

Winter 2019



VOLUME 20/2

Turning THE TIDE

Supporter Newsletter

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Little But Mighty

The Adélie penguin (*Pygoscelis adeliae*) is the **smallest species of penguin in the Antarctic.**

Adélie penguins are one of only five penguin species that live on the Antarctic continent, and are relatively abundant. Breeding all around the Antarctic coastline in warmer months, these little penguins head out to sea in the pack ice during winter. Antarctica is their only home on our little blue planet.

The Adélie may look cute in their little tuxedos and perhaps a bit clumsy on land – but these birds are determined. They’ve been known to take on potential predators such as – seals and or large seabirds – and even attack visiting scientific researchers.

Did You Know?

They’re Love Birds.

Male Adélie penguins build nest of small stones to attract a female. To build the biggest and best nest that attracts a partner they collect small rocks from the surrounding areas. If they think their nest is lacking rocks, the cheeky little Adélie will steal rocks from their neighbours’ nests. All is fair in love and war. And stones.



On the Cover: Adélie Penguins, Paulet Island Antarctica

Facts & Figures

COMMON NAME: Adélie penguin

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Pygoscelis adeliae*

DIET: Mainly Krill and Fish

COLLECTIVE NOUN: Colony

AVERAGE LIFESPAN IN THE WILD: 11 to 20 years

SIZE (ADULT): 3.6 to 6.0 kg

HEIGHT: 46 to 71 cm

CONSERVATION STATUS: Near Threatened

On land, Adélies have an average walking (or waddling) speed of about 2.5 km/h, but at sea, these little torpedoes average 4-8 km/h, reaching 15 km/h when hunting, or fleeing from predators. During breeding season, they have been recorded travelling up to 450 km away from their nests to collect food for their young.

Adélie penguins breed from October to February around the Antarctic continent. Each couple has two eggs which are incubated for 32 to 34 days by the parents. The chicks will remain in the nest for about three weeks before joining crèches with other Adélie chicks from the colony.

The biggest threat to Adélie penguins right now is a heating climate, which is melting essential sea ice on which these penguins rely. Without sea ice and krill, which shelters in the ice and on which penguins feed, Adélie penguins will starve.

“Did you know world-wide the equivalent of one rubbish truck worth of plastic rubbish is dumped into our oceans every minute?”

No Excuse For Single Use!

From the Top End to Tassie, we all want clean, healthy oceans full of life.

Yet every day, harmful plastic pollution flows into our oceans at an alarming rate, entangling and suffocating our turtles, dolphins and whales.

As stewards of the richest and most beautiful seas on earth, Australia should be leaders in stopping plastic pollution at the source.

By stopping it at the source we put the brakes on plastic production, so let’s start with a national ban on single-use plastics. Our rivers, oceans and beaches can once again be clean, healthy, and free of plastic pollution.

On average, Australians use 53 kilograms of plastic a year and generate a collective total of more than 300 million tonnes of plastic pollution. By 2030, this is predicted to double.

We’ve seen great success with Australia’s voluntary plastic bag ban, achieving an 80% drop in plastic bag consumption. That’s 1.5 billion fewer plastic bags!

In March Hobart’s single-use plastic ban was an Australian first. In April the nation’s capital announced it would phase out single-use plastic. And the South Australian Government is now looking at a single-use plastic ban.

With thanks to your support we’ve made tracks at the recent election, with strong

national recycling commitments secured from the new Federal Government.

But we need a national approach! We need the Australian Government to commit to a nationwide ban on single-use plastics to turn this toxic plastic tide!

Plastic Free July

Did you know that each day over 250 marine animals choke to death on the plastic polluting our oceans?

Let’s do something about it. Every time you and I refuse to use a piece of plastic it is one small victory for our marine life. Together, we can make the daily choice to ditch plastic.

Last year over 5,500 concerned ocean lovers joined us for Plastic Free July. This year we’re aiming to double it to over 10,000 plastic free participants! There’s still time to join the movement.

Join us in the challenge and ‘Choose to Refuse’ single-use plastic with us this July.

Sign Up Today!

