine National Parks provide sanctuaries for fish to breed, spawn and grow. They also provide protection for vulnerable species such as turtles, dolphins, sharks and dugongs.

Marine national parks also protect the fragile habitats on which marine species depend, such as sea grass meadows, coral reefs and mangrove forests.

Importantly these areas also provide unspoilt natural sites for people to enjoy, just like national parks on land.

## COMMONWEALTH PARKS ON HOLD

On 5 June 2013 the management plans for the largest system of marine parks in the world passed through the House of Representatives. The plans needed to pass through the Senate in order to come into effect. With the change of government in September 2013 these plans were been put on hold, pending a review.

## NEW SOUTH WALES

On 12 March 2013, the NSW Government announced they would allow recreational fishing in marine sanctuary zones. This move undermines the fundamental and scientifically based principles of marine sanctuaries, and encourages illegal fishing from beaches and headlands in sanctuary zones.

Just 7% of the NSW coastline is protected in marine sanctuaries. In every poll conducted in NSW over the past 5 years on the issue of marine protection, support for marine sanctuaries among the general public and fishers alike has averaged 70-90%. The people of NSW overwhelmingly want better protection for our seas.

Marine sanctuaries that extend right to the shore are backed by Australia's peak marine science organisations and are scientifically proven to protect biodiversity and restore fish stocks. AMCS has been working to fight this misguided move.



The iconic Blue Groper  
New South Wales

© John Turnbull, Marine Explorer



Australian Sea Lion © Vanessa Mignon

## NINGALOO ANNIVERSARY

2013 marks the 10 year anniversary of saving Ningaloo Reef in WA from marina development. This was a pioneering marine conservation campaign that AMCS and our Patron Tim Winton played a key role in.

With overwhelming support from the public, AMCS further succeeded in securing 34% of the Ningaloo Marine Park in marine sanctuary zones, and most recently World Heritage listing in 2011.

Ningaloo Reef is one of the longest fringing coral reefs on our blue planet. Ningaloo is also an important feeding and breeding area for manta rays, sea turtles, dugongs, sea birds and several different cetaceans such as humpback and southern right whales. The area is renowned for the annual appearance of the world's largest fish, the filter-feeding whale shark.



Above: A huge surge of public support for protecting Ningaloo Reef in 2003



Above: Crowds gather for a 'Save Ningaloo' rally in Fremantle, WA



Above: AMCS Patron Tim Winton addresses the crowd

# SAVING THE WHALE

AMCS continued our campaign against illegal whaling in 2013. The international court case against Japan was heard in The Hague, by the International Court of Justice (ICJ). AMCS had been encouraging the Australian Government to take this case since 2009. The legality of so-called “scientific whaling” was examined and the judgement will be handed down in 2014. Independent panels of international legal experts reviewing Japan’s “scientific whaling” programme have consistently found it “unlawful” under international law. We anticipate that a similar outcome will come from the International Court of Justice.

# CLIMATE CHANGE

The ocean plays a vital role in regulating our climate. Rapidly rising greenhouse gas concentrations are driving ocean systems toward conditions not seen for millions of years, and as a result we run the risk of fundamental and irreversible changes to plant and animal life in our oceans.

Our goal is to see Australia at the forefront of innovation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to reduce human impacts on our marine wildlife, such as overfishing, mining and pollution, which directly reduce the ability of marine ecosystems to combat and recover from climate change impacts.

# OCEANS OF PLASTIC

Marine debris is a major threat to marine creatures like turtles and seabirds. AMCS is working with a range of organisations to tackle marine debris. We’re educating the public and equipping groups with the knowledge and skills to rescue sick and tangled marine animals and conduct scientific marine debris surveys. AMCS education materials on plastic pollution are in school’s curriculums.

AMCS hosted screenings of the film “Trashed” and participated in Clean Up Australia Day. AMCS is a member of the Boomerang Alliance, and we are vocal in the push for a Container Deposit Scheme to reduce litter and landfill.



AMCS staff and supporters at Brisbane



AMCS staff & friends at Clean Up Australia Day



# Rising up FOR OUR OCEANS

This year has been a vibrant one for AMCS. Our Head Office has been thriving with volunteers who have taken our capacity to a new level.

Volunteer groups have also been active in many states. More than 200 people have volunteered their time with AMCS in 2013.

A more talented, committed and passionate bunch would be hard to find. And we continue to be deeply touched by their support across the country.

