

Summer 2021 UTNISTIDE Supporter Newsletter

CREATURE FEATURE

Seahorses

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Seahorses can be monogamous and pair for life.

Found in shallow tropical and temperate waters throughout the world, seahorses can live in a range of habitats including seagrass beds and mangroves.

Seahorses are tiny fish that are named for their horse-shaped head. Their bodies are covered in tiny, spiny plates, all the way from their head down to their tail. The curled, flexible tail can grasp objects, which is vital to anchor themselves to vegetation, as they are very poor swimmers. They have small dorsal fins to move forward and a 'swim bladder' (tiny pocket of air inside their bodies) to move up or down through the water column.

There are many species of seahorses throughout the world's oceans, and new species continue to be found.

Worldwide coastal habitat depletion, pollution, and rampant harvesting (mainly for use in traditional medicine, curios and pet trade) have made several species vulnerable.

Did You Know?

Seahorses are the only animal species on Earth in which the male bears the young. Male seahorses have a brood pouch into which the female deposits her eggs; the male then fertilizes and carries the eggs in his pouch until they hatch.

Fun Fact:

The Latin name for seahorse is Hippocampus which means "Horse Caterpillar"

Endangered Sydney Seahorses

White's seahorses (pictured), affectionately known as Sydney seahorses are a threatened species.

Their populations have declined due to habitat loss and degradation of seagrass, sponge and soft coral in their harbour home. Last year, following an intensive 10-month breeding program, a group of white's seahorses were released back into Sydney Harbour. The seahorses were tagged and released into underwater 'seahorse hotels', designed to attract and protect seahorses. Marine scientists will be conducting regular diving surveys to monitor their

growth, survival and breeding in the wild.

Facts & Figures

COMMON NAME: Seahorses SCIENTIFIC NAME: Hippocampus

TYPE: Fish

GROUP NAME: Herd DIET: Carnivore

AVERAGE LIFESPAN IN THE WILD: 1 to 5 years

SIZE: 2-35cm

TOP SPEED: 150cm per hour

Pottery For The Planet

Clare and Renton (pictured in their ceramic studio in Noosa, Queensland) are deeply connected to the ocean.

We DAction

Sharing their passion for the environment and activism, Clare

Botfield and Renton Bishopric dreamt up Pottery For The Planet as a way to help protect our beaches and seas from the harmful effects of plastic pollution and climate change.

Clare and Renton created an ethical business producing hand-crafted artisan ceramics to create a sustainable future for generations to come by doing their bit to combat the singleuse culture and plastic waste.

Long-time AMCS supporters, they designed a 'Stop Adani' reusable cup and a Green Sea Turtle Planet Cup for World Turtle Day.

We 🌑 Ethical

Heartfelt thanks to Pottery for the Planet for donating a portion of their profits to protecting Australia's oceans as AMCS Silver Business Supporters.

Want to become an AMCS business supporter?

Visit amcs.org.au/CorporatePartner

We Did It!

South Australia became the first state or territory in Australia to ban single-use plastics!

Tackling plastic pollution with your support.

Under new historic laws, which will begin early this year, single-use plastic straws, cutlery and drink stirrers will be prohibited from sale in South Australia. In the following 12 months expanded polystyrene cups, bowls, plates and clamshell containers will be added to the ban.

And there's more good news.

Western Australia has announced they will ban more single-use plastics than any other state! If implemented, their ban would eliminate single-use plastic plates, cutlery, stirrers, straws, thick plastic bags, polystyrene food containers, and helium balloon releases by 2023. In a second stage they will ban single-use plastic produce bags, microbeads, polystyrene packaging, plastic cotton buds and oxo-degradable plastics.

Without the support of ocean lovers like you, who have fought to save our ocean wildlife from drowning in plastic, none of this would have been possible.

Show your > when Recycling

Save our oceans every time you recycle! In NSW, WA and QLD you can donate your container deposit refunds to our plastic pollution programs.

