

SeaRead

Marine Park news from catchment to coral

Issue 29 • July/August 2009



Australian Government
Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority

What's inside

Northern Territory rangers keen to learn from local marine managers	3
Students learn first hand impacts of climate change on Indigenous communities	4
Coral Stress Response Plan	5
New Reef Tourism Exhibit open at Reef HQ Aquarium	6

Alva the Hawksbill Turtle released on World Turtle Day



Alva is released off Magnetic Island

Alva a hawksbill turtle was released off Magnetic Island, just in time for World Turtle Day, thanks to Reef HQ Aquarium and the Department of Environment and Resource Management.

Alva was found eight months ago by Stephen Menzies, Technical Operations Manager with Reef HQ Aquarium, at Lynch's Beach (north of Ayr), almost buried under the sand and laying upside down in the midday sun.

The turtle was brought back to Reef HQ Aquarium and was found to be suffering from a severe gut blockage from ingesting plastic, resulting in a gas build up in the intestines.

Fred Nucifora, Director for Reef HQ Aquarium said since Alva's arrival the juvenile hawksbill had managed to overcome the gut blockage and put on a healthy 2.5 kilograms.

"It is remarkable that after only eight months Alva has been released back into the Marine Park, this turtle is a real miracle story," he said.

Alva was released into Cleveland Bay near Magnetic Island where there is plenty of food and protection available.

Ian Bell, Senior Conservation Officer with the Department of Environment and Resource Management said Alva was lucky to survive and that it was likely there would be an increase in the number of turtles found in this condition.

"Excessive rain during the last wet season has caused the turtle's natural food: sea grass to die back decreasing the amount of food available for turtles. As a result there is a strong possibility that we will see an increase in stranded turtles over the next few months."

"If anyone finds a stranded turtle I encourage them to call the hotline on 1300 130 372 immediately," he said.

DISCLAIMER

While all efforts have been made to verify facts, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority takes no responsibility for the accuracy of information supplied in *SeaRead*.

ISSN 1834-6774

Copyright Commonwealth of Australia

Please note that you are welcome to photocopy *SeaRead*. However, if the text is reproduced separately, it must not be altered and must acknowledge the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority as the source. Illustrations must not be reused separately without permission. Please contact the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority if in doubt.



Partnerships have been a major focus for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority over the last two months with the beginning of July marking the first meeting of the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council, since 2005.

Chaired by Minister Peter Garrett, discussions centred on sustaining the long-term resilience of the Great Barrier Reef. The meeting provided an excellent forum for the Queensland and Australian Governments to discuss joint policies pertaining to the management of the Great Barrier Reef. Both governments reconfirmed their commitment to work together to ensure the long-term protection and ecologically sustainable use of the World Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef.

The past two months has also seen the Authority strengthen its partnerships with a number of community stakeholder groups.

The Authority held a series of climate change workshops for tourism industry operators who learnt how to calculate, reduce and offset their emissions. Discussions focused on how to prepare their businesses for the future by developing strategies to adapt their operations in the face of climate change.

The Authority is also continuing to work with Traditional Owners to develop culturally appropriate strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of the Marine Park. A three day spatial closures workshop was held in Cairns with Traditional Owners from the east coast of Cape York. The workshop, held in conjunction with the Authority, James Cook University, Reef and Rainforest Research Centre and the Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility was aimed at combining the expertise of scientific researchers and Indigenous local experts to map out a clear way forward for protecting dugongs and turtles in the area.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Reef HQ and Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management recently had a big win with the release of Alva the Hawksbill Turtle. The fully recovered and now healthy turtle was released into Cleveland Bay just in time for World Turtle Day despite a grim prognosis for the animal eight months earlier. It is hoped that this is the first success story with many more to come with the first stage of the new Reef HQ Aquarium Turtle Hospital expected to open soon.

Reef HQ also celebrated the opening of a new exhibit this month called the 'Reef Tourism' exhibit. The exhibit, made possible with the assistance of Surf Life Saving Queensland, will educate visitors on the many ways they can safely enjoy the Great Barrier Reef and some simple responsible reef practices they can adopt to minimise their impacts on the Reef.

Also on Tourism, the Australian Government recently appointed Daniel Gschwind as a member of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. Daniel has extensive knowledge and experience with Great Barrier Reef tourism and is well respected within the industry. His appointment is acknowledgement of the vital role the tourism industry has to play in the care and protection of the Great Barrier Reef.

