



TANGAROA BLUE
FOUNDATION

2022 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

www.tangaroablue.org



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Tangaroa Blue Foundation acknowledges
the Traditional Custodians of the Lands and Sea
Country on which we live and work.

We pay our respects to their Elders, past and
present, and acknowledge their continuous
relationship to this land and the ongoing cultures of
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across
Australia.

Through respectful relationships, we will work with
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to achieve
shared goals.



Tom Godfrey

DIRECTOR AND CHAIR



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A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

It has been another remarkable year for the Tangaroa Blue Foundation.

Building on our efforts during Covid to develop source reduction plans (SRPs) targeting the top debris items on the Australian Marine Debris Initiative (AMD) Database, we delivered a number of key strategic initiatives.

- Rig Recycle continues to be rolled out with this unique recreational fishing stewardship program that diverts broken and unwanted fishing gear from landfill through a reuse, repair, recycle framework.
- Project ReCon, in collaboration with international tech company, Satlink, is being rolled out with our team repurposing commercial fishing satellite buoys to track ghost nets across the Great Barrier Reef and Gulf of Carpentaria while recovery teams can be mobilised.
- Ditch the Flick once again featured at Queensland Country Bank Stadium during the NRL season, with our team continuing efforts to drive behaviour change and reduce cigarette butt litter from entering waterways.

Led by Brett Tait, these initiatives are designed to expand and commercialise our SRP frameworks and ultimately reduce the organisation's reliance on grant income.

The year also saw us pass 22 million items in the AMDI Database, an incredible milestone that would not have been possible without the skill, dedication and passion of our staff and volunteers. Our Major Projects Manager, Mathilde Gordon, has coordinated our staff and partners on a number of large projects again this year, including another successful year for our ReefClean program.

With data at the heart of our organisation, our AMDI Database Manager, Jodi Jones, continues to do an amazing job maintaining and evolving the AMDI Database infrastructure. It's this infrastructure that supports our growth and helps us achieve our mission.

I would like to acknowledge our inspiring CEO, Heidi Tait, who continues to lead the organisation through a period of change. As we continue to grow, her dedication to the organisation and her passion for the marine debris industry more broadly, is a genuine asset.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Directors for their support and expertise as we continue to deliver the strategic vision for this unique organisation.



Heidi Tait

CEO & FOUNDER



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OUR STORY SO FAR

Nearly two decades ago, I found myself standing on the shores of Ellensbrook Beach in Western Australia's Margaret River region, holding several bags of rubbish I had collected during a beach run. Among the discarded items were beer bottles, cigarette butts, bits of rope, and broken traps from the local rock lobster industry. I also came across water bottles and food packaging with foreign writing from places like Malaysia, China, and the UAE, as well as countless small plastic fragments that defied identification. This disturbing sight prompted a fundamental question: where did all these items originate, and why were they washing up on the shores of Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park?

The inception of the first Tangaroa Blue clean-up, along with data collection and source reduction projects, stemmed from those initial efforts. The support of the community played a pivotal role in nurturing this fledgling initiative.

Back then, many people mistook my references to "marine debris" for driftwood, with the broader issue of plastics in our oceans and their long-term consequence yet to permeate public consciousness.

Fast forward to 2022, and the issue of marine debris and plastic pollution has gained prominence as one of the gravest threats to our marine ecosystems. Calls for action have resulted in the United Nations drafting a treaty to address plastic pollution, along with many international and domestic strategies.

This heightened focus has raised awareness among the general public, industry stakeholders, and governments, resulting in increased funding, research efforts, and legislative measures aimed at curbing the flow of plastics into our oceans. However, this intense focus has also led to a fragmented landscape of uncoordinated actions, resulting in duplicated efforts and wastage of funding and resources within the NGO sector.

Now more than ever, the Australian Marine Debris Initiative (AMD I) framework assumes a critical role in establishing a central hub that can channel investments, efforts, priorities, collaborations, and strategies, all grounded in data. The AMD I Database has surpassed 22 million data points, making it the largest in the southern hemisphere. Without this vital information and the framework that unites all stakeholders and their endeavours, the collective impact of all our efforts will continue to yield limited results.

Tangaroa Blue Foundation will strive into our next 20 years as the leading organisation that not only targets efforts on the ground for marine debris removal, but connects all marine stakeholders with a platform for collaboration and knowledge sharing to stop the flow of waste and plastic into our oceans.



