

Annual Report

Financial Year 2023 - 2024



The Moreton Bay
Foundation

Acknowledgement of Country

The Moreton Bay Foundation acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the Lands of and around Moreton Bay. The Foundation pays respect to their Elders — past, present and emerging — and acknowledges the important role Traditional Owners play within Moreton Bay communities.

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Chairman's report

It is with great pleasure that I present The Moreton Bay Foundation's Annual Report for 2023/2024.

This year we have delivered on our promise to launch the Blueprint for a sustainable Moreton Bay. This Blueprint identifies priority actions for the protection and renewal of Moreton Bay over the coming decade. By taking these actions, we can ensure Moreton Bay can sustain its position as 'the jewel of the crown of South East Queensland'.

Our strategic plan focuses on essential programs, including Knowledge Exchange, Strategic Communications, Participation, Collaboration, and Advocacy. We are excited to collaborate with our community, partners, and supporters in the coming years to implement the Blueprint's recommendations, prioritizing the wellbeing of Moreton Bay.

Once again, I would like to acknowledge the tremendous financial support from our members and supporters. A special thanks goes to Ralph Wilson for his ongoing support by continuing to donate his art to support the Foundation.

I would also like to recognize our dedicated executive team of Sam Capon, Katie Walters, and Ainsley Leaning who consistently excel in their respective roles.

As we bid farewell to Associate Professor Ian Tibbets, we reflect on his unparalleled contributions in establishing the Moreton Bay Foundation and his advocacy of Moreton Bay. Ian has a unique ability to engage diverse audiences, from school children to heads of state, always conveying the critical importance of marine science and our ecosystems. Thank you, Ian, for your extraordinary service.

We are excited to welcome Rob McTaggart, Suzy Wilson, and Emily Davies to our board. Their expertise will be invaluable as we continue our mission of guardianship for Moreton Bay.

Thank you once again for your support and commitment to The Moreton Bay Foundation.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Rob Siganto". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

**Rob Siganto, Chair
The Moreton Bay Foundation.**



CEO's report

It's been a big year for TMBF and Moreton Bay! As an organisation, we have devoted considerable effort towards reshaping and refining our identity and purpose, strengthening our relationships with members, supporters and other key partners, and charting a new course into the future. As a result, we are, at the start of 2024-25, in better shape than ever and ready to sail full steam ahead into this next strategic period.

In particular, we have worked hard with our members and advisors to identify the major areas in which TMBF can have impact with regards to our vision for a healthy and thriving Moreton Bay for nature and people - leadership, knowledge and partnerships. We recognise that TMBF is in a unique position to be able to effectively coordinate and promote collaboration and co-design amongst diverse stakeholders and to ensure that robust, defensible knowledge to inform Bay management is accessible and relevant.

As well as THE numerous fantastic research projects culminating and continuing in 2023-2024 with TMBF's support (about which you can read more below) one of our biggest endeavours this year, and indeed in the history of TMBF, has been the instigation of the Moreton Bay Blueprint. This exciting project, commissioned by TMBF and undertaken by EcoFutures consulting, provides a strong foundation for informing our priorities. The Blueprint provides an up-to-date assessment of the condition and trends in key values of the Bay, as well as threats to these, drawing on a wide range of publications as well as extensive stakeholder engagement. The Blueprint shows that while we have much to celebrate in our Bay, we also need to address multiple threats to ensure these values are protected into the future.

Moreton Bay is a magnificent coastal wetland system, one that many of us take somewhat for granted - our 'blue backyard'. Unlike many other wonders of the world which we might only visit once or occasionally, Moreton Bay provides the coastal backdrop to our everyday lives in South-east Queensland. TMBF, with the support of our members and partners, is committed to ensuring that we appreciate and protect our beautiful home and the many communities, human and otherwise, who depend on and are integrally connected with the Bay.

