



2016 Annual Report



REEF LIFE SURVEY



OUR VISION

Improved knowledge and
condition of reef systems



OUR

MISSION

To inspire and engage a global
volunteer community to survey
reefs using scientific methods,
and share knowledge about the
marine ecosystem.



CONTENTS

2	RLSF Board
3	Advisory Committee
4	President's Report
6	2015/16 Activities
16	RLS Volunteers
20	The Scoresby Shepherd Awards
21	Financial Report
25	Supporters and Partners
26	Additional Thanks

RLSF BOARD MEMBERS

Graham Edgar

President



Rick Stuart-Smith

Executive Officer



Peter Mooney

Management Representative



Margo Smith

Community Diver Representative



ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Reef Life Survey Foundation activities are directed by a committed and active Advisory Committee. Committee members participate on a voluntary basis and enable RLSF to contribute information on marine biodiversity where it is most needed.

RLSF Advisory Committee members:

Neville Barrett Institute for Marine & Antarctic Studies, Tasmania

Danny Brock Department of Environment, Water & Natural Resources, South Australia

Paul Day West Australian Divers for Diversity Incorporated (WADDI), Western Australia

Graham Edgar Institute for Marine & Antarctic Studies, Tasmania

Andrew Green Nature Coast Marine Group, New South Wales

Tom Holmes Department of Parks and Wildlife (formerly DEC), Western Australia

Steffan Howe Parks Victoria, Victoria

Bryan McDonald Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries, Northern Territory

Peter Mooney Parks and Wildlife Service, Tasmania

Nathan Knott Department of Primary Industries, New South Wales

Amanda Parr Parks Australia, Australian Government

Ian Shaw Solitary Islands Underwater Research Group, New South Wales

Margo Smith Combined Hunter Underwater Group, New South Wales

Rick Stuart-Smith Institute for Marine & Antarctic Studies, Tasmania

John Turnbull Underwater Research Group, New South Wales

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Through efforts of Members over the past year, we are now in the most productive period in the evolution of Reef Life Survey Foundation. Great progress occurred on multiple fronts, thanks to institutional support from the Ian Potter Foundation, financial assistance for field surveys by the Commonwealth Department of Environment, and the contributions of an armada of RLSF members, including the core team in Hobart (Rick Stuart-Smith, Toni Cooper, Laurel Trebilco), Advisory Committee, Eviota crew (Derek and Joe Shields), and the 64 Australian RLS divers (71 in total) who collected, entered and forwarded data during the past year (including 18 newly-trained divers). Thanks to all.

Our institutional framework has now been greatly strengthened through the development and approval of business, strategic and communication plans. The RLS safety document is now finalised and distributed, and massive leaps made in website development and communications.

The span of field activities has also set new records, including:
A total of 1020 surveys in six countries (Australia, Antarctica, Belize, Colombia, Indonesia, Nicaragua), plus an additional 428 new surveys completed by our

Spanish team in the western Mediterranean and north Atlantic (including Portugal and Morocco). Multiple projects completed, including WA State NRM-funded surveys at Rottnest Island and Ningaloo, Cradle Coast NRM surveys at Rocky Cape (Tasmania), Ian Potter surveys at core monitoring sites, Parks Australia surveys in the North Commonwealth Marine Reserve network, the Cod grounds, Pimpernel Rock, and Ashmore Reef (Coral Sea), and collaborative surveys with AIMS in the southern Great Barrier Reef (to assist State of the Environment reporting). Ongoing monitoring, with 431 repeat surveys that extend long-term time-series at Rottnest Island (9th annual survey), Lord Howe Island (5th biennial survey), Pt Stephens, Sydney, Port Phillip Heads, Fleurieu Peninsula, Solitary Islands, Ningaloo, Beware Reef (thanks Don) and Jervis Bay. These data contributed to the Commonwealth 2016 State of the Environment Report.

We have also achieved much success on the scientific front, with 10 scientific papers published since last report, including two in the world's most prestigious journal Nature, and another in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science.

A number of our divers achieved important milestones. These include eight Australian divers who have now contributed five years of service to Reef Life Survey Foundation – Bob Edgar, Carolina Garcia, Sam Gaylard, Sam Griffiths, Scott Ling, Matt Nelson, Warwick Noble, and Peter Pfennig, and two international divers passing the same benchmark – Charlie Bedford, and José

Fernandez. Special thanks to Tom Davis who this year passed the 500 survey mark.

I'm looking forward to catching up with our diving members in 2017.

Graham Edgar

President RLSF



2015/16 ACTIVITIES



We are fortunate to have an impressive group of members who volunteer their time and expertise regularly, but the following people and groups have also kindly made financial contributions to RLSF over the last year. RLSF would like to thank in particular:

The Ian Potter Foundation

Joyce and Allan Edgar

Barbara Edgar

Trent McInerney, RX Safety



AT A GLANCE

 **10** Divers reached 5 Years of service to RLS

71
Active divers

112
New fish species recorded



18
New divers trained

 **137**
New invertebrates recorded



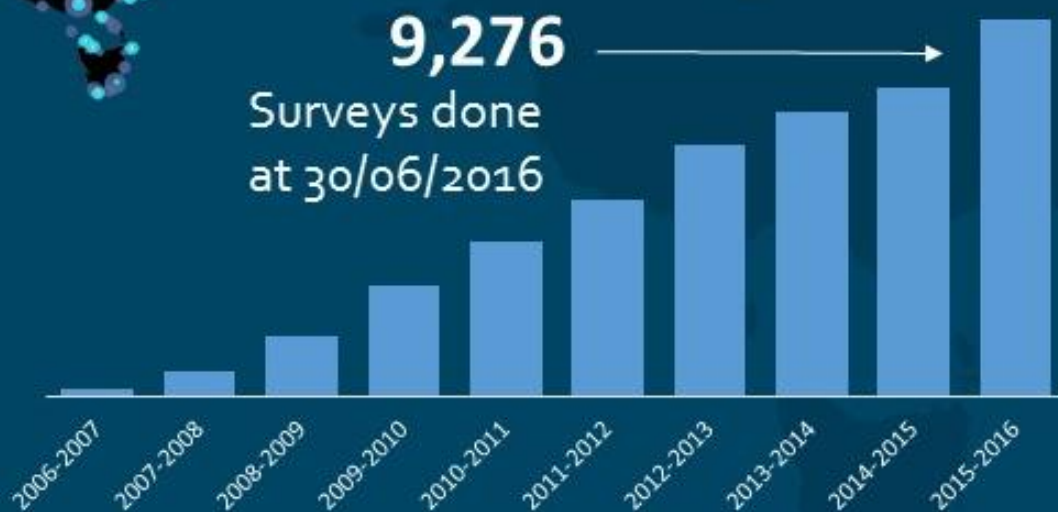
1,626 Surveys in 2015/2016 from 8 countries + Antarctica



367
New sites surveyed

 **5,350**
Nautical miles sailed by 30 June 2016

9,276
Surveys done at 30/06/2016



The 2015/16 year saw **71** divers undertake **1626** surveys from **844** sites from around the Australian Coast and Belize, Antarctica, Spain, Colombia, Indonesia, Morocco, Portugal and Nicaragua.

RLSF acknowledges the generous contribution of Prof Graham Edgar for donating the use of his sailing vessel, *Eviota*, which enables volunteer divers to collect valuable data from remote locations around Australia



The first few months of the 2016 calendar year saw the completion of the northern Australian survey expedition on the yacht, *Eviota*, which targeted offshore Commonwealth Marine Reserves outside of northern Queensland and Northern Territory waters.

Additional survey campaigns, independent of the *Eviota* expedition, also occurred throughout the year.

These included the Rottnest Island survey weekend (WA, for the 9th consecutive year), Ningaloo, Sydney, Jervis Bay, Beware Reef, Port Phillip Bay, Port Stephens, Perth as well as the first RLS surveys in Rocky Cape, Tasmania – all possible due to the hard working and dedicated members who also belong to local diving community groups around Australia.

Surveys and training courses were also conducted in 7 other countries including; Belize, Antarctica, Australia, Spain, Columbia, Indonesia, Nicaragua.

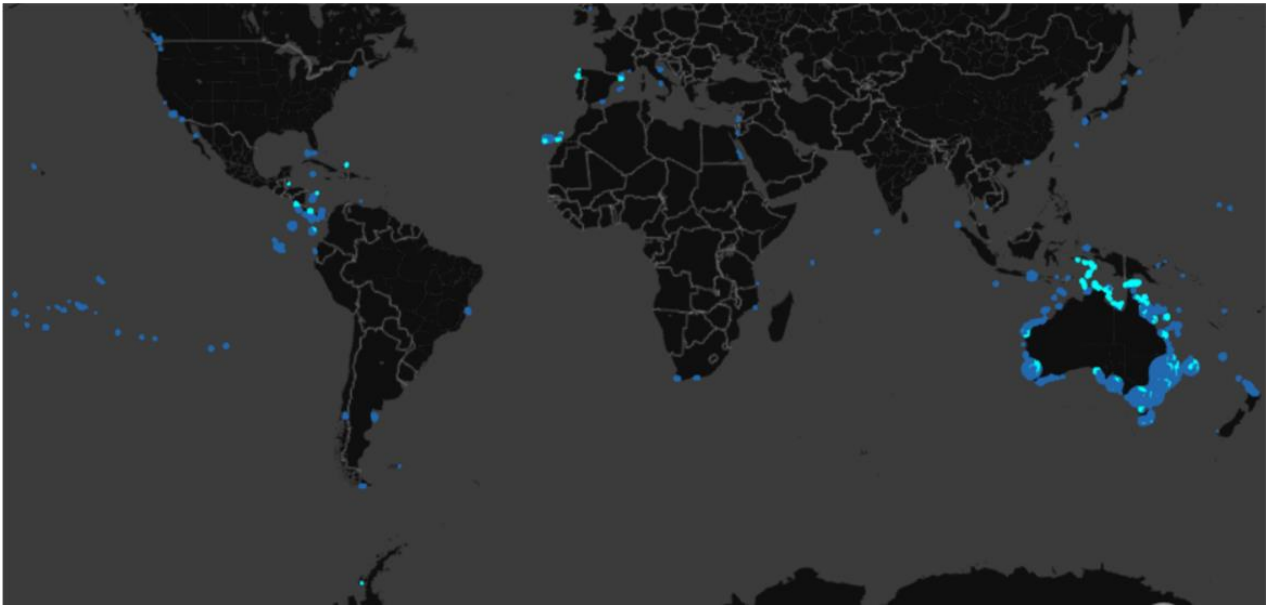


Figure 1. Global distribution of RLS survey locations, indicating new sites surveyed in the 2015/16 financial year (light blue). Sites surveyed in previous financial years are shown as dark blue dots, scaled in size to the number of surveys.