Will you take the Plastic Free July pledge to stop plastic pollution? Please visit amcs.org.au/PFJ



Battle Of The Billboards



Thanks to your generous donation, our billboard (main picture) went up next to Adani's billboard (inset).

Earlier this year, the Adani Group company launched a massive advertising offensive, with billboards in key Brisbane City locations to sway public opinion and strong arm our governments into approving their Reef-wrecking Carmichael mega-mine.

Thanks to wonderful Reef lovers like you, our billboard stood loud and proud right next to Adani's! **Over 18,400 people saw your Fight For Our Reef message over 14 days.**

Heartfelt thanks to those who generously donated to keep Adani's advertising offensive in check. You stood up to Adani Group at a critical moment.

As we go to print, Adani has just had its final 'environmental' approval given, but a court case against it has just been won. We'll keep you updated in the weeks and months ahead.

We will never give up fighting for our Great Barrier Reef. Our Reef needs clean energy - not dirty fossil fuels which are driving up temperatures in our oceans.

You Made This Possible!

Thank you for standing up for our precious and beautiful Great Barrier Reef. We will never give up.

Cairns Climate Election Team

Our Far North Queensland *Fight For Our Reef* team had more than 80 volunteers committed to taking on-ground action in the lead up to the recent federal election.

To make our Reef and climate a key election issue, we joined forces with the *Cairns and Far North Environment Centre*. The team knocked on over 3,000 doors to have meaningful conversations with Cairns locals about our Great Barrier Reef. On Election Day the team handed out thousands of scorecards comparing the parties' Reef and climate policies.

Thanks to the tireless work of our on-ground volunteers and our work with the Reef tourism industry, the natural environment ranked as a top issue to the Cairns community in pre-election polling.



Our gratitude and thanks to our hard working volunteers who have made a huge difference and put our Reef and climate at the centre of the election campaign.

Thank you to our donors! You armed our doorknockers with information, placards, flyers and yard signs.



Cleaning Up Reef Water

The Great Barrier Reef is one of the world's most beautiful and biologically rich ecosystems, but it's under threat.

Our Reef needs to be strong in the face of warming oceans but it is being weakened by sediment and chemical pollution. Agricultural runoff is a major threat to our inshore coral reefs and seagrass meadows.

We are working tirelessly to stop agricultural and industrial pollution. This will give our Great Barrier Reef the clean water it needs to restore its health.

It has been a long campaign to clean up Great Barrier Reef waters, but a breakthrough is in sight. The Queensland Government has proposed new regulations that will apply to farming, urban and industrial activities within Reef catchments to ensure they meet minimum pollution standards.

Thank you for supporting our *Fight For Our Reef* campaign and helping us get this far. This is a real chance to clean up chemical pollution and create safe practices to give our beautiful Reef a break.

Get Terry the Turtle Home

Let's clean up the Reef and get Terry home. Watch Ginny & Terry's video at amcs.org.au/TerryTurtle

Renewables for our Reef

Summer is now over and we can breathe a sigh of relief for our corals for another year.

It's been two years since the deadly bleaching events on the Great Barrier Reef in 2016 and 2017.

Fortunately, the southern third of the Reef was not bleached in 2016 and 2017, but it has suffered from an intense outbreak of coral-eating Crown-of-Thorns starfish.

While the news is grim, we should remember that there are 3,000 coral reefs in our Great Barrier Reef and many are still beautiful and teeming with life.

The state of Western Australia's coral reefs is also of great concern. More than half have been severely impacted by coral bleaching since 2010, and average coral cover is currently at (or near) its lowest on record.

Coral reefs are the front line of climate change.

To survive they need us to make urgent and drastic reductions in carbon pollution and switch rapidly to renewable energy.

Climate Action

To protect our precious coral reefs, the Australian government must move to 100% renewable energy by 2030 and transition coal-dependent communities to a zero net emissions future. We can and must do it!

Please visit fightforourreef.org.au

Shark Summit

With thanks to your support, earlier this year we held a summit devoted to shark conservation.

Our Shark Summit co-hosted with Humane Society International, provided a unique opportunity for researchers, conservationists, legislators and the community to identify shared solutions to protect Australia's sharks.

Over two days of discussions we developed potential strategies that Australia can employ to address the major conservation issues of overfishing and culling that threaten Australian sharks.

