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# WHALES OF THE WHITSUNDAYS

## STEERING COMMITTEE

### MEETING MINUTES

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CANDIDATE

Item	Date: Wednesday 23 August 2023 Time: 10:30am Venue: TW/Zoom
1	<p><b>Members Present:</b> Olivia Brodhurst, Crystal Lacey, Deanna Vierling, Deb Duggan, Roxy Bowden, Tony Fontes, Dr. Anne Smith, Lindsay Simpson</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Gary Warrener, Amelia Keynes, Stuart Allwright, Tony Fontes, Emily Monacella, Nicole Rosser, Cass Hayward, Fiona Merida, Robert Congoo, Trevor Rees, Lynne Boyce, Brooke Miles Ogden, Charlie Morgan, Aunty Agnes Boyd, Renee Branton-Brown, Michela Veltri</p> <hr/> <p><b>Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners:</b> Olivia acknowledged the traditional owners of the land in which the meeting was held.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Acceptance of previous minutes and previous actions:</b> Previous minutes accepted.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Membership Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Membership is still increasing and still open to new members.</li><li>- New member Dr. Anne Smith was welcomed and provided an introduction.</li></ul>
2	<p><b>Actions from last meeting:</b></p> <p><b>WoW video – Crystal – ongoing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- GBRMPA looking at professionally filming video with Master Reef Guides – still underway – might be better for the Cetacean Alliance to make the video so it is specific to the Whitsundays. Olivia and Crystal working with them to see what their version of a video will look like.</li></ul> <p><b>Put a call out to operators via social media to get photos / media for events - Liv</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Still underway, need to do a more formal call out as the more media, the better</li></ul> <p><b>Facebook updates</b> – Deb has volunteered to continue to focus on Facebook and doing more regular posts as per the action list and discussions.</p> <p><b>Info sheet training boaties/operators how to use citizen science tools</b> – Eye on the Reef has this – we should share what they already have first.</p> <p><b>Eye on the Reef incident reporting – striking a whale, reporting boats chasing whales, etc.</b> – incident report forms – app is in the process of being redone so for now report as injured whale or use incident report form on website.</p> <p><b>Master Reef Class – reach out for interviews</b> – Olivia reach to Kelly to see if she has done anything</p> <p><b>Ask Fiona if drone permits are available</b> – they are not available in this area</p> <p><b>Volunteer for boat speed hydrophone recording</b> – post whale season</p> <p><b>Call out for someone with experience in crowd funding</b> – ongoing – very important</p> <p><b>Volunteer (4-5 people) for Whale Tales podcast</b> – December</p> <p><b>Share Yonga story on page and cross share on Whales FB page – Olivia and Robert</b> – ongoing – need \$500 to progress naming. Anne flagged interest in supporting.</p>
3	<p><b>Citizen Science update – Happy Whale and EOTR update</b></p> <p><b>EOTR</b> has so many whale sightings you can't see the islands on the map anymore</p> <p><b>Happy Whale</b> - Consider a post through the Christmas period – pressie of naming a whale. This will also provide funding to marine charities (e.g. Eco Barge).</p>
4	<p><b>Whale Incidents</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Most effective way to get GBRMPA and broader community to understand the problem is to report incidents.</li><li>- Lindsay has a story/article about increasing whale population and what this means for boats, being aware that the whale pop is more stressed as it reaches carrying capacity, link for reporting bad behaviour to GBRPA – can be anonymous</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If being attached to WoW should be focused on awareness raising not naming individuals.</li> </ul> <p>This discussion raised the need for a ToR for the group.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Report to WWF about Mackay incident</b></p> <p><b>ACTION: Tony forward email to Lindsay</b></p> <p><b>ACTION: Lindsay send draft article to Steering Committee</b></p> <p><b>ACTION: Olivia to check if there is a Terms of Reference provided by WCA or how to go about setting them</b></p>
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Events update - Reef Festival</b> – Thanks to everyone who worked so hard it went really well</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Great couple of days of spreading awareness about whales</li> </ul>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Whale Heritage Site Application</b> – Deanna Vierling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have sent Robert some questions for the cultural heritage section of the application</li> <li>- Should have a draft in about two weeks</li> <li>- Reach out to RipTide creative for video of Reef Festival</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION: Once draft is put together, share for review</b></p>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Comms</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dr. Anne Smith happy for whales to have their own page on her website</li> <li>- Tourism Whitsunday page needs to be fixed</li> <li>- RedCat has named their whale Echo</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION: Ideal whale fluke image for identification post – Deb</b></p> <p><b>ACTION: Olivia to give Deb access to OneDrive</b></p> <p><b>ACTION: Deb cross-share post to Whitsunday Noticeboard weekly – public awareness posts – end of whale season stats post</b> – reach out to Dr. Smith if you would like help</p> <p><b>ACTION: Deb FB post with link to incident report from on GBRMPA website</b></p> <p><b>ACTION: Lindsay to make simple story/post about incidents that happen in the park and the easiest way to report them, (Eye on the Reef, Incident Report Form)</b></p>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Funding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Can't put in our application without knowing how we're going to pay for it</li> <li>- Trying to get artwork from Welcome Whales Event sold</li> <li>- Need ~5,000 in total for application and naming Yonga through HappyWhale</li> <li>- Deb has raised \$1000 from merch sales – YAY DEB!</li> <li>- Consider corporate sponsorship/ crowd funding/ both?</li> <li>- Need to look at how much we need to operate per year and consider raising full amount required together.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION: Consider how much funding do we need to operate next year?</b></p> <p><b>ACTION: Need to look into setting up a bank account if considering donations</b></p> <p><b>ACTION: Gold, Silver, Bronze corporate sponsorship – think on how much and what they get</b></p>
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Meeting Closed at 12pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Next Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> October online - TBC</li> </ul>
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Actions Arising from the Meeting: Next page</b></p>

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Person</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
A Whales of the Whitsundays video to be produced	Crystal / Liv - WCA	Underway
Facebook: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly hydrophone whale song post</li> <li>• Weekly Happy Whale Post</li> <li>• Pinned post of rules and regulations on FB page</li> <li>• Comment on videos to reinforce regs "Was this within the regulations?"</li> <li>• New group rules. For post to be approved must include: location, time, distance, circumstance, type of footage (camera, drone)</li> <li>• Do post on ideal whale fluke picture</li> <li>• Deb cross-share public awareness posts from WoW to Whit Noticeboard regularly</li> <li>• Deb post link with GBRMPA incident report form – Cross-share noticeboard</li> <li>• Set up standard reply to whale watching questions "No dedicated tours within Whale Protection Area"</li> </ul>	Deb	Ongoing
Info sheet training boaties/operators how to use citizen science tools - Share EOTR page	Crystal	ASAP
Master Reef Class - reach out for interviews	Olivia - Kelly	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 Yonga story on page and cross-share on Whales FB page	Olivia - Robert	ASAP
Contact WWF and let them know about Mackay incident	Olivia	ASAP
Lindsay send draft article to Steering committee for review	Lindsay	When complete
Olivia to check ToR - did WCA provide or how to go about setting up	Olivia	ASAP
Deanna to send WHA draft for review when ready- due end of Sept	Deanna	ASAP
Lindsay to write simple post/story about easiest way to report incidents that happen on the Reef and anonymous posting	Lindsay	ASAP
Crystal and Olivia - think about how much funding we need per year to operate	Olivia - Crystal	ASAP
Look at setting up as registered organisation (bank account etc)	Olivia - Crystal	ASAP
Think of Gold, Silver, Bronze corporate sponsorship and what they get	All	ASAP