



TANGAROA BLUE
FOUNDATION

2019 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

www.tangaroablue.org



Heidi Tait | CEO



AUSTRALIAN
MARINE DEBRIS INITIATIVE



A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

*If all we do is clean-up,
that is all we'll ever do.*

Tangaroa Blue Foundation is an Australian-wide, not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the removal and prevention of marine debris, one of the major environmental issues worldwide.

To assist in solving the problem, we created the Australian Marine Debris Initiative (AMD I), an on-ground network of volunteers, communities, organisations and partners that contribute data from rubbish collected during beach and river clean-up events to the AMD I Database, and then work on solutions to stop the flow of litter at the source.

The AMD I helps communities look after their coastal environment by providing resources and support programs, and collaborates with industry and government to create change on a large scale.

In our 16th year, the milestones that have been reached through the AMD I are a true testament to the strong network of AMD I partners who are committed to collaborating on reaching our common goal of a healthier marine environment.

We thank all our volunteers, partners and supporters for another successful, if not challenging year, and look forward to working with you again in 2021.

We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land and sea country on which we live and work, and pay respect to their Elders past, present and future.



TANGAROA BLUE FOUNDATION AT A GLANCE 2019 - 2020

Tangaroa Blue Foundation is dedicated to the removal and prevention of marine debris: one of the major environmental issues worldwide.

Through collaboration with an extensive network of local communities, organisations, Indigenous rangers, industry and government across Australia we create change to protect the environment through removing debris, recording data, working to stop the flow and reduce the amount of waste produced.

This network of over 1800 partner organisations records data in the Australian Marine Debris Initiative (AMD I) Database, hosted by Tangaroa Blue. The database has extensive records dating from 2004 of marine debris across Australia, providing evidence to inform decisions and actions and to monitor the impact of change.

We empower people to become stewards in their own communities, sharing their local knowledge and supporting the continual growth of the national AMDI framework. This approach has kept us on track to continue work during the recent COVID-19 lockdowns and social distancing requirements.

"We are excited to partner with Tangaroa Blue for their practical and strategic approach to the issue of marine debris. They not only clean-up important marine ecosystems, they also work to identify and prevent the pollution from occurring in the first place, which is crucial for the long term health of our oceans and the planet."

Hayley Morris, Executive Director, Morris Family Foundation



CREATING LASTING CHANGE NEEDS VISION, DATA, COURAGE AND PEOPLE

Tangaroa Blue Foundation is involved in a range of initiatives which change habits, reduce waste and raise awareness.



ReefClean

Funded by the Australian Government's Reef Trust, ReefClean is a 5-year project bringing together partner organisations, community groups and individuals from along the length of the Great Barrier Reef to not only remove marine debris but also to prevent more debris entering the sea and impacting the iconic Reef. This year, with our partners - Reef Check Australia, Capricornia Catchments, Eco Barge Clean Seas, Oceanwatch Australia, South Cape York Catchments and AUSMAP, along with community groups and volunteers, we delivered 206 community clean-up events, removed 17 tonnes, regularly monitored 79 sites between Bundaberg and the Torres Strait Islands. Our citizen science collaboration is vital to help inform and manage our Reef. The greatest threats to the Reef are climate change, coastal development, run off and human activities such as illegal fishing and pollution.

Source Reduction Plans seek to prevent waste from becoming a pollutant. Tangaroa Blue facilitated workshops to assist communities to develop local plans to reduce specific items from becoming litter and marine debris. The items were identified through clean-ups and audits.

As part of ReefClean we hosted 12 source reduction workshops resulting in the following campaigns:



REEFCLEAN PROJECTS



Ditch the Flick

Our ReefClean Ditch the Flick campaign is an initiative to help drive behavioural change among smokers around the Great Barrier Reef. It aims to educate communities that cigarette butts are plastic and encourage smokers to dispose of their butts responsibly.



Lose Ya Lid

Encourages coffee consumers to reduce their single-use coffee cup lids on takeaway cups by say no to plastic lids. This was particularly relevant during COVID when cafe's weren't accepting reusable BYO coffee cups for takeaways.



Look After Your Tackle

Encourages recreational fishers to know their knots, recover lost tackle and line and to reuse, remove or properly dispose of any line and tackle they find in the environment.



Litter Hero

Our ReefClean Litter Hero campaign is an initiative to help drive behavioural change in people who leave litter in public spaces around the Great Barrier Reef.



Don't Dump on Our Reef

This campaign is an initiative to help educate dog owners about the impact dog poo and single-use plastic dog poo bags have around the Great Barrier Reef.

COVID-19 restrictions required the workshops to be run electronically rather than face to face. This enabled more people to be involved and there are plans to roll out the campaigns nationally through social media and partnerships. Further Information and resources are at;

<https://www.tangaroablue.org/reefclean-news/reefclean-source-reduction-plan-workshops-results-are-in/>

Data contributed by ReefClean and other AMDI partners to the AMDI Database was used in the Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report released in August 2019.



