

Spring 2018  VOLUME 19/1

Turning THE TIDE

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With Thanks to YOU 



Green Sea Turtles In Hot Water

Green sea turtles are named not for the colour of their shell, but for the greenish colour of their flesh. These gentle ocean wanderers can live for 80 years and weigh up to 318 kilograms, making green turtles among the largest sea turtles in the world. They inhabit tropical and subtropical coastal waters across our blue planet and many call our Great Barrier Reef home.

Like other sea turtles, green turtles undertake lengthy migrations from feeding sites to nesting grounds, normally on sandy beaches. Mating occurs every two to four years, in shallow waters close to the shore. Females often return to the same beach used by their mothers, to lay their eggs.

Climate change is impacting our sea turtles. Raine Island in the Northern Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest green turtle rookery. Last year an alarming study showed that due to increased sand temperatures, 99% of hatchlings in the northern green sea turtle population were born female. This presents a huge challenge for the survival of this ancient species.

Ocean warming, more extreme weather and rising sea levels affects turtles' nesting grounds. On low-lying islands, such as those in our precious Coral Sea, nesting beaches could soon be underwater, affecting the mating and nesting rituals of our magnificent sea turtles. With only 1% of turtle hatchlings surviving until

Facts & Figures

COMMON NAME: Green Sea Turtle
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Chelonia mydas*
TYPE: Reptiles
DIET: Adults are Herbivorous. Juveniles eat jellyfish, crabs and molluscs
GROUP NAME: Bale
AVERAGE LIFE SPAN IN THE WILD: 80+ years
SIZE: Up to 1.5 metres
WEIGHT: Up to 318kgs

adulthood, climate change puts sea turtles at severe risk of not being able to reproduce in the future.

Green turtles are already listed as a vulnerable to extinction in Australia, and listed as 'Endangered' internationally on the IUCN Red list. **We can't allow our turtles to become extinct under our watch. We must act urgently to help them by combating climate change.**

 **In this edition**

In our latest edition of *Turning the Tide* you'll find ways to take action on plastic pollution, marine sanctuaries and climate change to help our precious green sea turtles.

Plastic Pollution – A Silent Killer

Together we can turn the tide on plastic pollution.

Throughout our world's oceans lurks a silent killer. The killer is plastic and it's on a beach or floating in an ocean near you. Plastic pollution is flowing into our oceans at an alarming rate, entangling and choking our marine life.

Reducing single use plastic continues to gain worldwide momentum. Here in Australia we've just had some huge wins, with some big steps being taken to reduce our plastic pollution footprint:

- Single Use Plastic Bags on the way out:**
- On 1st July 2018, Queensland and Western Australia commenced their bans on single use plastic bags, joining the majority of Australian states with bans already in place. Victoria is scheduled to ban plastic bags in 2020, leaving New South Wales as the only hold out state.
- Container Deposit Schemes on the way in:**
- Queensland and Western Australia have committed to introducing container refund and deposit schemes within the next six months, joining the Northern Territory, South Australia, Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales to drive down plastic pollution and ramp up recycling. Victoria and Tasmania remain the only states without plans for Container Deposit Schemes.

Phase out Plastic Microbeads

- Australian businesses are ending the use of microbeads in products via a voluntary industry phase-out. The Australian Government must now introduce a legal ban on microbeads.

It's clear that Australians want clean, healthy oceans full of life. Together we can ramp up our campaign and turn the tide on plastic pollution.

Plastic Free July

Did you know that by 2050 there could be more plastic than fish in our oceans? Around 80% of the plastic in our seas comes from land-based sources. That's why over 6,000 people like you took the Plastic Free July challenge. Together we took action every day to turn the tide on plastic pollution in our oceans.

 **It's not too late!**

Join the movement and pledge to stop plastic pollution today!
To find out more, visit www.marineconservation.org.au/plasticfreepledge

Reef Tourism Operators Make Historic Climate Change Declaration

For the first time ever, the Great Barrier Reef tourism industry has united with AMCS in the fight against climate change.