THE FACTS

Since 2004, citizen scientists and AMDI partners have been hard at work cleaning our marine and estuarine environments.

241,416

Number of volunteer occasions

1,884

Number of tonnes removed

23,981,051

Number of items removed

32,861

Number of clean-ups

4,412

Number of clean-up sites

101,190

Number of volunteer hours

21

Number of published papers



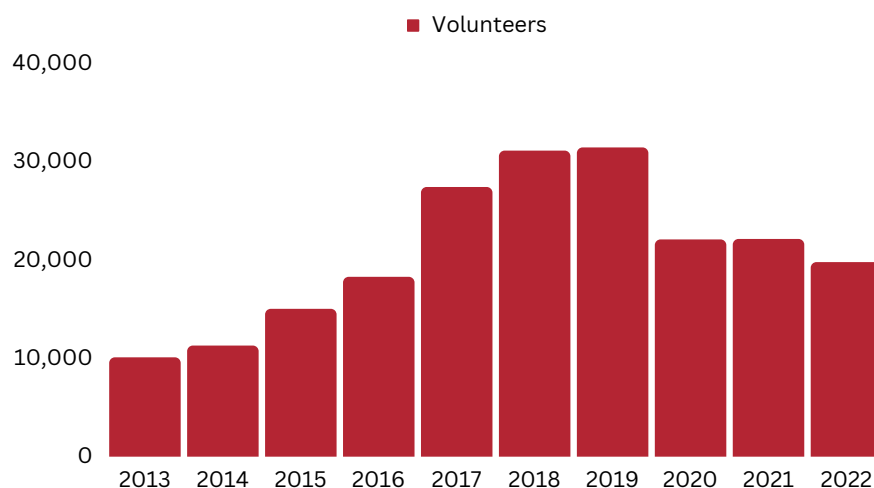
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OUR GROWTH

Here is an overview of our organisation's growth from the past ten years. We've been working to connect with our communities and have seen more volunteers and organisations getting involved in Tangaroa Blue projects.



While COVID-19 has had a lingering impact, our dedication and adaptability have allowed us to maintain a strong and resilient presence, continuing to make a positive impact on our environment.



This graph provides a depiction of our partnership growth over time. In 2013, there were 337 affiliated organisations, a number that has nearly doubled, reaching 638 in 2022.



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EMPOWERING SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS

Peer-reviewed scientific publications are the backbone of credible and reliable scientific knowledge. They provide a rigorous framework for evaluating research, disseminating new findings, and fostering collaboration, all of which contribute to the advancement of science and society as a whole. Since the start of 2022, our team members at Tangaroa Blue Foundation contributed knowledge and expertise as well as data from the Australian Marine Debris Initiative (AMD) Database to twelve peer-reviewed scientific publications and were co-author on ten of these.

A pivotal paper that demonstrates how citizen science initiatives, such as AMDI, can address a lack of marine debris monitoring at spatial and temporal scales relevant to management is the peer-reviewed publication 'Continental patterns in marine debris revealed by a decade of citizen science' by Gacutan et al (2022). This paper illustrated how the AMDI Database can be filtered to further ensure data quality which can improve our understanding of debris patterns in Australia and be used to inform source reduction plans and government decision making processes.

In last year's annual report, we were excited to announce that in an Australian first for citizen scientists, the AMDI released a new monitoring methodology for monitoring litter and marine debris. These monitoring protocols offered a standardised, national approach to collecting data on marine debris and plastic pollution and were used in surveys across the Queensland coast as part of the ReefClean program. The data collected led to a peer-reviewed publication, 'Assessing human and physical drivers of macro-plastic debris spatially across Queensland, Australia' by Gacutan et al (2023). This research underscores the capacity of AMDI-collected data to establish baseline marine debris information and discern the factors influencing debris distribution. While formal monitoring programs often struggle to achieve such comprehensive coverage, it's evident that successful management necessitates monitoring at the appropriate scales to account for nuanced variations.

