

Spring 2020 VOLUME 21

### **CREATURE FEATURE**

# Manta Rays

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**Creature Feature** 

Protecting amazing sea life thanks to you...

<sup>6</sup>This is the only known pink manta ray in the world.9

### **Majestic Manta Rays**

#### Manta rays are the largest rays in the world.

These majestic sea creatures live in tropical, subtropical and temperate ocean waters across our blue planet.

There are two distinct species: the reef manta ray and the giant oceanic manta ray. Recent genetic evidence shows that they belong to the Devilray family 'Mobulidae'. Mobula consists of eight species globally, five of which call our Great Barrier Reef home.

"Manta" means blanket or cloak in Spanish, describing their large, flat, diamond-shaped bodies. But these giants are no wet blankets - they perform stunning acrobatic displays of loop-de-loops in the water when feeding on plumes of plankton. They also leap up to 2 metres from the sea's surface and fly through the air for several seconds.

Globally, manta rays are classified as vulnerable by the IUCN. Their greatest threat is overfishing. In Australia they are a threatened species due to accidental capture in commercial gillnets and shark nets.

#### **Fun Fact:**

Manta rays have the largest brainto-size ratio of any cold-blooded fish. Studies show that manta rays may recognise themselves in the mirror an ability indicative of high cognitive function also shown by dolphins, primates and elephants!

#### Australia's Unique Pink Manta Ray

The pink manta ray, pictured on the cover and above, is the only known pink manta ray in the world.

Reef mantas typically come in three colour patterns: All-black, all-white, or black-and-white. Fondly known as *Inspector Clouseau* (from the Pink Panther) this pink manta is rarely seen, but known to cruise the tropical waters around Lady Elliot Island in the Great Barrier Reef. Scientists with Project Manta, an Australian

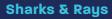
research group, suspect that the pink rosy complexion is a genetic mutation in the pigment of its skin.

#### Facts & Figures

COMMON NAME: Manta Rays SCIENTIFIC NAME: Mobula spp. TYPE: Fish **DIET:** Zooplankton and krill AVERAGE LIFESPAN: up to 50 years SIZE: Wingspan up to 9 metres IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Vulnerable

#### F Did You Know?

All rays, including manta rays, stingrays and skates, are thought to have evolved from sharks.





### **Sharks and Rays Thank You**

#### Did you know that rays are close cousins of sharks?

Though their mouths and gills are located on the underside of their bodies, rays have the same cartilage skeletons as sharks and share many of the same sensory features.

Australia is a shark and ray hotspot - home to 322 different species. Australia's rays are particularly unique, with over two thirds of our 125 species found nowhere else but in our waters.

Our unique sharks and rays around Australia are under threat from fishing, lethal shark control, habitat loss and pollution.

#### Thank you to all of our Shark Champions for supporting our work to fight for legal protection for sharks and rays, especially for those fragile species most impacted.

Visit sharkchampions.org.au today to help take action for our magnificent and misunderstood sharks and rays.

#### Aussie Battlers

Watch our new "Aussie Battlers" animated video to introduce our little known, auirky and unique threatened sharks and rays. We think you'll fall in love with these wonderful characters just like we have.

Watch at amcs.org.au/AussieBattlers

Together we're defending our sharks and rays...

#### **Nets Out** Now

#### Shark Champions spell out "Nets Out Now" with surfboards on the sand.

Following four whale entanglements including a mother and her calf - at the beginning of the whale migration season, our Shark Champions alliance is calling on the Queensland government to remove shark nets. Nets are both ineffective at keeping bathers safe, and invisible curtains of death that catch and drown treasured wildlife like

turtles, dolphins and whales. Marine scientists and campaigners led a phone blitz on Queensland MPs and attracted media with our "Nets Out Now"

beach action, in a coordinated campaign calling on the Queensland Government to replace the nets at southern Queensland beaches with drone surveillance and SMART drumlines during whale migration season.