Samantha Capon

Samantha Capon, CEO
The Moreton Bay Foundation

Our people

Board of Directors



Rob Siganto
GradDipInfoTech DipEd
Chair of the Board and Fundraising
Committee
Appointed 30 August 2018
Re-elected 4 November 2021
Meetings attended 6/6



John Goodman
BCom CA
Fundraising Committee Chair (outgoing)
Company Secretary
Appointed 13 August 2018
Re-elected 4 November 2021
Meetings attended 6/6.



Meta Goodman
BSc (Home Eco) GradDip Securities
Institute (FINSIA) GAIDC
Appointed 13 August 2018
Re-elected 3 November 2022
Meetings attended 5/6



A Prof Ian Tibbetts
BSc (Hons) PhD
Appointed 30 August 2018
Re-elected 13 December 2023
Meetings attended 2/6.



Dr Mark Gibbs
BE MBA PhD
Members Advisory Committee Chair
(outgoing)
Appointed 13 August 2020
Re-elected 13 December 2023
Meetings attended 5/6



Prof Sam Capon
BSc MA PhD GCHE
Research Advisory Committee Chair
Appointed 03 November 2022
Elected 03 November 2022
Meetings attended 6/6



Rob Mactaggart
BBus (Valuation)
Appointed 7 February 2024
Meetings attended 3/3



Bruce Quarterman BBus (Acc) CA
GradDipACG AGIA ACIS GAICD
Investment Committee Chair
Company Secretary (outgoing)
Appointed 13 August 2020
Elected 3 November 2022
Retired 13 December 2023
Meetings attended 3/3

Our people

Committees and staff

Research Advisory Committee (RAC)

Samantha Capon (Griffith University)
Alexandra Campbell (UniSC)
Ben Longstaff (Healthy Land and Water)
Stuart Parsons (UniSC)
Thomas Schlacher (UniSC)
Paul Maxwell (Ecofutures)
Jacky Croke (QUT) / Joh Hu (QUT)
Annie Lau (UQ)
Rodrigo Bustamante
Kerrie Foxwell Norton (QUT)
Kylie Pitt (Griffith University)

Members Advisory Committee (MAC)

James Goodman (Goodman Foundation)
Mike Noad (UQ)
Chris Frid (Griffith University)
Thomas Schlacher (UniSC)
Jacky Croke (QUT)
Les Barkla (representative for Friends of Moreton Bay – North)
Dave Brewer (representative for Friends of Moreton Bay –South)



Fundraising Committee

Rob Siganto (TMBF Chair)
Samantha Capon (TMBF CEO)
Meta Goodman (TMBF Director)
Rob Mactaggart (TMBF Director)
Mark Gibbs (TMBF Director)
Chris Frid (Member representative)
Stuart Parsons (Member representative)

TMBF Staff

Samantha Capon, Chief Executive Officer
Katie Walters, Program Manager
Darryl Whatmough, Fundraising Manager
Ainsley Leaning, Operations Support

Our Work

Supporting Research

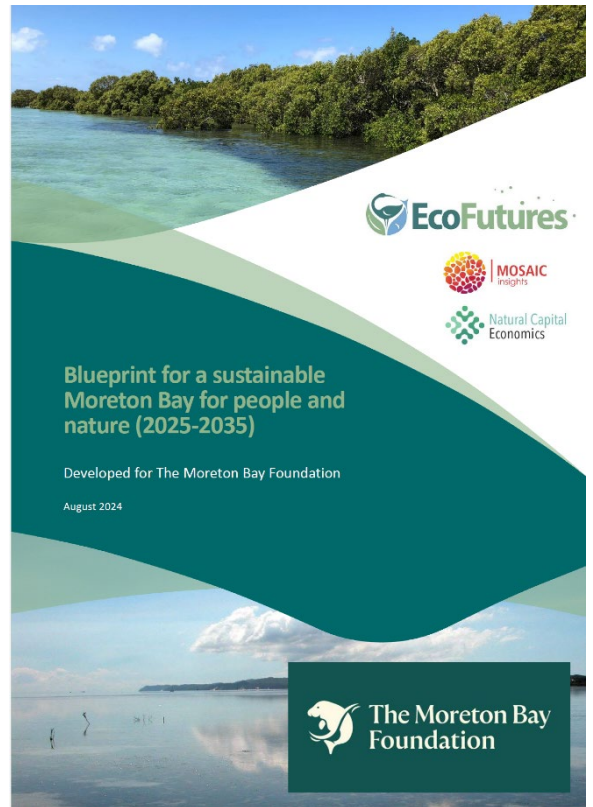
TMBF took a significant step towards securing the future of our cherished Moreton Bay this year with the commissioning of a comprehensive report on the state and future of Moreton Bay.