Over the last year, 1,626 RLS surveys were undertaken in 9 countries, including the first RLS surveys on the Antarctic continent. Figures 1 and 2 show the spread of new and re-surveyed sites in the 2015/16 financial year.

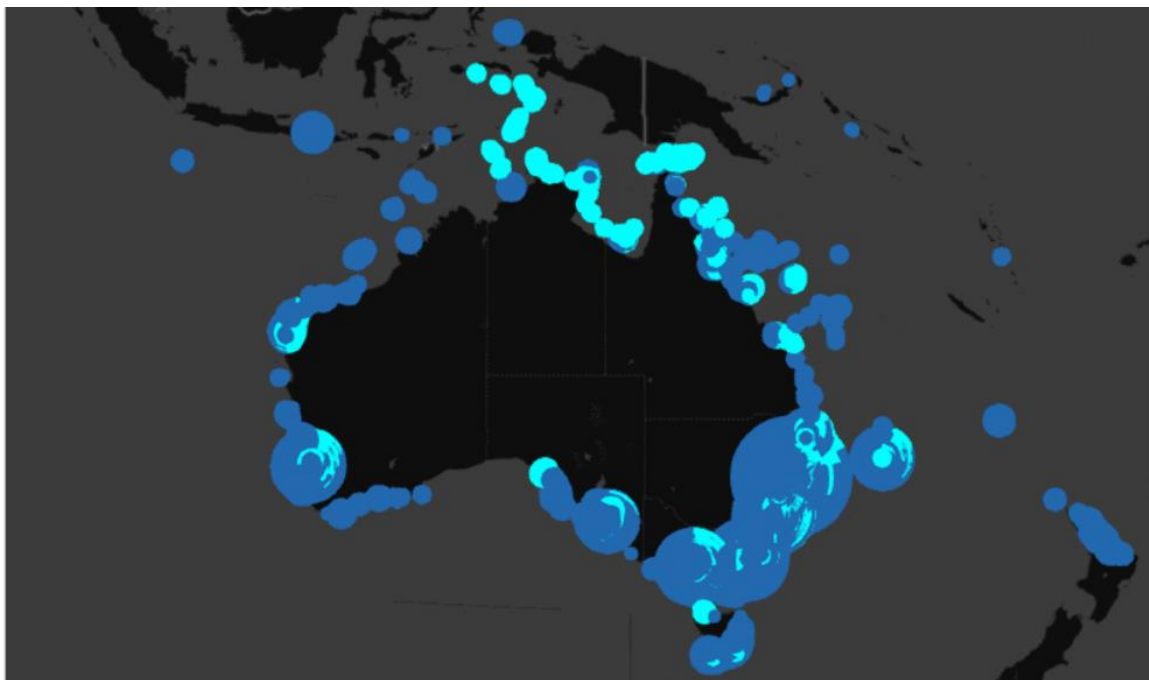


Figure 2. Map of Australian RLS surveys at new sites in the 2015/16 financial year (aqua) and previously surveyed (dark blue) sites.

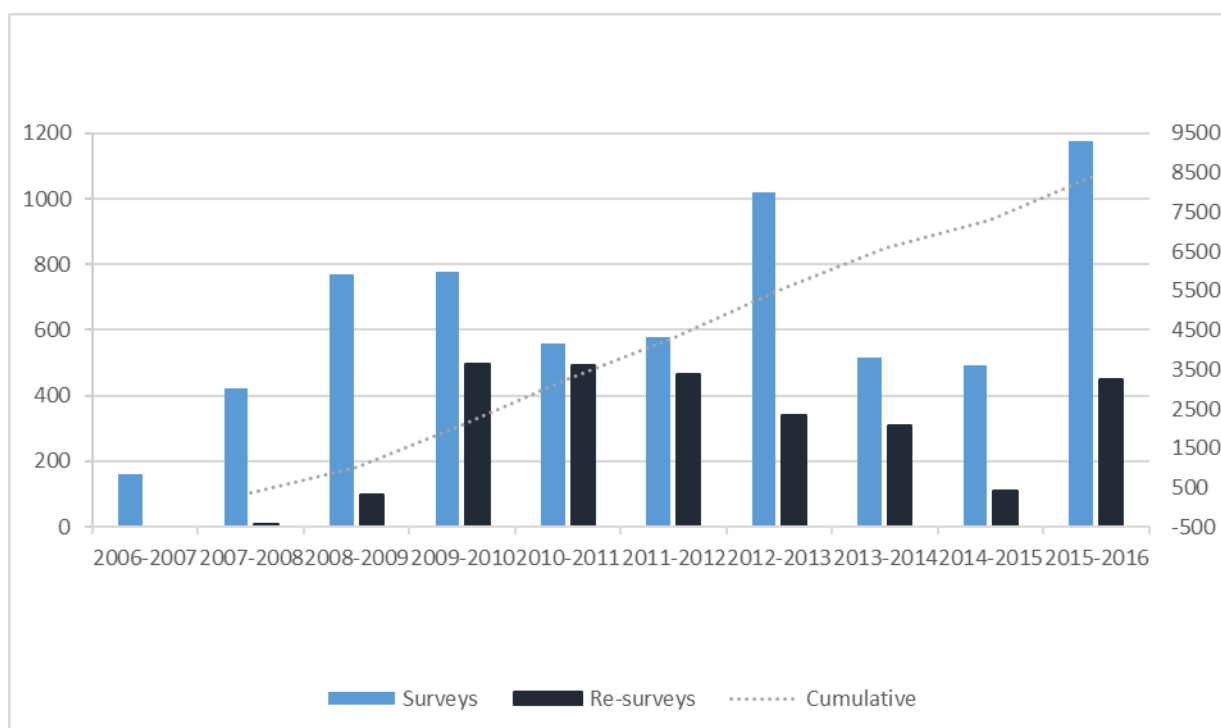


Figure 3. Survey numbers over each financial year showing the number of surveys completed at new sites, the number of surveys completed at existing sites (i.e. monitoring effort), and the cumulative total of surveys completed to 30/06/16.