In the office or out in the community, they have volunteered their time, rallied with us to protect our Reef, our climate, and our ocean wildlife. They have undertaken research projects on shark finning, fisheries management and coastal development.

They have written to and called politicians, donated, encouraged and cared enough to stand up and make a real difference.



## IMAGES

Top left: AMCS staff and supporters participate in a fun run to raise money for the Reef.

Bottom left: Northern Territory supporters appreciate a sand sculpture at World Turtle Day

Top right: AMCS Reef campaigner Cherry and volunteer Abby at our stall at the Blue Water Festival

Bottom right: AMCS supporters at the Callum Roberts dinner

Below: Brisbane rallies for the Reef.  
Image credit: Andrea Innes



# BUSINESS SUPPORTERS

The Australian Marine Conservation Society's Business Supporter Program is designed to form lasting partnerships with like-minded businesses and their staff. We welcome and encourage businesses from the broader community who want to give something back to the oceans on which we all depend. Our business supporters are listed here.

## 2013 Platinum Supporters:

Kingfisher Bay Resort

Train to Gain



## 2013 Silver Supporters:

TUSA Australia

Diversion Dive Travel

Calypso Snorkel and Dive

Remora

La Table Café and Restaurant



## Honorary Business Supporters:

Berwicks Office Technology

Sport Diving Magazine

GMagazine

Storage King

WSP Digital

# Financial REVIEW

AMCS set optimistic and challenging fundraising goals for 2013 in order to meet the increasing threats to Australia's oceans. In 2013 AMCS received a major philanthropic grant to fund a campaign for urgent protection for the Great Barrier Reef. This astute and timely example of engaged philanthropy will enable AMCS and other eNGOs to build on a community education and advocacy campaign to protect the Reef from inappropriate industrial development.

We continue to grow our active supporter base with a significant increase in major donor investment and an 18% increase in contributions from our dedicated Sea Guardians (regular givers). The loyal ongoing support of our members, Sea Guardians and donors means we are able to continue our work across the country and achieve more for our precious oceans.

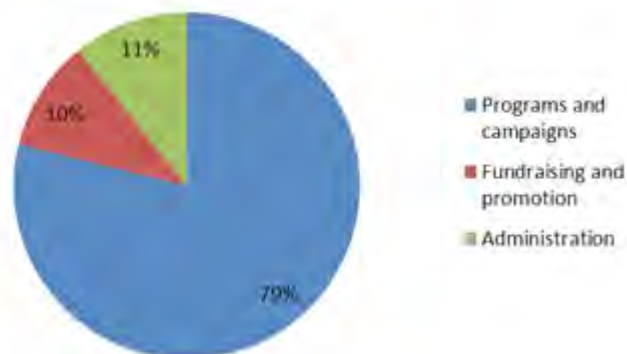
## Where does the money come from



Administration is an essential part of our day-to-day expenses. It ensures that AMCS is run as efficiently as possible, meets all government regulations and our obligations to donors. Our dedicated staff focussing on finance, administration, volunteer coordination and management ensure that our project staff are free to focus on campaigning for the health of our oceans.

Fundraising (including the cost of marketing) enables our work to continue generating donations for our current work and supporters to ensure our future.

## Where your donation goes



# Audited REPORT

## Balance Sheet

### As at 31st December 2013

	<i>Note</i>	2013 \$	2012 \$
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	7	810,876	363,954
Trade and other receivables	8	50,195	58,507
Inventories	9	7,839	11,038
Other current assets	10	1,493	470
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>870,403</u>	<u>433,969</u>
<b>Non-current Assets</b>			
Other non-current asset	10	8,525	8,525
Intangible assets	12	35,145	30,025
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>43,670</u>	<u>38,550</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u>914,073</u>	<u>472,519</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	13	743,663	301,570
Short-term borrowings	14	(3,944)	308
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>739,719</u>	<u>301,878</u>
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<u>739,719</u>	<u>301,878</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>174,354</u>	<u>170,641</u>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained Earnings		174,354	170,641
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<u>174,354</u>	<u>170,641</u>

## Statement of Changes in Equity

### For The Year Ended 31st December 2013

	Retained Earnings \$	TOTAL EQUITY \$
Balance as at 1st January 2012	204,198	204,198
Profit for the year	(33,557)	(33,557)
<b>Balance as at 31st December 2012</b>	<u>170,641</u>	<u>170,641</u>
Profit for the year	3,714	3,714
<b>Balance as at 31st December 2013</b>	<u>174,354</u>	<u>174,355</u>