We urge the Queensland Government to do the right thing to allow whales to freely migrate through Queensland waters.

\*At time of printing this article a decision was pending with the government.

#### Watch: Stressed Out Sharks

Did you know that sharks experience stress? Watch Dr Leonardo Guida's webinar about the shark stress response to being caught and what this means for their survival, reproduction and sustainable fisheries.

Watch at amcs.org.au/StressedSharks



### Whaling Win

#### Good news for whales this year. Iceland has cancelled their 2020 whaling season!

Iceland is one of only three countries (including Norway and Japan) that still practices commercial whaling, so this cancellation for a second year in a row is not only great news, it is further evidence of the decline of the whaling industry.

Iceland's two whaling companies skipped the whale hunt this European summer, with one stating that they were hanging up their harpoons for good.

Unfortunately the global fight is not over, with Japan – the main market for whale meat consumption - withdrawing from the International Whaling Commission in 2019 and resuming commercial whaling in their own waters for the first time in 31 years.

AMCS continues to call on strong international pressure to protect whales from commercial whaling by Japan, Norway and Iceland.



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The International Whaling Commission (IWC) was due to meet in September 2020, but due to COVID-19 restrictions has been postponed for a year.

Together we are a powerful voice for whales in Australian waters and on the international stage. Our work continues, fighting for sanctuaries for our whales and against Japanese commercial whaling.

### **Nature Law** Not Fit

#### Australia's environment law is failing our unique and precious wildlife and the places we love.

The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) is undergoing a statutory 10-year review, at the same time as Australia faces an extinction crisis in our oceans and on land.

The interim report delivered in July was a scathing assessment of the failure of our national law to protect and conserve our environment.

It's a chance for the Australian government to turn our ship around and strengthen our most important environment law.

But instead the government is focusing on introducing legislation that devolves environmental assessment and approval powers to the states before the review is even complete.

AMCS is a member of the Places You Love alliance. We will be working to improve environmental law in Australia to meet the challenges of the climate and extinction crises.

#### Thank You

Thank you for adding your support to the review process this year – our collective voice helps better protect our threatened marine life.

## **Australian Humpback Dolphin**

#### Everyone knows the iconic humpback whale but have you heard of a humpback dolphin?

There are four recognised species of humpback dolphins across the globe, including our very own Australian humpback dolphin.

Australian humpback dolphins are native to Australia and Papua New Guinea. They are a northern Australian dolphin, with resident populations from Moreton Bay, Queensland to the tropical waters of Shark Bay, Western Australia. They prefer inshore waters less than 20 metres deep in estuarine and coastal regions.

Despite their common name, Australian humpback dolphins don't have a distinctive hump on their backs like their relatives in the Atlantic, Indian Ocean and Indo-Pacific.

Humpback dolphins usually occur in small groups of 2-6 individuals. They have strong mother and calf bonds, lasting up to four years.

The Australian Humpback Dolphin is listed as vulnerable in Queensland due to their small population sizes and low population growth rates, as well as habitat destruction and incidental drowning in shark control programs and some fisheries.

Shark nets and commercial fishing such as gillnets pose a significant threat to dolphins. These types of nets are invisible to dolphins, which become entangled, trapped and drowned.

It is increasingly reported that chemicals, plastic waste and bacterial pollution from sewage waste are also harming our beloved dolphins.

Protecting our precious ocean wildlife...

Facts & Figures COMMON NAME: Australian Humpback Dolphin SCIENTIFIC NAME: Sousa sahulensis TYPE: Mammal AVERAGE LIFESPAN: Unknown SIZE: up 2.7 metres and 260–280kg DIET: Fish, prawns, molluscs, crabs, sauids and octopus HABBITAT: Shallow estuarine and coastal regions IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Vulnerable

#### **Fun Fact:**

A rare hybrid between an Australian humpback dolphin and an Australian snubfin dolphin was recently discovered in Western Australia.

