



Introducing the Partnership

The Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership (GHHP), formed in November 2013, brings together key stakeholders from the community, industry, science, Government and statutory bodies to produce an annual *GLADSTONE HARBOUR REPORT CARD*. GHHP is currently hosted by the Fitzroy Basin Association and has 24 partners that contribute financially and intellectually to the Partnership. The Partnership's principles are open, honest and accountable management in developing annual reporting of the health of the Gladstone Harbour based on rigorous science and strong stakeholder engagement. In 2013 GHHP in consultation with the Gladstone Region Environmental Advisory Network (GREAN) created a vision for a healthy harbour, asking the question, "What is important to us?" The vision of **a healthy, accessible, working harbour** was developed. This vision acknowledges multiple uses of the harbour and the importance of understanding and managing social, cultural and economic dimensions, in addition to environmental dimensions.



GHHP aims to bring opportunities to partners such as:

- facilitating cooperation between industry, research, community and government to pool the best possible expertise to understand and manage Gladstone Harbour health;
- efficient, cost effective, coordinated and targeted monitoring and research activities focused on GHHP needs and priorities and management recommendations;
- improving community engagement, communication and confidence in the health and management of the harbour by providing synthesised information in easy to understand language, but without loss of scientific rigor;
- coordinating science and science communication products;
- informing decision-making for users of the Gladstone Harbour;
- contributing to the development of Port Curtis (and/or appropriate sub-components thereof) specific environmental values, water quality objectives and trigger values; and
- including existing industry and research effort to maximise and optimise value of investment (both time and money) while improving the quality of the data generated from monitoring and research programs.

What's new...



▶ GHHP ATTENDS ECOFEST WITH HUNDREDS OF CHILDREN PLAYING WITH SEA CREATURES ON THE HARBOUR IMAGE.....2



▶ GET A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE HARBOUR THROUGH THE NEW 3D SCALE MODEL.....2



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▶ GHHP INDEPENDENT SCIENCE PANEL MEET IN GLADSTONE TO VALIDATE SCIENCE METHODS....3





"Some people think it's a good thing. Some people think it's not so good. It's progress and Gladstone's wonderful harbor has been tantamount to all that."

BRAD BARKER

OUR HARBOUR, OUR REFLECTIONS

Gladstone community members tell their reflections of Gladstone Harbour.

Our Harbour, Our Reflections is a video series that will act as a time capsule capturing local memories and stories for generations to come. The Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership has been working with the Gladstone community to discover the unique history of the Gladstone Harbour. Gladstone community member's stories have been collated through a series of interviews to tell their stories in recorded oral histories and digital stories. Altogether 20 people have been interviewed.

Interviewees include:

- Ms Patsy Lee talks about the naming of Patsy Lee Place, fishing and growing up.
 - Ms Carli Hobbs chats about the Gladstone Yacht Club and her 25 years experience in the Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race.
 - Mr Immanuel Beezley yarns about Gladstone's changes.
 - Mr Brad Barker reflects on his life on the harbour and his family's time in the Gladstone Yacht Club.
- Plus many more.

The Our Harbour, Our Reflections collection can be viewed at <http://harbourreflections.org.au/>. Further, a book will be developed that records in writing the stories collected in the videos.

SCALE MODEL

Gladstone
Harbour in 3D



GHHP are excited to unveil a realistic scale model of Gladstone Harbour. The model will be used to communicate partnership activities and results of Harbour monitoring. Created by Queensland Company VH Models, the model provides accurate details of the Harbour and surrounding catchments. The model will make its first appearance at the Botanic to Bridge Healthy Living Expo on August 17th.

ABOUT REPORT CARDS

GHHP staff have been working to develop the Gladstone Harbour Report Card. Report Cards are a highly effective and an increasingly popular way to disseminate findings of long term ecosystem health monitoring programs.

Report Cards can be used to synthesize and summarize complex, systematically collected scientific information from multiple sources into a small number of grades.

The Report Card will be using indicators that are 'early warnings of change' in Harbour health. These indicators work by being sensitive to both positive and negative changes. Indicators will be consolidated using statistics to develop final grades for each of the Partnership's four (4) dimensions of ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC. The four (4) dimensions will be reported like a school report card with a grade of A, B, C, D, or E.

GHHP BUSY AT ECOFEST

To ensure the community becomes more aware of GHHP's objectives including its processes and systems, the Partnership has been and will continue to be a presence at community events and activities.

GHHP had a display at EcoFest encouraging children to interact with the 1metre by 3metre map of the harbour by playing with wind up sea creatures, play dough and making paper boats (hundreds of paper boats were made). Many people took the time to stop and talk to the GHHP team while the children were being thoroughly entertained.

GHHP will be present at the up and coming Botanic to Bridge – Healthy Living Expo to be held 17th August 2014. The GHHP staff will be on hand to provide up to date information on the progress of the Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership.



GHHP staff will continue to identify opportunities to engage with the community to inform and distribute information regarding the Partnership, the testing and monitoring, the Independent Science Panel findings and the development of the 2015 Gladstone Harbour Report Card.





