

Spring 2026



Turning THE TIDE

Supporter Newsletter

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With Thanks to YOU





Petite Paddlers

Let us introduce to you the world's smallest penguin!

Weighing just over one kilogram and standing 25-35cm tall, these flightless seabirds are the only species of penguin to breed on the Australian mainland.

Small penguin, big appetite. The little penguin will travel up to 20km a day in search of food. While they're at it, they can dive up to 2,000 times in a day to an average depth ranging from 10-30m.

While the little penguin often sleeps in coastal burrows (usually the same one for its whole life), they're certainly not fussy sleepers - sometimes sleeping while floating on the big blue waterbed that is the ocean.

The species is threatened by coastal development, pollution and run-off, as well as

Facts & Figures

COMMON NAME: Little penguin

FIRST NATIONS NAME(S): *Pibaap* (Wudjari, Noongar / Nyungar)

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Eudyptula minor*

FAMILY: Spheniscidae

BODY SIZE: 25-35cm tall

DIET: Small fish, squid and krill

LOCATION: Southern coasts of Australia

CONSERVATION STATUS: Least concern (IUCN), however many colonies face significant decline due to multiple threats.



overfishing, vessel strikes, and diseases. The little penguin is considered highly vulnerable to the H5N1 strain of bird flu. See page 8 for more about H5N1 and impacts on marine life.



Did You Know?

The little penguin has also been known as the fairy penguin to Aussies, and the blue penguin to Kiwis, but its common name has always been little penguin.



Honouring Tim

Tim Winton has been an unflinching supporter of our ocean, as AMCS' Patron for twenty years.

To mark this incredible milestone, AMCS extends to Tim our highest recognition as an honorary life member for his exceptional contributions.

Tim has been declared a Living Treasure by the National Trust and was made Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for his "distinguished service to literature and to environmental advocacy".

Tim writes about Australia's coasts and ocean like no other.

"I joined AMCS because they are serious about protecting life within our oceans.

From the Great Barrier Reef to Ningaloo, no other organisation has done more to secure a healthy future for our seas and shores."

We are so grateful to Tim for his incredible gift - connecting generations of Australians to the natural world, and his passion for environmental advocacy.

Patron, Author & Advocate

We had the pleasure of sitting down with Tim to discuss his latest book *Juice* and the fight to protect our ocean from fossil fuels.

"The idea that your kids, and their kids and their kids' kids, might never have the chance to see a place like Scott Reef, it disturbs me, it makes me angry. The injustice of it bewilders me."

Watch: amcs.org.au/241lwinton

Tim Winton's environmental impact spans decades.

In 2002, Tim donated his \$25,000 prize money from the Western Australian Premier's Award to the Save Ningaloo Reef Campaign.

In 2011, after a long campaign by AMCS and our conservation colleagues, the Ningaloo Coast was listed as World Heritage by the United Nations. This campaign was another great success thanks in no small part to our Patron.

In 2023, Tim wrote, narrated and executive-produced the acclaimed ABC documentary *Ningaloo Nyinggulu*.

To this day, Tim plays an active role in our campaigns, spanning marine sanctuaries to stopping new fossil fuel development in our ocean.



Tim Winton, Exmouth Gulf, WA @ Blue Media Exmouth. Tim Winton, Toni Collette and Paul Gambin at Ningaloo, 2002. Tim Winton leads the march at the Save Ningaloo rally, Fremantle 2002.

World Oceans Day

Once again, you have blown us away with your generosity, kindness and commitment to marine conservation.

Thank you to the more than 2,650 ocean lovers across Australia who joined AMCS in celebrating World Oceans Day in 2026.

You've helped raise over \$1.275 million to safeguard our precious marine environments for future generations.

We are Australia's only national charity dedicated solely to protecting our precious ocean wildlife – we are incredibly grateful for our community of ocean lovers across the nation working for healthy seas.

Your **generous** gifts fund all of the work featured in this newsletter and more.

Thank you so much for all your thoughtful and encouraging messages and critical support for our big blue backyard.

Happy World Oceans Day!



Thank you

From the bottom of our big blue heart – thank you so much for supporting our ocean with AMCS this World Oceans Day. Sea how grateful we are at amcs.org.au/WOD-TY

Wavemakers for our ocean!

We send our deepest thanks to the Wavemakers who make World Oceans Day possible.

Your generous philanthropic gift continues to inspire fellow ocean-lovers right across the country. Positive impacts for our ocean have been tripled because of you.

The 2026 World Oceans Day Wavemakers include:

Dawn Wade Foundation

Eldon & Marilyn Ball

Renewable Energy Cup

Sarah & Sebastian

50 Great Dives

Dan Mathews

Kim Linquist

Trudy and Mark Hooper

Two Monkeys Foundation

JMS Foundation

Scott Hipkins and Lisa Cochrane

Bruce McMullin Foundation

Crothers Walton Foundation

RoseAli Foundation

The Sunnyside Foundation

Charles Warman Foundation

...and 36 Other Wavemakers

Thank you for your unwavering support.