Operation Clean Sweep® is an ongoing program working with the plastics industry, local councils and government authorities including the Victorian Environment Protection Agency (EPA), to reduce the loss of plastic resin pellets, flake, recycled chips and powder. Site audits and stormwater drain traps are used to collect data on plastic resin pellet “nurdle” hotspots, with information forwarded to industry members, and where appropriate, to the Victorian EPA to support compliance responses.

The program is a key part of the new Plastic Stewardship Australia program announced at the March 2020 National Plastic Summit in Canberra and has been included in the Australian Government’s National Plastics Plan released in March 2021.

Chemistry Australia is proud to partner with Operation Clean Sweep®.

“Heidi and the team at Tangaroa Blue do a wonderful job to engage with industry and educate businesses throughout the supply chain about the simple and effective improvements they can make to keep plastic pellets out of our oceans and waterways. Through our support of Operation Clean Sweep®, we continue to work closely with Tangaroa Blue to encourage uptake of the program with the ultimate goal of zero pellet loss through engagement with industry.”

Samantha Reed CEO of Chemistry Australia



Let's Strain the Drains

The program was created through a collaboration with Sustainability Victoria and the Cleanwater Group, to address the increasing amount of litter washing up on Port Phillip Bay beaches. It was delivered in the Cities of Wyndham, Hobson's Bay, Moreland, Kingston, Maribyrnong, and Greater Dandenong.

120 stormwater drain traps were installed by the Cleanwater Group in consultation with the councils. The captured contents were sorted and counted, providing data to the **AMD Database** to identify specific information on sources and distribution of litter originating from urban areas that would normally flow through the stormwater system into Port Phillip Bay.

A total of **87,536** litter items and in excess of **586,368** pieces of microplastic were captured over the project and prevented from reaching the ocean. Data collected through this project is being used by the councils and state government on litter prevention and monitoring projects, and through a collaboration with the University of NSW, is being analysed for publication.

Long term positive change can happen when NGO's, industry, community and government work together. Trevor Evans MP, Federal Assistant Minister for Waste Reduction and Environmental Management, has been keen to hear about the work of Tangaroa Blue and its networks to remove and prevent marine debris. He attended a ReefClean clean-up on Snapper Island, off Port Douglas, with local Traditional Owners and the Tangaroa Blue Foundation team.

WA Beach Clean-up

Run in collaboration with Keep Australia Beautiful WA, this annual event harnessed many volunteers from over 100 groups to clean beaches and record data. This continues to give a long-term view of waste, what it is and where it comes from, to help stop it at source.

The WA Beach Clean-up was initiated by Tangaroa Blue in 2005 and highlights the evolving nature of clean-ups.

There are now many organisations, community groups and individuals cleaning beaches and waterways enabling Tangaroa Blue Foundation to facilitate the use of their data to focus on key areas and prevention.



107 clean-ups

76,480 items removed

3.2 tonnes of marine debris removed

1203 volunteer occasions.

ENGAGING THE NEXT GENERATION IS ONE OF THE BEST LONG-TERM STRATEGIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

Our Ambassadors are role models and leaders in their communities and networks, who make a positive impact on the health of our environment and inspiring others to do the same.



Owen Harris, at just five years old, is a very passionate wildlife warrior and adventurer, who wants to make sure there will still be fish in the ocean in the future. Owen collects and records rubbish in the AMDI Database so he can contribute to stopping pollution at source. At other times he is surfing or exploring his local area. Follow his adventures on [Facebook – Owen's Wildlife Adventures](#)



Poppy Ives is a Visionary Ocean Warrior on a journey for a plastic free sea. She involves many people in beach clean-ups and local initiatives to prevent pollution. She is also a young entrepreneur who has a collection of up-cycled shell jewellery and one of a kind hand painted denim pieces for sale. View her collection and protection efforts on [Facebook – Visionary Ocean Warrior](#).



Elijah Richardson has a caring and inquisitive mind and a deep love of the ocean, rock pools and all sea life. At just seven years old, he encourages his friends, fellow students and greater community to do their part to protect the natural world. He leads the way by cleaning up the local beach, engaging with his primary school and talking to media. See the latest project on [Facebook - Elijah's World](#).



Bernadette Davis (aka Flea) whose passion has led her to work with young people and coordinate the Eurobodalla Marine Debris Working Group and the Ekipa Tasi Mos Atauro program in Timor Leste. She uses the AMDI Database to track trash to its source to try to eliminate the marine debris stream.