Regards,

Russell Reichelt
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
Authority

Eye in the sky helps detect illegal activities on the Reef

Aerial surveillance by Border Protection Command has been praised for its role in helping protect the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, following a case in the Cairns Magistrates Court recently.

Four fishers pleaded guilty and were fined a total of \$14 000 in the Cairns Magistrates Court after Border Protection Command detected them collecting marine animals in a protected area at the Swains Reefs last year.

The fishers were found to be collecting *beche-de-mer* (sea cucumber) in the Green Zone, a protected area where no fishing and extractive activities are allowed.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) Chairman Russell Reichelt said illegal collecting and fishing could have a serious

impact on the entire ecosystem and those who depend on it.

"Illegal collecting and fishing undermines the protection that zoning provides and undermines the efforts of those fishers who are following the rules," he said.

"Sustainable use of the Marine Park is critically important to the future of the marine environment and the many communities and industries that depend on the Reef for their livelihoods.

"A healthy reef is very important for the economy - Great Barrier Reef industries generate \$5.4 billion to the Australian economy each year.

"In the face of threats like climate change, we all need to make sure we do all we can to ensure this ecosystem remains as healthy as possible and future generations can enjoy it just like we have."

Russell said Border Protection Command was among a range of important partners helping keep an eye on the Reef.

"It is great to see marine management and enforcement agencies are working together to detect and stop illegal activity in the World-Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef," he said.

"Given the size of the Marine Park we have a network of partner agencies from both the Australian and Queensland Governments that assist us with the very important task of ensuring the area is used sustainably."

Officers from Queensland Water Police in Gladstone assisted GBRMPA inspectors with search warrants and seizing the fishing dories involved in the incident.



Students learn first hand impacts of climate change on indigenous communities

Students from around the world heard first hand how climate change is impacting on a range of Indigenous communities during an international virtual conference hosted by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

The international conference allowed students from United States, Australia, Canada and Nicaragua to hold discussions with Traditional Owners from a number of countries about the potential impacts climate change will have on Indigenous culture.

Through Reef HQ's virtual classroom students had access to

Traditional Owner groups, including the Inuit from Alaska and the Navajo from Arizona in the United States, the Miskito in Nicaragua and the Giringun and Woppaburra clans from Queensland in Australia.

Phil Rist, CEO of the Giringun Aboriginal Corporation and Chairman of the Nywaigi Land Corporation and Bob Muir, a Woppaburra Elder participated in the conference.

Both were keen to share their perspective about the impact climate change could have on their country and were interested in hearing from other international Traditional Owners who have similar concerns.

Bob Muir whose sea country includes the Keppel Islands said he was interested to learn how other Traditional Owners were managing the impacts of climate change.

"A major focus of this conference was how climate change could affect the health, well being and food security of Traditional Owners in many parts of the world including Australia," said Bob.

Phil Rist whose sea country includes the waters off the coast of Ingham said that students learnt how climate change was having an impact on culture with some cultural heritage sites in danger from its impacts.

"Giringun people have reported damage to some cultural heritage sites such as fish traps which are now constantly inundated with water due to changes in the tides," said Phil.

Traditional Owners across the world are assisting scientists and researchers to monitor the impacts of climate change on their land and sea country.

Northern Territory rangers keen to learn from local marine managers

Indigenous sea rangers and Anindilyakwa Land Council (ALC) representatives from Northern Territory touched down in Townsville recently to learn and share knowledge with marine managers and Traditional Owners.

During the week-long visit, they heard how the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority successfully works with Traditional Owners to protect and manage the marine environment.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Chairman Russell Reichelt welcomed the opportunity to share the agency's approach to developing partnerships with Traditional Owners.

"We work very closely with Traditional Owners to manage and protect the Great Barrier Reef and are delighted to share our experiences with these rangers from the Northern Territory," he said.

"Traditional Owners are continuing to work with us to develop culturally

appropriate strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of the Marine Park.

"This helps ensure the Reef remains healthy and helps ensure future generations can continue to keep their cultural practices alive.

"This information exchange is an excellent opportunity to share knowledge and experience with everyone involved in managing sea country."

ALC Chairman Tony Wurramarba said the trip was an important opportunity to share each others' knowledge and experience face-to-face.

"One of our roles is to manage an existing Indigenous Protected Area," he said.

"We are further exploring ways to enhance protection and management of the natural resources and cultural values of our traditional lands and seas following recent legal rulings."

During their visit to north Queensland, the rangers heard how the agency works with Traditional Owners to develop Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements (TUMRAs).