In May this year, AMCS and the Australian Marine Parks Tourism Operators (AMPTO) co-hosted a ground-breaking summit in Cairns. Together we released a joint declaration on climate change, which represents the first time this powerful industry has spoken out about the threat of global warming and called for urgent and tough action from the Australian Government.

Col McKenzie, CEO of AMPTO said, *"The Reef is still a dynamic, vibrant, awesome place but it is under serious threat from climate change and we need our leaders to put in place strong climate and energy policies to protect its future."*

The Reef is our livelihood, it generates \$6 billion each year and sustains 64,000 jobs. Reef tourism businesses love the Reef and we take seriously our responsibility to look after this incredible place.

Today we're calling on all our political leaders to stand up for Far North Queensland businesses and jobs and demonstrate leadership on climate change to protect the future of our Reef."

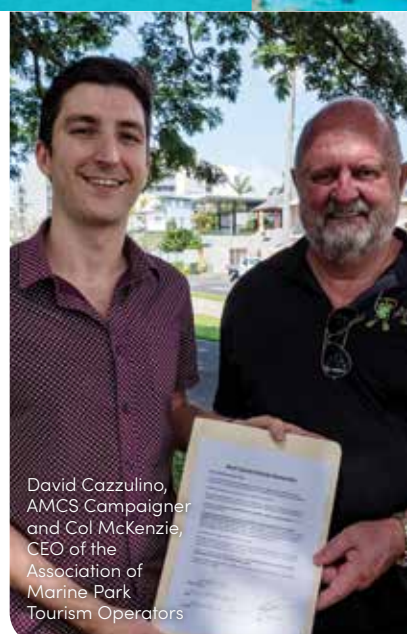
David Cazzulino, Great Barrier Reef Community Campaigner for AMCS,

welcomed the tourism industry's strong stance on climate change.

"It's not too late to save the Reef but time is critical. The federal government has a responsibility to protect the Reef and the local jobs that depend on it."

Yet our representatives continue to support the expansion of the fossil fuel industry, such as Adani's coal mine and still have no national energy policy."

This call for action is a game changer, driven by AMCS, our Reef Team and you. Government can no longer hide behind perceived divisions between tourism and conservation.



David Cazzulino, AMCS Campaigner and Col McKenzie, CEO of the Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators



Sign up today

We love the Great Barrier Reef. If you haven't already signed up, visit www.fightforourreef.org.au to read the full statement and get involved.

Your Billboard Gets Attention

In April, we asked our supporters to fund a billboard campaign to expose further attempts from mining giant Adani to access our taxes to fund their polluting coal project in central Queensland.

Your powerful billboard was driven around at the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast for five days – grabbing attention wherever it went. The reaction was overwhelmingly supportive, with people cheering as we drove by, and other drivers honking their support!

The world is watching. Around 672,000 people visited the Gold Coast for the Commonwealth Games and 1.5 billion people watched worldwide. Thanks to your support, we were able to shine a spotlight on Adani's Reef wrecking plans on the world stage.

We succeeded in our plan to expose Adani and get the attention of key decision maker and local MP, Minister Steven Ciobo. He was left in no doubt; Australians are against Adani's Reef wrecking mine!



Thank you for your donations. It's because of people like you we can continue to defend our iconic reefs, beautiful oceans and the marine life that depend on them. You are an integral part of the AMCS team, and we'll continue to keep you updated every step of the way.

Glenn Takes Action Locally While Thinking Globally

Over the last year, Glenn Conroy, has joined our Fight for Our Reef team, volunteering at local stalls and spreading the word.

In semi-retirement Glenn decided to volunteer with AMCS to *"take action locally while thinking globally"*. After a 40-year career first in public relations; then trained as a lawyer with a focus on environment law; now a postgraduate in climate change science – Glenn is committed to protecting our environment. He said:

"Nature is everything and I quote Andrew Denton; the environment is not the elephant in the room when you discuss humanity's future – the environment is the room."

Glenn can be found most weekends with our volunteer teams doing *"anything and everything – from wearing a turtle costume, staffing stalls, to door-knocking businesses."*



Glenn Conroy



Volunteer with AMCS

Want to volunteer? Join fellow ocean lovers like Glenn by calling AMCS on 07 3846 6777 or emailing volunteer@amcs.org.au to register your interest to join one of our many volunteer teams.