For more information, visit amcs.org.au/cash-for-containers

Go Green-List

If you eat seafood, make sure it's sustainable!

GoodFish is a sustainability initiative by AMCS, designed for ocean lovers who also love seafood.

What does it mean to be a Green-List seafood?

Simple. Eating a seafood species that's on the Green-List helps you tread gently on our oceans. It means your choice won't harm ocean habitats or push threatened marine species closer to extinction. It won't risk overfishing and importantly, it will support fishers and fish farmers who care for our oceans.

Join the swelling tide for sustainable seafood in Australia. Visit goodfish.org.au today and find your favourite sustainable seafood.

GoodFish Restaurant Guide

2020 was a hard year for our Sustainable Seafood Restaurant friends. Please visit goodfish.org.au to find GoodFish Restaurants near you and help regrow a sustainable local industry.

We Green-List

Download (or update) your free GoodFish: Australia's Sustainable Seafood Guide app to choose a sustainable Green-List seafood today. Visit goodfish.org.au

Fishery Reform Win!

Fisheries reforms announced by the Queensland government are a vital part of reforming the state's commercial fisheries.

Rules brought in September 2020 will help improve the sustainability of Queensland fisheries and better manage sharks fished in the Great Barrier Reef.

AMCS welcomes moves from the Queensland Government to modernise commercial fishing by breaking down huge fisheries into smaller, more manageable units. This means fish stocks in different areas can be more carefully monitored and catches capped to prevent overfishing.

However, more reform is needed to help our threatened marine wildlife. Crucial components are missing, such as mandatory independent monitoring and measures to stop threatened species like dugongs and turtles from drowning in killer gillnets.

These reforms are welcome progress towards sustainable fishing in Queensland waters, but we have a long way to go before our Great Barrier Reef wildlife gets the protection it needs.

Thank You

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

Fins Win In QLD

We Sharks & Rays

Illegal shark finning in the Great Barrier Reef has been brought under control.

Landmark fishing reforms have been introduced into Queensland requiring sharks from Queensland's largest fishery (East Coast Inshore Fin Fish Fishery) to be brought back to land in one piece, with their fins attached to their bodies.

This 'fins on' rule is globally acknowledged as fundamental to sustainable fisheries management and threatened shark species conservation.

Previously, sharks could be processed at sea into separate products of fillets and fins. This created an enormous management challenge that potentially allowed sharks to be caught and finned, with their bodies dumped at sea. This was both illegal and cruel.

However, the announcement does not cover all Queensland fisheries. We are calling for a more comprehensive roll out of this rule across all Queensland commercial fisheries.

Close the WA loophole

Western Australia (WA) is the only place in Australia without a 'fins on' rule. Take Action and urge the WA government make 'fins on' a rule amcs.org.au/WA

Punching for Healthy Oceans

Together we're advocating for our sharks...

Chantelle wants us all to be #PunchingForHealthyOceans.

Chantelle's leg was bitten by a 2.5m juvenile great white shark off Shelly Beach at Port Macquarie NSW, while surfing with her fiancé, Mark in August 2020. The damage to her leg is severe, and requires a long life-changing recovery process.

Despite their traumatic experience, Chantelle and Mark wanted this incident to highlight the plight of sharks throughout our oceans, which are critical to healthy ocean ecosystems.

"I think the best good that can come from it is to say that we care about our planet. We want diverse oceans."

Chantelle and Mark set up a crowdfunding campaign for AMCS to support our work to promote ocean health. They want to see measures put in place around the world that keep both humans and sharks safe.

Thank you

We are deeply humbled by Chantelle and Mark's spirit and generosity. We wish you all of our love and strength in your recovery.



Thank you to all who supported their campaign raising almost \$13,000.

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Ancient Orange Roughy

One of the longest living fish species known, some orange roughy are so old that they've been alive since Ned Kelly was a boy.