The Blueprint for a Sustainable Moreton Bay has been developed and prepared by EcoFutures, a highly respected environmental consultancy. It includes wide-ranging consideration of Moreton Bay ecological, social, and economic knowledge, as well as the various legislative instruments and policies that address aspects of its care at multiple layers of government.

The aim of the Blueprint is to identify actionable recommendations that should be undertaken as a matter of priority if we are to preserve and enhance the healthy state of Moreton Bay. All stakeholders - individuals, businesses, governments and NGOs - will be able to contribute to the Bay's sustainability, using the Blueprint as a guide to actions that will have the greatest impact.

TMBF's Members Advisory and Research Advisory Committees were consulted throughout the development of the Blueprint, as were a large number of stakeholders from government, research institutions, management agencies, and the environmental NGO sector.

The Blueprint will be launched in the early stages of the 2024-25 Financial Year.



Our Work

Supporting Research

Community understanding and appreciation of the diverse values of Moreton Bay - pathways to strengthen community appreciation for Moreton Bay's natural and cultural heritage

Dr Angela Dean (UQ), Dr Tracy Schultz (UQ)

This study explored how residents of South East Queensland (SEQ) support the conservation and protection of Moreton Bay's natural and ecological heritage. The term "engagement" is used to reflect residents' understanding and appreciation of the ecological values of Moreton Bay and their willingness to support its protection. By assessing these dimensions, the research identifies patterns of engagement among SEQ residents and outlines pathways to strengthen community appreciation for the region's natural and cultural heritage.

The research used a survey specifically designed for SEQ residents, with a sample size of 3,208 respondents. The survey measured various aspects of engagement with Moreton Bay, including knowledge, familiarity with wildlife, appreciation of nature, and willingness to share information.

The study found SEQ residents fell into five distinct groups based on their understanding and appreciation of Moreton Bay:

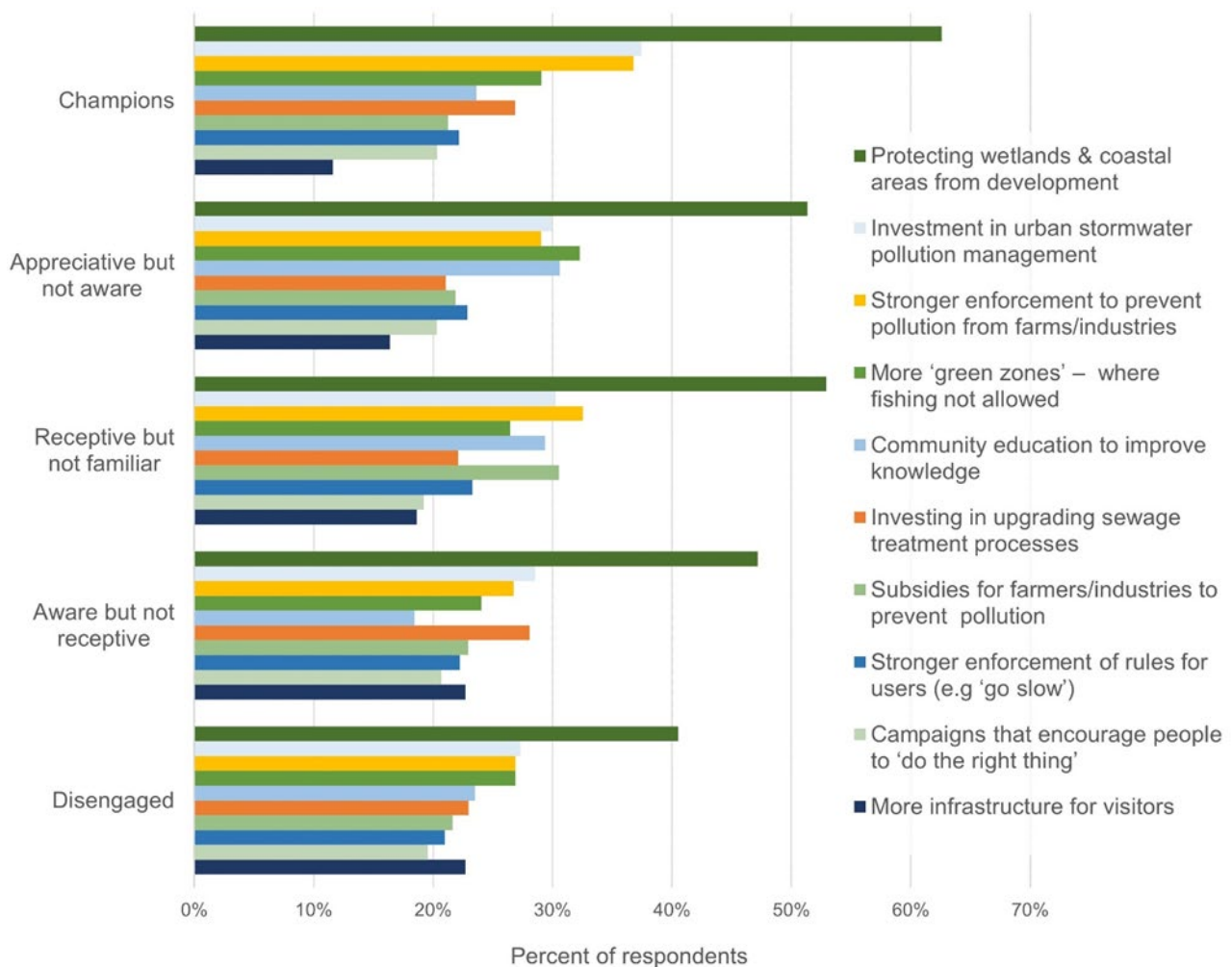
- **Champions (24%):** This group scored highly across all dimensions—knowledge, familiarity with wildlife, appreciation of nature, and a strong willingness to share information. They represent the most engaged and proactive portion of the population.
- **Appreciative but not Aware (28%):** While this group showed high levels of appreciation for wildlife and a willingness to share information, their knowledge and familiarity with the wildlife of Moreton Bay were comparatively low.
- **Receptive but Unfamiliar (11%):** Characterized by strong knowledge and positive appreciation for nature, this group exhibited the lowest familiarity with wildlife. Although they were willing to share information, their engagement lagged behind other groups.
- **Aware but Not Receptive (14%):** Participants in this group demonstrated high knowledge and moderate familiarity with wildlife. However, they showed low levels of appreciation and a limited willingness to share information.
- **Disengaged:** These individuals scored below average across all dimensions, including knowledge, familiarity, appreciation, and willingness to share information.



Our Work

Supporting Research

The study recommended that engagement strategies should target the values that resonate most with each group. For highly engaged groups like the Champions, strategies emphasising the positive environmental condition of Moreton Bay and calling on a deeper connection to place would be most effective. These groups would also be more likely to participate in a wide range of social and civic actions related to conservation.



