
WHALE HERITAGE STEERING COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Date: Tuesday 25th July 2023 Time: 1pm Venue: Zoom

Item	
1	<p>Members Present: Olivia Brodhurst, Cass Hayward, Robert Congo, Brooke Miles Ogden, Lynne Boyce, Gary Warrener, Beth Sutherland, Emily Monacella, Lindsay Simpson,</p> <p>Apologies: Tony Fontes, Nicole Rosser, Crystal Lacey, Aunty Agnes, Stuart Allwright, Deb Duggan</p> <hr/> <p>Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners: Olivia acknowledged the traditional owners of the Whitsundays.</p> <hr/> <p>Acceptance of previous minutes and previous actions: Previous minutes were accepted.</p> <hr/> <p>Membership Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Membership is still increasing and still open to new members.
2	<p>Actions from last meeting:</p> <p>WoW video – Crystal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- GBRMPA looking at professionally filming video with Master Reef Guides – still underway <p>Put a call out to operators via social media to get photos / media for events - Liv</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Still underway, need to do a more formal call out as the more media, the better
3	<p>Citizen Science update – Happy Whale and EOTR update</p> <p>Hydrophone training –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- More recordings and the research is being put together and uploaded – all info on email sent out by Crystal after the event- People wanting to buy the hydrophone, but are waiting on an unresponsive provider (HTI). Consider buying from Aquarian Audio- People who already have them are using them quite often- Lots of interest and support for this – ABC radio, news, Channel 7 Kelly interview for hydrophone – really good for regional marketing and putting the Whitsundays on the Map for Whales and what we’re doing here. <p>ACTION: Weekly hydrophone sound post on FB page</p> <p>ACTION: Info sheet training boaties/ operators on how to use the citizen science tools</p> <p>Happy Whale –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- More and more matches are coming through. Share the match (cool story) – could potentially do this once a week – really shows their distance travelled. Have the opportunity to name them (at least \$500) need to donate to marine charity (NFP).- RedCat has named one Echo. Welcome Whales Event named one Yonga means mother in aboriginal language.- Need to get the message out for people that are interested in naming – there are people that want to do this.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spoke to Ecobarge (Libby) about Ecobarge advertising. EcoBarge gets the money from donations and whales get named for her sponsors. Directing money into this region. <p>ACTION: Weekly HappyWhale Posts</p> <p>ACTION: Robbie to Share Younga story on his page and cross-share to Whales FB page</p> <p>Eye on the Reef –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A lot of posts and over 1000 people on the FB page – massive feat. RedCat has named theirs – unsure if there is a story behind the name <p>ACTION: Create Post for Echo and story behind name</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hasn't officially been named - Happy Whale yet <p>ACTION: Eye on the Reef Incident Reporting needs to be broadened – i.e. striking a whale, boats chasing whales, etc.</p>
4	<p>Events update - Reef Festival</p> <p>Parade – using whale song for float music – try and mix with traditional music overlay</p> <p>Master class – Focusing a section on Whales.</p> <p>ACTION: reach out to see about interviews</p> <p>Nature Celebration at Night Markets – Tony Fontes organises</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deb and Olivia will have a stand for nautilus marine / Whales that will have whale info and poster that Roxy designed there. - ARK energy (Welcome Whale event sponsor) and other environmental groups having stands as well <p>Family Fun Day – Immersive Whale Experience and more</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trying to work the booth – potentially immersive sound experience, merch and whale activity
5	<p>Whale Heritage Site Application – Deanna Vierling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ACTION: Deanna to update next session or email update
6	<p>Comms</p> <p>Social Media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drone footage of whales – within 300 m <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Filtering out the posts of footage from closer than 300m and don't post it o Commenting the one-page with rules and regs on posts with close drone footage? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is there research on if drones impact on whales? o It's a GBRMPA rule- so we should be pushing rules and regs associated with these <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We have to presume people are following the rules – whales do just pop up - Make regs a pinned post – all footage posted to this page is being presumed as abiding by this reg - Group Rules -- Posts need to be approved by admin – make pinned post about requirements for posts to be time, location, estimated distance from whale, circumstance - Military ops are inconsiderate of whale calving season <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o When did they make this reg (the height over the whales)? Are they reviewing other things that are impacting whales ie jet boats, military jets - Superyacht at Langford – their jetboat went right overhead whale and calf – blood in the water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Was this reported as an incident on eye on the reef? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Never hear back to know what the outcome of these reports is - 70% of our industry is in the high speed - Does anyone have free time to record boat sounds at different speeds to understand what whales are hearing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Lets people know what high speed vs low speed sounds like for the whales

