

Great Barrier Reef Citizen Science - Scientific and Technical Advisors



The Great Barrier Reef is one of the most studied ecosystems in the world, attracting some of the World's best scientists and technical experts. If you are seeking advice about your citizen science project, then the following people may be able to help. Please select an expert that aligns most closely to your chosen study area.

Title	Name	Surname	Affiliation	Topic/Specialty	Associated Projects	Contact information
Ms	Blanche	Anastasi	JCU	Sea snakes, sawfish and sea turtles	IUCN Sea Snake Specialist Group	blanche.danastasi@jcu.edu.au
Dr	Adam	Barnett	Biopixel Oceans Foundation	Marine and fisheries ecology, including population dynamics, conservation, and spatial ecology	Whale sharks east coast of Australia/Coral Sea, Hammerhead sharks and batoids - predator-prey, Spot the leopard shark and Manta rays of North Queensland.	adam.barnett@biopixel.tv
Ms	Maria	Bavins	Independent Marine Scientist	Coral reef ecology, marine environmental science, NRM, and environmental education	CoralWatch Ambassador	mariadarryl@westnet.com.au
Prof	Alastair	Birtles	JCU	Minke whales, marine tourism and ecotourism	Minke Whale Project	alastair.birtles@jcu.edu.au
Dr	Daniele	Cagnazzi	Southern Cross University	Dolphins	Great Barrier Reef Dolphin Project	daniele.cagnazzi@scu.edu.au
Dr	Adam	Canning	JCU TropWATER Centre	Mangroves and tidal wetlands	Working with traditional owners and rangers in estuarine and coastal shoreline health/condition monitoring projects, plus evaluations of wetland sites for restoration/rehabilitation	adam.canning@jcu.edu.au
Dr	Mel	Cowlishaw		Great Barrier Reef: marine science and threatened species	Eye on the Reef	melcowlishaw@outlook.com
Dr	Matt	Curnock	CSIRO	Social and economic aspects of GBR use, marine tourism and dwarf minke whales	Minke Whale Project, Reef Check Australia	matt.curnock@csiro.au

A/Prof	Angela	Dean	UQ	Conservation Social Science	Project PROTECT and Connecting communities to act for nature: the value of social connection for stewardship action	a.dean@uq.edu.au
Dr	Christine	Dudgeon	UniSC and Biopixel Oceans Foundation	Sharks and rays, fisheries, taxonomy	Spot the Leopard Shark, Project Manta, Grey Nurse Shark Watch	cdudgeon@usc.edu.au
Prof	Norm	Duke	JCU TropWATER Centre	Mangroves and tidal wetlands	MangroveWatch estuarine and coastal shoreline health/condition monitoring projects	norman.duke@jcu.edu.au
Prof	Richard	Fuller	UQ	Birds, shorebirds and migratory species	Using citizen science to benefit nature conservation and human health (2022–2023)	r.fuller@uq.edu.au
Dr	Naomi	Gardiner	JCU	Coral reef ecosystems, fisheries, reef fish ecology and behaviour and ecosystem restoration.	Dwarf Minke Whale Project	naomi.gardiner@jcu.edu.au
Dr	Asia	Haines	UniSC	Marine threatened species: sharks and rays	Project Manta and IUCN Shark Specialist Group on their Important Shark and Ray Area project	ahaines@usc.edu.au
Prof	Mark	Hamann	JCU	Marine turtles	Supporting the establishment of the Queensland Marine Turtle Network	mark.hamann@jcu.edu.au
Ms	Kate	Hofmeister	Sunshine Coast Council	Marine turtles and citizen science	Supporting the establishment of the Queensland Marine Turtle Network	kate.hofmeister@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au
Prof	Emma	Jackson	CQU	Seagrass restoration	Sea Flowers: growing community engagement for seagrass restoration	emma.jackson@cqu.edu.au
Dr	Carley	Kilpatrick	UQ/QPWS	Grey Nurse Sharks	Previously instigated Grey Nurse Shark Watch	carley.kilpatrick@des.qld.gov.au
Dr	Col	Limpus	JCU Adjunct; GU adjunct; UQ adjunct	Marine and freshwater turtle ecology and conservation biology; sea snake and crocodile biology; citizen	Queensland Turtle Conservation Project. Manager of Convention for Migratory Species TurtleNet (publicly accessible APP for	cjlimpus@hotmail.com

