



Annual Report 2022-23

Contents

Chairman’s report	<u>3</u>
Board	<u>4</u>
Our strategic plan	<u>5</u>
Research Advisory Committee (RAC)	
The Committee	<u>6</u>
RAC Highlights	<u>8</u>
Expert Scientific Forum	<u>8</u>
Members Advisory Committee (MAC)	
The Committee	<u>9</u>
MAC Highlights	<u>11</u>
SEQUEST	<u>11</u>
Funded Research	<u>12</u>
Financial Report	<u>15</u>

Acknowledgements

TMBF acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Moreton Bay and its catchments and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. It pays respect to them and their cultures, and to elders past, present and future, and acknowledges the important role Traditional Owners play within Moreton Bay communities.

Cover photo: Dunwich (Goompi), Minjerribah (Source: Ainsley Leaning)

Funded Project photos: sourced from the respective projects except the final project which is a stock image.

Chairman's report

I am delighted to present The Moreton Bay Foundation's 2022/2023 Annual Report.

Five years ago we launched the Moreton Bay Foundation and I could not be more pleased with our achievements to date. Not only have we provided financial support to over 10 significant research projects and activities, more importantly, we have been able to bring together the Moreton Bay community with the common goal of ensuring our local treasure is managed for future generations.

This year as a board we decided it was time to review where we were headed with the outcome being the updated TMBF Strategic Plan. This was only possible through contributions from our members and stakeholders in the Bay. This has set us on a course over the next couple of years in building a plan that has the buy-in of the community to continue to make sure we are doing what is best for Moreton Bay. A summary of the key goals of our Strategic Plan are outlined in this plan also.

I would like to acknowledge the tremendous financial support we receive from our supporters and once again acknowledge the generosity of Ralph Wilson who continues to donate his art to support the Foundation. Through this financial support from donors we have been able to provide funding to significant research projects and their incredible results with details included in this Annual Report.

Thank you to our small team of Sam Capon, Katie Walters, Darryl Whatmough and Ainsley Leaning. You are doing a remarkable job by kicking goals and getting important work done. Thank you also to our extensive group of volunteers who contribute an incredibly generous amount of their time and effort in different roles in boards and committees to ensure the ongoing success of the Foundation. There is a wealth of knowledge and experience contributed by these experts that is invaluable and are always prepared to collaborate and share their great ideas. And finally, I would also like to especially thank Bruce Quarterman who is stepping down as a director this year for his contribution in both finance and governance committees. A great friend of the Bay.



Rob Siganto
Chair, TMBF Board

Board



Rob Siganto BInfoTech GradDipInfoTech DipEd
Chair of the Board
Member of Fundraising Committee
Appointed 30 August 2018
Re-elected 4 November 2021
Meetings attended 4/4



John Goodman BCom CA
Fundraising Committee Chair
Appointed 13 August 2018
Re-elected 4 November 2021
Meetings attended 4/4



Dr Mark Gibbs BE MBA PhD
Members Advisory Committee Chair
Member of Fundraising Committee
Appointed 13 August 2020
Elected 12 November 2020
Meetings attended 0/4



A Prof Ian Tibbetts BSc (Hons) PhD
Appointed 30 August 2018
Re-elected 12 November 2020
Meetings attended 4/4



Prof Sam Capon BSc MA PhD GCHE
Research Advisory Committee Chair
Appointed 03 November 2022
Elected 03 November 2022
Meetings attended 3/4



Bruce Quartermann BBus (Acc) CA
GradDipACG AGIA ACIS GAICD
Investment Committee Chair
Company Secretary
Appointed 13 August 2020
Elected 12 November 2020
Meetings attended 3/4



Meta Goodman BSc (Home Eco)
GradDip Securities Institute (FINSIA) GAICD
Member of Fundraising Committee
Appointed 13 August 2018
Re-elected 12 November 2020
Meetings attended 4/4

Our strategic plan

During this year, we reflected on the Foundation's progress to date and charted a new way forward to achieve the best outcomes for the Bay. We conducted an extensive strategic planning process to revise our vision, mission and purpose and realign our values – culminating in a one-day facilitated workshop at the University of Queensland in February 2023, attended by members of our Board, staff, Research Advisory Committee and Members Advisory Committee.