Side By Side

AMCS' first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) highlights our commitment to an ongoing and active process for reconciliation and collaboration with First Nations peoples.

The endorsement by Reconciliation Australia of our AMCS Reflect RAP marks a significant moment for AMCS, as we formalise our Side by Side vision – to be strong allies and advocates, working with First Nations peoples of Australia.

At AMCS, we aim for a time when the knowledge and practice of First Nations and non-First Nations peoples are mutually valued, and are channelled collaboratively toward solutions for Sea Country.

First Nations peoples of Australia have cared for Country for millennia. Their knowledge, management and expertise are embedded within rich cultures and a deep connection to Sea Country. To protect our ocean, we must build stronger partnerships that embed Traditional Knowledge, science and practices into decision-making.

If there is to be a positive, meaningful legacy in the work of our organisation, let that include at its core a genuine commitment to listening, understanding and practical work towards reconciliation.

But we recognise there is still much more to do.

Dive Deeper

Read AMCS' full Reconciliation Action Plan online. We reflect on our journey so far, plan for where we're heading and assign responsibilities in moving forward. Visit amcs.org.au/SideBySide

AMCS sincerely thanks Tarquin Singleton and Red Ochre Republic for their artistry and experience in creating a visual identity for our first RAP.

Reconciliation Action Plans use five interrelated pillars as a guiding framework. These are not only important to our work towards reconciliation, but are all observable in our marine environments.



Race Relations: Whales are a great representation of race relations. They are known to look after each other and work together.



Equity and Equality: Three ecosystems – wetlands, estuaries and reef. Each ecosystem plays equally important roles to the environment and culturally. This icon represents both Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples as equally valued, and play a vital role when looking after Sea Country.



Institutional Integrity: Mangroves represent support, growth and structure. Mangrove roots hold on to the foundation it grew from and provides structure and new air to everything around them.



Historical Acceptance: Boulder corals are nature's time capsules. Each ring inside of the boulder corals tells an unbiased story of the past.



Unity: The sea anemone represents unity. It's a symbol of working together and recognising each other's value.

Driving Climate Action for the Ocean



Emperor penguins are now endangered due to climate change. Because of the impacts on their habitat and food supply.

Climate Action

Australia's ocean, coasts and marine life face unprecedented threats. We stand on the edge of a twin crisis – an extinction crisis that is eroding biodiversity, and a climate emergency that is undermining the health of all ecosystems.

With your help, AMCS will work to build the political momentum needed to raise government ambition, stop new fossil fuel development in our ocean, and begin strengthening the resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems.

To tackle climate change, we're campaigning for:

- No new offshore fossil fuel development and accelerate the phase-out of existing production.
- Ensure decisions on offshore renewables are informed by science, protect nature, and respect communities and First Nations peoples.
- Lift national climate ambition to safeguard marine and coastal ecosystems.
- Governments take action to build the resilience of the Great Barrier Reef, Ningaloo and other vulnerable coastal and ocean ecosystems.

The Next Five Years

We've released our five year strategic plan. Read the summary at amcs.org.au/strategicplan

Emperor Penguin

You've met the smallest penguin - now meet the largest!

The emperor penguin stands around 120cm tall and weighs up to 40kg.

Emperor penguins are also standout parents, incubating eggs during bitter cold winters. A male will carefully incubate a single egg on his feet for over two months to keep it warm. He will not eat for as many as four months from courtship to hatching.

Once born, fluffy chicks need time to develop their waterproof feathers. Similarly, adults 'catastrophic moult' (all feathers in one go!) every year, and need refuge on the ice during this time.

Climate change is melting the emperor penguin's world beneath its feet. Record low levels of Antarctic sea ice mean that the juveniles do not have reliable access to refuge while their waterproof feathers come in.

Facts & Figures

COMMON NAME: Emperor penguin
SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Aptenodytes forsteri*
FAMILY: Spheniscidae
BODY SIZE: 120cm
DIET: Fish, krill and squid
LOCATION: Antarctic ice and the Southern Ocean
CONSERVATION STATUS: Endangered, as of 2026 (IUCN)
POPULATION TREND: Rapid decline



AMCS Fossil Fuel Campaign Manager Hannah Tait with billboard, Canberra.
INSET: A large Save Scott Reef billboard in Canberra.



Save Scott Reef

Thank you to the ocean-loving community for your ongoing support of Scott Reef!

Because of you, we're ramping up the fight to protect this irreplaceable natural wonder from Woodside's dangerous gas plans.

In June, ocean-lovers helped fund our continued fight against one of the largest fossil fuel projects ever proposed in Australian waters.

Your donation is hard at work - as billboards continue to raise visibility of the issue in major cities across the country, including Brisbane, Perth, Sydney and Canberra.