Topics of the other publications include polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in new unexposed and beached expanded polystyrene (EPS); a life cycle analysis of EPS from flood-released pontoons; the effectiveness of source reduction plans and MARPOL Annex V at reducing marine debris in Australia; how land-use and COVID-19 lockdowns influence debris composition and abundance in stormwater drains; biophysical modelling to improve certainty in ecological and physical processes in the Gulf of Carpentaria, mapping marine debris risk using expert elicitation, empirical data and spatial modelling; and how citizen science projects measuring beach plastic debris can support the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We encourage everyone to read these publications with links to each provided here.

Collectively, these contributions underscore the substantial value of citizen science, as exemplified by the Tangaroa Blue Foundation and AMDI, in enriching peer-reviewed publications. By supplying additional data, broadening the scope of research, elevating data quality, fostering public engagement, and promoting collaboration between professionals and the public, citizen science is emerging as a pivotal force within the scientific landscape. As the field of citizen science continues to grow, its impact on scientific knowledge and the publication landscape is becoming increasingly significant. Tangaroa Blue Foundation is excited to continue our collaborations and build our networks to ensure that citizen science remains an integral force in advancing scientific understanding of marine debris and addressing this critical environmental challenge.



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AMDI PLATFORM UPGRADE

The Australian Marine Debris Initiative (AMDI) has undergone a significant transformation over the past two years, culminating in its release on March 31, 2023. This extensive redevelopment project, initiated in 2021, was conducted in collaboration with AMDI's partner network. With the recruitment of a dedicated development team, the platform has been revamped to offer new features and capabilities.

The upgraded AMDI platform offers:

- **New User Interface:** A redesigned interface simplifies keyword searching for items.
- **In-App Data Downloads:** Users can now download their data from within the app.
- **In-App Sights Screen:** Track collection progress and update in-progress items within the app.
- **Administration Console:** A new admin console supports research and customisation, allowing organisation administrators to access, view, and extract data and customize the app for their projects.

Since the March 31, 2023 relaunch:

- **User Accounts:** 292 new users have joined the AMDI citizen science network, bringing the total number of user accounts to 3,870.
- **Participating Organisations:** 63 new AMDI organisations have actively participated since the relaunch, contributing to a community dedicated to combating marine debris. The total number of organisations listed on AMDI is now 2,245, and this continues to grow.

In summary, AMDI's two-year redevelopment has yielded a more functional and user-friendly platform. With growing user and organisation participation, AMDI is poised to continue its mission of marine debris monitoring and research. This upgrade reflects AMDI's commitment to environmental conservation and scientific progress.



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COMPLAINT TO THE ACCC ABOUT OCEAN PLASTIC CLAIMS

Written by Kirsty Ruddock, Managing Lawyer- Safe Climate, Environmental Defenders Office

In December 2022, Tangaroa Blue partnered with the Environmental Defenders Office to draft a complaint to the ACCC about ocean plastic claims. The complaint focused on representations made by several companies that their products were made from 100% ocean plastic, together with representations around the benefits associated with removing plastic rubbish from the ocean. These representations convey the message to consumers of the associated products that 100% ocean plastic is made entirely of recycled products removed from the ocean, that purchasing the product directly removes plastic from the ocean and helps reduce marine pollution worldwide improving the marine environment and protecting marine life.

The complaint asked the ACCC to investigate the companies involved in the representations on the basis they were possibly likely to involve misleading or deceptive conduct in breach of section 18 of the Australian Consumer Law (Schedule 2 of the Competition and Consumer Act 2010).

We argued that the representations relating to ocean plastic were potentially misleading or deceptive on the following basis:

- As there is no definition of ocean plastic, consumers are likely to assume that ocean plastic is removed from the ocean when it is not usually removed from the ocean but can be any plastic found within 50km from shores where waste management is inefficient.
- It is impossible to generate a plastic container made of 100% ocean plastic recycled feedstock. Ocean plastic that has been in the ocean for any length of time biodegrades and has the potential to become contaminated and is therefore not suitable for use in food grade plastic or requires virgin plastic for inner layers to meet the relevant standards.
- There is no evidence that recycling plastic that is removed from the ocean improves the marine environment or benefits marine life. Ocean plastic often deteriorates into microplastics which is difficult to collect. There is also no evidence that ocean clean ups improve marine pollution due to the extent of pollution, in fact the most helpful thing that could be done is reduce use of plastics in the first place. Packaging with pictures of the ocean or marine species such as turtles to associate with a positive benefit on the environment is therefore highly misleading.
- There is no evidence that ocean bound plastic items recovered for processing into ocean bound plastic feedstock, would have ended up in the ocean during their lifecycle. Often the plastic is sourced overseas where there is little regulation of the industry and little reliable verification that it is 100% ocean plastic.