The Shark Summit's key event was an entertaining and thought provoking panel discussing the media's role in portraying sharks. Solutions derived from the summit will be released in a formal report, and used as guiding document to push for critical conservation priorities for our precious sharks.

Take Action

Please join us in urging the Queensland Premier to remove industrial-sized gillnets from our Great Barrier Reef. These nets can be over 1-kilometre-long and kill endangered hammerheads in their thousands. Sign today! Visit amcs.org.au/SharkGillnet

Sustainable Seafood

Australia's oceans are some of the richest and most diverse on our blue planet.

We have over half the world's species of dolphins and whales, six of the world's seven turtles and almost a quarter of the planet's diversity of fish.

But did you know that commercial fishing is the most immediate threat to many of our endangered marine animals?

The good news is that we can lessen our impact on our oceans by choosing our seafood wisely. The fish we choose directly affects the health of our oceans.

Created with your support, Australia's Sustainable Seafood Guide is an independent tool to choosing seafood wisely.

The Guide is Australia's most used and trusted resource for ocean lovers looking for a responsible seafood choice.

Did you know?

There simply aren't plenty more fish in the sea. Over three-quarters of our global fish stocks are either over-exploited or fished to their limit.

Get Yours Today: AMCS' Australia's Sustainable Seafood Guide is free and available online or in app on IOS and Android. Visit sustainableseafood.org.au

Good Fish Launched



Chefs from more than 50 leading restaurants across Australia have joined our Good Fish Project.

These wonderful Good Fish partners have pledged to no longer serve unsustainable seafood.

The Good Fish Project launched in April and aims to build a community of chefs, restaurateurs, fishers and fishmongers who are championing sustainable seafood and fisheries around Australia.

Participating restaurants have agreed not to source or serve seafood that is red-listed as "Say No" in Australia's Sustainable Seafood Guide.

Good Fish chefs are sending a very clear message. This community does not want to support practices that are damaging our oceans and putting the long-term sustainability of our food and seas at risk. Instead, they want to be able to celebrate great seafood that's sustainable.

Sign Up

Are you a restaurant, fishmonger, chef or fisher that wants to be part of the change? Get Involved today by visiting amcs.org.au/goodfishproject

Follow

Stay up to date and follow Good Fish Project on Facebook and Instagram.

[f](#) [@](#) [goodfishproject](#)

Good Fish Ambassador

World-renowned chef Ben Shewry, pictured joins AMCS in fight for the oceans.

Growing up in coastal New Zealand, Ben, developed a unique respect for the ocean and has maintained a strong relationship with it.

Ben said he was "*absolutely thrilled and honoured*" to be asked to be the Good Fish ambassador, having first started using *Australia's Sustainable Seafood Guide* some 10 years ago to guide his seafood choices.

Ben Shewry's restaurant Attica is now ranked 20th best on the planet, and has become known for its unique relationship with the natural world, and its rule-breaking approach to food.

Ben holds a deep understanding of the ingredient he works with, where it is from and who it belongs to. This extends to his food sourced from the sea. Ben's commitment to the Good Fish Project is a product of this care. He is passionate about environmental stewardship and believes deeply in his work's positive impact.

At Attica, the team has committed to only serve *Australia's Sustainable Seafood Guide* green-listed species.



“Australia’s global leadership on whale conservation will be tested as Japanese hunters resume commercial whaling”

Battle Won! But The War On Whaling Continues

For the first time in more than 100 years, the Southern Ocean’s whales are free from hunting.

With thanks to your dedication and support, our battle to remove the Japanese Whaling Fleet from our Southern Ocean waters has been won!

In 1904, Norway set up an Antarctic whaling station. Every summer since before the second world war, Japanese whalers have been heading south, joining dozens of factory ships from Britain and the United States. The only temporary reprieve whales had from the hunt since then was during the second world war.

So we shouldn’t underestimate what a historic decision this was, both for Japan and for the whales of the Southern Ocean around Antarctica.

But we can’t allow ourselves or our government to think that the war on whales has been won.

Japan’s war on whales isn’t over – the Australian government must keep fighting.