Taking A Bite Out Of The Bight

The Great Australian Bight is one of the most amazing marine environments on the planet – wild, unpolluted and home to whales, sea lions, sharks and albatross.

But all of this could be at risk if the Australian Government allows drilling for oil and gas.

Offshore and deepwater oil and gas drilling is already dangerous, but the remote and harsh conditions of the Southern Ocean make this a disaster waiting to happen. Apart from impacts of seismic testing and potential oil spills, there are also climate change impacts from extracting more fossil fuels. **Our pristine Southern Ocean and coast is just too special to be put at risk.**

AMCS is proud to be part of the Great Australian Bight Alliance of concerned community groups standing up against dangerous and polluting exploration and drilling for oil and gas.

Following pressure from the Alliance, BP and Chevron abandoned their plans for the Bight, but other big oil and gas corporations are still proposing to drill for oil and gas.



Act now

Please let the Australian Government know you do not want to see oil and gas mining in the Great Australian Bight. Please act now – sign the petition! Visit www.marineconservation.org.au/savethebight to sign.

Keep The Top End Tops!

Australia's Top End is a 'global biodiversity hotspot', with some of the most healthy marine waters in the world.

Our Top End coastline, with over 800 tropical islands, is home to 27 sites of international conservation significance. These include Australia's largest and most diverse mangrove forests, extensive tidal mudflats, seagrass meadows, seabird rookeries, broad coastal floodplains supporting huge waterbird colonies, and globally threatened sea life. **It's a rare beauty on a global scale – and it's right here in our backyard!**

However, our Top End Coasts are under stress. The fishing is amazing, but not as good as it used to be. Mangroves are dying, pollution is damaging the beaches and the threat of seabed mining is looming.

Our Top End Coasts campaign has been gathering momentum and support, but we need you to help keep one of the world's last healthy tropical seas in good shape!



Send a message

Send a message today calling for a plan that will properly protect our Top End's coasts.

Keep Top End Coasts Healthy is an alliance of environment groups. Visit www.topendcoasts.org.au for more information.

Sharks are incredibly important to the health of our oceans.



Game Changer: Sharks & Rays Campaign

Australia is a global hotspot for sharks and rays, with over 300 different shark species calling our waters home.

Sharks are incredibly important to the health of our oceans, but they are under threat.

Fishing is the greatest threat to Australia's sharks, including targeted fishing for their flesh and fins. Sharks and rays are also caught as accidental bycatch and discarded. Sadly, most are badly injured or dead when they are thrown back overboard.

Sharks are particularly vulnerable when it comes to reproducing, they are more like whales and dolphins than other fishes as they are long-lived, slow to mature and breed, and have few young.

AMCS is excited to announce a new campaign partnership coming soon to protect Australia's sharks. We will be working with our friends and colleagues at Humane Society International (HSI) to turn the tide for Australia's sharks and rays and protect them from fishing and lethal shark control programs.

We're looking forward to working on your behalf to protect these misunderstood marine creatures, which are some of the most threatened species on our blue planet.



Did you know?

Australia has over 320 different species of sharks and rays in our waters, of which 70 are unique to Australia!

Hammerheads Need Our Protection

The hammerhead shark's distinctive head is designed for greater agility and panoramic vision. Sadly, due to ongoing population declines these majestic creatures are listed as globally endangered by the IUCN Red List.

Recently the scalloped hammerhead shark has been listed as 'Conservation Dependent' under Australian environmental law.

Shockingly, this means they can still be caught and their meat and fins sold. The largest take of scalloped hammerheads is from the east coast of Queensland in the Great Barrier Marine Park.

The great and smooth hammerhead sharks, although both considered globally endangered, have not yet been given meaningful protection in Australia.

This is a failure of Australian environment laws, and follows the downward trajectory of shark protection over the past few years by the Federal Government. AMCS is continuing to work for better protection of hammerheads on your behalf.