Following the complaint, Tangaroa Blue and the EDO held a workshop with other organisations to raise awareness of the issues raised in the complaint and to provide information on how to make complaints to the ACCC about environmental claims. [The workshop can be viewed here.](#)

The complaint received national media coverage on ABC radio and website in April 2023 raising the awareness of environmental claims around plastic.

Tangaroa Blue also made a submission to the Senate Inquiry into Greenwashing reinforcing the need to increase investigations of such claims and improve standards to ensure consumers can make properly informed decisions about environmental claims.



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PROJECT RECON

In a groundbreaking Australian-first initiative, Project ReCon was launched in December 2022 along the Great Barrier Reef, offering local communities a unique opportunity to participate in an abandoned, lost, or discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) recovery, repair, reuse, and recycling endeavour. Since its inception, Project ReCon has expanded to the Gulf of Carpentaria, Cocos Keeling Islands, and Papua New Guinea.

At its core, Project ReCon stands as a testament to collaboration, uniting the forces of Tangaroa Blue and Satlink, a global leader in pioneering technological solutions for the fishing sector. Tangaroa Blue, in partnership with our AMDI partners, collect commercial fishing GPS buoys during clean-up events. Satlink then plays a pivotal role in seamlessly transitioning ownership of these buoys from the commercial fishing fleet to Tangaroa Blue. We then repurpose the buoys to track ghost nets and ALDFG that are found, but not able to be immediately removed due to vessel capacity or gear size, keeping it under surveillance while recovery is coordinated. Notably, our journey began with the deployment of the first buoy in August 2023, culminating in the successful removal of over 3 tonnes of ALDFG in September 2023 in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Project ReCon's impact goes beyond recovery and surveillance. It presents a realm of exciting opportunities as we harness on-ground oceanographic and tracking data from these redeployed buoys. This invaluable data can be used to model and predict the potential origins and destinations of these nets, ultimately reinforcing the accuracy and reliability of our models.

By strengthening the abilities of communities to combat ALDFG and marine debris, we achieve tangible environmental benefits all while implementing a sustainable recycling program for fishing devices.

"The challenges our oceans face are not few, and no single organisation has all the answers for how to solve them. By launching Project ReCon together with Tangaroa Blue Foundation, we're demonstrating how collaboration can shape the future of tuna fishing sustainability. By involving the fishing industry, and building on each other's strengths and expertise, together we've been able to find new, exciting applications to turn what would-be-waste technology into an asset. At Satlink, our goal is to develop technology for the protection of our world's oceans, and re-purposing satellite beacons into ghost net trackers to be used by Tangaroa Blue aligns perfectly with that goal. We couldn't be more excited to keep working with Tangaroa Blue to scale up Project ReCon, and we're looking forward to finding new community-focused applications to make the most of our technology."

Kathryn Gavira, Head of Science and Sustainability, Satlink



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RECORD BREAKING HELICOPTER CLEAN-UP

Wuthathi Ngaachi (Country) and Karakara (Sea Country) is located in the area surrounding Shelburne Bay on the North Eastern coast of Cape York, about 800km north of Cairns.

It is a place full of incredible cultural significance and biodiversity, and the landscape absolutely takes your breath away. However, unfortunately the beaches are heavily impacted by marine debris from locations far and wide.

In June the Tangaroa Blue team had the privilege of being Welcomed onto Wuthathi Ngaachi to work alongside Custodians, Elders and members of the Wuthathi Aboriginal Corporation, and together we broke records!

On our first helicopter clean-up event we achieved our biggest clean-up haul.

- 10.8 tonnes removed from 2.8km beach
- 1.3 tonnes of net and rope, 345 fishing buoys, 6 ghost nets removed
- Over 300,000 items removed

To help reduce and reuse plastic waste that litters our beaches, Tangaroa Blue uses a range of tools to analyse each item collected to identify opportunities for source reduction plans and furthering scientific understanding and conservation efforts.

With fishing litter dominating the debris in Cape York, the team was able to use handheld trinamiX spectrometers to identify plastics for the Tangaroa Blue's Rig Recycle program. The program allows volunteers to instantly identify usable and recoverable plastics for processing and recycling.