The key outcome of this process has been the generation of our 2023-24 Interim Strategic Plan which lays out our goals and actions for the current year. This Plan will guide TMBF through a period of transition to refocus our efforts where we can have the most impact and improve our internal structure and processes to better support this.

Our vision - A thriving and healthy Moreton Bay for nature and people.

Our mission – To generate, apply and share knowledge to drive an environmentally sustainable future for Moreton Bay through collaboration, influence and targeted research.

Our purpose - We facilitate collaborative effort and the generation, application and sharing of knowledge to contribute to an aware, engaged community committed to the conservation of Moreton Bay.

Key goals for 2023-2024

1. Develop an Investment and Implementation Plan for Moreton Bay to guide research, action and advocacy for TMBF and the Moreton Bay community.
2. Initiate the development of a consolidated Knowledge Hub to support research, planning and management decisions in Moreton Bay.
3. Become a trusted, authoritative and influential voice for Moreton Bay's biodiversity and coastal and marine environments.
4. Build an effective, sustainable and transparent organization with the resources and structure to manage the requirements of the Foundation.

Research Advisory Committee (RAC)

Committee members



Sam is an adjunct Professor (ecology) with Griffith University and a member of both the Science Committee and Scientific Expert Panel for Healthy Land and Water. She holds a PhD in Ecology from Griffith University and a Master of Arts majoring in Philosophy from University of New England (AU).



Prof Ian Tibbetts (Chair) (retired Aug 22)

Ian Tibbetts is the Director of the Centre for Marine Science at the University of Queensland, supporting the activities of more than 60 laboratories engaged in marine science related activities. He is also Director of the International Programs Office, which brings American students to Australia to study marine and terrestrial biology. He has authored more than 100 scholarly journal articles, many of which feature Moreton Bay.



Dr Paul Maxwell

Coastal ecologist and natural resource management specialist
Research and Development lead consultant
Alluvium Consulting



Prof Stuart Parsons

Behavioural Ecologist
Head of School of Earth, Environmental and Biological Sciences,
Queensland University of Technology



Dr Grace Muriuki

Dr Grace Muriuki is the Strategic Science Manager at Healthy Land & Water. She has postgraduate training in Geography, Planning and Environmental Management, and over 20 years' experience in research, policy and development. She is passionate about the strategic application of science in the management of SEQ's natural capital, including ESG considerations.



Prof Thomas Schlacher

Marine Scientist
Director, The Animal Research Centre: health + ecology + conservation
University of Sunshine Coast



Dr Annie Lau
Geomorphologist
Lecturer
University of Queensland



Dr Peter Rothlisberg
Marine Biologist – Biological Oceanographer
Post-retirement Research Fellow
CSIRO Environment

Research Advisory Committee (RAC)

Committee members



Dr Alexandra Campbell

Alex is a marine ecologist and science communicator. As co-founder and key member of UniSC's Seaweed Research Group, she leads their Environmental Research Program, which is concerned with the conservation and restoration of underwater forests, the restorative aquaculture of seaweeds and the re-connection of coastal communities to nature through Citizen Science.



Prof Kylie Pitt

Kylie Pitt is a marine ecologist at Griffith University, with specialist expertise in jellyfishes. She leads the Griffith Sea Jellies Research Laboratory in partnership with Sea World. Much of her research focuses on solving problematic interactions between jellyfishes and coastal industries and communities.



Jacob Martin

Principal Ranger , QYAC

Jacob is a proud Quandamooka man from his mother's side, from Minjerribah, Mulgumpin and the surrounding areas. He is passionate about caring for Country and mentoring the next generation .



Prof Jacky Croke

Professor in Climate, Environment & Sustainability
University Research Centre Director
Faculty of Science, School of Earth & Atmospheric Sciences
Queensland University of Technology



Dr Rodrigo Bustamante

Senior Research Scientist
CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere



Dr Megan Saunders (retired Feb 23)

Senior Research Scientist , Ecological Modeller
CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere
Honorary Senior Fellow
The University of Queensland



Joel Balzenius (retired Jan 23)

Principal Policy Officer - Strategic Water Initiatives
Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water

Research Advisory Committee (RAC)

RAC highlights

Sam Capon commenced as chair of the RAC early in this year, taking the reins from Ian Tibbetts who has chaired the committee for the past few years and has been instrumental in establishing TMBF.