#### 🗭 Did You Know?

Australia has 15 species of dolphins and one species of porpoise. They are all protected under law. Some of them, such as bottlenose dolphins, are relatively common but others are vulnerable to extinction, such as our snubfin and Australian humpback dolphins.



#### Marine Parks & Sanctuaries



#### East Antarctic Agenda

#### Australia can be proud of our history safeguarding Antarctica and the Southern Ocean.

We were instrumental in the creation of the Antarctic Treaty in 1959. And in 1989 Australia and France led a mighty diplomatic feat that resulted in banning mining in the Antarctic.

Backed by ocean lovers like you, Australia took the lead last year in the push to create the East Antarctic Marine Park. Standing with France and the European Union our country is calling for an East Antarctic Marine Park.

We must protect our Antarctic wilderness and vulnerable penguins and whales. Antarctic marine life is increasingly under threat from Industrial fishing and rising temperatures.

A critical decision is about to be made. CCAMLR (the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources) nations are deciding whether they will consider the proposal at this year's Commission meeting. We will keep you updated as the news unfolds.

#### ) Watch: Our Antarctic Legacy

### Tim Jarvis: Protecting Australia's Antarctic Legacy

Right now Australia is leading the charge for an East Antarctic Marine Park. Join Aussie Antarctic explorer Tim Jarvis and AMCS CEO Darren Kindleysides to learn more about our Antarctic legacy and how you can help. Watch at amcs.org.au/TimJarvis

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### Protecting Ningaloo

## Ningaloo Reef and Exmouth Gulf are a unique and special part of the world.

That's why it's such a concern that a multinational oil and gas company – Subsea 7 – wants to industrialise this place.

To see why this rare beauty deserves saving from industrialisation, our Protect Ningaloo team has been busy showcasing the amazing Ningaloo waters. Watch:

- Killer Whales with Dr Bec Wellard and John Totterdell. Two leading scientists share the wild and wonderful facts about Ningaloo Reef's killer whales. Watch at amcs.org.au/KillerWhales
- Whale sharks with Dr Brad Norman. Learn about the famed mighty whale sharks of Ningaloo. Watch at amcs.org.au/WhaleSharks
- The Wonders of Exmouth Gulf with Dr Ben Fitzpatrick. Exmouth Gulf is an amazingly diverse ecosystem. Discover interesting facts about a wide range of Ningaloo's critters. Watch at amcs.org.au/ExmouthWonders

Together we will protect and preserve the extraordinary wildlife and habitats of the Ningaloo region.

#### 🤻 Take Action

Sign up to help protect Ningaloo's nursery! Visit protectningaloo.org.au

#### Celebrate Limmen Bight

## A new Limmen Bight Marine Park for the Northern Territory!

Thanks to caring ocean lovers like you, one of Australia's most beautiful places is now better protected.

Located at the mouth of the Roper River in the Gulf of Carpentaria, Limmen Bight Marine Park will help safeguard the unique cultural, conservation and fishing lifestyles of this beautiful place.

It's home to extensive seagrass meadows which feed and shelter threatened green sawfish, sea turtles and dugongs!

Marine sanctuaries – like national parks on land – are necessary to protect our marine biodiversity.

The new marine park will also help combat seabed mining, which is a particularly destructive industry that does not belong in our waters.

The Limmen Bight Marine Park is now one of only two marine parks in the Northern Territory. Hats off to our partners at *Keep Top End Coasts Healthy* and the local community for making this happen.

#### With thanks to you!

### We could not have achieved this without you!

To everyone who has signed a petition, donated, met your MP or spread the word – thank you!

#### Batemans Bay Dismay

#### Shocking attacks on Batemans Bay marine sanctuaries risk endangered grey nurse sharks and other extraordinary sea life.

In a shocking backwards step, the NSW Government has moved to allow fishing in protected sanctuary zones at Batemans Bay - including in the waters around Montague Island - a critical habitat for grey nurse sharks and a feeding ground for Australian fur seals.