Woodside has enormous financial resources and a sophisticated PR operation. But together, our community can ensure decision-makers hear the evidence, understand what is at stake, and know Australians expect Scott Reef to be protected.

Thank you for your incredible support.



Take Action

Help save Scott Reef from Woodside's gas proposal - email WA and Federal Ministers. Visit amcs.org.au/ssr



Deep Dive: CCS

Carbon capture and storage (CCS) is a dangerous distraction.

It's a fossil fuel industry pipe dream, designed to greenwash their efforts to keep polluting.

The process involves burying carbon dioxide pollution by pumping it through wells into the ground, including below the ocean floor.

They call it carbon capture and storage or CCS - we call it carbon pollution dumping.

Fossil fuel companies rely on the broken promise of CCS to continue exploring for, extracting and burning fossil fuels which we know worsens the climate crisis.

CCS is a proven failure and an immense cost to the environment and taxpayers, requiring ongoing seismic blasting.

Right now, Woodside and its joint venture partners want to drill 50 new gas wells and up to 7 drill sites to dump carbon pollution beneath the ocean floor near Scott Reef.

Learn More

Find out where CCS occurs and is proposed, the risks, and more about our work to prevent it. Visit amcs.org.au/ccs



Scott Reef © Nush Freedman. INSET: Blue whale and offshore oil rig off Catalina Island (CA, USA)

Two humpback whales (Megaptera novaeangliae), mother and calf, resting at the surface.



Green sea turtle (Chelonia mydas), Lady Elliot Island, Great Barrier Reef

Protecting Species & Habitats

AMCS is dedicated to being the voice for threatened species and habitats.

We're tackling key threats to protect and restore Australia's marine life.

With the voices of ocean-lovers like you, we will hold state and federal governments accountable for delivering on their commitments - including passing strong environmental laws, protecting threatened species and reforming high-risk fisheries.

Australia's ocean, coasts and marine life face unprecedented threats.

To protect threatened species and habitats we will campaign to:

- Secure strong national and state laws to prevent extinction and drive recovery.
- Ensure sustained public investment in marine species protection and habitat restoration.
- Halt decline and accelerate recovery of key at-risk marine species and ecosystems.
- Reform high-risk fisheries and aquaculture to reduce harm to wildlife and habitats.
- Cut plastic pollution at its source through ambitious state, national and global action.

The Next Five Years

We've released our five year strategic plan. Read the summary at amcs.org.au/strategicplan

Deadly Bird Flu

Bird flu poses a huge risk to our uniquely Australian and endangered species.

In devastating news we have been expecting but hoping wouldn't come, in June Australia lost its title of the last continent free of H5N1 bird flu. Initial migratory seabird cases swiftly led to local transmission and mass mortalities of greater crested terns, with further detections in magpies, and more being confirmed weekly. .

Internationally, bird flu transmission has occurred between birds and mammals. The virus killed tens of thousands of seals and sea lions in South America. On Australia's Heard Island last summer it killed more than 13,000 southern elephant seal pups in a single season.

In July the virus was confirmed in a greater crested tern found at Seal Bay on Kangaroo Island South Australia, a critical Australian sea lion colony, where 5% of the global population of the endangered Australian sea lion is found. We now face the very real possibility of similar devastation in Australian sea lions, a species already teetering on the edge, with only 12,000 remaining. New developments on the spread of bird flu are ongoing.

Take Action

We're calling on the government to establish a national wildlife resilience fund of at least \$200 million as an initial emergency investment, to ensure Australia's wildlife can be best placed to face the significant threats posed by bird flu. Visit amcs.org.au/birdflu to take action for our precious marine wildlife.

Australian sea lions (Neophoca cinerea)

Maibou Joe @ Mulga the Artist. INSET: Joel aka Mulga the Artist.

Nature Is For Everyone

Joel, also known as Mulga the Artist, loves creating art that brings joy to people. He's also a lifelong surfer.

"A lot of my art and style is influenced by my love of surfing and the ocean."

Joel recalls spending time as a kid surfing at Bawley Point, NSW. Even today, most of his holiday time is based around the ocean, and finding some waves.

Dolphins are Joel's favourite - and he joyously recalls times being in sync with the ocean, riding a wave with dolphins cruising in front of him.

Offering some words of wisdom, Joel reminds us, *"YOLO. Get off your phone, get into nature and get some salt water on your head and go for a swim or a surf"*

Thank you Joel for your vibrant art, and your joyous, hopeful nature. Your ability to playfully connect Australians and nature is an incredible gift.



On Your Sleeve

To mark National Threatened Species Day on 7th September, we've teamed up with Joel to create the Nature is for everyone t-shirt. Get yours at amcs.org.au/natureisforeveryone



Green Sea Turtle

Meet the iconic sea turtle species!

Green sea turtles have been swimming the oceans of the world for more than 120 million years.

Weighing roughly the same as a motorbike, and with the mileage to boot. The green sea turtle can swim up to 2,600km between nesting and feeding grounds.