Fished on top of deep-sea seamounts (underwater mountains) surrounded by fragile ancient deep-water corals, orange roughy are slow-growing and slow to reproduce. In fact, they don't reproduce until around 20-35 years of age. This means that if they're overfished they can be wiped out quickly.

Orange roughy are listed as 'conservation dependent' under Commonwealth environmental legislation, but this listing still permits the targeted fishing of these threatened marine fishes. Many of their stocks are overfished.

They are caught using deep-sea bottom trawlers over seamounts. These deep-water corals and marine habitats are slow growing and extraordinarily sensitive. Recovery from the impacts of trawling on deep-sea habitats will take decades to centuries.

Fun Fact:

Orange roughy live for over 100 years.



Did You Know?

Intense fishing pressure in the 1980s and 90s led to severe declines and key stocks are not predicted to recover to truly sustainable levels until after 2070!

Facts & Figures

COMMON NAME: Orange Roughy
SCIENTIFIC NAME: Hoplostethus
atlanticus
TYPE: Fish
GROUP NAME: Herd
DIET: Bentho-pelagic and mesopelagic fish such as squid,

crustaceans and amphipods.

AVERAGE LIFESPAN: Greater than 140 years

SIZE: Up to 75 cm in length and 7 kg

HABITAT: Marine Deep Benthic. They are

usually found at depths of 700-1400 metres.

IUCN RED LIST STATUS: Vulnerable

Orange Roughy Victory

Shockingly the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) last year approved sustainability certification for a destructive deep sea fishery that catches century old orange roughy fish and rips up 1000-year-old ancient corals.

Awarding orange roughy a sustainability certification is bad science. It trashes our most vulnerable fragile ocean habitats, fishes a poorly understood and depleted stock, and targets a threatened marine species.

Thanks to the support of ocean-loving Australians like you, late last year we mounted a case before an independent legal adjudicator to challenge the MSC 'sustainable' certification. In January the fishery was ruled inadmissible for certification because it targets a protected species.

We **Ugly** Cute

These Aussies aren't the cutest, but we love them anyway.

Blobfish: Mr Blobby won 2013's "World's Ugliest Animal". The image of the gelatinous blobfish is due to decompression damage when they are brought to the surface



from extreme depths. In their natural deep sea environment off the coasts of Australia and New Zealand, blobfish appear a little bit more fishy (pictured).

Handfish: With prominent hand-like pectoral fins they walk, rather than swim. There are fourteen handfish species, all found in Australia. The red handfish, spotted handfish,



and Ziebell's handfish are Critically Endangered. They are at risk due to habitat destruction, pollution, invasive species and climate change.

Striate Anglerfish:

This 'hairy' fish is contending for the Guinness World Records 2021 'furriest' fish title. Long filamentous hair like appendages and zebra-like markings to camouflage it with



its surroundings, making it an effective ambush predator. They tempt their prey with a long lure that resembles a marine worm.

Enviro Laws Under Threat

Australia has some of the worst extinction rates in the world. At the heart of this problem lies outdated and weak nature laws.

In late 2020, the Morrison Government tried to race through a Parliamentary Bill to devolve environmental decision making to the states and territories.

We must fix these laws and save our endangered ocean wildlife.

In response to a snap Senate inquiry last November, more than 7,000 AMCS supporters sent in submissions within just 24 hours objecting to the Federal Government parliamentary bill that would weaken national environmental protections. Thank you!

The ALP, Greens and three key crossbench senators did not support the bid to change Australia's environment laws.



Thank You

The fight isn't over yet, but this progress wouldn't have been possible without you, and the work of the Places You Love Alliance of environmental groups, of which AMCS is a part. We will continue fighting to protect and strengthen our critical environmental safeguards as this once-in-a-decade review of Australia's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act continues.

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Cake a deep breath.

And now another...

Every second breath
you take comes
from our oceans.

We Blue Carbon

Oceans are crucial for carbon storage. Over 80% of global carbon is circulated through the ocean.