**Income Statement**  
**For The Year Ended 31st December 2013**

	<i>Note</i>	2013 \$	2012 \$
<b>Projects and Grants</b>			
Grants - GNGO	-		7,500
Grants - GVEHO	-		23,500
Projects - Conservation	-		287,982
Specific Purpose Donations and Grants	<u>1,019,543</u>		<u>-</u>
Gross Project and Grant Income	1,019,543		318,982
Total Project Expenses	<b>2</b> <u>1,019,543</u>		<u>271,902</u>
<b>Net Projects and Grants</b>		-	<b>47,080</b>
<b>Fundraising</b>			
Business Partners/Supporters	17,452		19,696
General Purpose Donations	<b>3</b> 501,145		393,965
Events	30,689		43,247
Membership Fees	4,469		6,182
Merchandise	26,139		26,514
Sundry	<u>24,319</u>		<u>400</u>
Gross Fundraising Income	604,213		490,004
Total Fundraising Expenses	<b>4</b> <u>169,323</u>		<u>158,734</u>
<b>Net Fundraising</b>		<b>434,890</b>	<b>331,270</b>
<b>Other Income</b>			
Interest Received	<u>21,510</u>		<u>11,489</u>
<b>Net Other Income</b>		<u><b>21,510</b></u>	<u><b>11,489</b></u>
<b>TOTAL DIRECT INCOME</b>		<b>456,400</b>	<b>389,840</b>
Operating Expenses	<b>5</b>	<u>452,686</u>	<u>447,614</u>
<b>SURPLUS / (LOSS) FROM TRADING</b>		<b>3,714</b>	<b>(57,775)</b>
Net GST Refund	<b>6</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,218</u>
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>		<u><b>3,714</b></u>	<u><b>(33,557)</b></u>



# Board and PATRON

## Tim Winton, Patron

Tim Winton is a three time winner of the Miles Franklin Award and twice short-listed for the Booker Prize. His work has achieved the rare distinction of being both critically admired and loved by readers alike. He was recently declared a Living Treasure by the National Trust. Winton became our National Patron early in 2006. He first became involved in our work as the vice-president of the Society's Western Australian branch, through the campaign to protect Ningaloo Reef in a marine park. This was another outstanding success for the Society, thanks in no small part to our Patron, of whom we are very proud.

## OUR BOARD

### President – Craig McGovern

Craig McGovern is an independent businessman and consultant with over 25 years experience across Australia's property, events and sporting industries and spanning the public, not-for-profit and commercial sectors. He is the former Chief Executive of the Queensland Performing Arts Centre, Director of Ernst & Young as well as Board member of various peak industry bodies. Craig consults to industry on strategy, business planning and governance. He has spent his lifetime immersed in Queensland's coastal waters and joined AMCS as President in 2010.

### Secretary – Mary-Ann Pattison

Mary-Ann Pattison is a long term member of the Society and has been a formal member of the Board for many years. Mary-Ann is an environmental educator for Education Queensland and is based at the Nudgee Beach Environment Centre. Mary-Ann brings a strong corporate knowledge of our history to the Board and is well connected with many of our longer-term members and supporters across South-east Queensland.

### Treasurer – Michela Mitchell

Michela Mitchell joined the AMCS Melbourne Working Group in 1998 and has now served on the AMCS board member for 10 years. Michela is a Sea Anemone taxonomist, a Research Associate of Melbourne Museum and runs her own scientific consultancy business. Michela also works part time as a HR/Payroll specialist in the recruitment industry.

### General Member – Sue Crowe

Sue Crowe is the Director of TUSA Australia, one of the original dive equipment manufacturers. Sue Crowe, a journalist and editor by trade, was managing editor of Scuba Diver Australasia magazine for eight years, before leaving in 2002 to start her own marketing and editorial business.

Sue is also a diving instructor and has made many excellent contacts in the dive industry for the Society. A member for many years and previously a Committee Member of the Society's Sydney Branch, Sue has long been involved in marine conservation from her base in Sydney, NSW.

### General Member – Richard Leck

Richard Leck joined the Board in 2004 and brings an excellent knowledge of conservation politics to the Board. Rick works for WWF as their Program Manager - Coral Triangle, and works closely with our campaign staff on a daily basis on a range of conservation initiatives. Rick is also a keen diver, sports-lover and tri-athlete.