Facts & Figures

COMMON NAME: Hammerhead Sharks

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Sphyrnidae*

TYPE: Shark

DIET: Carnivores (fish, squid, crustaceans)

GROUP NAME: School, shoal

AVERAGE LIFE SPAN IN THE WILD: 20–30 years

SIZE: 3 to 5 metres

WEIGHT: 150kg to 450kg

Sydney's Iconic Blue Backyard Needs Protection

Sydney's beaches, bays and waterways are truly special, and are globally renowned for their beauty above and below the water. Every year over 13 million visitors travel from across the world or interstate to experience its spectacular natural beauty.

The harbour, coasts and oceans are central to Sydney's lifestyle, making it one of the most beautiful and enviable cities in the world. It is globally rare to have a big city so connected to the coast, with relatively healthy waters and natural, wild places remaining.

But Sydney's incredible oceans and marine life are under pressure. Impacts from coastal development, population, fishing pressure, pollution and climate change are mounting, yet less than 1% of Sydney's waters are protected.

Sydney needs a marine park to protect its coast and marine life for generations to come. We've got stunning terrestrial national parks around our harbour and coastline, and thriving marine parks to the north and south, but none around Sydney, where we need it most.

With so much at stake it is crucial to protect our beautiful blue backyard.

Right now, we have an opportunity to protect our incredible coasts and oceans. The NSW Government is poised to make a decision on how to manage our seas from Newcastle to Wollongong. This is our chance to get it right.

A science-based multi-use Marine Park for the Sydney region will secure a healthy blue backyard for people to swim, surf, fish, and for our marine life to replenish and thrive.

Our marine parks team has been busy working on the ground in Sydney this past year, generating a buzz about a Sydney Marine Park. Alongside Sydney's devoted ocean lovers, we've been meeting with Members of Parliament, gaining momentum in key communities and building the business case for a Sydney Marine Park.

It's working! Our decision makers are hearing us loud and clear. More and more members of the NSW Government are coming out in vocal support for a marine park for Sydney. And it's thanks to all the work we've done together – they've heard loud and clear that the community wants a Sydney Marine Park.

We're making progress. Together we can secure a Marine Park for Sydney with a network of marine sanctuaries to protect our blue backyard and coastal lifestyle for generations to come.

 **Sign the Petition**

Help us secure a marine park for Sydney to protect our spectacular blue backyard and coastal lifestyle.

Please sign the petition, visit www.sydneymarinepark.org.au/protectourbluebackyard and sign today!

Cutbacks Threaten Marine Sanctuaries

In November 2012, Australia made history by declaring the world's largest network of marine parks and sanctuaries to protect the most biodiverse waters on the planet.

Shockingly, the Federal Government's new management plans for the parks make massive cutbacks to our historic sanctuary protection.

The Turnbull government plans to cut back an area almost twice the size of Victoria.

This would be the biggest removal of protection for Australian wildlife in history – equivalent to removing every second national park on land. That's 35 million hectares of protected sanctuary that will be stripped from Australia's marine parks if plans released by the government go ahead. The plans downgrade many no-take zones, where activities such as fishing or mining were banned. This re-zoning will (now) allow more destructive industrial fishing and dangerous oil drilling.

Sanctuary zones are vital for the protection of the ocean's rich diversity of life. Our oceans are under pressure more than ever – from climate change, pollution, overfishing and industry. So it's increasingly important to set aside special areas where ecosystems can operate in their natural state.

The scale of these cutbacks is unprecedented globally. These new plans ignore the government's own independent scientific review and public opinion.

AMCS will continue the fight to save our sanctuaries. We cannot allow these cutbacks to harm our fragile marine life, which is already under so much pressure.

Did you know?

Marine parks are an important to help reduce stress on marine ecosystems. They are places where sea life is protected and people can enjoy nature at its best.

Sanctuary zones have been scientifically proven to encourage growth and recovery of stocks of fish and marine life – benefits that flow over into other areas.

They act as an insurance policy, and help us to provide a lasting legacy for future generations.

 **Take action**

Please help us to fight to save our sanctuaries and send a message to your elected representatives, calling on them to fight for stronger sanctuary protection at this critical moment. Please visit www.marineconservation.org.au/fightforsanctuary

“We must fight to stop commercial killing of our whales.”