SEA GRASS MONITORING
Helicopter rides and free diving are all in a day's work for the James Cook University (JCU) team undertaking sea grass monitoring. Sea grass is just one of the sub-indicators that are used to determine the health of habitats in Gladstone Harbour. Habitats, along with water and sediment quality, connectivity and fish and crabs will be used to determine the ENVIRONMENTAL health of the Harbour.

GHHP SCIENCE PROGRAM

Robust, independent science is used to report on the GHHP's Vision for a Healthy Harbour.

The Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership, advised by an Independent Science Panel (ISP), was established to provide clear and actionable advice to help improve decision-making about resource allocation and environmental management of Gladstone Harbour. This will be underpinned by robust marine science incorporating environmental, social, cultural and economic dimensions. An annual whole-of-system Report Card, supported by a Gladstone Harbour Model, will allow the GHHP to both report on the health of the Harbour, and to provide advice on actions required to improve, maintain or restore the health of the Harbour.

The initial task of the ISP in 2013 was to develop the GHHP Science Program, which includes the Annual Report Card and the Gladstone Harbour Model. The ISP and GHHP Science staff are now trialling the program design and testing the indicators and monitoring strategies.

The Report Card is based on four key aspects of Harbour health identified during the GHHP Visioning process by Gladstone community members and Harbour stakeholders: environmental, cultural, social and economic aspects of Harbour health. These are the key areas of interest as expressed in the GHHP



Vision, and make the GHHP Report Card novel, as few ecosystem health report cards incorporate social, cultural and economic indicators.



Members of the Independent Science Panel meet with GHHP Staff in Gladstone (L-R): Dr John Rolfe; Dr Uthpala Pinto (Science Technical Officer); Emma McIntosh (Science Convener); Dr Frans Hoogerwerf; Dr Jennifer Stauber; Dr Ian Poiner; Associate Professor Eva Abal; Dr Britta Schaffelke; Dr Rob Coles; Dr Susan Rockloff; and Dr Cathy Dichmont.

Independent Science Panel OVERVIEW AND ROLE

The Independent Science Panel (ISP) of the GHHP consists of some of Australia's most respected scientists, from a wide range of disciplines:

- Dr Ian Poiner (Chair, Marine biology and coastal development)
- Associate Professor Eva Abal (Ecosystem Health)
- Dr Richard Brinkman (Hydrodynamics)
- Dr Rob Coles (Marine Biodiversity)
- Dr Cathy Dichmont (Decision support tools/modeling)
- Dr Bronwyn Harch (Environmental informatics/statistical modeling)
- Mr Frans Hoogerwerf (Dredge technical expertise)
- Dr Susan Rockloff (Environmental sociology and social impact assessments)
- Dr John Rolfe (Resource economics)
- Dr Britta Schaffelke (Water quality)
- Dr Jennifer Stauber (Marine toxicology)

The ISP meets in Gladstone every two months and works closely with GHHP Science staff to ensure scientific products are independently validated and are of the highest possible standard.

Profiles of the ISP members are available at www.ghhp.org.au

GHHP FAQ's

During GHHP's presence at a variety of community functions, people have asked a number of similar questions such as:

Who is undertaking the testing of the Harbour?

There is a lot of monitoring and testing already being undertaken and much of this information will be used, however after identifying gaps in data collection, some new monitoring and testing projects are being contracted. All data collected will be closely scrutinized by the Independent Science Panel (ISP) to ensure validity, scientific rigor and accurate interpretation.

Will the Report Card tell us what caused previous problems in the Harbour?

No, the Annual Report Card will provide results from testing of the Harbour undertaken from 2014/15. These results will be presented in the 2015 Report Card. The Annual Report Card will continue to report the results of the testing for the previous financial year providing comparisons over the future years, not what has happened historically.

Have the indicators been used before to monitor other waterways?

Indicators for Gladstone have been conceived from a community vision and developed by the independent Science Panel (ISP). While some of the indicators have been used in a similar fashion, this will be the first time in Australia, that this collation of information and data will be reported not just across environmental but also social, cultural and economic aspects of Harbour health.



Will the Report Card help us to determine the major causes of any fish health or habitat changes in the future?

Yes, GHHP is investing in a fish health research program so that in the future we can develop indicators which will help us detect fish health issues, before major problems occur. However identifying the causes of complex health issues often requires more than just monitoring in a report card, and follow up investigations by relevant organisations may be necessary.

WHAT'S ON

- 17TH AUGUST 2014
GLADSTONE PORT CORPORATION
HEALTHY LIVING EXPO
MARINA PARKLANDS
8:00AM - 12:00PM



- 19TH AUGUST 2014
NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK
COMMUNITY SCIENCE ACTIVITIES
BOYNE ISLAND ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION CENTRE



Exploring Environmental Science will be the theme for a GHHP activity as part of National Science Week. GHHP have partnered with the Boyne Island Environmental Education Centre (BIEEC) and Harbour Watch to host a community afternoon on Tuesday 19th. Everyone is welcome to experience 'A Catchment Story' learning about the impacts of pollutants and run off. The science behind water sampling and monitoring will also be explored. School students, parents and anyone with an interest in the environment and science will totally be excited by this event.

MORE DETAILS:
visit www.ghhp.com.au

GHHP Partners



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Healthy Harbour, Healthy Future