

HARBOUR

# INSIGHTS

GLADSTONE HEALTHY HARBOUR PARTNERSHIP | AUG 2024

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# CHAIRS' welcome

Welcome to the new edition of the Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership's Harbour Insights magazine. Inside, you'll discover an array of articles, updates, and success stories that reflect our collective efforts in enhancing the health of our harbour. Whether it's through innovative research or community-driven projects, GHHP and its Partners are making significant strides in improving the Gladstone region.

We were particularly thrilled to launch the fourth edition of Above and Below: Stewardship Actions in the Gladstone Region which highlights the impressive work completed by Partners to ensure the longevity, prosperity, and sustainability of Gladstone Harbour.

In November 2023, GHHP celebrated ten years since inception, which also prompted an in-depth review of the Partnership, the science program, data trends, and GHHP deliverables. It is anticipated that the results of the review will be shared with Partners in the November 2024 Partners meeting.

The journey in maintaining a healthy, accessible, working Gladstone Harbour is a shared one, and I extend my deepest thanks to our Partners, stakeholders, and the community for their ongoing support and participation. Together, we can ensure a thriving and sustainable future for Gladstone Harbour.



*Prof. Iain Gordon*

GHHP INDEPENDENT CHAIR

The GHHP program is designed to achieve a thorough understanding of the harbour's social, cultural, economic, and environmental health through comprehensive monitoring, data gathering, and statistical analysis.

The Independent Science Panel (ISP) is crucial in this effort, offering unbiased oversight and scientific guidance. Our dedicated scientists and experts work closely with GHHP to propose methodologies, design scientific programs, and review datasets and reports for our annual report card.

The ISP is excited to contribute to GHHP's Ten Year Review through an assessment of the current science program to ensure relevancy and the ability to continue to provide a source of independent, credible, robust data. A review of the last ten years of water and sediment data is also being conducted to assess trends over time. I extend my thanks to the Port Curtis Integrated Monitoring Program (PCIMP) for the provision of this long-term data.

I am deeply grateful to the scientists, citizen scientists, and the GHHP team for their collaborative efforts to improve our understanding of harbour health, and I look forward to the next ten-years of GHHP.



*Prof. John Rolfe*

INDEPENDENT SCIENCE PANEL CHAIR

# Gladstone ACHIEVES ECO- DESTINATION STATUS

The region has proudly received its ECO Destination Certification at the Nature Tourism level with Ecotourism Australia.



The Gladstone region has proudly achieved its ECO Destination Certification at the Nature Tourism level with Ecotourism Australia, underscoring its commitment to sustainable tourism. This milestone, driven by the Gladstone Area Promotion and Development Limited (GAPDL) and supported by Gladstone Regional Council, places Gladstone among only ten regions nationwide to receive this certification.

GHHP was very proud to contribute to this achievement by sharing our Report Card, Technical Report, Stewardship Report, project reports, and commitment to monitoring the health of Gladstone Harbour.

Our vision of having a healthy, accessible working harbour complimented the initiative, and we were able to showcase our community and school involvement during the meeting with an independent auditor. The certification adheres to global best practices through its international partner, Green Destinations, recognising a region's dedication to sustainability across environmental, socio-economic, cultural impact, and sustainable business management pillars.

A big congratulations to Gladstone, GAPDL, and all other organisations and tourism operators involved in this wonderful milestone!

# GHHP LAUNCHES 2024 STEWARDSHIP *report*

Featuring 10 new stewardship stories and projects from our partners

The GHHP team was excited to release our 2024 Stewardship Report, titled “Above and Below,” which showcases the ongoing efforts and achievements in maintaining the health of the Gladstone Harbour and surrounding ecosystems. It highlights the collective actions of local stakeholders, including government, industry, research, First Nations, and the community.

A special thanks to CQUniversity’s Coastal Marine Ecosystems Research Centre (CMERC) and Gladstone Ports Corporation (GPC) for supporting the GHHP team on stage at Ecofest in June, where the Stewardship report was launched.

Key highlights from the 2024 report include:



#### **Cleaner Roads and Waterways:**

Gladstone Regional Council shares their progress in reducing sediment runoff through various initiatives, including the Cleaner Roads Runoff project and the Tigalee Creek Riparian Vegetation Restoration project.



#### **Environmental Monitoring:**

The Gladstone Air Quality Community Group continues to play a vital role in measuring air quality, using PurpleAir monitors to provide real-time data accessible to the public.



Gidarjil Development Corporation rangers dive into seabird monitoring projects at North West Island.