The Wuthathi Clean-up was made possible through the support of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water, Reef Trust, The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Australian Border Force, Cape York Natural Resource Management, Ocean Conservancy, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), BASF / TrinamiX and University of New South Wales.



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WA BEACH CLEAN-UP

In 2022, the WA Beach Clean-up celebrated its 18th year, achieving remarkable milestones. Records were broken for the involvement of schools and the weight of debris collected. Along 163km of the extensive Western Australian coastline, a dedicated force of over 1,650 volunteers representing 67 different organisations, volunteer groups, communities, and schools invested more than 3,150 hours to retrieve nearly 5 tonnes of debris.

Most of the volunteer effort was concentrated in the highly populated South West and Swan River regions. Notably, the Indian Ocean Territories exhibited the highest density of marine debris, averaging 0.141 items per square metre, due to the discovery of a substantial 661kg mass of debris in just four events. Conversely, the South West region recorded the lowest density of marine debris.

In comparison to the previous year, there were fewer events held in 2022. However, this year witnessed the participation of 200 additional volunteers and the collection of 1.7 tonnes more debris, all accomplished over a shorter distance. Teams were able to reach more remote communities and cover greater distances thanks to the use of paddle boards, kayaks, and 4WD vehicles. Notably, 2022 marked the inaugural collaboration between Tangaroa Blue Foundation and Keep Australia Beautiful WA for an adventurous 4WD road-trip to the remote Northern Agricultural regions.

2022 also saw a significant increase in the number of schools registering for participation, nearly four times more than in 2021. Tangaroa Blue Foundation is committed to sustaining this positive trajectory.

Furthermore, 2022 witnessed notable developments in plastic policy in WA, as the state government initiated the first stage of WA's Plan for Plastics. This stage introduced bans on many single-use plastic items, with additional bans scheduled for implementation after the second stage in February 2023. Similar policies have been enacted in other Australian states and worldwide, leading to a noticeable reduction in the usage of single-use plastic products.



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REEFCLEAN

Supported by the Australian Government's Reef Trust, ReefClean is a five year project which began in 2019, that unites partner organisations, community collectives, and individuals residing along the entire stretch of the Great Barrier Reef. The aim is not only to actively remove marine debris but also to prevent further debris from impacting this iconic region. Reef Trust is the Australian Government's flagship investment program, dedicated to facilitating the implementation of the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan. This plan, jointly developed by the Australian and Queensland Governments, serves as the enduring framework for protecting and managing the Great Barrier Reef.



7,725 volunteers

The ReefClean program has had over 7,725 people volunteer to participate in clean-up activities.



2,330 events

The ReefClean program has delivered over 2,330 events with program partners and volunteers.



334 partners

The ReefClean program has brought together 334 different partner organisations, all dedicated to improving the health of the Great Barrier Reef.



6,500 hectares

The ReefClean program has facilitated clean-ups of 6,500 hectares of Great Barrier Reef catchments.



97.5 tonnes

The ReefClean program has removed over 97.5 tonnes of debris from the Great Barrier Reef.



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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR WORKING ACROSS THE COUNTRY

K'GARI 4WD CLEAN-UP

The Fraser Island Clean-up event proved to be a significant achievement, successfully reducing marine debris on K'Gari by removing 5.6 tonnes with the efforts of the 4WD QLD clubs. This accomplishment was made possible through the generous support of our vehicle sponsors, Safari 4WD Hire Hervey Bay and Motorama, as well as the dedicated efforts of volunteers and the organising committee.



7IMDC CONFERENCE

The 7th International Marine Debris Conference (7IMDC) took place in September 2022 in Busan, Republic of Korea. We were honoured to participate in this event, with CEO Heidi Tait travelling to the conference to share the findings of Tangaroa Blue projects and the importance of the independent, citizen science led Australian Marine Debris Initiative (AMDI) Database plays in the marine debris and source reduction space.



FLOOD DEBRIS CLEAN-UP

Some of our team headed to the Wide Bay/Fraser Coast region to assist with ongoing flood debris clean-up. Marty and Charlie from Gympie & District Landcare did a great job learning the ropes and together with the Tangaroa Blue team, they collected just under 100kg at Cooloola Beach and sorted 100% of the debris into the Australian Marine Debris Initiative (AMDI) Database.