These agreements help ensure Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people undertake activities

according to their customs and traditions in a sustainable way.

As part of their trip the rangers travelled to Cardwell to meet with Giringun Traditional Owners, who have a TUMRA in place.

The Territory visitors also gave a presentation outlining Anindilyakwa sea management practices and accompanied field staff on a boat patrol. They also met with Mamu Traditional Owners.

The Anindilyakwa Land Council represents the Aboriginal people of the Groote Eylandt archipelago located on the western side of the Gulf of Carpentaria, around 600 kilometres East, South East from Darwin.



Territory visitors took time out to accompany field staff on a boat patrol

New appointment to the board



Minister for the Environment, Peter Garrett, recently announced the appointment of Daniel Gschwind as a member of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority board.

Mr Garrett said Daniel had extensive knowledge and experience with the Great Barrier Reef tourism industry and is well respected within the industry.

"Tourism is the single largest industry operating in the Great Barrier Reef. It generates around \$5.1 billion in economic value each year.

"Daniel's knowledge, experience and connections within the tourism industry will be invaluable in this context."

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and other Legislation Amendment Act 2008, passed in November 2008, requires that one member of the Authority have knowledge of or experience in the tourism industry associated with the Marine Park.

Daniel will fulfil the new legislative requirement and provide a strong leadership role as a member of the Authority.

His appointment recognises the tourism industry, as a key user of the Marine Park, with an important role to play in protecting the Great Barrier Reef so future generations may also experience this incredible environmental asset.

Daniel is currently the CEO of the Queensland Tourism Industry Council and is involved in a number of Great Barrier Reef-related boards and committees including the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre and the Queensland Environment Minister's Tourism Forum.

He has been appointed for a four-year term and joins Russell Beer, Melissa George, Ken Smith and Russell Reichelt as members of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

Partnership improves species management

Dugongs and marine turtles in the Cape York area will be better protected thanks to an innovative partnership between marine managers, Traditional Owners and researchers.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA), in conjunction with James Cook University (JCU), Reef and Rainforest Research Centre (RRRC) and the Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility (MTSRF), recently held a three-day spatial closures workshop in Cairns with Traditional Owners from the east coast of Cape York.

James Cook University dugong expert Professor Helene Marsh said the Cape York Turtle and Dugong Spatial Closures Workshop was aimed at working with Traditional Owners to map out a clear way forward for protecting dugongs and turtles in the area.

"Harnessing the expertise of scientific researchers and Indigenous local experts will play a key role in helping protect turtles and dugongs in the Cape York region," she said.

"We hope to get a really good picture of the current status of dugong and turtle populations in the area and use scientific and traditional knowledge to help develop effective strategies to protect and manage these animals."

The Traditional Owner groups represented at the meeting were from the east coast of Cape York and included Gudang, Yadhagana, Wuthathi, Kuuku Ya'u, Kanthanumpun, Uutaalgnunu Umpila, Guugu Yimithirr, Kuku Yalanji and Kaurareg.

GBRMPA Chairman Dr Russell Reichelt said the workshop brought together key stakeholders to discuss the benefits and challenges associated with using spatial closures as a management tool.

"We're delighted to be involved in this project that's looking to protect some very iconic and important species in the Great Barrier Reef," he said.

"Traditional Owners have a wealth of knowledge about their sea country and it's fantastic to be able to tap in to this knowledge and combine it with scientific research to assist with helping protect these species.

"Spatial closures are one of many possible tools used for managing turtle species and dugong. Good management requires government and communities to work in collaboration."

Sheriden Morris from the Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility said the workshop demonstrated the importance of collaborative relationships to help protect the marine environment.

"This is a great partnership between Traditional Owners, scientific researchers and management bodies towards a common goal of protecting threatened species. We're pleased to be part of a project that is delivering meaningful outcomes."

The project was supported by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country and the Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility, James Cook University and the Christensen Foundation.



Dugong



Flatback turtle

Watch out for whales making their **annual** migration north

Take care around whales and abide by approach distances – that's the message from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA).

The call comes as whales are expected to be encountered as they travel through the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park during their annual migration from the colder southern migration from the colder southern waters to warmer northern waters.

Dr Mark Read from GBRMPA said it was important to abide by approach distances for both the safety of whales and onlookers.

"Whales are regularly seen in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park from May onwards as they make their annual migration to the warmer waters of northern Queensland," he said.