#### **Environmental Stewardship:**

The Gladstone Ports Corporation celebrates over 110 years of environmental stewardship, with numerous long-term projects aimed at protecting marine life and enhancing biodiversity.



#### **Environmental Caretaking:**

Fitzroy Basin Association writes about their work protecting the endangered Capricorn Yellow Chat. Gladstone Ports Corporation shares how they conduct environmental surveys on Facing Island to guide caretaking activities such as pest management.



#### **Community Engagement:**

CQUniversity’s CMERC showcases their work with citizen scientists to harvest seagrass flowers and lend a hand to vital research. Port Curtis Harbour Watch celebrates 10 years of providing hands-on practical scientific investigations of local waterways to schools and the community.



#### **Innovative Initiatives:**

Industry partners like Shell QGC and Rio Tinto have implemented sustainable practices and new technologies to reduce their environmental footprint and support the harbour’s ecological health.

GHHP Chair, Prof. Iain Gordon, expressed gratitude for the dedication and support of all Partners involved.

“The 2024 Above and Below report is a testament to our unwavering commitment to preserving the natural beauty and ecological integrity of Gladstone Harbour. Together, we are making great strides in ensuring this vital ecosystem remains a source of pride and prosperity for our community.”



*read now*  
THE FULL 2024 STEWARDSHIP  
REPORT IS AVAILABLE FOR  
DOWNLOAD ON THE GHHP  
WEBSITE HERE:



# CENTRAL QUEENSLAND catalyst

Delivering the the inaugural Central Queensland Catalyst: Creating Sustainable Futures forum to the Gladstone region

On 12 June 2024, GHHP, PartnerUp Queensland, and CQUniversity collaborated to deliver the inaugural Central Queensland Catalyst: Creating Sustainable Futures forum to the Gladstone region.

We welcomed eight presenters from a variety of organisations and backgrounds and delved into how we can work together to ensure a sustainable future for Central Queensland. Topics included renewable hydrogen and wind energy, seaweed bioplastic, waste heat reuse, decarbonisation, education, training, and engagement with community and Traditional Owners.

GHHP thanks all the presenters and attendees for participating in an incredible afternoon. The networking opportunities, panel session, presentations, and discussions were inspiring.

Presenters:

- Robert Meagher, Stanwell Corporation Limited
- Peter Masters, Stanwell Corporation Limited
- Benjamin Hillier, Central Queensland Power
- Paul Hodgson, CQUniversity
- Manoj Kumar, CQUniversity
- Michael Opolot, CQUniversity
- Lisa Roobottom, Alpha HPA
- Natasha Penno, Rio Tinto



Central Queensland Catalyst: Creating Sustainable Futures



## GHHP TEN-YEAR review

Reviewing ten years of the Partnership, Science Program and our activities

GHHP's first Memorandum of Understanding with Partners was signed on 06 November 2013. To celebrate a decade of this committed collaboration, GHHP has been making progress conducting a review of the Partnership, the Science Program, data trends, and GHHP activities.

The first step in the process was to host an Alluvium Consulting facilitated workshop on 20 November 2023, following a survey completed by Partners. Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the survey and participate in the workshop, including community, Partners, and members of the Independent Science Panel.

GHHP is informed by open, transparent, and independent peer-reviewed science, through an Independent Science Panel (ISP). The role of the ISP is to provide independent scientific advice on the monitoring program that supports the Gladstone Harbour Report Card. For the Ten-Year Review, the ISP is assessing the current Science Program to ensure relevancy, efficiency, and effectiveness of GHHP monitoring.

The Review also provides an opportunity for the ISP to more formally assess data and trend stability over time. This includes the review of water quality and sediment data provided by the Port Curtis Integrated Monitoring Program (PCIMP).

Finally, the effectiveness, sustainability, and reliability of the Partnership will be assessed through the biennial What's Our Grade report, facilitated by Darwinian Consulting. It aims to help the Partnership assess its level of adaptability and identify areas for improvement. A survey will be undertaken to inform a final grade for GHHP, and to provide a detailed assessment of results and recommendations.

A final synthesis report, developed by the GHHP team, will provide a detailed overview of each of the four components of the Ten-Year Review. The synthesis report, with recommendations for the future, will be presented at the GHHP Partners meeting on 7 November 2024.

# OUR partners

The work and achievement of the Gladstone Health Harbour Partnership wouldn't be possible without the support of our partners.



Australian Government



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE  
OF MARINE SCIENCE



FIND OUT MORE

2023 REPORT CARD



2023 TECHNICAL REPORT



Gladstone Healthy  
Harbour Partnership



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