CORAL SEA VOYAGE

The team comprising of the Gunggandji-Mandingalbay Yidinji Rangers, Tangaroa Blue, Blue Planet Marine and Parks Australia staff departed for the Coral Sea aboard R.V Infamis in November 2022. The team worked hard for those 14 days and collected 2,687kg of marine debris. This equates to 279 bags full and 27,208 debris pieces. The voyage is a project through the Our Marine Parks Grants program receiving funding from the Australian Government and seeks to support the achievement of Australian Marine Park (AMP) objectives.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR WORKING ACROSS THE COUNTRY

10 YEARS WITH THE BAY OK DAY

It was a pleasure to attend the 10th annual Bay Ok Day organised by the faculty of the Dunsborough Primary School in the South West of WA. Tangaroa Blue Foundation was one of three organisations formally acknowledged for 10 years of continuous support for this fantastic event. Project Coordinator Casey was able to engage with hundreds of students throughout the day regarding marine debris, single-use plastic alternatives and the damage plastics can do to our precious marine life.



SUSTAINABLE BUBBLE TEA

Project Coordinator Jane spent weeks visiting bubble tea stores to deliver free posters and talk with store managers about our Source Reduction Plan (SRP), Sustainable Bubble Tea Initiative. We have worked closely with KINOI to develop educational resources in English, Chinese and Vietnamese that aim to inform bubble tea customers and staff on how to reduce their litter, promote the use of reusables and support businesses before the Victorian single-use plastic ban began in February 2023.



DITCH THE FLICK - WYNDHAM

Tangaroa Blue Foundation joined forces with the City of Wyndham to launch the Ditch the Flick campaign which aims to encourage behavioural change in cigarette butt disposal amongst the local smoking population. Given the success of 'Ditch the Flick' campaigns in other locations, the City of Wyndham decided to implement this source reduction plan to address their cigarette butt litter.



SUMMER SALT MARKETS

We were excited to be the official clean-up partners of the 2022-2023 Summer X Salt Markets in Western Australia. These markets took place during the summer months every second Saturday and saw hundreds of Perth residents stop. We held 6 clean-ups throughout the season and had a great time talking to everyone about marine debris and what we can do to help stop it at the source.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR WORKING ACROSS THE COUNTRY

IOT GRANT

Tangaroa Blue were one of 17 grantees chosen to deliver projects that will support Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands marine parks. Our “Indian Ocean Territories Marine Debris Initiative” will build on existing marine debris datasets and include the implementation of our robust monitoring methodologies so that we can work alongside the community and key stakeholders to measure the impact of policy change around plastics from a state, national and international perspective.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEET UP

A massive few days in Brisbane for the Tangaroa Blue Foundation Board of Directors who were joined by our management team to map out our organisation's strategic direction for the next 3 years. We are honoured to have such a strong Board team, whose experience and expertise are helping guide the organisation and to our staff, whose passion and dedication on the ground are delivering such innovative solutions to this massive marine debris issue.



REEFCLEAN HAND BIN

The ReefClean ‘Litter Hero’ campaign teamed up with environmental advocate and designer, Josie Jones, to create a solution to combat beach litter – the Beach Hand Bin. This device is designed to collect and catch small litter while you enjoy your day at the beach. We will be conducting litter audits before, during, and after the trial which was launched throughout locations along the Great Barrier Reef.



RIG RECYCLE BIN LOCATIONS

Funding from Sustainability Victoria and the NSW Recreational Fishing Trust has facilitated the establishment of a recycling line in Melbourne and the production of 60 Rig Recycle bins distributed across Victoria and 40 bins distributed across NSW thanks to the NSW Recreational Fishing Trust. We are extremely grateful to the recreational fishing industry for their support and plans to expand the program nationally.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR WORKING ACROSS THE COUNTRY

WSL ONE OCEAN (WA)

Project Coordinator Casey had the pleasure of joining the WSL One Ocean crew and professional surf legends Isabella Nichols and Ryan Callinan at a community activation event at GrunTERS Surf Break in Margaret River during the Margaret River Pro. Casey was able to present to the group on the work that Tangaroa Blue do in the coastal space and even had the chance to chat to Ryan about plastic resin pellets and the damage they do in our marine life and environment globally.