The survey tally grew significantly in 2015 and 2016 (Fig. 3). The total number of surveys was greater than previous years, largely due to support from the Ian Potter Foundation for resurveys of core monitoring locations around Australia, as well as enhanced survey effort on *Eviota* voyages to the offshore Commonwealth Marine Reserves (through support of Parks Australia).

Table 1. Statistics associated with RLS survey activities during the 2015/16 financial year.

Activity	Month	# Divers	# Sites	# Transects (surveys)
Queensland	May/June	9	191	360
South Australia	Feb	8	11	48
New South Wales	Nov/April/June	32	120	320
Tasmania	Feb	8	8	22
Victoria	Dec/Jan	7	29	64
Western Australia	May/July	16	48	128
Northern Territory	Oct	5	49	94
Antarctica	Jan/Feb	2	8	8
Belize	Sept	2	6	6
Colombia	June	1	5	5
Indonesia	Sept	2	36	72
Spain	July	24	330	496
Nicaragua	Sept	2	3	3
Total		58*	844	1626

* Total individual divers who collected data in the 2015/16 financial year (does not include trainees)

THE IAN POTTER FOUNDATION PROJECT



One of Australia's major philanthropic foundations, The Ian Potter Foundation supports charitable organisations working to benefit the community across a wide range of sectors including the Arts, environment, science, medical research, education and community wellbeing. The Foundation aims to support and promote a healthy, vibrant and fair community for the benefit of all Australians. Australian financier, businessman and philanthropist Sir Ian Potter (1902 – 1994) established the Foundation in 1964. See www.ianpotter.org.au for more details.

A significant program grant in the science area was awarded in May 2015 to increase the long-term financial and institutional sustainability of the Reef Life Survey Foundation. Funds were provided to strengthen the institutional structure of RLSF, to expand ecological monitoring of core locations around Australia, and to improve the public reach of activities and outputs. The project has facilitated the launch of a new RLS website, and initiated the development and implementation of a business plan, long term strategic plan, improved communications with stakeholders and the public, and most recently (in the 2016-17 financial year), the launch of the online *Reef species of the World* Identification Guide. The Reef Life Survey Foundation thanks the Ian Potter Foundation for their significant support. Visit www.reeflifesurvey.com to view the new Reef Life Survey website and *Reef Species of the World* Identification Guide.

NORTHERN AUSTRALIAN SURVEYS OF SEA COUNTRY

Collaborative surveys of sea country undertaken with local sea rangers at Elcho Island and Nhulunbuy provided the highlight of our Northern Territory voyages, as agreed by all volunteer crew onboard Eviota. Gumurr Marthakal Rangers from Galiwinku, Elcho Island, and Dhimurru Rangers from Nhulunbuy came aboard to observe scientific survey methods in action, while our Reef Life Survey divers learnt a little of the depth of traditional knowledge pertaining to local sea country. Both groups entered a different world on these days.

Our surveys were guided by the rangers, who directed us to the most interesting local sites. We now hope to monitor these sites by return trips through the future. Although none of the rangers had SCUBA qualifications and thus couldn't join us on the seabed, all jumped in with snorkel, floating above and observing our progress along the transect tape. Time passed quickly on the trip back to port while chatting about new things seen, learnt and experienced. Many thanks to Gumurr Marthakal and Dhimurru Rangers for facilitating these visits.





Previous page: The Nhulunbuy team with RLS divers (from left: Ben Jones, Fiona Marika, Graham Edgar, Laura Smith, Brendan Gurruwiwi, Sue Baker, Paul Augustin and Grace Wunungmurra).

Above left: *Eviota* co-captains Timothy Dhurrakay and Graham Edgar agree that all is well, no cyclones or crocodiles in sight. Above right: Fiona Marika studying nudibranch species.

Below: The Elcho Island team returning home (Heather Mitjangba, Marisa Burarrwanga, Vera York, Timothy Dhurrakay with Graham Edgar).



PUBLICATIONS

The collection of scientific publications and reports based on the RLS data continues to grow. Below are some of those published in scientific journals in the 2015/2016 financial year by research teams that include key RLS data. The full list of these publications can be found on the RLS website at: <http://reeflifesurvey.com/scientific-papers/>

Cinner J.E. et al (2016). Bright spots among the world's coral reefs. *Nature* 535: 416-419

Duffy, J.E., Lefcheck, J.S., Stuart-Smith, R.D., Navarrete, S.A., and Edgar, G.J. (2016). Biodiversity enhances reef fish biomass and resistance to climate change *PNAS* 6230–6235

Edgar, G.J., Bates, A.E., Bird, T., Jones, A.H., Kininmonth, S., Stuart-Smith, R.D., Webb, T.J. (2016). New approaches to marine conservation through scaling up of ecological data. *Annual Review of Marine Science* 8: 435-461

Mellin, C., Mouillot, D., Kulbicki, M., McClanahan, T.R., Vigliola, L., Bradshaw, C.J.A., Brainard, R.E., Chabanet, P., Edgar, G.J., Fordham, D.A., Friedlander, A.M., Parravicini, V., Sequeira, A.M.M., Stuart-Smith, R.D., Wantiez, L., Caley, M.J. (2016). Humans and seasonal climate variability threaten large-bodied, small-ranging fishes on coral reefs. *Nature Communications* 7: 10491

Mourier, J., Maynard, J., Parravicini, V., Ballesta, L., Clua, E., Domeier, M.L., Planes, S. (2016) Extreme inverted trophic pyramid of reef sharks supported by spawning groupers. *Current Biology* 26: 2011-2016.