Numerous RAC members and associates attended and presented at Day on the Bay on 15th October 2022.

RAC members have provided critical support to TMBF during this year, reviewing research reports and highlighting priority knowledge gaps.

Members of the RAC were also actively involved in our strategic planning process during the year, including attendance at a strategy workshop at the University of Queensland on 9th February 2023, along with numerous meetings and revisions of strategy documents.



Source: Healthy Land and Water

Expert Scientific Forum

The 2022 Expert Scientific Forum was held from 9:30am – 3pm on the 9th December at the Pacific Hotel, Brisbane. The forum was attended by 26 experts, representing a range of organisations including our member universities, the Department of Environment and Science (DES), CSIRO, Healthy Land & Water, and the TMBF Board.

The focus of the day was on habitat mapping of Moreton Bay, especially with regards to marine benthic ecosystems. Presentations were given by Mike Ronan (Manager, Queensland Wetlands Program, DES), Associate Professor Chris Roelfsema (University of Queensland) and Dr James Udy (Science under Sail) on habitat mapping needs and approaches. In between presentations, the group considered existing relevant data and programs and had a lively discussion regarding strategies and opportunities for generating a fit for purpose habitat map for the Bay.

Priorities identified during the forum included:

- The need for a centralised habitat data repository
- Consistent data collection and/or reporting protocols
- Development of use cases to demonstrate how habitat mapping can drive improved outcomes

Member's Advisory Committee (MAC)

Committee members



Dr Mark Gibbs

Mark is a regular yacht racing campaigner, providing oceanographic and meteorological support for a number of international ocean racing campaigns over the last three decades. He is also a marine researcher and has worked for CSIRO, AECOM and the Queensland University of Technology, providing advice on coastal climate adaptation issues. He currently leads a major research initiative on restoring the Great Barrier Reef at AIMS. Mark sits on a number of government marine and coastal technical advisory bodies and non-profit organisations.



Prof Kylie Pitt

Kylie is a marine ecologist at Griffith University, with specialist expertise in jellyfishes. She leads the Griffith Sea Jellies Research Laboratory in partnership with Sea World. Much of her research focuses on solving problematic interactions between jellyfishes and coastal industries and communities.



Prof Chris Frid

Chris is a benthic ecologist at Griffith University and spent much of his professional life developing our understanding of anthropogenic impacts on the benthos and developing evidence-based approaches to manage these threats. Before joining Griffith he was Professor of Marine Biology at Liverpool University (UK) and prior to that Professor of Marine Ecology at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne (UK) where he was also Director of the Dove Marine Laboratory.



Meta Goodman

Meta has a Bachelor of Science (Home Econ) from QUT and a Graduate Diploma from the Securities Institute (now FINSIA). She is a fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD). She was Chair of Family Planning Queensland (now True), as well held directorships with other entities. She has always had a fond interest in marine biology, as a hobby not a profession.



Prof Thomas Schlacher

Marine Scientist

Director, The Animal Research Centre: health + ecology + conservation
University of Sunshine Coast



Professor Mike Noad

Professor, School of Veterinary Science
Director of the Centre for Marine Science
University of Queensland

Member's Advisory Committee (MAC)

Committee members



John Goodman

John practised as a Chartered Accountant for many years until 1987 when he founded a boutique financial advisory firm. He has served on a number of not-for-profit boards, and although now retired, still actively pursues his philanthropic interests. In 2010, John, with his family, established the Goodman Foundation which has supported charitable causes including marine science education and community engagement.



Prof Stuart Parsons

Behavioural Ecologist
Head of School of Earth, Environmental and
Biological Sciences
Queensland University of Technology



Dave Brewer

Research Scientist
Director, David Brewer Consulting



Les Barkla

Les is the Founder and Co-ordinator of the Pristine Peninsula CommUNITY Group. He has been connected to the Redcliffe Peninsula and Moreton Bay Region for over 25 years. One of Les' passions is cleaning up our world for future generations to enjoy. He holds sustainable living and passive design, as well as business management, qualifications, and has over 25 years experience in environmental science communication.