Blue carbon is the carbon stored in coastal and marine ecosystems. Well known blue carbon heroes such as mangroves, seagrass meadows and tidal wetlands have an unmatched ability to absorb carbon pollution out of the atmosphere and store it in the ground below. These two blue carbon superheroes may surprise you!

Great Barrier Reef Bioregion

Our very own Great Barrier Reef bioregion has been identified in a world-first study as one of Australia's blue carbon super sites.

The Reef's seagrass meadows and mangrove forests store 111 million tonnes of carbon, or 10% of Australia's blue carbon stock.

This is equivalent to the annual emissions of 87 million cars.





Whales and Plankton

Tiny phytoplankton capture an estimated 37 billion tonnes (40%) of all CO2 produced. That's about the same amount captured by 1.7 trillion trees!

Whales then eat phytoplankton and other tiny marine flora by the tonne. They store the carbon as they grow, stockpiling tonnes of carbon. It is estimated each giant whale sequesters 33 tonnes of carbon – more carbon than a 690-acre forest in their lifetime!

Climate Leadership Now

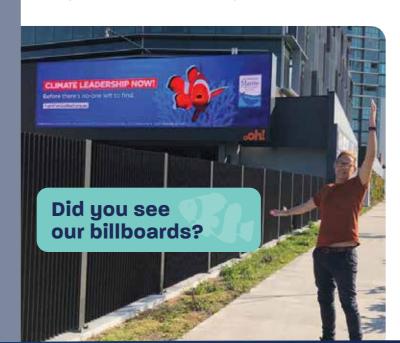
Last September AMCS launched the biggest advertising campaign we have ever run

We booked billboards at busy intersections in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne, and spots in shopping centres nation-wide with one simple message – Climate Leadership Now!

With thanks to the generosity of oOh! Media and wonderful supporters like you, we plastered this powerful message on billboards around the country, in a crucial bid to remind our politicians what is at stake before it's too late.

Our message to make sure the climate and coral crisis is not forgotten at this pivotal time was seen by Australians from coast to coast.

Without you and other ocean lovers chipping in, this just wouldn't have been possible.





oOh! Love

Thank you to Charlotte Berry for choosing us as Charity of Choice for the \$250k advertising award from oOh! Media.

Pictured Jason Hincks, AMCS President and Charlotte Berry from oOh! Media elbow bump at Bondi Beach, Sydney.



Turning The Tide With Thanks to YOU 🗢



Thank you Queenslanders for stepping up for our Reef!

After the third mass coral bleaching event in just five years – and the unprecedented turmoil from the pandemic - the Queensland election last October was crucial for our Reef and the livelihoods that depend on it.

As a non-partisan organisation, we assessed their Reef policies for our scorecard so that people could make an informed decision about where the parties stood on Australia's Great Barrier Reef. Thanks to you we were able to reach 100 000 people with this scorecard through targeted newspaper and digital advertising.

The returning Queensland government has committed to protect crucial Reef water quality regulations and land clearing laws which we fought so hard for, develop a Climate Action Plan to drive Queensland to zero net emissions by 2050, invest over \$600 million in renewable energy, and protect threatened species by reforming Queensland's fisheries.

With your support together we helped achieve these commitments.



Did vou see our Reef Policy Scorecard for the Queensland Election last vear?

Visit amcs.org.au/scorecard2020



Introducing Fight For Our Reef volunteer Neil Forgie.

Neil is an Anglican Priest, grandfather and Cairns local, devoting his retirement to raise awareness about climate change, its impact on the Reef and future generations.

Neil is motivated not only by his love of the Reef, which started 60

years ago with a childhood Christmas present of a snorkel set, but also by his grandchildren and deep belief that climate change is the decisive issue of our time.

Neil believes that the "ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world it leaves for its children...as we rebuild from the pandemic we have a rare chance to create a safer, fairer and more sustainable society. For the sake of our kids and the Reef, we must seize it."

We thank him for his tireless efforts and determined hope.