This decision was made with a complete disregard for due process – they didn't consult with the community or with scientists. The NSW Government has even ignored their own legislation, which requires consultation and is intended to protect the marine environment for all.

With Australia's marine wildlife facing increasing threats, we cannot afford to lose our hard-won sea sanctuaries.

#### Take Action

NSW has some of the most stunning marine ecosystems in Australia, but only 7% of these are fully protected. Our wonderful ocean wildlife needs more marine sanctuaries, not less!

Tell the NSW Parliament to honour our marine sanctuaries in Batemans Marine Park and across the state.

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Visit amcs.org.au/nsw-sanctuaries

You're standing up for our precious reefs.

#### **Plastic Pollution**



## **Nation Takes Plastics Action**

#### The race is on to ban single-use plastics in Australia!

Thanks to pressure from ocean lovers like you, South Australia, Queensland and the ACT are competing to become the first state to ban killer single-use plastics like straws and cutlery.

We've helped thousands of people participate in the development of these sea life-saving laws.

#### With plastic use increasing during COVID-19, fighting the scourge of plastic is more important than ever.

- Almost 10,000 AMCS supporters responded to the NSW Government survey to support a ban on single-use plastics.
- 发 94% of submissions to the QLD Government supported a proposed ban on single-use plastics. Draft laws have been tabled in SA and QLD parliaments for vote later this year.
- Victoria joined the rest of Australia in committing to introduce a Container Deposit Scheme.

Plastic pollution is killing our turtles, whales and seabirds every day, so we cannot afford to sit idle.

#### Watch: Plastic vs Ocean Wildlife

Do you know the 10 worst consumer plastics for ocean wildlife? Test your knowledge with our resident plastics expert, Shane Cucow. Watch at amcs.org.au/PlasticOcean

### **Rebuild For Our Reef**

#### Our Fight For Our Reef team is building support for green economic stimulus plans.

AMCS has been working with the tourism industry in Cairns to call for a Reef-friendly recovery, and we recently sent this message using diving fins from local tourism operators on Yorkeys Knob Beach, pictured.

The Queensland Government has just responded by announcing a \$10 million Reef Assist Program which will provide employment for up to 200 people to work in the Reef catchment, boosting programs that clean up waterways that flow into our beautiful Reef. This shows how we can create jobs that have been hit hard by COVID-19 and help our Reef. It is a great start.

Investment in renewable energy projects, restoring Reef catchments and supporting the tourism industry will help boost the long-term prosperity of our Reef and region. We need more corals, not more coal and gas, as we emerge from this global pandemic.

#### **Did You Know?**

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Our Great Barrier Reef has just faced its third mass coral bleaching event in five years from yet more recordbreaking sea temperatures. It's not too late but time is running out. We urgently need Reef-safe climate policies.

#### Green & **Blue Stimulus**

REBUILD FOR OUR

-FF

#### A green and 'blue' stimulus package from our governments will help our oceans, communities and natural places to recover.

Right now, governments across Australia are developing plans to rebuild our economy. As we emerge from this challenging period we need to build a better, fairer and more sustainable world.

AMCS has united with more than 70 environmental and landcare groups to propose conservation projects for areen and blue stimulus that will create thousands of jobs, help supercharge the recovery and help recover nature on land and sea around Australia.

A green and blue stimulus can provide immediate and meaningful employment for Australians while bringing environmental benefits now and into the future.

#### **Our Great Barrier Reef:**

Watch this beautiful video of our Great Barrier Reef by GoodFolk Films. Visit amcs.org.au/StillGreat

#### Take action

Let's make sure we rebuild in a way that gives our Reef its best chance at a healthy future while creating jobs and opportunities where they're needed. Take Action by visiting amcs.org.au/rebuild-reef

You can see from our map how we're progressing each state and territory with our mission to eliminate plastic bags, implement Container Deposit Schemes and ban singleuse plastics.