Dr Kathy Townsend

Associate Professor, Animal Ecology
Lead for International and Engagement
School of Science, Technology and Engineering
University of the Sunshine Coast



Michelle Gane (retired May 2023), Industry Fellow
Centre for Clean Energy Technologies & Practices
Queensland University of Technology

Michelle has background in environmental science and long history in the agricultural sector. With nearly 20 years of experience from private consulting, State Environmental Protection Agency, AgForce and more recently QUT, she is able to develop research strategy in a consistently evolving and competitive environment, specifically focusing on areas of new transdisciplinary research collaborations.

Member's Advisory Committee (MAC)

MAC highlights

TMBF MAC members were critical advisors to our strategic planning process during the year, providing feedback via a detailed survey about the Foundation and our activities, attending a full day strategy workshop at the University of Queensland on 9th February 2023, and revising strategy documents.

Members of the MAC also guided and assisted TMBF's facilitation of a collaborative SEQUEST program engaging the emerging experts of Moreton Bay - marine science students at our member universities.

SEQUEST

Early in 2023, TMBF convened a workshop for early career leaders to design and plan the expansion of Marine Society UQ's very successful SEQUEST program, to become a collaborative initiative, engaging students and PhD candidates at all four of our member universities (UQ, UniSC, Griffith University and QUT).

SEQUEST (South East Queensland Underwater Ecological Survey Teams) is a student-driven initiative, where ecological data is collected in Moreton Bay, and catalogued by students. The program is designed so that students can gain valuable experience in field and lab work with real-world application. In our visioning weekend, the group addressed opportunities and challenges for a multi-institutional SEQUEST, building in future pathways for non-marine science students, other educational institutions, community organisations and the general public to become involved.

The first six months of 2023 saw the early stages of the long-term vision completed. TMBF provided equipment and support to the University of the Sunshine Coast and Griffith University to join UQ's existing efforts. With advice from our network of management and coastcare colleagues, we were able to identify priorities and suggest data collection sites in



Students from our four Member universities L-R Mel Staines (UQ), PJ Ikpe (UniSQ), Anna Mullins (QUT), Kerry Dickson (Griffith), Lisa Walton (UniSC) & Davina Gifford (UQ)

the north and south of Moreton Bay, and these will see the first UniSC, Griffith SEQUEST and broader community events in the latter months of 2023.

TMBF's facilitation of a collaborative and open SEQUEST has been supported by the Wettenhall Environment Trust.

Funded Research

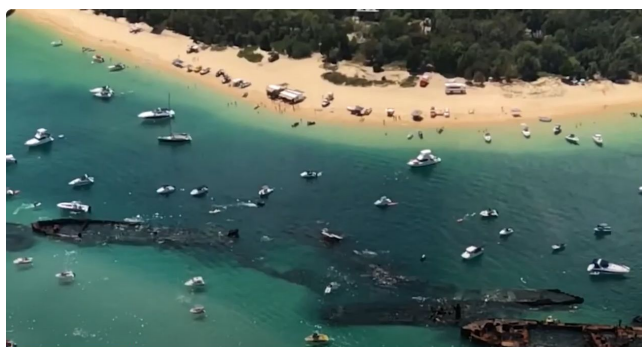
Living and Playing Together: an interactive information and visualisation interface for the sustainability of multiple uses and values of Moreton Bay.

Dr Julie Vercelloni (QUT), Distinguished Professor Kerrie Mengersen (QUT); Dr Aiden Price (QUT), Dr Angela Dean (UQ); Associate Professor Kate Thompson (QUT), Dr Ross Dwyer (USC), Professor Peter Anderson (QUT), Jodi Salmond (Reef Check Australia), Gavin Winter (QUT), Dr Chris Roelfsema (UQ), Dr Vicki Martin (UQ)

The Living and Playing Together (QUT and collaborators) project's original aim was to create an interactive digital platform called "Living Together" to showcase the array of recreational activities, empowering people with better knowledge of the wildlife they are living with.

The Living and Playing Together project grew in the 2023-2024 Financial Year, as the project team successfully leveraged TMBF's original grant to draw in significant new funding from SmartSat. The revised outcomes have been scaled up to include additional satellite imagery processed by neural network AI to automatically detect small vessels in Moreton Bay.

The project is expected to be completed by December 2023.