CAIRNS IRONMAN

2023 saw our third year collaborating with Cairns Airport IRONMAN on an innovative source reduction plan to improve event specific waste. Along with informative signage and a ReefClean Stall in the Athletes Village, collection bags were set up at the exits for athletes to place their unwanted race waste in. These collection bags will allow us to divert waste from landfill and recycle and repurpose items.



HELICOPTER SURVEY

CEO Heidi and Senior Project Coordinator Hannah embarked on a three day helicopter trip up the coast of Cape York conducting a low level aerial survey collecting data on marine debris loads and quantity of large debris items. Flying from Cooktown to the tip of Cape York they observed 400 long line commercial fishing beacons, 448 FADs and 280 Ghost Nets, along with numerous turtles, crocodiles, and dugongs.



MAPOON CLEAN-UP

10 volunteers joined project coordinators Ian and Attie, alongside Mapoon Land & Sea Custodians, local Weipa volunteers Elissa and Megan and 7 Metro Mining staff from Skardon on a multiday clean-up in Mapoon. 549 bags of marine debris were removed, weighing in at over 3.1 tonnes. A massive 65% of those bags were audited and entered into the Australian Marine Debris Initiative (AMDII) Database.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR WORKING ACROSS THE COUNTRY

CHILI BEACH

The team faced some unexpected heavy rain and hire vehicle issues on their trip to Chili Beach, but the crew persevered nonetheless. This year's currents brought in lots of tiny pieces of debris amongst mountains of pumice, with a total of 2.6 tonnes collected from 6 kilometres of beach. The good news is this is one of the lowest densities of marine debris collected from this site since 2012!



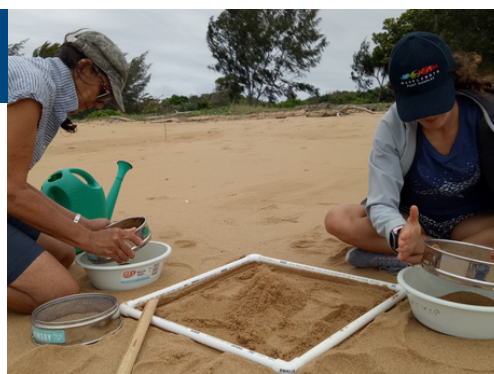
THE TACKLE BACK

The Rig Recycle program unveiled their latest innovation, the 'Tackle Back' product, in partnership with Shimano at the 2023 AFTA Tackle Show on the Gold Coast. The 'Tackle Back' is designed to empower recreational fishers in preserving their favourite fishing spots by responsibly disposing of fishing-related waste. Whether you're an avid angler or a weekend warrior, this product will provide you with the means to keep our waterways clean and thriving.



AUSMAP X REEFCLEAN

The ReefClean Australian Microplastic Assessment Project (AUSMAP) (2019-2023) has collected 126 samples from 44 sites, providing valuable insights into microplastic pollution in the Great Barrier Reef. The recently added March 2023 samples mark the conclusion of this study, highlighting both the seasonal and varying nature of microplastic loads and the low overall levels of microplastics compared to densely populated areas.