Volunteers

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



Thanks to your powerful voice and the Stop Adani movement - the coal mining giant is trying to rebrand their Reef-wrecking coal project.

Late last year the Adani Group renamed their Abbot Point Coal Terminal to 'North Queensland Export Terminal', and also rebranded themselves as 'Bravus'.

But their new name doesn't hide the truth. Latin scholars have pointed out that the word bravus doesn't actually mean 'brave' as intended, but actually translates to 'crooked' or 'mercenary'.1 Some say this new move could be used to hide their history. Adani or Bravus their coal

With thanks to your support we are working with our friends in the movement to continue to expose the Adani Group's poor environmental record and keep their coal in the ground. We must stop the Galilee Basin from opening up and turbocharging dangerous climate change.



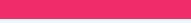
still stinks.

Expose Adani = Bravus

Use your voice to stand up for our Reef, expose Adani's rebrand and urge remaining investors to cut ties with this risky company. Visit amcs.org.au/adaniport



Reef Wins



Here are a few wins we achieved recently with thanks to your support.

Trans-shipping Banned

Thanks to your support, the dangerous practice of trans-shipping – the transfer of materials between ships at sea – is now banned in the Great Barrier Reef.

This decision from the Queensland government comes after years of campaigning to stop the industrialisation of our beautiful Reef.

Reef Water Pollution Laws Upheld

In 2019 we secured crucial new laws to improve the water quality of the Great Barrier Reef. Ever since, these laws have been under attack, with vested interests working to undermine the science and turn this into a political issue.

Thanks to your support, the re-elected Queensland government has committed to retaining these laws protecting our Great Barrier Reef's precious in-shore ecosystems.

Rejected Land Clearing Protects Reef

Last November, Australia's Environment Minister rejected a proposal for almost 2,000 hectares of forest land clearing which would have significantly polluted the water quality in the far north of the Great Barrier Reef. This is huge news for the waters of our Reef.

AMCS played an important part in this great result. We consistently and repeatedly opposed the land clearing approval and were one of a number of conservation organisations who made submissions to stop this project across several years.



SCIENTISTS FOR SANCTUARIES





Antarctic Marine Parks

Your support for an East Antarctic Marine Park has helped build momentum to protect our irreplaceable wildlife of the Antarctic.

After hearing from so many of you, the Australian Government has made protecting the Antarctic a priority.

Late last year the Antarctic Treaty nations around the world met. Three marine park proposals were on the agenda: The East Antarctic, the Weddell Sea and the Antarctic Peninsula marine parks.

Unfortunately, global disruptions and travel restrictions meant this year's meeting was online, and shorter, and it wasn't possible for marine parks proposals to be considered thoroughly. But many of the nations are formally recognising the urgent need for a network of marine parks in the Southern Ocean.

Norway and Uruguay joined Australia, France and the EU to co-sponsor the East Antarctic Marine Park proposal. And Australia co-sponsored another proposed marine park in the Southern Ocean – the Weddell Sea Marine Park.



International momentum is gathering for protected areas to keep Antarctic waters safe for marine life – and it's all thanks to your continued support. We will keep fighting for an East Antarctic Marine Park.

Paddle Out for Batemans



On Saturday 21 November, residents of NSW's south coast held a 'Paddle Out' out to celebrate Batemans Marine Sanctuaries.

In December 2019, the NSW government disregarded due process, when they announced the immediate removal of marine sanctuary protections in Batemans Marine Park.

Nearly 400 local ocean-lovers, scientists, Traditional Owners, business owners and recreational fishers turned up to show they want these sanctuaries – and all they offer to the marine park and the community – restored.

AMCS supports the local crew at Save Batemans Sanctuaries, who organised the fun day out on the water. We will continue to hold the government to account for their lack of consultation, and won't stop until full protection is returned for our sanctuaries.

Thank You

Last year thousands of you asked the NSW Parliament to honour our marine sanctuaries across the state. Thank you for holding the government to account.

NT Coasts

Territorians declare their love for our Top End Coasts.