				science support; First Nation/TO engagement in threatened species conservation and sustainable use	mapping global marine turtle breeding and migration)	
Dist. Prof	Helene	Marsh	JCU	Dugongs	Dugong and Seagrass Conservation Project	helene.marsh@jcu.edu.au
Prof	Justin	Marshall	UQ	Coral health	Coral Watch	justin.marshall@uq.edu.au
Mr	Jock	MacKenzie	EarthWatch	Mangroves and tidal wetlands	MangroveWatch estuarine and coastal shoreline health/condition monitoring projects	jmackenzie@earthwatch.org.au
Mr	Len	McKenzie	Seagrass-Watch and JCU	Seagrass	Seagrass-Watch, GBR Marine Monitoring Program and C-GRASS	len.mckenzie@seagrasswatch.org
Dr	Jan-Olaf	Meynecke	Griffith University	Humpback Whales	Whales and Climate research program and Humpbacks and High Rises	info@whalesandclimate.org or info@hhr.org.au
Prof	Lidia	Morawska	QUT	Air quality (and particulate matter)	Air is fair, here and there	L.morawska@qut.edu.au
Prof	Peter	Mumby	UQ	Coral reef ecology	The Great Reef Census	p.j.mumby@uq.edu.au
Dr	Simon	Pierce	UniSC	Sharks and rays	Sharkbook.ai (incorporating Wildbook for Whale Sharks) and Grey Nurse Shark Watch	simon@marinemegafauna.org
Prof	Morgan	Pratchett	JCU	Coral reef communities	Coral reef monitoring, research & community engagement in IOT Marine Parks	morgan.pratchett@jcu.edu.au
A/Prof	Chris	Roelfsema	UQ	Ecosystem health monitoring and mapping: coral reefs and seagrass	CoralWatch, Reef Check Australia, Great Reef Census, Long term monitoring Heron/Moreton Bay, Coral Reef and Seagrass Habitat Mapping, Reef Cloud and C-GRASS	c.roelfsema@uq.edu.au
Ms	Sue	Sargent	ACSA and Independent Marine Scientist	Rocky reef, tide pools, estuarine and marine water quality monitoring citizen science programs, stakeholder and First	Woongarra Marine Park Monitoring and Education Project, Rocky Reef Watch, Queensland Turtle Conservation Project and WetCAT	sue.sargent65@gmail.com

				Nations community engagement		
Mr	Bill	Sawynok	Infofish Australia Pty. Ltd	Fisheries management, population studies	SunTag – recreational fish tagging and fisheries citizen science program and Global Fishtag Network – looking at range shift and climate change	bill@infofishaustralia.com.au
Dr	Tracy	Schultz	UQ	Social Science	Community stewardship to protect coastal and freshwater ecosystems, including human dimension-related monitoring and evaluation	t.schultz1@uq.edu.au
Adj. A/Prof	Adam	Smith	JCU TropWATER Centre	Coral reefs and fisheries (skindiving)	ReefBlitz, Fishwatch, iNaturalist	adam.smith@reefecologic.org
A/Prof	Kathy	Townsend	USC	Manta rays, and marine debris impacts on fauna	Project Manta	ktownse1@usc.edu.au
Adj. Prof	Stephen	Turton	CQU	Climatology, Climate Change and Sector Adaptation	Citizen Science in the GBR	s.turton@cqu.edu.au
Dr	Andy	Viduka	UNE/GIRT Scientific Divers Pty Ltd	Underwater cultural heritage: shipwrecks and submerged aircraft	GIRT Scientific Diver	girtscientificdiver@gmail.com
A/Prof	Nathan	Waltham	JCU TropWATER Centre	Estuarine ecology, coastal landscape ecology and processes	Scientific support for numerous coastal water quality and habitat projects in the Great Barrier Reef catchments, Torres Strait and Gulf of Carpentaria	nathan.waltham@jcu.edu.au
Dr	Scott	Wilson	EarthWatch	Marine Debris/Plastics	Australian Microplastic Assessment Project	swilson@earthwatch.org.au
Dr	Barbara	Wueringer	SARA	Sharks, rays and sawfish	Sharks and Rays Australia (SARA)	barbara@saw.fish

Please note that the details on this list were correct as of 28 February 2025. If you are unable to contact someone on this list, please check their current contact details online or reach out to the [Australian Citizen Science Association](#).