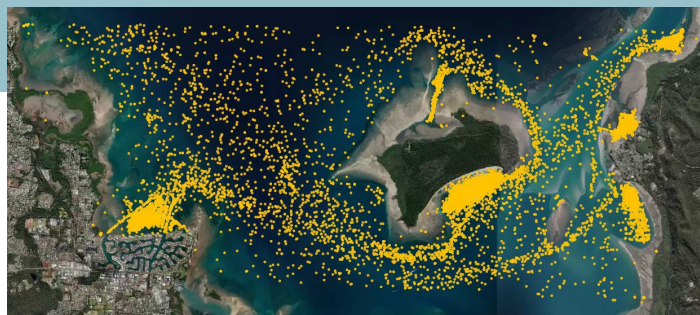
For less engaged groups, strategies should focus on simple, entry-level actions, such as reducing plastic use or promoting recreational activities in Moreton Bay. Understanding the barriers these groups face in accessing information and participating in blue-space recreation will help tailor more effective engagement initiatives.

Our Work

Supporting Research

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

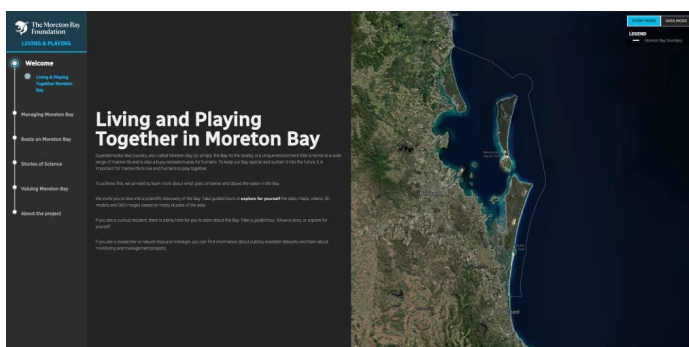
Dr Julie Vercelloni (QUT), Distinguished Professor Kerrie Mengersen (QUT); Dr Aiden Price (QUT), Dr Angela Dean (UQ); Associate Professor Kate Thompson (QUT), Dr Ross Dwyer (USC), Professor Peter Anderson (QUT), Jodi Salmond (Reef Check Australia), Gavin Winter (QUT), Dr Chris Roelfsema (UQ), Dr Vicki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



The primary aim of this project was to increase public awareness and understanding of the environmental, cultural, and recreational value of Moreton Bay, supporting long-term conservation efforts. The project included collection, collation, and processing of a wide variety of data layers, and the creation of a digital platform to integrate these diverse data sets (including ecological surveys, recreational patterns, and spatial imagery), to present a comprehensive view of the region's marine ecosystems and human activities.

The digital platform was developed by Queensland University of Technology's (QUT) Visualisation and Interactive Solutions for Engagement and Research (VISER) group, and offers two primary modes:

- **Story Mode:** This mode guides users through a series of narrative-driven stories, highlighting different aspects of Moreton Bay's biodiversity and human interaction with the marine park. It uses scrolly telling techniques to engage users with thematic content while dynamically displaying relevant data on a map.
- **Data Mode:** This allows users to explore different data layers on their own, giving them the freedom to interact with environmental and human activity data, such as boating routes and seagrass extent maps.



The platform will provide a valuable resource for increasing awareness of Moreton Bay's ecological and recreational significance. Future iterations of the platform will benefit from broader collaboration with research institutions and government agencies to continue enhancing its data scope and functionality.

Our Work

Supporting Research

Assessing wetland restoration effectiveness for frogs using acoustic monitoring

Dr Berndt Janse van Rensburg (UQ)

This project to assess wetland restoration for acid frogs using acoustic monitoring has completed several key tasks, including installing bioacoustic recorders and obtaining initial evidence of frog recolonization in restored wetlands. TMBF has approved an extension to the project, so researchers can further analyse the stability of the frog populations, and gather data from an additional breeding season for more robust conclusions. The project is on track for completion by June 2025.



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

Prof. Thomas Schlacher (UniSC)

The project on vehicle impacts on beaches has completed several key outputs, including a manuscript providing a new framework for assessing off-road vehicle use and a global meta-analysis of vehicle impacts on dune vegetation, which is currently under peer review. Data extraction for some components (vegetation and vertebrates) has been completed, while other elements like geomorphological and hydrological impacts are ongoing. TMBF has approved an extension to this project which is on track for completion by the end of 2024.