Japan’s whaling fleet arrived back at the port of Shimonoseki in April, with a barbaric tally of 333 dead whales that no longer swim freely in the Southern Ocean.

If the work of the Japanese whalers is anything like last year, more than 100 pregnant females and 50 or so juveniles will

have been killed. But from now on, things will be different.

Japan’s announcement last Boxing Day that it would be leaving the International Whaling Commission (IWC) means those whalers will likely never return to the Southern Ocean. Now they will only hunt whales in their own waters.

This month Japan headed back out to sea to kill whales in its own waters – their first commercial whaling in 30 years.

What impact this will have on these migratory species isn’t clear but the cruelty of killing our ocean giants is beyond dispute.

Just because it’s happening in a different hemisphere, doesn’t mean it’s not our problem. Australia’s position as a global leader on whale conservation now faces a stern, new test.

The Australian government needs to be clear that whoever is killing whales will be called to account. **Japan may have left the IWC but it can’t escape its international responsibility to conserve whale populations.**

Japan’s reputation has been damaged by leaving the world body that was set up to ensure the conservation and management of the world’s whales.

Japan says it will hunt whales in line with IWC methods for calculating catch limits “to avoid negative impact on cetacean resources”. But

the reality is that Japan’s interest in whale conservation is insincere. In the past 15 years Japan has blocked and opposed countless conservation measures.

Australia has played a leading role in driving the IWC’s conservation agenda. When Australian ministers arrive at these meetings, they are treated like rock stars. It is a deserved accolade for years of the hard yards leading the fight against whaling. Australia took Japan and the fakery of its “scientific whaling” program to the UN’s international court of justice in 2014 – and won. At the most recent IWC meeting, Australia was again on the front foot blocking Japan’s attempts to rewrite the IWC’s voting rules and end the 33-year-long ban on commercial whaling.

But now Australia must make sure the IWC becomes an organisation that finds a way to protect whales from all the other threats they face.

These include a rise in global shipping, which puts more whales at risk of being struck and makes the oceans noisier; an estimated 300,000 cetaceans die accidentally every year after being caught in commercial fishing gear. In addition, the boom in offshore oil and gas exploration is exposing whales to the disorientating sonic booms of seismic explorations.

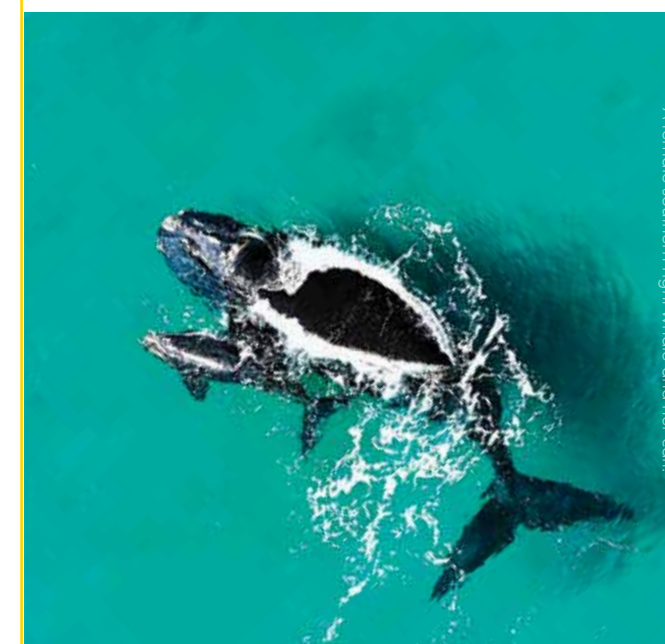
Now is the time to push these efforts to greater levels, because the urgency is ever greater. And that starts with our government rising to challenge Japan’s return to commercial whaling. Australians expect the government to step up once again.

With your support we will continue to wage this battle to protect our whales around the world.

 **Sign The Petition**

Will you help send a message to the Japanese Prime Minister calling for an end to Whaling?

amcs.org.au/StopWhaling



A female southern right whale and her calf



Great Sandy Steps

We have a once in a decade opportunity to protect the Great Sandy Strait.