Late last year Northern Territorians went to the polls and their beautiful coasts were a major election issue.

Thanks to the hard work of our volunteers and Keep Top End Coasts Healthy partners all political parties committed to implementing the NT Coastal and Marine Management Strategy to safeguard the Territory's coasts, culture and fishing lifestyle.

Thank you for ensuring protecting our Top End coasts remains a priority for the Territory Government.



Territorians came out in force calling for a permanent ban on seabed mining. When the Government's temporary ban expires, seabed mining companies could exploit 9600km2 of our fragile Territory coasts. This would include precious places like Fog Bay, Anson Bay, Limmen Bight Marine Park and the Wessel Islands.

Along with our Keep Top End Coasts Healthy partners, we have submitted a 33-page submission highlighting the threats seabed mining will bring to our precious tropical marine life.

We eagerly await the results as the temporary ban is due to expire in March 2021.

Ningaloo Win!

It's a victory for Exmouth Gulf's magnificent nature, the community, and for the future.

It's a victory for Exmouth Gulf's magnificent nature, the community, and for the future.

Subsea 7, a global oil and gas services company, withdrew its industrial oil and gas pipeline fabrication proposal from Exmouth Gulf, Ningaloo in December.

The decision to withdraw the project came after an intense campaign that began in Exmouth – supported by many local tourism businesses – and quickly spread across the country. It combined science-based advocacy with the award-winning #BeautifulNingaloo communications campaign.

The campaign to stop industrial development in Exmouth Gulf – 'Ningaloo's Nursery' – isn't quite over but this is a big win for our Protect Ningaloo campaign and one for celebrating! Thank you to the tens of thousands of people who sent a submission, emailed their MPs, bought a t-shirt, volunteered or helped in innumerable other ways – you should feel really good about this win for Ningaloo.

Take Action

We must continue to protect Exmouth Gulf from the remaining industrial proposals threatening the extraordinary ecosystems that make up the Ningaloo Region. Please follow @protectningaloo on social media.

2 Oo° Turning The Tide With Thanks to YOU 🗢



You Are Ocean Guardians

Here's our Patron, beloved Australian author Tim Winton, on why it matters to support Australia's oceans through AMCS.

"With an extinction crisis and a climate emergency upon us, our oceans are vulnerable in ways almost inconceivable a generation ago. And it's clear that our corals, beaches, fish and marine mammals will not be saved if we assume governments and corporations will act swiftly and spontaneously to rescue them. That's why the work of AMCS is critical. For over 50 years the nation's peak marine charity has worked to facilitate, encourage and shame the powers-that-be to do what needs to be done to keep our seas and shores alive.

Australia's oceans need advocates and auardians as never before, and no one does this work better than AMCS".

Become a Sea Guardian today!

You too can become an advocate and guardian for our oceans as an AMCS Sea Guardian with an affordable monthly gift. Visit amcs.org.au/SeaGuardians



Meet Meg

Meg Keneally is an accomplished author, SCUBA enthusiast and AMCS Sea Guardian.

For Meg, the ocean is "a place of calm, rejuvenation. The best way to switch off in our busy world is to float around and watch the fish swimming all around you."

Co-editor and contributor of 'Animals Make Us Human', a new book celebrating Australia's wildlife, Meg's delightful essay describes diving encounters with the Eastern Blue Groper: "It'll come along with you, photobomb you, follow you, look under a rock with you, they are just wonderful. Look into the eyes of a Blue Groper, there is something there, this creature has an intelligence that we don't understand."

Meg is an AMCS monthly donor because "We can feel helpless with the many threats to marine conservation. It's wonderful to know I can support an organisation that makes a real world difference."

support AMCS.

Animals Make Us Human

The book features over 40 essays from some of Australia's finest writers, and is accompanied by exquisite wildlife photography. Visit amcs.org.au/shop to buy your copy Animals Make Us Human with proceeds going to

Remembering Dave

It is said that 'people make organisations great'. Dave Graham was one of those people.