THE NUMBERS

During the 2019-2020 Financial Year Tangaroa Blue Foundation and AMDI partners have coordinated:

4,293

clean-ups involving

26,458

volunteer occasions
with the resulting

94,912

hours of work allowing
the removal of

2,140,000

items weighing a total

182

tonnes

Since 2004, over 18 million items have been diverted from the ocean and waterways.

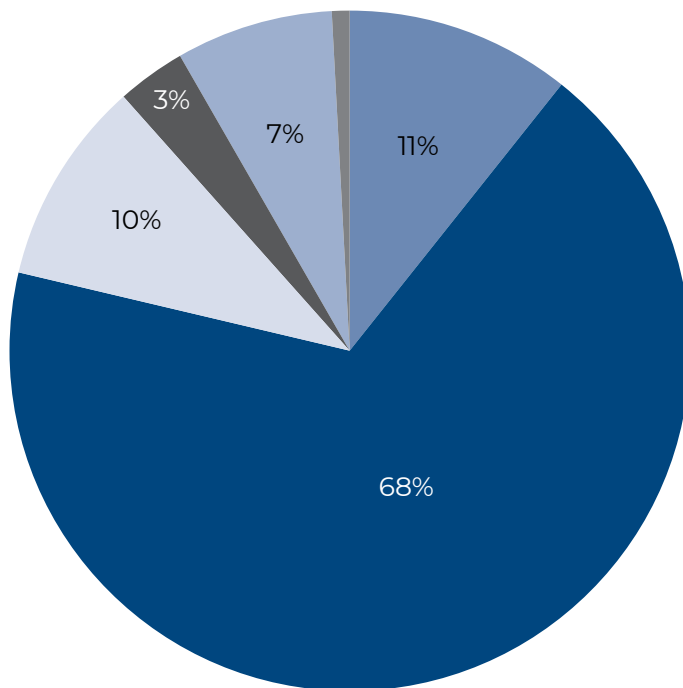
To date 285 Source Reduction Plans have been developed and implemented.

To get involved contact us at info@tangaroablue.org



INCOME 2019 / 2020

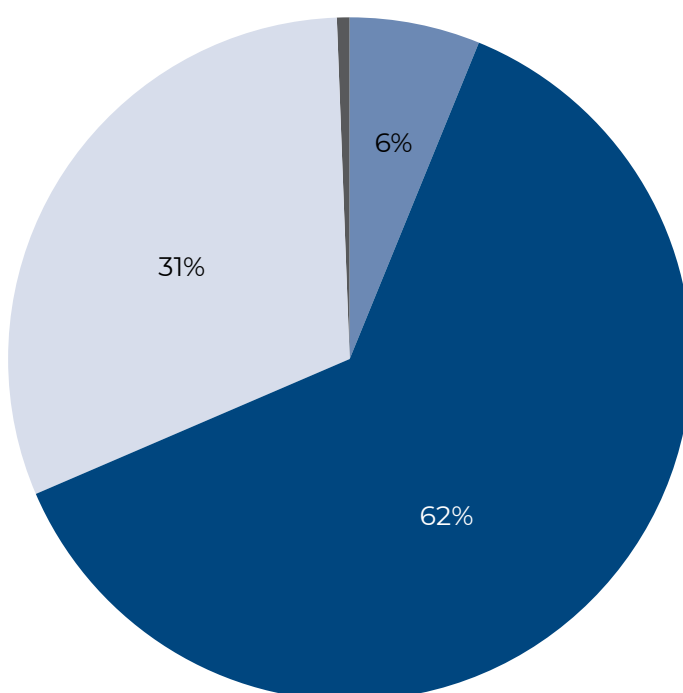
\$1,596,819



- Government Grants
- ReefClean
- Donations and Bequests
- Goods and Services
- COVID-19 Subsidies
- Other

OPERATING EXPENSES 2019 / 2020

\$1,265,353



- Administration and Operating
- Grants, Projects and Events
- Employee Costs
- Other

Audited accounts are on the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit register at <https://www.acnc.gov.au/charity/7480bdcd6f80f127a87a5c1fc145c48e>



TEAM BUILDING IS ABOUT WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE COMMON GOALS

We are pleased to host corporate events which build teams, raises awareness and creates change.

Thank you to the following teams who collaborated in corporate clean-up events through the AMDI: Kathmandu at Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth; Expedia, Hawaiian Airlines, Arup, Hewlett Packard Enterprise and Bank of America Merrill Lynch in Sydney; Cisco Australia and New Zealand at Port Douglas Queensland and Teleflex at Gold Coast Queensland.

You make the difference, together we make change

Thank you for attending beach/river clean-ups across Australia, participating in workshops, sharing social media, advocating to reduce waste and influencing behaviour change for a healthier environment.

To get involved contact us at info@tangaroablue.org

Tangaroa Blue Foundation Ltd is a not-for-profit organisation and a registered charity. ACN: 13 863 6521

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Follow us on



www.tangaroablue.org

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