#### Plastic Policy Status in Australia





### **Give Flake** A Break

#### With thanks to your support, our Shark Champions alliance has launched the "Give Flake

#### A Break" campaign off the back of recent scientific findings.

In July, school shark (Galeorhinus galeus) was globally listed as critically endangered. Despite a 90% drop in its Australian population, it is still commercially harvested and can be sold here as "flake".

The term "flake" should only be used for species of gummy (*Mustelus antarcticus*) and rig (*M. lenticulatus*) sharks, which are not endangered species. Since the 1920s it's been used as a catch-all name for shark meat, meaning it's impossible to tell what we're buying.

"Flake" is often sold in fish shops around Australia, particularly in our southern states.

#### An independent survey shows one in three Australians don't know flake is shark meat.

To give flake a break visit amcs.org.au/flake and shop sustainably with our GoodFish app if you're buying seafood.

#### Take Action!

Give Flake A Break and use GoodFish: Australia's Sustainable Seafood Guide to choose a sustainable alternative to flake. Visit goodfish.org.au





### AMCS and tech firm Two Hands are improving global seafood sustainability with blockchain

GoodFish

You're helping create sustainable choices...

#### technology.

Despite the global growth of the sustainable seafood movement, up to 30% of global seafood is mislabelled, sometimes deliberately. This means that positive changes by fishers and sustainable choices by seafood lovers can be wasted or misplaced.

So AMCS has partnered with tech firm Two Hands to solve this issue. All seafood products sold in the Two Hands digital marketplace have a unique, customised smart tag which tracks seafood from the moment it is caught until it reaches the plate.

This collaboration will integrate our GoodFish Guide with the Two Hands platform, connecting fishers and farmers directly with their customers. Starting in China, Two Hands will grow their market into Australia over time.

The technology supports global food safety, reduces seafood mislabelling and increases seafood sustainability, which ultimately helps our oceans.

#### GoodFish Eats

Check out these sustainable seafood recipes submitted by chefs, food writers and members of the GoodFish community designed for you, the home cook.

Visit amcs.org.au/Recipes



### **Meet Jennifer**

#### Professor Jennifer Rolland has been a supporter of AMCS since 1998. She is an AMCS member and Sea Guardian.

As a child Jennifer loved beach holidays, swimming, snorkelling and exploring rock pools. She vividly remembers snorkelling, floating on the surface of the water and seeing a whole new world beneath her, which she describes as, "just mind-blowing!"

A Professor of Immunology, Jennifer says, "Knowledge is so important. I'm a scientist so I always appreciate good science underpinning evidence-based decision making. AMCS is solid in terms of the science and evidence they use."

Jennifer and her partner, Euan, are retired and now live in country Victoria. She recently attended our online AGM and enjoyed meeting the team via Zoom during lockdown.

#### Jennifer said "I very much like regular giving. I feel very fortunate; I'm now retired and I like giving to environmental causes. Making a regular gift is a really good way to give as I believe it helps organisations plan for the future."

A passionate birdwatcher, Jennifer's favourite sea bird is the Campbell Island albatross. Jennifer has enjoyed conservation-driven small ship expedition cruises to the New Zealand sub-Antarctic islands, the Antarctic Peninsula and South

**Turning The Tide** 



Georgia, where she saw penguins, elephant seals and many other sea birds and mammals.

A keen environmentalist, Jennifer volunteers for and supports many land and sea conservation projects.

"I think that marine life is so often overlooked. AMCS is fantastic at raising awareness of the importance of the oceans to life on earth. Being aware of how the oceans work, all the currents channelling around, and the links between the land and the sea, it's so important to learn about how easy it is to tip the balance."

Become a Sea Guardian today!

Show your support for our oceans as an AMCS Sea Guardian with an affordable monthly gift.