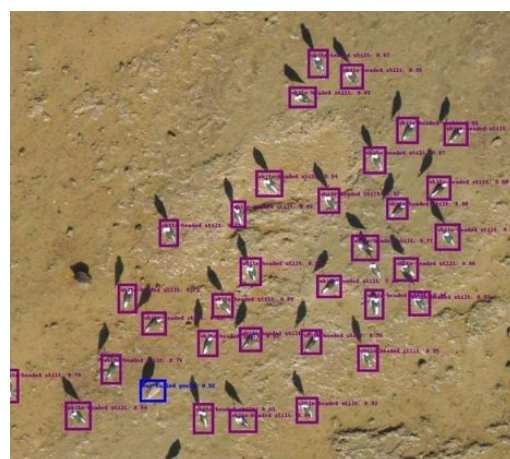


Surveying shorebirds in Moreton Bay using an unmanned aerial vehicle

Joshua Wilson (UQ), Professor Richard Fuller (UQ); Dr Bradley Woodworth (UQ), Professor Brian Lovell (UQ); Ting Ting (Amy) Gibson

Survey Shorebirds aimed to define the barriers that limit the use of drones to survey shorebirds by producing guidelines for the operation of drones near shorebirds, and developing an accessible method of efficiently processing drone-based shorebird images.

The researchers identified the major factors that affect birds' responses to drones. Critically, the species most sensitive to an approach was the critically endangered Eastern Curlew. In addition, the researchers trained a 'bird-detection algorithm' that correctly identifies 99% of birds. In the future, the algorithm will be trained to species-specific identification.



The Surveying Shorebirds granted project has been successfully acquitted and a full report can be [found on our website](#).

Funded Research (cont)

Assessing wetland restoration effectiveness for frogs using acoustic monitoring

Dr Berndt Janse van Rensburg (UQ)

Through acoustic monitoring and focusing mainly on threatened frog populations, this project aims to measure the effectiveness of restoration efforts within coastal “wallum” wetlands, supporting the research goals of the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC) and develop minimally invasive survey methods.

An interim report has been received confirming research tasks have been completed; the grant period has been extended through another breeding season to improve the robustness of findings. A final report is expected to be completed by the end of June 2024.



Vehicle Impacts on Ocean Shores: Replacing Fake News with Evidence-based Environmental Management

Prof. Thomas Schlacher (UniSC)

This project aims to collate and synthesise, through a global meta-analysis of scientific literature, evidence related to off-road vehicle impacts on beaches, and make this literature openly accessible, in plain English, on the web and in social media.

The research is currently underway and a final report is expected to be completed by the end of June 2024.



Financial report

The Moreton Bay Foundation Limited (“TMBFL”)

TMBF would like to thank the members for their ongoing commitment. Member subscriptions of \$72,050 were received. This is a \$15,000 decline from the previous year and is a result of an ordinary member not renewing for the 2022/23 year.

Other income of \$377,695 reflects event ticket sales, grants income and \$318,516 in management fees received from TMBFT.

Professional fees and project costs were maintained at the same level as prior year. Employee benefits expense increased by \$68,458 over the prior year due to having two part time employees in place for the entire 2022/2023 financial year.

Overall TMBFL recorded a net operating profit of \$198,956 (prior year loss \$13,936).

The Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2023 shows total assets of \$14,412 (prior year \$171,344) and Net Assets of (\$ 18,514). The prior year Net Assets were (\$217,010).

The Moreton Bay Foundation Trust (“TMBFT”)

Donations received this financial year were \$65,600 (prior year \$171,451). The reduction in donation income was attributed to the decline in the Ambassador program.

Other income was recorded at \$6,396 (prior year \$26,959).

Expenditure on approved projects this year was \$131,657 (prior year \$38,639).

Other expenses were \$325,615 (prior year \$5,242) due to management fees paid to TMBFL mentioned above.

Overall, the Net operating loss was \$369,325 compared to a profit of \$139,068 in the prior year.

The Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2023 shows total Assets of \$699,288 (prior year \$1,005,420). Net assets at 30 June 2023 were \$615,662 (prior year \$984,987).

A copy of the full audited reports are available [here](#)

Bruce Quarterman
Treasurer



For further information

To obtain further details about our current programs, activities and events, visit moretonbayfoundation.org or email admin@moretonbayfoundation.org

Support TMBF's mission by donating, or becoming a Friend of Moreton Bay member. To join us as a business supporter or partner in activities, email community@moretonbayfoundation.org

Visit our website



Donate



Become a
member