"Whale watching regulations are in place to safeguard whales, which are a protected species in Australian waters, from potential boat strikes and other hazards.

"The regulations are there to ensure these majestic animals can go about their usual activities without being affected by human activities. It also gives onlookers an opportunity to observe the animals from a safe distance.

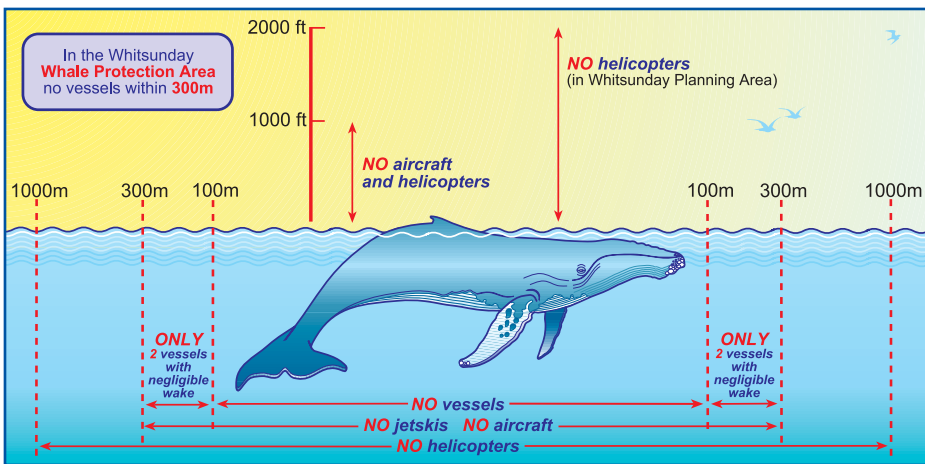
"While whales can be social animals and may approach boats or people in the water, it is important not to approach them for both the safety of the whales and people watching them.

"An adult humpback whale is between 12 to 15 metres long and can weigh up to 40 tonnes."

Legally, vessels must stay at least 100 metres away from whales in the Marine Park and 300 metres away in the Whitsunday Whale Protection Area. Jet skis must stay at least 300 metres away from whales throughout the Marine Park.

Some simple practices people should follow when boating in the Marine Park during whale season:

- Keep a lookout and avoid disturbance to whales and their calves, especially from May to September
- Reduce your vessel speed to minimise the risk of collision in areas where whales have been sighted (travel at a constant slow speed)
- Abide by approach restrictions - vessels must stay at least 100 metres away from the animal and 300 metres away in the Whitsunday Whale Protection Area, and jet skis must stay at least 300 metres away from the animal throughout the Marine Park
- Do not get in the water if you see a whale - if you are already in the water do not disturb, chase or block the path of a whale and if possible, return to your vessel
- If there is a sudden change in whale behaviour, move away immediately
- Report sick, injured, stranded or dead whales to 1300 130 372.



Reef businesses **acclimatise** in the face of climate change

Reef tourism operators recently learnt how to tackle climate change head on with a series of two day workshops held in the Whitsundays, 1770, Cairns and Port Douglas.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority General Manager Andrew Skeat said the workshops answered some vital questions for tourism businesses about climate change and just what it means for businesses in the future.

"There is no doubt that climate change poses the single biggest threat to the Great Barrier Reef," he said.

"The workshops provided a timely opportunity for tourism operators to learn about the impacts of climate change on the Great Barrier Reef and what it means for their business.

"Topics included how operators can become Climate Action Certified, how to calculate their carbon footprint and reduce their emissions, and important information about carbon offsetting.

"The workshops also focussed on understanding the risks related to climate change and how operators can prepare their businesses for the future by developing strategies to adapt operations in the face of climate change.

"It is important that we all act now and work together to ensure a sustainable Reef and tourism industry."

The workshops were delivered by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority in partnership with the Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators and included a presentation by Ecotourism Australia on their recently released Climate Change Action Certification program.



Tourism operators can prepare their businesses for the future by developing strategies to adapt to climate change

Reminder about spearfishing around Magnetic Island

People planning to go spearfishing off Magnetic Island are reminded to brush up on zoning to ensure they know where this activity is allowed in this area.

Throughout the Marine Park, limited spearfishing (with a spear or speargun and snorkel only) is allowed in Yellow Zones except where the zone is also a Public Appreciation Special Management Area.

Spearfishing is not allowed in Green Zones throughout the Marine Park, including Green Zones that are located off Magnetic Island.