Stuart-Smith R.D., Edgar, G.J., Barrett, N.S., Kininmonth, S.J., and Bates, A.E. (2015). Thermal biases and vulnerability to warming in the world's marine fauna. *Nature* 528 88-92

Sunday, J. M., Pecl, G. T., Frusher, S., Hobday, A. J., Hill, N., Holbrook, N. J., Edgar, G. J., Stuart-Smith, R., Barrett, N., Wernberg, T., Watson, R. A., Smale, D. A., Fulton, E. A., Slawinski, D., Feng, M., Radford, B. T., Thompson, P. A. and Bates, A. E. (2015), Species traits and climate velocity explain geographic range shifts in an ocean-warming hotspot. *Ecology Letters*, 18: 944–953

Althaus F, Hill N, Ferrari R, Edwards L, Przeslawski R, Schönberg CHL, et al. (2015) A Standardised Vocabulary for Identifying Benthic Biota and Substrata from Underwater Imagery: The CATAMI Classification Scheme. *PLoS ONE* 10(10): e0141039.

Soler G.A., Edgar G.J., Thomson R.J., Kininmonth S., Campbell S.J., Dawson T.P., et al. (2015) Reef Fishes at All Trophic Levels Respond Positively to Effective Marine Protected Areas. *PLoS ONE* 10(10): e0140270

A field guide to tropical fishes, written and compiled by RLS divers was also published in late 2015:

Tropical Marine Fishes of Australia (2015) Stuart-Smith RD, Edgar GJ, Green AJ, Shaw IV. Reed New Holland Publishers 479 pp.



RLS VOLUNTEERS

The Reef Life Survey Foundation has 84 members in Australia (67 of these are Life Members) who regularly participate in underwater surveys in their local area, in addition to joining organised short (4 day) and long (5-20 day) field campaigns in temperate and tropical waters. Each trained diver brings to the program their local knowledge, life skills, diving experience, enthusiasm and willingness to go the extra distance to record the quality data required for RLS database. Our members include not only divers, but skippers, crew and administration volunteers.

RLS DIVER PROFILE **BILL BARKER**



RLS diver, Bill Barker

How did you hear about RLS?

About ten years ago, local NSW south coast marine conservationists set up the Nature Coast Marine Group and my dive buddy (and RLS stalwart) Andrew Green thought that a useful activity would be for the group to do surveys in the Batemans Marine Park using proper scientific methodology. He approached Graham Edgar who had, with Neville Barrett, been carrying out surveys in the area in the past. Andrew and I started surveys using their methodology which then morphed into the RLS methodology, and we have now completed hundreds of surveys over the

years, adding to the data collected by Edgar & Barrett. It was natural for Graham to contact us when the RLS program commenced.

How long have you been involved in diving and RLS?

I learned to dive in Batemans Bay over 20 years ago. I guess I was a late starter to diving and on reflection, it was an achievement to take up a new sport later in life. Saying that, I found it interesting and it has become a significant part of my life. In some ways I regret not learning earlier but I've got a great deal out of being involved; it's always important to develop new interests and learn new things.

I've been involved in RLS from the start of the program due to my earlier links with Graham Edgar and I was part of the original group of divers trained on Flinders Island (Tasmania) in January 2008. Many of the group are still actively involved in the program.

What have you gained from being part of RLS?

Being actively involved in RLSF is a positive thing. It brings personal growth and builds your understanding and value of the marine environment: from collecting data, learning fish, invertebrates and species relationships; to interacting with scientists and seeing the research published, as well as meeting many nice people and travelling all over the place. You become a more competent and capable diver, one who is aware of what's going on in your backyard.

What skills have you brought to the program?

I guess an enthusiasm for gathering data and connecting science with conservation which has been a personal focus. Language has always interested me being able to name everything by its scientific name. Trips away can be challenging but I think my ability to remain calm and flexible, keep on track, and see tasks through to completion are valuable skills to have.

What have been your highlights since joining the RLSF team?

As with many of the members, it is hard to give a single highlight. The opportunity of going to somewhere you normally wouldn't go to provides a number of standouts. Surveying the Coral Sea reefs was definitely a special experience. Knowing it was unlikely divers had previously visited the area, that it was untouched and pristine, I felt like one of the early explorers or naturalists. A few years ago we visited reefs in the southern area that were about 400km offshore, where we were greeted by the vast expanse of reef and roaring surf. The reefs were fantastic, the

marine life prolific and exploring them was a treat. The lonely coral cays would see few if any visitors, apart from the vast numbers of seabirds.

From the round Australia trip in 2010 it would have to be the remote Dampier Archipelago where, although dive conditions were not great, the fish life was amazing.

What are you looking forward to being involved in with RLSF in the future?

Succession is important in all organisations, at all levels. New members are important for RLSF as it will allow those who have been hard at work, time to recharge their energy both at 'HQ' and local priority sites. Personally, I would like to be able to mentor and 'hand over the baton' to new members to continue to add to the data sets within the Batemans Marine Park.