- Could help build concern and challenge when these military operations are being held
 - o Not during whale season
 - o There's always a loser when the military is blasting – whales, shorebird migration, coral spawning, turtle nesting, wet season, etc.
 - o Why is this even allowed in an area where there is coral?

ACTION: Pinned post of rules and regs

ACTION: Post comments on these videos "Hey, great video. Was this taken within the regs?"

ACTION: New group rules – for posts to be approved must include information i.e. location, time, distance, circumstance, type of footage (camera, drone, etc.)

ACTION: Ask Fiona – are drone permits available?

- Are some drones less harmful than others?

ACTION: Volunteer for boat speed hydrophone recording

Local News Planning

- Lots of articles in the paper about hydrophones and events

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Funding

- Due to pay the US\$3000 fee when we get the accreditation – didn't get either of the grants
- Artwork from Welcome Whale Event going to Cruise Whitsunday
 - o Corporate sponsor or buying the artwork
- Tourism Whit is for marketing, not development, can help once we get the cert.
- Overall cost and to be sustainable in the future we need funding
 - o Funding pools, QLD gov't, QLD tourism
 - Grant applications are extensive and not guaranteed
 - Philanthropic funding – crowd funded?
 - Any experience in crowd funding? Put a call out

ACTION: Call out for experience with crowd funding

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Open session

- Need somewhere for these news stories and activities to be collected somewhere
 - o Where would this be ideally posted and the easiest to manage
 - Logistics and time
- Right now we're a steering committee not a NFP
 - o Do we get registered, a bank account, etc.
- Potential to get involved in online podcast – *Whale Tales*
 - o Stories about whales around the world – approaching them to doing humpbacks in the Whitsundays
 - Attention for the Whitsundays

ACTION: 4-5 people interested in talking about their experience with whales and what we're doing here for the podcast

- People asking where the whale watching tours are?
 - o Post why we don't do whale watching tours
 - Inform them we're not allowed to operate whale watching tours within the Whale protection zone
 - Cetacean alliance has certs for whale watching tours – but we don't fit in this bucket bc we don't have tours – is there a way to still get training?

ACTION: Emily to set up a standard reply to whale watching questions "No dedicated whale watching tours as we're in a whale protection zone..,"

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Meeting Closed at 2:15pm

- Next meeting 23 August 2023 – in person

10 **Actions Arising from the Meeting:**

Action	Responsible Person	Due Date
A Whales of the Whitsundays video to be produced	Crystal	Underway
Put a call out to operators via social media to get photo's / media for events	Olivia	ASAP
Facebook: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly hydrophone whale song post • Weekly Happy Whale Post • Pinned post of rules and regulations on FB page • Comment on videos to reinforce regs "Was this within the regulations?" • New group rules. For post to be approved must include: location, time, distance, circumstance, type of footage (camera, drone) • Set up standard reply to whale watching questions "No dedicated tours within Whale Protection Area" 	All	Ongoing
Info sheet training boaties/operators how to use citizen science tools		ASAP
Eye on the Reef Incident Reporting - striking a whale, reporting boats chasing whales, etc.		ASAP
Master Reef Class - reach out for interviews	Lindsay	Reef Fest
Ask Fiona Merida- are drone permits available	Crystal	ASAP
Volunteer for boat speed hydrophone recording	All	Post Whale Season
Call out for someone with experience in crowd funding	All	ASAP
Volunteer (4-5 people) for Whale Tales podcast	All	December
Share Younga story on page and cross-share on Whales FB page	Olivia - Robert	ASAP