Our Engagement

SEQUEST

TMBF's development of a collaborative SEQUEST program wrapped up at the end of 2023. SEQUEST (South East Queensland Underwater Ecological Survey Teams) originated with the University of Queensland Marine Society. SEQUEST is a student-led initiative which explores invertebrate species recruitment in Moreton Bay by deploying and retrieving Autonomous Reef Monitoring Structures (ARMS) structures, collecting data and identifying species found in locations across the Bay

TMBF's project encouraged collaboration across different academic and community stakeholders. From July to December, TMBF provided resources to member universities to build capacity and seed a collective resource collection. We employed two SEQUEST officers from the University of Queensland to a) build an online data entry portal and a public dashboard to visualise the collected data and b) collate and update SEQUEST protocols so that teams conducting SEQUEST activities in the future can follow a simple, consistent set of instructions. We also provided 'kickstarter' donations to the University of the Sunshine Coast and Griffith University to build their SEQUEST activities. These donations included 4 ARMS structures which were then deployed by students from the University of the Sunshine Coast and Griffith University's Marine Society in the Gold Coast Broadwater, at Jabiru Island, and two locations in Pumicestone Passage.

In addition, TMBF identified community partners with interest in connecting and contributing to SEQUEST. ARMS deployments operated with the assistance and partnership of the Coast Guard (Sunshine Coast), Take Action Pumicestone Passage (TAPP), the Jetty Apartments and the Seaworld Foundation, and the project culminated in an outing with the Jacobs Well Environmental Education Centre (JWEEC) who have also been independently collecting ARMS data in Moreton Bay.



Our Engagement



TMBF's collaborative SEQUEST model also gained external support from political and public sectors, although challenges in logistics, First Nations involvement, and managing expectations were noted. The SEQUEST initiative shows promise for long-term data use in adaptive management of Moreton Bay, with further opportunities to engage students, community groups, and additional data types. The collaborative SEQUEST program needs funding to continue.

Connection with Community

The second half of the financial year saw engagement activities shift to environmental community groups and their members, to ensure they were represented in the development of the Blueprint for a Sustainable Moreton Bay. Through a series of interviews, eight groups with combined supporter-numbers upward of 100,000 members of the SEQ public were asked for their perspectives on a) key vulnerabilities and risks to the Bay, b) priority actions that were necessary to protect the Bay and c) barriers to implementing these actions. As a result of these consultations, the final Blueprint reflects a greater range of activities and knowledge, and is more grounded in the realities of implementing actions at the public, as well as management, level.





Finance Report

Financial Summary

During the year ended 30th June 2024, activities of The Moreton Bay Foundation were conducted in two entities, The Moreton Bay Foundation Limited and The Moreton Bay Foundation Trust. Accordingly, there are separate financial statements for each entity. Full details can be found [HERE](#)

The following consolidated Income Statement and Profit and Loss gives a view of the consolidated results of the two entities for the year.

Consolidated Income Statement and Profit and Loss Year Ended 30 June 2024

Income Statement	Consolidated	\$
Donation		37,617
Member Subscriptions		71,850
Other Income		52,729
Interest Received		18,485
Unrealised gain/loss on revaluation of investment		8,115
Employee Benefit Expense		(189,596)
Depreciation & Amortisation		(540)
Professional Fees		(4,718)
Project Expenditure		(124,677)
Other Expenses		(108,447)
Net Profit / Loss		(239,182)

A major departure from budget was that the total donations received were well below expectations. Of the project expenditure of \$124,667, an amount of \$118,921 was consultancy fees to prepare the *Blueprint for a Sustainable Moreton Bay for People and Nature (2025-2035)*.

As at 30th June 2024, available funds (cash and cash equivalents plus financial assets) were \$415,167, compared with \$698,113 as at 30th June 2023.

John Goodman

John Goodman
Treasurer



**Make a
donation**



**Become a
member**