Everyone's commitments change over time and I guess I am winding down a bit compared with the past, where I hated to miss out on any survey trips. But I still want to be involved, particularly on some of the trips to more remote places, such as the outer Barrier Reef. To my mind, there is nothing better than doing real science in some of nature's truly wild places.

I have become more and more involved in conservation and environmental advocacy at a local level. My involvement with RLS gives me a better understanding of marine science and I can draw on resources and communicate scientific information relevant to marine conservation in a way the general public understands and can connect to.

RLS DIVER PROFILE BEN JONES



RLS diver, Ben Jones

How did you hear about RLS?

I was working at AQWA [Perth public aquarium] and my work colleague, RLS volunteer, Tim Crawford, told me about the program. I kept asking him questions about the program and picked his brain to build my knowledge on the fish species within the centre.

How long have you been involved in diving and RLS?

In 2010, my parents gave me a 'learn to dive' gift voucher while I was studying Marine Biology as they thought it would help build my career options. As a uni student I slowly eased into the sport before I borrowed a family member's under-used equipment: from that time on there was no stopping me! While at Edith Cowan University I had a role as research assistant working on seagrass monitoring, and fish species *Kyphosus cornelii* and *Parma mccullochi*. My research project looked at wave energy and how it influences invertebrate species within seagrass beds.

My RLS training was the 2014 Rottnest Island trip. We had fantastic conditions that year.

What have you gained from being part of RLS?

Where do I start? The variety of diving experiences and the depth it has added to my marine science degree. There are not many jobs in this field so being part of RLS provides me with opportunities to make use of my education and get involved in fieldwork; I know I am adding to a massive database and making a difference.

The opportunities I've had. Whether it is visiting the East Coast and being involved in Sydney RLS data collection to exploring remote marine waters others haven't visited. The excitement of not knowing what you may see - species who may be new to you, or those at the edge, or out of their expected range. Seeing fish you have no idea what species it is, investigating what it is post dive and of course the satisfaction when correctly identified.

Post survey conversations where everyone recalls what they have seen and we all get to relive our experience, and share the excitement of new and different species recorded.

Finally discovering underwater photography and the satisfaction of capturing a good image of a fish. It has added a whole new dimension to my love of diving.

What skills have you brought to the program?

My diving and research skills along with good knowledge of local (WA) fish species originally as a fisher, then diver and through

work at AQWA. My experience as team member - participating in RLS is similar to my paid employment - a similar style and working with people from a variety of backgrounds. It has been as easy transition. I am very comfortable on boats and hold a coxswain's certificate which has come in handy. I feel I was well prepared to join the program due to the number of questions I asked Tim.

What have been your highlights since joining the RLSF team?

Surveying Murion Islands with Manta Rays circling. Volunteering for 3 weeks aboard *Eviota* in late 2015 (Arnhem Land leg). At times we were 50 nautical miles off the coast and the reefs surveyed would drop off dramatically within a short distance -you could see the reef community changing. We were never sure what to expect with visibility 5-15m, depending on our location. I felt privileged to be part of a team filling the knowledge gaps.

Meeting volunteers from different backgrounds who all share the same passion for our marine environment. The different skills everyone has: whether it is comedy, or musical talents (e.g. Greg the drummer) or maybe something yet to be unearthed.

Any dive that includes Mantis shrimp- they are the coolest animal ever!

What are you looking forward to being involved in with RLSF in the future?

I look forward to seeing how RLSF continues to grow as I feel it will get bigger as its reputation grows. The upcoming launch of the online database will help with this and will be an awesome asset to the program and divers generally.

Continuing to be part of the program and participating in upcoming trips. The opportunities to be involved with like-minded divers, explore new places, see new and unexpected species plus revisiting survey sites to observe and record any changes.



Interviews by RLSF Community Diver Representative, Margo Smith

THE SCORESBY SHEPHERD AWARDS

FOR OUTSTANDING VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO REEF LIFE SURVEY.

These annual awards are named in honour of Dr Scoresby Shepherd AO, a key benefactor of The Reef Life Survey Foundation (RLSF) and founding Board Member. The awards recognise exceptional contributions by individual members of RLSF over the financial year covered in this report.

The two awards are:

The survey prize – for the RLS member who submitted data for the greatest number of surveys during the financial year.

The Distinguished Contributions Award – for the RLS member who, in the eyes of the selection committee, made the greatest voluntary contributions to the RLSF during the year by means other than surveys. This includes contributions to the Advisory Committee, the organisation and mobilisation of RLS field teams, training, website and database assistance, grant writing or communications, and reporting, but may include any activities which further the goals of RLSF.

Derek (Dusty) Shields and his son, Joe Shields have generously donated their time and skills as skipper and first mate on the sailing catamaran, *Eviota*, for Reef Life Survey for a large portion of the 2015/16 year. They are both worthy recipients of the SAS awards for their contributions to the RLSF.



Joe Shields, recipient of the 2016 Survey Prize, for the highest number of surveys completed in the last year. Joe completed a staggering 112 surveys both within Australia and overseas, many of which were in areas of very high diversity like the Coral Sea and Indonesia.



Derek Shields, recipient of the 2016 Distinguished Contributions Award, for consistently facilitating the Coral Sea and Commonwealth Marine Reserve surveys. Derek has spent a tremendous number of hours both working on and skippering the yacht which has been essential to the success of the recent Northern Commonwealth Marine Reserve Network survey expedition.