Whaling Back On The Agenda

The International Whaling Commission (IWC) is the global intergovernmental body charged with the conservation of whales and the management of whaling.

The IWC and its 88 member governments from countries all over the world will hold its biennial commission meeting in Brazil in September this year. This is an important opportunity to help advance protections for whales and protect these gentle giants of the sea.

AMCS will be participating again this year. Darren Kindleysides, our Chief Executive Officer is tasked with attending the IWC to help further the agenda to protect whales not only in Australian waters but globally. Darren has in-depth experience, knowledge and expertise in marine conservation having worked in this field for almost 20 years both in Australia and overseas.

Darren will speak on behalf of you and ocean lovers around Australia to fight for vital changes this year to protect whales.

Whales face a greater number of threats today that at any stage in their past. Climate change, fishing net entanglement, plastic pollution, underwater noise pollution and ship strikes threaten our ocean giants. The last thing they need is a return to industrial scale whaling, but there are a number of countries who want just that.

Alarmingly, Japan, Norway and Iceland are still killing hundreds of whales a year and the Government of Japan is pushing for changes

to the IWC's voting rules that could spell an end to the global ban on whaling. We must fight to stop commercial killing of our whales. AMCS will be fighting against the rule changes and calling for the IWC to close all loopholes that allow countries to kill whales for so-called 'scientific research'.

We will also be supporting the push for a South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary.

There are two whale sanctuaries currently designated by the IWC - the Indian Ocean Sanctuary, established in 1979 which covers the whole of the Indian Ocean and the Southern Ocean Sanctuary around Antarctica, established in 1994.

A proposal for an additional sanctuary in the South Atlantic Ocean has been repeatedly submitted to the IWC since 1998, but always blocked by whaling nations. The Government of Brazil has put forward a new proposal for consideration by the IWC this year. With the meeting being held in Brazil this year, we are hopeful that a South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary will finally become a reality.

 **Please sign now**

Send a message to the Japanese Prime Minister now urging him to stop illegal whaling in a sanctuary created to protect these gentle giants.
www.marineconservation.org.au/nowhaling

Updated Sustainable Seafood Guide Is A Hit!

Australia's Sustainable Seafood Guide was developed in response to growing public concern about overfishing and its impact on our oceans and wildlife.

It is designed to help Australians make informed seafood choices and turn the tide towards sustainable seafood. It is the only independent sustainable seafood guide in Australia.

Based on the best available fisheries data and consultation with scientists, government and industry, we have just released the latest updates. The Guide provides a simple traffic light system to the sustainability of seafood: green-rated species are a 'Better Choice', amber 'Eat Less', and red 'Say No'.

We can lessen our impact on our oceans by choosing our seafood wisely. The new updated Australia's Sustainable Seafood Guide is helping seafood lovers make better informed choices about our most popular seafood.



 **Download today**

Visit www.sustainableseafood.org.au to download your free App for Android and iPhone. If you've already got the App, be sure to update it today!

The Good Fish Project

Every day, more and more diners are conscious of where their fish is from and how it was caught or farmed.

AMCS will soon be launching The Good Fish Project, a national restaurant program to help restaurants source and serve sustainable seafood.

Australia's restaurant and catering industry has a huge influence on what we eat. By serving truly sustainable seafood, industry professionals can make a real difference to the way Australia manages our oceans.

Healthy oceans with abundant fish stocks are in the interests of fishers, seafood lovers and our marine life, so we can all enjoy fantastic local seafood for generations to come.

This national program will connect the Australian public with restaurants committed to sourcing and serving sustainable seafood when eating out. Watch this space!

 **Make a difference**

Do you own or know a restaurant who wants to sign on? Visit www.goodfishproject.com.au to learn more

Climate Change Recognised As A Threat

Bahrain is not the first place you'd think AMCS would go to protect the Great Barrier Reef. But we will go anywhere to protect our amazing World Heritage jewel.

This year the World Heritage Committee (WHC) met for two weeks in late June, in Manama, Bahrain. Over 150 countries attended the meeting. This was an amazing opportunity for us to speak up and present our concerns with vital key decision makers.