The Great Sandy Strait is rich with shorebirds, whales and dugongs. Nestled between Fraser Island and the mainland in South east Queensland, it's a UNESCO recognised biosphere, and one of the largest globally important wetland sites in the world.

We have to act fast, because this marine park is under review right now. With less than 4% of the area protected in sanctuaries, we can't ignore the imbalance any longer. Commercial fishing in these critical habitats is killing threatened species and must be stopped. Gillnets up to a kilometre long can be set to catch fish but drown dugongs, turtles and dolphins.

Our marine parks should be safe havens where marine life can thrive and we can enjoy our beautiful healthy oceans. Our Great Sandy must protect our sea turtles, dugongs, and critically endangered grey nurse sharks - and the habitats critical to their survival.

There's work to be done in this review process, but together we can deliver new marine sanctuaries and protect our amazing wildlife from destructive gillnets.

Thank You

Thousands of Queenslanders stood up and called for the protection of the Great Sandy Marine Park in the first stage of its review. Thank You! Together we can protect the Great Sandy - take action today amcs.org.au/GreatSandy

A Top End First

The Northern Territory's first-ever plan to safeguard its coasts and seas will be released any day now!

The Top End has some of the last healthy tropical waters on our blue planet. Rich with mangroves, coral reefs and seagrasses, the Top End is home to turtles, dugongs, snubfin dolphins and huge schools of reef fish.

But the health of the Territory's coast is under stress. The fishing is not as good as it used to be. Mangroves - which are critical blue carbon sinks that absorb carbon pollution - are being destroyed. Pollution is damaging our beaches, and the threat of seabed mining looms large. But we're making progress! And it's all thanks to people like you.

The proposed Northern Territory Coastal and Marine Management Strategy comes at just the right time, marking the turning tide to secure the unique cultural, conservation and fishing values of the Top End's coast.

While the Coastal Strategy is a great first step, we need to ensure that the Northern Territory government puts the plan into action and delivers for our community, coasts, and Top End lifestyle.

Thank You

We're making momentum because of you and active, engaged ocean lovers and volunteers. Every day your involvement is helping to safeguard our Top End coasts and lifestyle. Learn more at topendcoasts.org.au

Together we are the voice for our oceans

The First 100 Days

Together we are the voice for our oceans - the voice for our Great Barrier Reef, sea turtles, sharks and whales.

In what was tipped to be an election decided on climate policies, the Coalition was returned to government in May. While their election policy commitments fall well short of what's needed to save our oceans from this climate emergency, we can seize the momentum to make sure the new government does what it takes to protect our oceans and climate.

Environmentally, economically and ethically we know that we can't give up on this crisis heating our oceans.

Ocean lovers like you around Australia have told us that you believe in our vision of healthy oceans and will stand up and protect the sea animals and places we love.

Now more than ever we must stand together to address the urgency of the climate crisis to protect our oceans and marine life.

On your behalf, we are urging the new Australian government to make stronger commitments in their first 100 days to protect our big blue backyard.

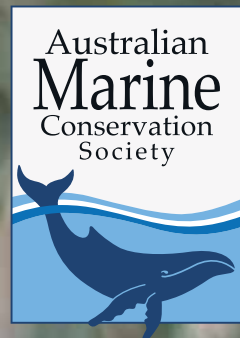
At the outset, I've written to the Prime Minister urging him to:

1. Protect our Reefs and oceans from devastating ocean warming by committing to rapid action to tackle Australia's contribution to climate change.
2. Clean up water pollution of our Great Barrier Reef.
3. Invest in Australia's national network of marine parks as an insurance policy to ensure the long term protection of our oceans.
4. Protect marine life from unsustainable fishing impacts by acting to stop the catch of threatened species like dolphins, dugongs and sharks in fishing nets.
5. Tackle the tide of plastic pollution that is inflicting a huge toll on our marine life by committing to phase out single use plastics by 2023.
6. Reform environmental laws and agencies to stem the biodiversity crisis and better protect the places and wildlife we love.

We have an incredible community around us, and we can take heart in the progress we've achieved together. From coast to coast, people are rising for our oceans every day.

With your support we will lead the way for greater protections for our reefs and precious marine wildlife. Our oceans need us now more than ever.





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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