Sadly, last December AMCS lost one of our most dedicated and long serving supporters, and a true unsung hero for the oceans.

With over 50 years of service to our ocean and to AMCS, Dave's love for the sea and for the cause has never wavered.

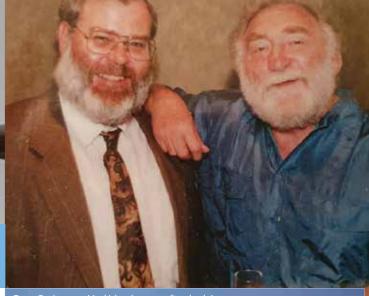
Dave joined AMCS as a volunteer in 1969 in our early days as the Queensland Littoral Society. He has contributed to our work and transformed the organisation in so many ways, from surveying creeks to designing our website, setting up our database, running campaigns and serving as President and on our Board many times.

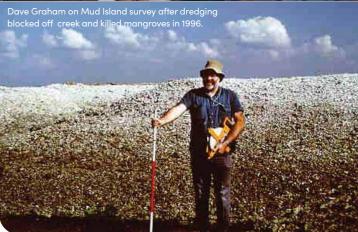
He is fondly remembered as a key participant in ensuring the protection of the Great Barrier Reef.

Dave never wanted to be in the limelight, he just wanted to do his bit for the oceans.

He went above and beyond for ocean conservation from growing and selling native plants at markets to running a doughnut stall that sold thousands of doughnuts each year for the cause.

Dave and his wife Ian were integral in ensuring AMCS had sufficient funds in the early days to mount national and international campaigns to protect the Great





Barrier Reef, Ningaloo and Moreton Bay. In tribute to both Dave and his beloved Jan's service, they were made AMCS Honorary Life Members.

We have lost a dear friend, a tireless champion and all-round good bloke. We will love and remember him always.

What's Your Legacy?

What would be the one thing you would like to pass onto the next generation?



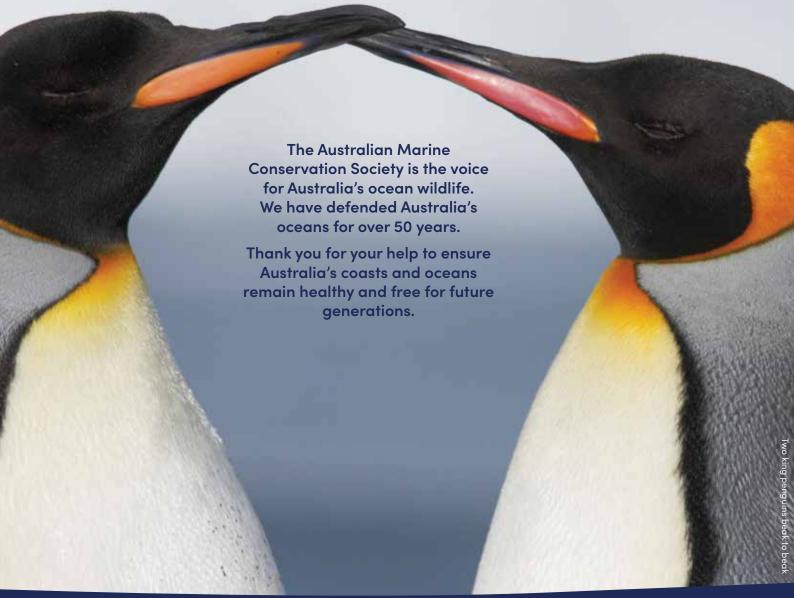
By giving a gift in your Will, you will hand on a wilder, more diverse and beautiful ocean planet to future generations.

Visit amcs.org.au/OceanLegacy

Contact Emma Morgan on 07 3846 6777 or email emmamorgan@amcs.org.au

Thank you for your support





Stay in touch f @australianmarine

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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.





Donate today

1800 066 299 (freecall)

marineconservation.org.au/ttt