Adult females will return to the same region where they were hatched to lay their own eggs.

The temperature of sand affects whether a green sea turtle is born male or female. Warmer temperatures (29°C and higher) produce females. For this reason, climate change is a significant risk to the future stability of the species.

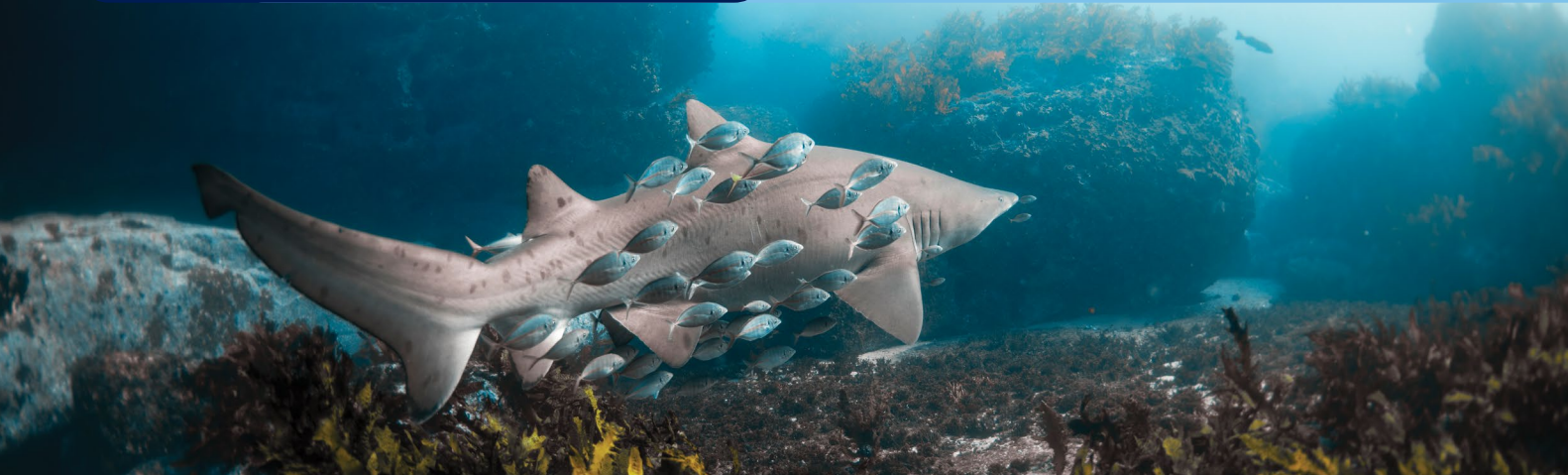
Green sea turtles are considered vulnerable to extinction, and are most susceptible to climate change, habitat loss, pollution and unsustainable fishing practices.



Facts & Figures

COMMON NAME: Green sea turtle
FIRST NATIONS NAME(S): Dhalwatpu (Yolnu)
SCIENTIFIC NAME: Chelonia mydas
FAMILY: Cheloniidae
BODY SIZE: 1m on average
DIET: Algae, seagrasses, seaweed
LOCATION: Tropical and subtropical oceans
CONSERVATION STATUS: Vulnerable (EPBC)
POPULATION TREND: Recovering, but vulnerable





Global Lifeboat

Australia is a global 'lifeboat' for some of the world's most endangered sharks and rays.

Covering a total area larger than Iceland, 158 discrete areas of ocean habitat critical for the survival of sharks and rays have been identified across Australia and the Southeast Indian Ocean.

Important shark and ray areas (ISRAs) are a global initiative and scientific assessment to identify key habitats for sharks and rays that require protection.

ISRAs provide a clear picture of just how important Australian waters are for protecting some of the world's most endangered sharks and rays.

This is made possible by recent innovations and developments in animal tracking, data collection, and reporting. This mapping enables governments to better protect threatened and endangered species before they disappear.

Dear Government

Protect our sharks and rays. Right now, Australian fisheries are driving five of our uniquely Aussie sharks and rays closer to extinction, and there are no specific protections in place for them. Sign the petition at amcs.org.au/saveoursharks

Large-tooth Sawfish

One of the most iconic-looking rays in the world.

Named for their saw-like snout (rostrum), which can grow up to 2m long, around a fifth of the sawfish's total length.

Northern Australia is one of the last global strongholds for sawfish, with four of the world's five species living in these waters. The freshwater/largetooth sawfish is the only freshwater species in the world.

Thanks to your support, NT Fisheries Minister Gerard Maley announced that 2027 will be the last year of commercial gillnetting in the Barramundi Fishery - a fishery considered a 'very high risk' to sawfish..

We need your ongoing support to ensure the NT Government fulfills their commitment to phase out gillnetting in the NT Barra fishery by 2028.