Visit amcs.org.au/SeaGuardians



### CThalassophile (n): a lover of the sea $\Im$

### The Year that was...

#### Our oceans are changing.

Global ocean warming is transforming life beneath the waves. Our Great Barrier Reef has had mass coral bleaching three times in five years and changed forever. Marine species are headed south and kelp forests are disappearing beneath our eyes. Fisheries are still catching too many fish and drowning our threatened species. Despite our progress, our oceans are still overused and underprotected.

With few exceptions, every marine sanctuary around Australia, every sustainable fisheries reform, every pivotal progress made for our Great Barrier Reef has been down to our influence - thanks to your support.

Working together in 2019 we achieved:

- 🥦 Great Barrier Reef water pollution laws.
- Southern Ocean whales freed from harpoons.
- ingle-use plastic bans.
- 🥦 Combating illegal shark finning.
- Bigger, bolder, better GoodFish Guide.

Despite the enormous challenges to our natural world, we made bia waves last year, thanks to hundreds of thousands of Australians just like you.

#### Read: Annual Report 2019

Learn more about how AMCS defended our oceans in our latest Annual Report. Visit amcs.org.au/AnnualReport

### You

said....

#### Earlier this year over 5,000 of you completed our Supporter Survey.

According to your responses, the average AMCS supporter...

- 🖤 Loves dolphins and whales the most, with turtles a close third. Seahorses and sea dragons were a common and popular write-in choice.
- Likes visiting the beach and swimming, surfing or diving.
- 🖤 Is the most passionate about our work on Climate Change, Plastic Pollution and Marine Parks & Sanctuaries.
- Mand... support AMCS because they want to protect our oceans and planet for future generations.

#### Thank you to all who contributed to our Supporter Survey – the feedback will help impact and frame our work in ocean conservation over the coming years and helps us to grow our movement of ocean defenders.

Together we will work to ensure Australia's coasts and oceans are healthy and thriving for tomorrow's generations.

#### **Are You A Thalassophile?**

From the Greek word thalassa, meaning "sea", a *thalassophile* can be defined as "a lover of the sea."



#### Sarah's Passion

#### Sarah grew up close to the beach and always had a deep affinity with the ocean.

As a diver, Sarah says, *"deep under* the waves I feel exhilarated and can completely switch off from the everyday."

"Because I spend so much of my free time diving, the issues occurring in our oceans have become really prevalent for my life."

Sarah Gittoes co-owns the jewellery and design label Sarah & Sebastian. Her love for the ocean is the dominant inspiration for her designs and a driving force for the social and environmental responsibility of the design label. She says, "My business partner Robert Sebastian and I are deeply invested in the work that the AMCS does"

"After seeing an endangered grey nurse shark with a hook caught in its jaw, Robert and I recognised the opportunity for our designs to communicate the issues. We're very excited to support the Save

#### Hearts of Gold

the Sharks campaign."

Heartfelt thanks to Sarah & Sebastian for your support as AMCS Gold Partners helping to protect Australia's threatened sharks.

Want to become an AMCS business supporter? Visit amcs.org.au/CorporatePartner



#### Celebrating our ocean loving community...

### BLUE **Screenings**

#### **Dive beneath with BLUE the Film!**

Councils around Australia are using the powerful social impact film, BLUE the Film, as a great engagement tool to illustrate the devastating consequences of plastics in our oceans.

In light of COVID-19 lockdowns, the film screening project temporarily paused. However, councils are now cautiously beginning to reschedule group screenings.

To celebrate World Environment and World Oceans Day in June, Wyndham (Vic), Gladstone and Ipswich (Qld) held online community screenings. Brisbane City Council ran 11 screenings at Environment Centres for Plastic Free July.

In the coming months QLD, WA and NSW are setting dates for National Science Week and National Water Week.

It's truly inspiring to see councils across Australia acting right now to reduce plastic waste.