FINANCIAL REPORT



Michael J Müller has generously supported RLSF since the organisation's incorporation in 2010. RLSF sincerely thanks Michael for his valuable accountancy advice and quality auditing services.



Colleen Morris has provided enormous voluntary support and much appreciated expertise to the financial recordkeeping of the RLSF.

RLSF had 84 financial members as at 30th June 2016, with 67 of these Life Members. The preliminary financial reports for RLSF are included here, as derived from the full financial report for the 2015/2016 financial year. An official audit is currently being completed by Michael Muller who has generously donated his time and expertise to RLSF at low cost. Separate financials are presented for the Marine Public Fund, in which the component of RLSF funds associated with donations is managed (see table 3), according to requirements for Australian charities.

Table 2. RLSF Incorporated profit and loss for the 2015/16 financial year.

Budget Category	Sub-category	Amount
Income	Membership fees	\$1,295.00
	Grants	\$193,730.00
	Other income	\$1,009.87
Total Income		\$196,034.00
Expenses	Accounting & audit for grants	\$935.00
	Field expenses	\$88,971.64
	Communications	\$1,655.34
	Bank & Govt fees	\$265.13
	Materials and supplies	\$1,575.27
	Postage	\$213.30
	Insurance	\$1,850.00
	Safety equipment	\$454.08
	Professional services	\$10,000.00
	Membership fees	\$1,155.00
Total Expenses		\$107,074.76
Balance (Loss)		-\$89,395.11

Table 3 RLSF Incorporated Marine Public Fund profit and loss for the 2015/16 financial year.

Budget Category	Sub-category	Amount
Income	Donations	\$4,802.50
	Grant Donations	\$89,000.00
Total Income		\$93,802.50
Expenses	Website & Communications	\$30,671.38
	Accounting and audit for grants	\$583.00
	Field expenses	\$23,536.21
	Materials and Supplies	\$7,670.15
	Safety Equipment	\$427.26
Total Expenses		\$63,138.45
Balance		\$30,664.05

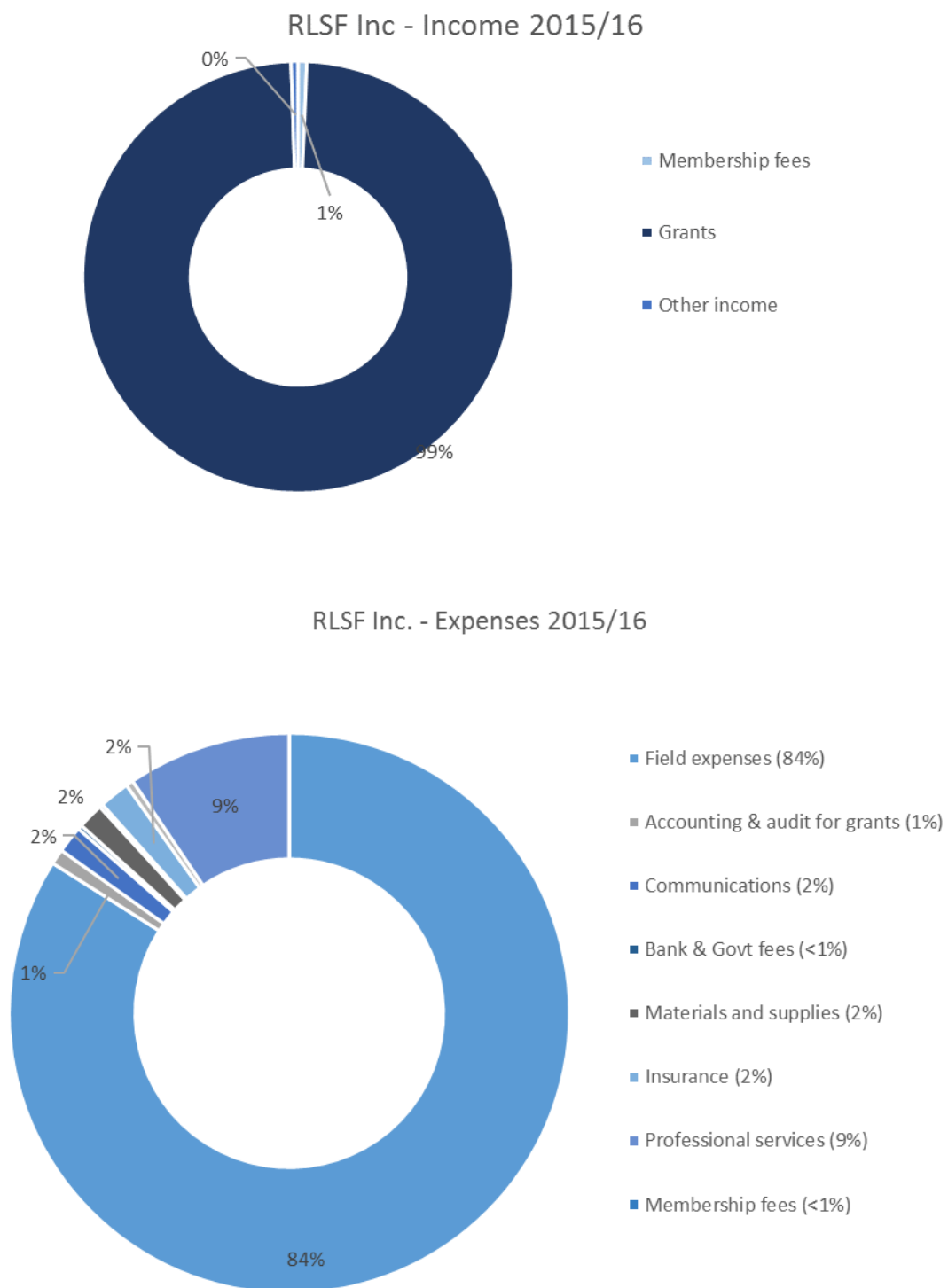


Figure 4. Income and Expenses for the RLSF Incorporated Fund for the 2015/16 financial year

Members and friends are reminded that donations to the Marine Public Fund are tax-deductible, and by substantially increasing it over time we can greatly extend the capabilities of RLSF, and expand its ambitious programs.