Facts & Figures

- COMMON NAME: Freshwater/Largetooth sawfish
- FIRST NATIONS NAME(S): Known by many names! Tyemirerriny in Malak Malak language
- SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Pristis pristis*
- FAMILY: Pristidae
- BODY SIZE: 7.5m
- DIET: Fish, crustaceans and molluscs
- LOCATION: Tropical and subtropical estuaries
- CONSERVATION STATUS: Critically endangered (IUCN) Endangered (EPBC)
- POPULATION TREND: Declining



Coral Clearance Sale

With your support - we're taking the message to the streets.

Comedian and AMCS Ambassador Kirsty Webeck launched the Reef Coral Clearance Sale in May.

Performers modelling colourful coral costumes were sold off by Kirsty in the heart of Sydney.

The display brought colour and fun to Sydney's CBD - with an important message.

Some of the Great Barrier Reef's most rare and unique corals are being harvested for sale to private aquariums overseas.

The Queensland Coral Fishery continues to take up to 190 tonnes of coral off the Great Barrier Reef every year for the global aquarium trade.

We sincerely thank the more than 11,000 ocean lovers who have signed our petition calling for an end to coral harvesting on the Great Barrier Reef.



Add Your Voice

We call on the Australian Government to end wild coral harvest from the Reef and support the coral fishery to transition rapidly to tank-grown coral aquaculture. Visit amcs.org.au/endcoralharvesting

1% for Nature

1% is a drop in the ocean for the budget but a tidal wave of change for nature.

Australia's breathtaking coastlines, ancient mangrove and kelp forests, sea grass meadows and vibrant coral reefs are home to some of the most diverse life on Earth.

But many of the species that depend on these places are in decline. Protection and recovery efforts remain drastically underfunded.

Without urgent action, more of Australia's threatened species could be lost forever.

Less than 0.1% of the federal budget is currently directed to the protection and recovery of nature. It's like trying to fight a bushfire with a single bucket of water - completely inadequate for the scale of the crisis.

Dedicating at least 1% of the federal budget to nature would be a game-changer. It would help protect threatened species, restore damaged ecosystems and accelerate the recovery of Australia's ocean and coasts.

For Nature

Join AMCS in calling on the Australian Government to commit at least 1% of the federal budget to protecting and restoring nature. Sign the petition at amcs.org.au/1fornature

Largetooth sawfish (*Pristis pristis*) © Dr. Peter Kyme.
Coral harvesting campaign activation, Sydney

Adolescent southern elephant seal (*Mirounga leonina*) in grasses, Macquarie Island.

Safeguarding Critical Places

Coral Sea

We're protecting the most important places in Australia's ocean and on our coasts.

Cumulative pressure from industrial development, climate change, industrial fishing, pollution, drilling for fossil fuels, seismic blasting and other threats are putting Australia's most ecologically and culturally valuable marine places at serious risk.

Join with us advocating for a more ambitious, science-based network of fully protected marine sanctuaries in Australia's ocean.

- Secure a science-based expansion of fully protected marine sanctuaries in federal waters.
- Strengthen protection of priority marine areas in state, territory and international waters.
- Protect Australia's most valuable ocean and coastal places from destructive threats.

Protecting Australia's most biologically important, culturally significant and beloved ocean and coastal areas is important for wildlife and habitats, and for us all to enjoy for generations to come.

The Next Five Years

We've released our five year strategic plan. Read the summary at amcs.org.au/strategicplan

Beyond the Great Barrier Reef lies the Coral Sea Marine Park.

The Coral Sea is one of the healthiest tropical marine ecosystems left in our ocean. It is a vital support system for much of the marine life which makes our World Heritage-listed Great Barrier Reef so special.

Its underwater landscapes are highly varied. Dramatic undersea mountains, canyons, vibrant coral reefs and tiny islands are teeming with an extraordinary array of wildlife.

Nearly 50 habitats support over 300 threatened species.

Twenty eight species of whales and dolphins, and 27 seabird species call the Coral Sea home.

Many species use the scattered reefs, cays and underwater mountains as habitats for feeding, resting, breeding and as a nursery ground.

A stunning array of colours. As the name suggests, the Coral Sea contains abundant hard and soft corals, and large sea fans.

Strong Sanctuaries

Add your name to back strong marine sanctuaries in the upcoming review of Australia's marine parks network. Visit amcs.org.au/MPReview

If we save the sea,
we save our world...
Nothing is more
important.

Sir David Attenborough

Ancient Refugia, New Discoveries

Did you know that over 110 new marine species have recently been discovered in the Coral Sea?

The new species include brittlestars, crabs, anemones, sponges, rays and even a new shark!

Scientists involved in the research say there's still more specimens to sort through, and the final number could be over 200 species.

They were all discovered during a five week CSIRO voyage.

**You make change possible.**

Together, we have made strides in increasing marine sanctuary protection for vulnerable species. Thousands of submissions have achieved so much...