#### **BLUE Near You?**

If you'd like to be involved in a creening in your council area, please contact Katie at katiewalters@amcs.org.au



In Memorium



## **Paul's Legacy**

#### Paul and Florence Krattiger were dedicated ocean lovers.

Their love for the oceans blossomed in 1995 when they were on holidays in Heron Island.

On their first day on this Great Barrier Reef island Paul and Florence witnessed large sea turtles coming to shore before dawn to lay their eggs as hatchlings from other nests were making their dash to the water's edge. They were 'over the moon' to experience this natural wonder of nature.

Once they arrived home from their trip, Florence persuaded Paul to do a scuba diving course together, which they did the following year on Hook Island in the Whitsundays. This was the beginning of a deep mutual passion for diving which lasted the rest of their lives.

From that point on, most of their holidays were centred around diving. Florence and Paul's passion saw them diving with sharks



and shipwrecks the world over, visiting remote islands and resorts 'with crystal clear and turquoise waters that were pure paradise'.

Earlier this year we received an unexpected gift left in Paul's will. We never got to thank Paul for his generosity, but with his legacy we'll be sure to keep up the fight for our precious oceans around Australia.

#### What's Your Legacy?

How would you like to be remembered? For your sense of adventure? Your love of the ocean? Your determination to make a difference? What would be the one thing you would like to pass onto the next generation? By giving a gift in your Will, you will hand on a wilder, more diverse and beautiful ocean planet to future generations. Visit amcs.org.au/OceanLegacy Contact Emma Morgan on 07 3846 6777 or email emmamorgan@amcs.org.au



## **Remembering Gary**

#### Gary was at home in and on the ocean.

Gary had an affinity with all marine life but mostly he loved watching the antics of fish, small and large. With his wife Karen, Gary would go out diving whenever he could. The Recherché Archipelago was a favourite diving spot of Gary's. They host a diverse marine ecosystem including fur seals, sea lions and many species endemic to the Southern Ocean.

Gary Johnson, an AMCS Sea Guardian and ocean lover, tragically passed away earlier this year. Rather than receive flowers at his funeral his family asked that mourners make a donation to celebrate Gary's life by showing support for a cause that was profoundly important to him. In Gary's loving memory family and friends contributed almost \$7,000 in his memory to AMCS's work.

As an active environmentalist, standing at six-foot-four, Gary was a strong man who trod lightly on the earth and finned carefully in the ocean. He passionately supported the work done by AMCS to protect our oceans.

He had observed with dismay at the reduction of fish numbers over the years and believed that human interaction with the ocean had caused an imbalance in the marine ecosystem. He believed that community care and guardianship would make the greatest difference.

#### Leaving a Legacy for our oceans...

Gary's vision included the Recherche Archipelago becoming a world-famous marine park.

We hope that AMCS's continued advocacy for the ocean, working together with Save Our Marine Life and The Gary Johnson *Foundation* (established by Gary's family) will keep his memory and visions alive.

#### 🎜 Esperance, Western Australia

Esperance is best known for its long stretches of pure, white sand on the south coast of Western Australia.

The Recherche Archipelago is a group of approximately 105 islands, and over 1200 rocky outcrops off the coast of Esperance, Western Australia. The islands stretch 230 kilometres from east to west and to 50 kilometres offshore.

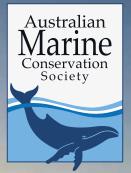
With caves, large boulders and lots of swim-throughs, exploring the water here is fascinating. Sea life includes colourful coral and sponges, the protected Blue Groper, snapper, cuttlefish, weedy and leafy sea dragons, fur seals, sea lions, dolphins, huge crayfish and abalone.

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Gary's View of Esperance, Western Australia

# 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 future generations.





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The Australian Marine Conservation Society acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of this land and sea country, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge that this land and sea was and always will be Aboriginal land and sea.





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#### Donate today 1800 066 299 (freecall) marineconservation.org.au/ttt