This includes Green Zones at Geoffrey Bay, Alma Bay, Florence Bay, Gowrie Bay, Balding and Radical Bay and Five Beach Bay.

Limited spearfishing (with a spear or speargun and snorkel only) is allowed in the Yellow Zone on the western side of Magnetic Island.

Spearfishers are encouraged to take free Zoning Maps with them when heading out on the water so they know where they can go and what they can do.

Even people who go out on the water regularly should take time to check the activities guide on the maps to refresh their knowledge of what they can and can't do in particular areas.

Penalties apply for not following the zoning rules so it is important to make sure you know and understand the zoning for the areas you're planning to visit.

Free zoning maps are available from bait and tackle shops, visitor information centres, ship chandlers and Department of Environment and Resource Management and Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol offices.

Alternatively, call the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority 1800 990 177 for a free map.



Check a Zoning Map before heading out to go spearfishing

New Reef Tourism Exhibit open at Reef HQ Aquarium

Thanks to Reef HQ Aquarium and Surf Life Saving Queensland (SLSQ) visitors to the Aquarium can now learn more about the amazing Great Barrier Reef and how to best enjoy it.

Reef HQ Aquarium's latest exhibition Reef Tourism showcases what makes the Great Barrier Marine Park so special including the many ways visitors can experience the Great Barrier Reef and great partnerships that exist with Reef Tourism Operators that contribute to better reef management.

Visitors will leave the exhibition with a better understanding of and appreciation for the positive contribution that Reef Tourism Operators are making towards reef ecosystem monitoring and the simple responsible reef practices they can adopt to minimise their impacts on the Reef.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Chairman Dr Russell Reichelt said he was delighted to see an educational partnership

established between Surf Life Saving Queensland and Reef HQ Aquarium, the National Education Centre for the Great Barrier Reef.

"With a central theme of 'See it, Love it, Respect it' the exhibit provides visitors with an experience that allows them to learn more about dangerous marine creatures, how to prevent a negative experience with them and the appropriate first aid responses if the worst case scenario occurs," he said.

George Hill, Lifesaving Services Manager with SLSQ said while these tropical waters are very inviting, they are also potentially dangerous as they are home to dangerous marine creatures such as box jellyfish and irukandji.

"Surf Life Saving Queensland has been providing its services for both residents and visitors to Queensland's beaches for 100 years and the red and yellow flags are an iconic representation of the safest place to swim when visiting the beach," he said.



GBRMPA Chairman Dr Russell Reichelt, and SLSQ Services Manager George Hill, check out the new Reef HQ exhibit



Students get down and dirty to help the Reef

Queensland's newest Reef Guardians, Miriam Vale State School, are preparing to get down and dirty with a comprehensive recycling program thanks to the assistance of Queensland Alumina Limited's (QAL) Reef Guardian Fund.

The school is just one of six who were successful in obtaining part of the \$10 000 funding made available to local Reef Guardian schools on an annual basis.

Established in partnership with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA), the Fund aims to assist schools to develop and implement a variety of worthwhile environmental projects that contribute to both the school and the wider community.

QAL Health, Safety, Environment and Communities Manager Ross Greenhalgh said the Reef Guardian Fund applications continue to exceed expectations.

"This is the third year the Reef Guardian Fund has been operating and it is great to see schools coming up with interesting, complex projects that involve teaching the students

about protecting the environment and living sustainably," he said.

"The Fund is providing an avenue for teachers to implement their innovative ideas without being hindered by the availability of support, and QAL is pleased to be able to provide them with these opportunities."

The Director of Communication and Education for GBRMPA, Karen Vohland, said the Authority continues to appreciate the partnership developed with QAL and is thrilled that the schools are participating in positive activities to improve their local environment and the Reef.

"It is exciting to see initiatives that promote sustainable environmental behaviours both in schools as well as the broader community," she said.

Miriam Vale State School Principal Ms Margie Burrell said the school is excited about becoming actively involved in protecting the Great Barrier Reef.

"The Great Barrier Reef is at the heart of the recreational activities of our Miriam Vale community, so the sustained health of the Reef is intimately linked with our own well being," she said.

"In our first year as a Reef Guardian School our projects are fairly small, but importantly they go to the idea of how we need to change our behaviours to make sure our actions don't have a negative impact on the Great Barrier Reef.

"We are creating a composting program – separating suitable food scraps from 'rubbish,' developing worm farms to reuse some of our compost material and then using the worm tea in our own grounds, as well as developing a compost area to create and extend our gardens and horticulture projects.