- In 2022, one of the largest protected areas in the world was established in offshore Commonwealth waters around the Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands Marine Park. This marine park covers an area larger than VIC, TAS and ACT combined.
- In 2023, the marine sanctuary around Australia's subantarctic Macquarie Island was expanded by more than 300,000km².
- In 2025, the marine sanctuary around the World Heritage-listed Heard and McDonald Islands' quadrupled in size.

But, shockingly, more than half of our offshore Australian Marine Parks are still open to industrial activities like bottom trawling, drilling for fossil fuels, and seismic blasting.

Strong Marine Parks

Much of the Coral Sea Marine Park is vulnerable and under protected. The Australian government is currently reviewing the national network of marine parks in our offshore waters. This is a once in a decade opportunity to better protect our marine life. Visit protectourocean.org.au to protect our whales, dolphins, turtles and so much more.



Iconic Ocean Places

Covering an area larger than our landmass, Australia's marine jurisdiction is a natural blue wonder that sustains our economy, our climate, and our very identity.

In Australia, the ocean is a vital part of many of our lives, and where profound experiences and memories are forged - it's also the engine of our survival.

We asked - what's your most favourite iconic ocean place? Current polls show:

35% Great Barrier Reef, QLD

29% Ningaloo, WA

15% Lord How Island, NSW

7% Coral Sea, QLD

5% Great Southern Reef, SA

5% Heard Island & McDonald Islands, Antarctic

2% Gulf of Carpentaria, NT

What's your favourite iconic ocean place?

Marine Park Expansion

Ocean lovers rejoice - the Limmen Bight Marine Park is being expanded by 185km²!

That's an area more than three times the size of Sydney Harbour!

Thank you to ocean lovers everywhere for signing petitions ensuring the NT government delivers on their promise.

The expansion includes seagrass meadows, a critical food source for threatened dugongs and turtles.

Limmen Bight Marine Park is a culturally important site, and nesting ground for three types of sea turtles. The area also supports highly sought after barramundi, mud crabs and much more.

Together, we secured the Limmen Bight Marine Park in 2020 - the NT's first marine park in over 30 years. The 2026 expansion to the marine park is very welcome.

Marine parks, when done well, protect the places fish grow and wildlife feed, while supporting sustainable tourism.

Strong Marine Parks

The Australian government is currently reviewing the national network of marine parks in our offshore waters. This is a once in a decade opportunity to better protect our marine life. Visit protectourocean.org.au to protect our whales, dolphins, turtles and so much more.

Catching Everything In Its Path

End destructive bottom trawling inside Australian Marine Parks.

Destructive bottom trawling is an intensive fishing method that ploughs heavy gear across the seabed, catching everything in its path. These marine communities can take generations to recover.

Yet bottom trawling is still permitted in about 13 million hectares of our offshore Australian Marine Parks - that's an area almost twice the size of Tasmania!

These are not remote or forgotten places. They include the significant waters in the Gulf of Carpentaria (NT), the biodiverse waters off Jervis Bay (NSW), and areas of the Coral Sea Marine Park (QLD).

This is a critical opportunity to increase marine sanctuary protections and ensure our Australian Marine Parks are truly protected from destructive bottom trawling.



Out Of Our Offshore Marine Parks

Sign the petition to **end destructive bottom trawling** in offshore Australian Marine Parks and increasing marine sanctuary protection. Visit amcs.org.au/endtrawlingmp

Seismic Blasting Out

Keep seismic blasting out of Australian Marine Parks.

Seismic blasting involves vessels firing extremely loud underwater explosions every 10-15 seconds, day and night, to search for offshore oil and gas.

The blasts can damage lobsters, kill scallops, wipe out zooplankton, and drive whales away from key feeding and breeding grounds.

Shockingly, seismic blasting is still allowed inside about half of Australia's offshore marine parks!

Marine parks are meant to protect our ocean, not expose them to seismic blasting and fossil fuel drilling.

Last year, new seismic blasting was banned in Australia's offshore marine parks around Tasmania and Victoria.

Now it's time to extend these protections to all of Australia's offshore marine parks.

Out Of Our Offshore Marine Parks

Sign the petition now to support **ending all new seismic blasting** in Australian Marine Parks and strengthening the protection of our offshore ocean. Visit amcs.org.au/seismicmp

Aerial view of Country surrounding the Limmen Bight River, traditionally owned by the Marra Aboriginal people of the Gulf region - Maria Island.

Hyams Beach in Jervis Bay, INSET: Industrial trawl fishing

Seismic blasting off north-east Greenland © Christian Aslund / Greenpeace.



Unpackit Awards

Thank you to nature lovers across Australia for your hundreds of nominations to the first ever Unpackit Awards.

Your nominations have helped shine a light on the best and worst packaging in Australia.

The Unpackit Awards winners were announced in Canberra in June and publicised to a national audience by radio, TV and online news outlets.