### General Member – Margaret Harlow

Margaret Harlow joined the Board in 2009, and began her involvement with the Society as a volunteer while completing an Environmental Science degree. Marg has since been National Assistant for the Marine & Coastal Community Network (MCCN), and General Manager of the Lifecraft Group which included charity researchers Givewell, providing a comprehensive research service for informed giving. She continues to be fortunate enough to live on the coast in her current role as Business Manager, Research and Commercial Services with the Smart Water Research Centre.

### General Member - Jill StJohn

Jill StJohn is a diver of over thirty years with a passion for fish that has taken her across oceans. Jill began her career studying fish on the beautiful coral reefs of the Great Barrier Reef. After completing her PhD at James Cook University, Jill moved to Okinawa, Japan to continue her research on coral reef fish. She then moved to Perth to research fish in the Indian Ocean at the West Australian Department of Fisheries.

Staying in Perth, Jill became the Marine Co-ordinator at The Wilderness Society, where she campaigned for state and federal marine parks. Jill joined AMCS as a board member in 2011 after leaving The Wilderness Society. She currently works at the University of Western Australia as a research development advisor and, as always, lives near the sea.

### General Member - David Neil

Dr David Neil is a Senior Lecturer in Geography/Environmental Science at the University of Queensland. Dr Neil commenced at UQ in 1991 after a decade of studies at Griffith, Macquarie, Queensland and Australian National Universities and a short stint at CSIRO Division of Water & Land Resources.

He was Director of the Geography / Geography & Environmental Management Program in the School from 2003 to 2011 and Chaired the School Teaching and Learning Committee from 1997 to 2000 and 2003 to 2005.

He has authored or coauthored over 50 refereed publications and over 150 other contributions (conference papers, reports, etc.) and conducted research and delivered field courses in Antarctica, Australia (Great Barrier Reef, Southeast Queensland, Southern Tablelands), Hong Kong, Italy, Southwest Pacific and Vietnam.

Underwater in the beautiful Coral Sea

© Steve Parish



# Thanks and ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With special thanks to the individuals, businesses and philanthropic trusts who supported AMCS throughout 2013. Your generosity has made a huge difference to our work to protect our ocean wildlife.

## MAJOR SUPPORTERS

Jane Abercrombie, Alana Ash, Richard and Jane Baillieu, Peter Brown, Neil Bowland, Graham Cameron, Taryn Chester, Ben and Sophie Elton, Martin Copley, Matthew Cunnington, Jennifer Di Blasi, Luke Dubber, Peter Godfrey-Smith, Karen Graham, Peter Granton, Andrew Hall, Arthur Harrold (remembered with love), Pam and Ray Ison, Alison and Alistair Johnson, Frank Lin, Roger Livsey and Margaret Robertson, Luke Longley and Anna Gare, Dan Mathews, Craig and Louise McGovern, John Poynton, Paul Taylor, Sandra Rose, John Rourke, Bruce and Sue Shepherd, Marilyn Smith, Scott Thompson and Donna Burton, Bradley Tonkes, Tim Winton & Denise Fitch.

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## GRANTS AND PHILANTHROPIC TRUSTS

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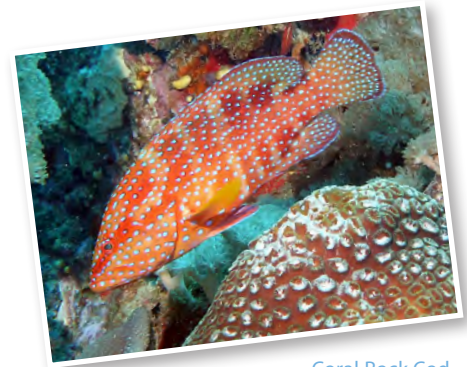
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Sea Turtle  
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## VOLUNTEERS

AMCS relies heavily on the extensive and enduring support from our volunteer network around Australia. Our tireless volunteers are ever-present to lend critical support for our campaigns, information stalls, fundraising events and administration needs.

And thanks in particular, to the dedicated and generous people across Australia who support our work as members, Ocean Activists, donors and sensational Sea Guardians!

Last but not least, thanks to our pro bono photographers who lend their exquisite underwater works in support of marine conservation.