DARWIN HARBOUR CLEAN-UP

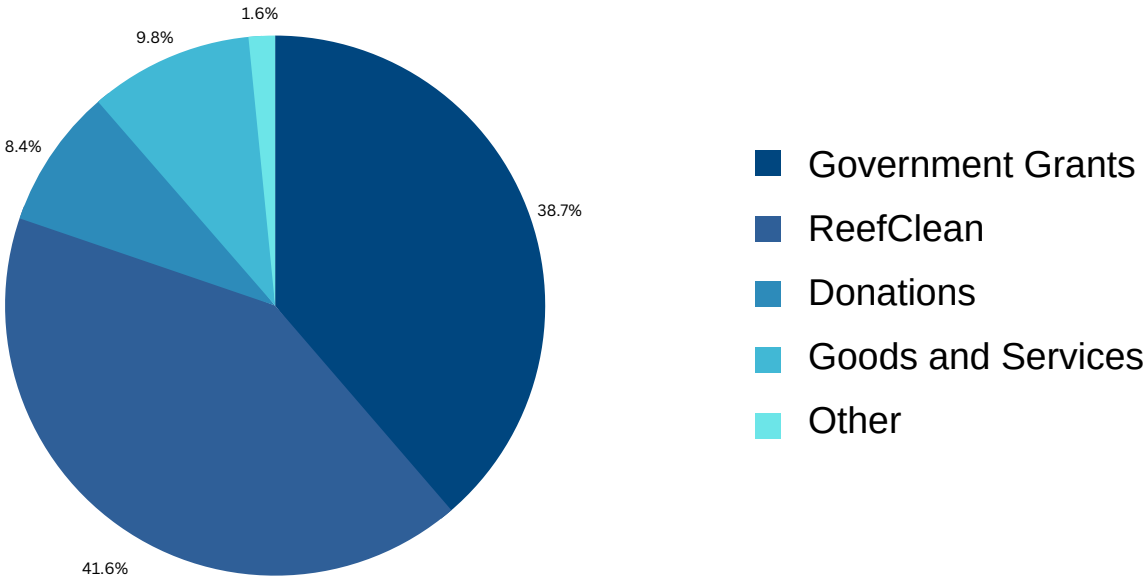
The annual Darwin Harbour Clean-up occurred in October 2022 for the 13th year, successfully removing 1.78 tonnes of debris from the harbour. A total of 17 sites around the harbour were thoroughly cleaned from the Wagait Beach to Casuarina, with the Larrakia Nation Rangers playing an integral part in the organisation of the event and overseeing the many groups cleaning on these sites.



INCOME & EXPENSE BREAKDOWN

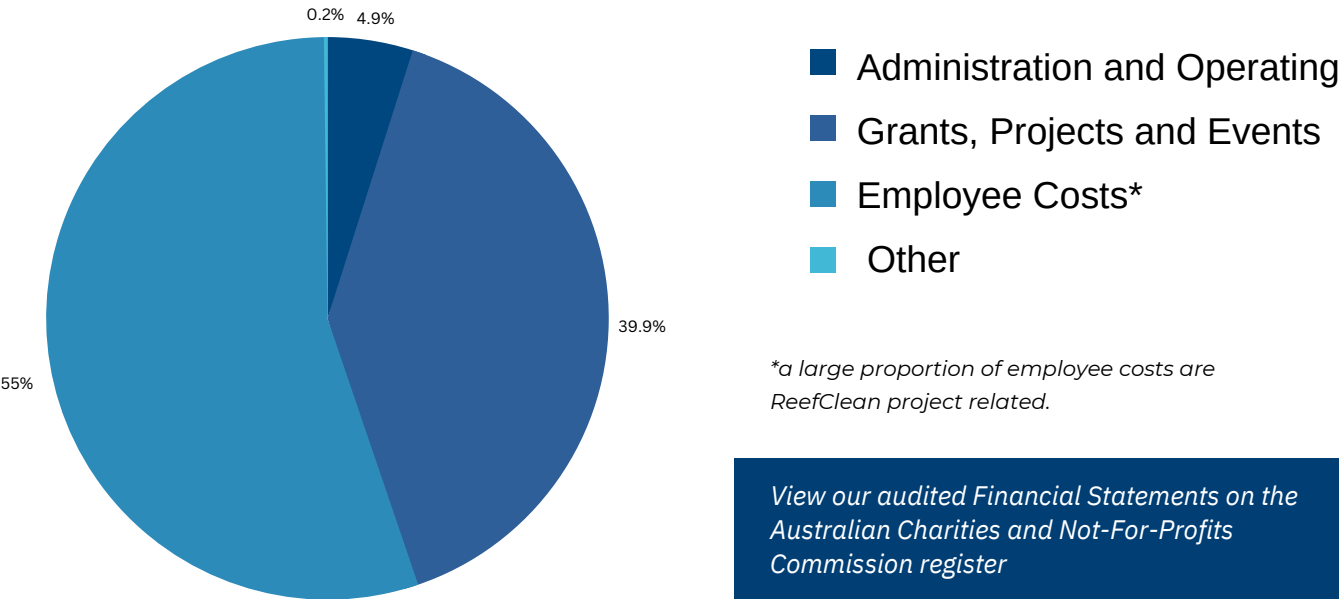
INCOME 2022 - 2023

\$2,297,772.18



OPERATING EXPENSES 2022 / 2023

\$2,098,988.42



“YOU MAKE THE DIFFERENCE,
TOGETHER WE MAKE THE CHANGE”



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