- ✓ **The good:** A reusable milk keg system that has cut the need for 4.5 million single-use plastic milk bottles so far. Congratulations to The Udder Way.
- ✗ **The bad:** Plastic/metal hybrid "franken-cans" for iced drinks. These containers are made for single use, are not accepted for 10c container refunds, and are almost impossible to recycle.

Australia needs national packaging laws to stop plastic packaging polluting our environment. Overproduction of plastic is one of the biggest threats to our coasts and ocean.

Thank you for turning the tide on plastic pollution.

Take Action

Tell your federal MP to deliver the strong national packaging laws that Australia was promised. Visit amcs.org.au/packaging

Hello Michel

We send our deepest thanks to Michel for volunteering in support of our ocean with AMCS.

Michel has supported our Plastics Campaign team since June 2025. Lending his experience in IT, Michel has helped deliver the first ever Unpackit Awards!

"I'm deeply affected by the damage our species inflicts on the planet" says Michel, "I realised that outrage alone achieves little, so I decided to act."

When asked about his connection to the ocean, Michel speaks to countless hours surfing - waiting for waves, feeling the rhythm of the sea. Occasionally, Michel would share this space with one of its natural inhabitants.

"Each encounter reminds me how alive and magical the ocean really is."

Thank you so much to Michel, and to volunteers everywhere, for your generosity, commitment and support – you are absolutely critical to change-making work.



Join our Blue Crew

For our ocean - sea what you can do! If you would like to raise funds to protect our ocean visit amcs.org.au/fundraising-ideas or email community@amcs.org.au

Thank You Bilambil!

From the bottom of our deep blue hearts - thank you so much Bilambil Public School 2025 Class 6B!

Throughout the last two terms of 2025 the class undertook a class project about our ocean and the threats it faces. They raised \$1,700 for marine conservation! This continues a yearly tradition of creative crafting, holding a sale, and donating the proceeds.

For this project, members of the class created: Recycled, tie-dyed bags, to reduce single use plastic; Macrame driftwood pieces; Skateboard decks as hat and bag hangers; Gum nut Christmas decorations; Computer games about plastic pollution in our ocean; One student even made a table!

We are so grateful to the students of 6B, and your wonderful community. Thank you for learning about this important topic, for your beautiful and thoughtful creations, and for raising important funds to protect the ocean.



Join our Blue Crew

For our ocean - sea what you can do! If you would like to raise funds to protect our ocean visit amcs.org.au/fundraising-ideas or email community@amcs.org.au

50 Great Dives

Steve continues to raise awareness about what's at stake, and funds to protect it.

We sincerely thank Steve Sinclair for his ongoing support of our ocean with AMCS. Steve has been a passionate scuba diver and conservationist for more than 50 years. After seeing the near-complete loss of kelp forests off the coast of Tasmania, he started the 50 Great Dives Challenge.

The 50 Great Dives Challenge is an opportunity for divers to experience incredible marine ecosystems and raise funds to see them thrive into the future.

"I support the AMCS because their marine conservation work is far reaching, not only supporting endangered marine life but also the ocean habitats our incredibly diverse marine species live in."

We sincerely thank you, Steve, for your commitment to marine conservation and for connecting Australians with the natural world.



2026 Challenge

The 50 Great Dives 2026 Challenge remains open until the end of the year. It is not too late to enter, claim dives, and win great prizes. Register at 50greatdives.com



Sydney Kayak Experience

AMCS sincerely thanks Peter Turza and Sydney Kayak Experience for raising \$5,000 through their Paddle with Purpose!

Peter founded Sydney Kayak Experience in 2021. He speaks passionately about their conservation journey since the business began half a decade ago.

"Spending almost every day on the water quickly made something very clear: the ocean isn't just where we work, it's something we genuinely care about and want to protect." He continues, "Our team comes from different backgrounds, but the ocean connects us."

"We chose to support the Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) because of the genuine people behind the organisation, the care they show for our ocean, and the incredible work they do to protect marine wildlife and habitats across Australia."

We are thrilled to recognise Sydney Kayak Experience as a new business supporter of AMCS. Thank you for your support, and for connecting Australians with our incredible ocean.



Business That Cares

Our business supporters lead by example by constantly striving to operate in the most ethical and sustainable ways possible. Not only do they donate, they also demonstrate that businesses can simultaneously flourish and nourish healthy oceans. To find out more, visit amcs.org.au/business-supporters.



Justin's Underwater Imaging

Justin Bruhn is a multi-award-winning Australian underwater photographer, free diver, marine conservation advocate and a proud partner of AMCS.

"With my first fin kick below the surface the creative process begins..."

Justin's transportative photographs provide an intimate and awe-inspiring view of life beneath the waves.

The ocean is Justin's happy place, lending him a sense of calm and excitement at the same time. But witnessing first-hand the declining health of the Great Barrier Reef, Justin turned his lens into a tool for change.

Justin was motivated to take action and raise awareness of the fragility of our ocean and endangered species - **he's now been an AMCS supporter for more than a decade.**

Justin has generously donated a collection of moments and memories on dives around Australia for our 2027 Amazing Oceans Calendar to share with you.