Our focus was to increase awareness amongst WHC delegates that climate change poses a huge threat to the conservation of many World Heritage properties, especially coral reefs.

Climate change is the greatest threat to our Great Barrier Reef, and is becoming the dominant threat to natural World Heritage sites. It is also one of the fastest growing threats to cultural heritage sites.

Fight For Our Reef Campaign Director, Imogen Zethoven AO, led the charge for AMCS with two fellow experts: Jon Day, a World Heritage policy expert and former director at the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority; and Dr Scott Heron, a physical oceanographer who works for the Coral Watch Program of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Imogen explains her mission, "We had two goals. Firstly, to get an amendment to a draft decision on climate change being considered by the Committee, to ensure a new climate change policy is completed and put before the Committee at its next meeting in 12 months' time.

Secondly, to promote a new concept which we have called a Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI). Essentially, this is a rapid assessment tool to determine the vulnerability of every World Heritage site. Once a site is determined to be extremely vulnerable, the Committee may decide to place a site on the In Danger list."

Between our three representatives, they spoke to every country delegation on the Committee about the climate change amendment. On the last full day of the meeting, the amendment was passed! **The team also gave many briefings to delegates from about 20 countries on the CVI.**

These are great steps forward in advancing the recognition of climate change, but as Imogen says, "In the year ahead, there is much work to do to trial the CVI in various countries and to embed the concept in the new Climate Change policy. **What is very clear is that our Great Barrier Reef is extremely vulnerable to climate change. This should give tremendous impetus for countries such as Australia to drastically reduce carbon pollution, switch to renewables and give our Reef a fighting chance in the future."**

Thank you

With thanks to your support, we were able to send a team of respected experts in their field to the World Heritage Committee meeting to represent a needed voice for our oceans. Their voice, your voice, was heard – and we have made great strides in working towards a clean, sustainable future.

Seal Of Approval

Australian sea lions in Western Australia are safer today – thanks to your support!

Australian sea lions are unique to our waters, but sadly their numbers are in decline. As a result, the species is likely to be listed as endangered under Australian environment laws.

A key factor to the declining population in Western Australia has been the use of gillnets, set to catch fish, in waters surrounding many of their colonies. These invisible walls of death entangle and drown vulnerable sea lions. These nets need to be moved away from the homes and foraging grounds of these beautiful creatures.

After a long campaign, we're thrilled to announce that in late June the Western Australian Government established exclusion zones, which prohibit the use of gillnets by fishing operations in areas near established sea lion colonies.

Tooni Mahto, our Marine Campaign Manager said "The Australian public expects that their seafood does not come at the expense of endangered ocean wildlife. Most Australians would want to know that their fish and chips don't cause the deaths of our unique Australian sea lions."

These net free zones will offer better protection for Australian sea lions over 17,000kms² of their range in Western Australia. This is a massive win

for the sea lions in Western Australia. It would not have been possible without your support.

As Tooni reports, **"These closures are necessary to have any hope of recovering Australian sea lions from the brink of extinction."**

We look forward to continuing to work with the WA Government over the next three years to ensure that greater monitoring and management measures are implemented in the fishery to help understand the full impact of fishing on this important species. We need to ensure that every effort is being made to help recover Australian sea lion populations in WA".

Did you know?

Australian sea lions are listed as Vulnerable to extinction.

There are only 10,000 – 12,000 Australian sea lions left in the wild.

The majority occur in South Australia with only 2,000 living in the waters off Western Australia.

A Win Thanks To You

Thank you to all our supporters who signed petitions and donated to this cause. We couldn't do it without you!

Bernard Fanning, Musician And AMCS Sea Guardian

Bernard Fanning, Musician and former Powderfinger frontman, has been an AMCS Sea Guardian and vocal supporter since 2003.

"What compares to staring out at the ocean and wondering at its magnificence? How many stories, songs, puzzles does it contain? If you believe those pesky scientists, we came from the sea. It's programmed into our very deepest beings, which is why I think most of us feel so connected to it.

Taking care of the oceans is critical to the future health of both our planet and species and is essential if we want future generations to enjoy its wonder.

That's why the AMCS is such an important organization and deserves our support."