"We're committed to undertaking major and complex projects in the future and already have a committee formed that has members from the Gladstone Regional Council, staff and parent community, and student body."

Other projects funded this year through the QAL Reef Guardian Fund include: a hydro electric plant to demonstrate alternative sources of energy, data loggers and water quality probes, a weather station, participation in professional water quality monitoring and a water tank for special needs students to care for their school's vegetable garden.

Students take a dramatic approach to tackling water quality

Students from Wulguru State School teamed up with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA), NQ Dry Tropics and Townsville City Council to improve the water quality of their local catchment and help protect the Great Barrier Reef.

The students took a dramatic approach to the issue when they presented a re-enactment of the journey of a water droplet from the top of the catchment to the Reef at a meeting with their environmental partner agencies.

GBRMPA Reef Guardian Schools Project Officer, Leonie Maddigan, said that while Wulguru State School was a new Reef Guardian School it was already demonstrating its commitment to being a protector of the Reef.

"These students are passionate about helping improve water quality on the Reef and it is wonderful that along with NQ Dry Tropics and Townsville City Council, we can help with their initiatives.

"Wulguru State School is working with agencies that have on-ground experience, to achieve real outcomes for the Reef.

"We often hear people saying they don't believe their actions can make a difference, but the achievements of schools are a testament to the fact that small individual actions can add up to big benefits for the Reef."

Townsville City Councillor, Vern Veitch, was a guest at the performance and offered some valuable insight into the role of schools in environmental protection.

"As places where a diversity of Townsville residents converge, schools are the cornerstones of our community.

"It is fantastic to see grass roots initiatives being fostered by our schools, particularly when the outcomes are focused on protecting an icon as precious as our Great Barrier Reef."



Creature Feature

Dwarf minke whales

- Dwarf minke whales are seen in the northern Great Barrier Reef between March and November, over 90 per cent of sightings occur in June and July.
- Dwarf minke whales are highly inquisitive creatures and regularly approach close to boats and swimmers.
- The dwarf minke whale is regarded as an undescribed subspecies of the common minke whale but may be a distinct species and while smaller, is similar in appearance.
- The female of the species actually grows larger than the male. Dwarf minke whales can reach nearly eight metres long and weigh over five tonnes.
- Dwarf minke whales are baleen whales and as such have no teeth. They feed by filtering small organisms from the seawater using strainer-like 'baleen' plates that hang from their upper jaw.
- Dwarf minke whales have been the subject of extensive research the past six years but there is still much to learn about these inquisitive animals.



Householders encouraged to help the Reef by being energy wise



Solar power panels can be installed at home to reduce electricity use

Householders along the Queensland coast are encouraged to help the Great Barrier Reef by making the most of the Australian Government's energy efficiency roll-out.

More than three million Australian households are set to benefit from the \$4.0 billion Energy Efficient Homes Package, announced in the Budget recently.

It will enable ceiling insulation to be installed in 2.9 million homes and help more than 300 000 additional households install a solar hot water system.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Chairman Dr Russell Reichelt said reducing energy use was an important step in reducing

greenhouse gas emissions and protecting the Reef.

"Climate change is a global issue but there are many things that individuals can do to help minimise its impact on the Great Barrier Reef," he said.

"By opting for insulation and solar power, people can reduce the amount of electricity they use and this is good news for your electricity bill and the environment.

"It is important to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as increases in their concentrations are responsible for climate change.

"A healthy Reef is more resilient and can recover quickly from the impacts of climate change, such as coral bleaching."

Calendar of events

31 July

National Schools Tree Day

2 August

National Tree Day

9 August

International Day for World Indigenous People

24 – 30 August

Keep Australia Beautiful Week

September

Biodiversity Month

07 September

National Threatened Species Day

07 – 13 September

National Landcare Week

12 – 13 September

Sustainable House Day

GBRMPA contacts



Australian Government

Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority

2-68 Flinders Street
PO Box 1379
Townsville Qld 4810

Phone: (07) 4750 0700

Fax: (07) 4772 6093

Email: info@gbbrmpa.gov.au

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter in the future or if you would like to receive this newsletter via email instead of as a hard copy, please email searead@gbbrmpa.gov.au or phone the GBRMPA on (07) 4750 0700.

The three components of the Energy Efficient Homes Package include: Homeowner Insulation Program, Low Emission Assistance Plan for Renters and Solar Hot Water Rebate.

For more information visit www.environment.gov.au/rebates