We are thankful for Justin's commitment to raising awareness of marine conservation through a creative lens.



Amazing Oceans

Bring the incredible array of colour and diversity of our ocean into your home and office. Pre-order your AMCS 2027 Amazing Oceans calendar and shell-ebrate our ocean all year. Visit amcs.org.au/calendar



Justin Bruhn

Gordon enjoying a dive!



Meet Gordon

Gordon is passionate about marine biology. Citing his great love for and interest in Australia's native wildlife.

For ten years, Gordon worked at a local aquarium, educating people of all ages about marine conservation.

"I believe that educating young people, especially about all aspects of environmental care, is critical for the future well-being of our planet."

He continues, *"organisations such as AMCS play a pivotal role in getting this message across."*

Now semi-retired, Gordon is cataloguing his natural history collection of over 50 years. He is also researching marine animal venoms, especially cone snail species.

Thank you so much Gordon for your passion and ongoing support of Australia's marine wildlife.



Become a Sea Guardian

Take a stand and become a guardian for our oceans as an AMCS Sea Guardian with an affordable monthly gift. Visit amcs.org.au/SeaGuardians



Phil's Legacy

AMCS extends our deepest thanks to the late Dr. Philip Keith Bourne for protecting our ocean for future generations.

Phil lived life with curiosity and passion for the natural world. Awarded a Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Zoology with Marine Zoology, and a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Marine Biology.

Finding the time to earn his diving qualifications - Phil spent his spare time diving while living in Fiji, before relocating to Australia in the late 1980s.

In 1990 he became an Australian citizen, and spent 31 years as a lecturer in physiology at Curtin University of Technology in Perth.

Phil referred to himself as a biologist, and loved living, teaching and studying in Australia.

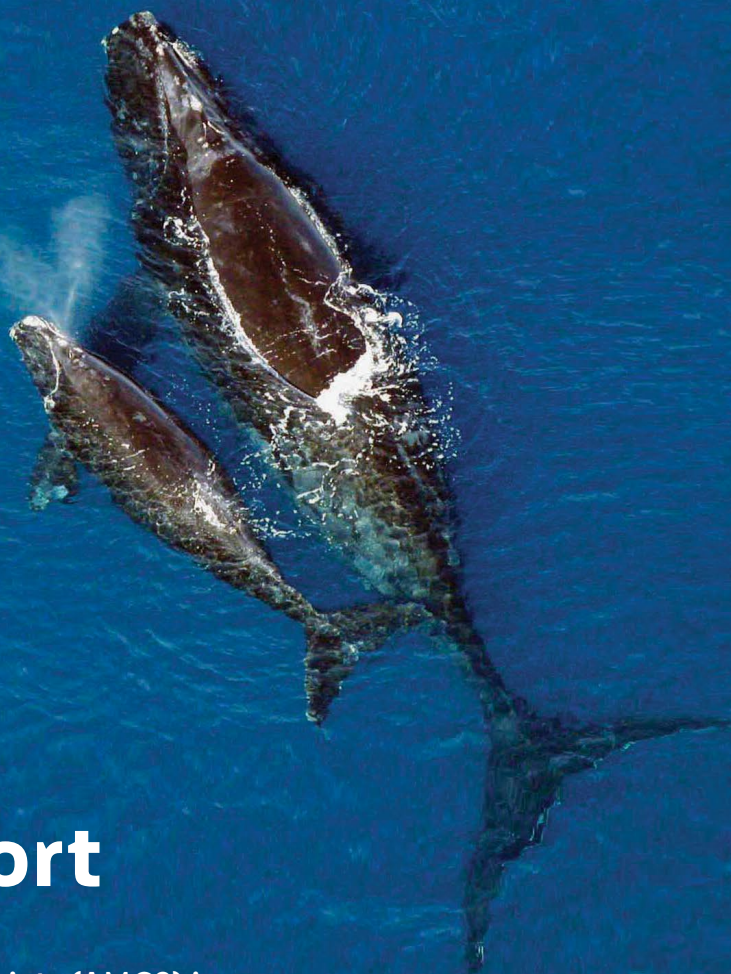
We are eternally grateful to Phil for his lasting impact on his students, community, and the protection of marine life.



What is Your Ocean Legacy?

How would you like to be remembered? By giving a gift in your Will, you will hand on a wilder, safer, more diverse and beautiful ocean planet for future generations. Visit amcs.org.au/OceanLegacy

Dr. Philip Keith Bourne



Thank you for your support

The Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) is the voice for the ocean. Since 1965, we've been defending Australia's ocean through science, advocacy and action. Thank you for protecting our precious marine wildlife and ensuring healthy seas for generations to come.

Right Whale calf and mother © NOAA

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The Australian Marine Conservation Society acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of this land and sea Country, and we 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.

© Freeda Roberts, Saltwater Dunghutti artist from South West Rocks



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