Sea Guardians like Bernard are the lifeblood of AMCS. Their monthly support has enormous impact for our oceans, helping us plan for the long term and run strategic, effective conservation campaigns. Bernard reminds us that conservation is good for humanity and the planet.



Bernard Fanning

 **Want to be a part of it?**

Become an AMCS Sea Guardian today with an affordable monthly gift. Visit www.marineconservation.org.au/guardian

Win A Trip To Lady Elliot Island

Congratulations to all of our Sea Guardians – you are in the running! As a thank you for your amazing support, we have launched an exclusive competition for AMCS Sea Guardians.

Thanks to our incredible business supporters, including our major sponsor Diveplanit, we are giving away a two-person holiday to beautiful Lady Elliot Island, and a bunch of other great prizes. Sea Guardians are the lifeblood of AMCS and as a small thanks for your support, all current Sea Guardians have automatically been entered into our competition*.

Sign up as a Sea Guardian now to be in the running. This exciting opportunity is open to all new Sea Guardians who sign up before October 31st 2018 with a generous donation of \$20 per month. If you've been thinking about becoming a regular giver, now is the perfect opportunity to sign up.

Want more entries? Any Sea Guardian who increases their donation amount by at least \$10 or refers a friend to our program before October 31st 2018 will receive an additional entry.

 **Enter Today**

To enter, sign up today to become a Sea Guardian, visit www.marineconservation.org.au/seaguardian

*Please visit www.marineconservation.org.au/seaguardiancompetition for full terms and conditions.



Shalise Leesfield

Pint-Sized Eco-Warrior Making Big Waves

Shalise, an 11-year-old eco-warrior from Port Macquarie, recently contacted us with her inspiring story of what one person can do.

"I love dolphins and marine life and when I found out how bad forgotten fishing line can be for the animals I wanted to become a voice for them," Shalise said.

Shalise spent her weekends collecting, documenting and cleaning up discarded fishing line from the waterways and foreshore. She gave her reports and photos to the Port Macquarie Council in April last year, asking for approval to install fishing line collection bins. Her local Council listened and approved her request!

Since the installation of two fishing line collection bins, Shalise says there has been a dramatic reduction in fishing line left in the water. *"I empty the fishing line bins every week and on average I collect three or four handfuls of fishing line each time. This also means that when I check the shore lines there is less and less fishing line I can see which is really awesome,"* she said. We think you're AMAZING, Shalise!

 **Get in touch**

We'd love to hear about what you or someone you know is doing to help protect our oceans.

Tell us your story via email amcs@amcs.org.au or send a letter to AMCS PO Box 5815, West End QLD 4101.



World Turtle Day Action

World Turtle Day is celebrated around the globe each year on May 23rd. It aims to raise awareness of the plight of turtles and tortoises, and encourage action to help them survive and thrive.

This year AMCS Fight for our Reef volunteers took action and held small rally in front of Anthony Lynham's (Minister for State Development, Natural Resources and Mines) office calling for our government to act on climate change and save our turtles. They highlighted our federal and state governments' legal and moral responsibility to protect our Great Barrier Reef and its turtles.

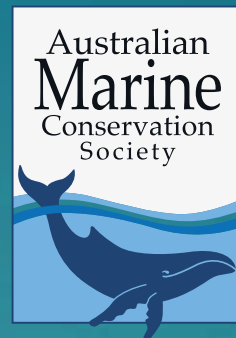
A team of volunteers also held an information stall in the bustling Brisbane City Queen St Mall to further spread the word. Our team spoke to the community about the alarming impacts of rising temperatures on our sea turtles and the need for rapid action on climate change.

It was a great day as we stood together to show that we as community care about our turtles, Reef and climate.

 **Thank you**

Thank you to our volunteers who helped us celebrate World Turtle Day by helping raise awareness and action to help protect turtles. And thank you to all who take action to protect these beautiful creatures. We can't imagine a world without them.

Thank you for your support



The Australian Marine Conservation Society is the voice for Australia's ocean wildlife. We have defended Australia's oceans for over 50 years. Thank you for your help to ensure Australia's coasts and oceans remain healthy and free for tomorrow's generations.



Stay in touch

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