RLSF Marine Public Fund - Expenses 2015/16

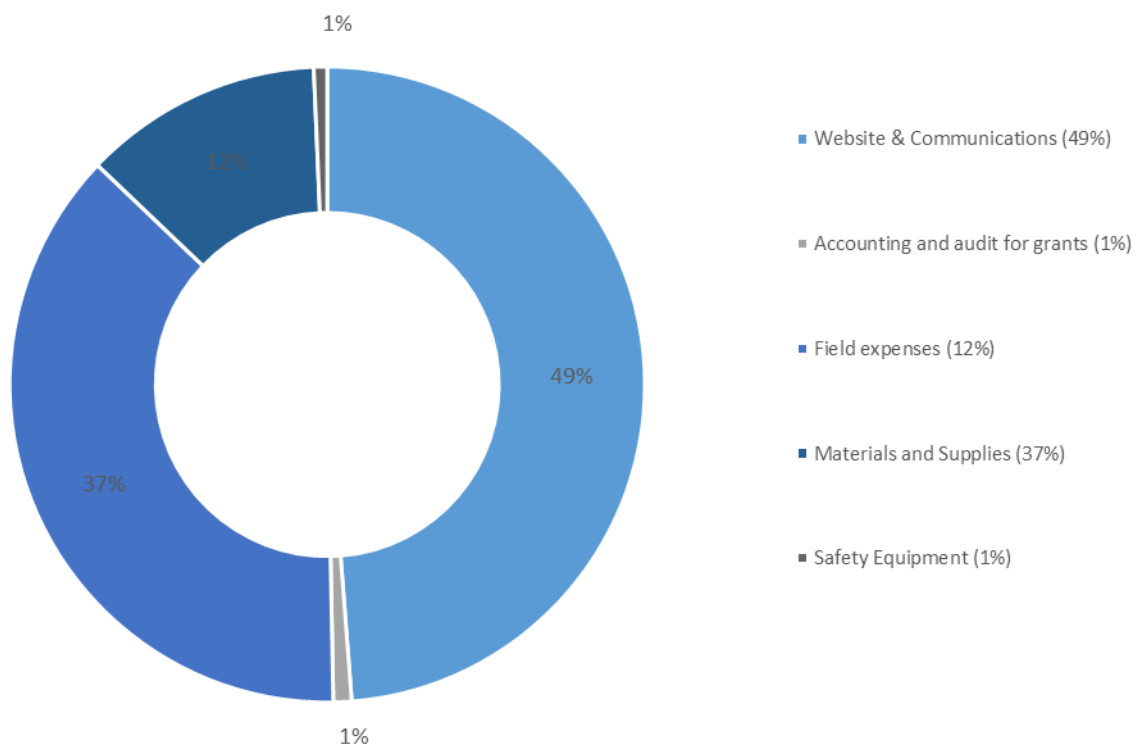


Figure 5. Expenses for the RLSF Marine Public Fund for the 2015/16 financial year.

SUPPORTERS & PARTNERS

A large number of supporting individuals, organisations and community groups contributed to the successes of the Reef Life Survey program through varied mechanisms, with major partners:

- Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, University of Tasmania
- The Ian Potter Foundation
- John Anderson from Forte Web Design
- Sumit Gupta from Vikasumit
- Aquenal Pty Ltd
- Michael Mueller and Colleen Morris

Additional key support to RLSF in 2015/2016 was provided by:

- Antonia Cooper, RLS/IMAS
- Combined Hunter Underwater Group
- Cradle Coast NRM
- Department of Environment, Water & Natural Resources (SA)
- Department of Parks and Wildlife (WA)
- Dr Mikel Becerro, PNA-CSIC, Spain
- Environment Protection Authority (SA)
- Friends of Beware Reef
- Jemina Stuart-Smith, IMAS
- Just Berkhout, IMAS
- Justin Hulls, IMAS
- Laurel Trebilco, RLS/IMAS
- John Anderson, Forte Web Design
- Nature Coast Marine Group
- NSW Department of Primary Industries
- Parks and Wildlife Service, Tasmania
- Parks Australia
- Parks Victoria
- PBD Consulting Pty Ltd
- Pieter van der Woude
- Rottnest Island Authority
- Solitary Islands Underwater Research Group
- Tasmanian Boat Charters
- The Ian Potter Foundation
- Underwater Explorers Club of Western Australia
- Underwater Research Group of NSW
- Western Australian Divers for Diversity Inc
- WA State NRM



ADDITIONAL THANKS

The Reef Life Survey Foundation acknowledges support from the 71 divers (Australian and International) who have contributed their skills and expertise to the RLS program over the 2015/16 financial year (listed below)

Special thanks are also given to:

Antonia Cooper, for the production of the annual report and financials, Just Berkhout for database support, Laurel Trebilco for assistance with the annual report, Derek Shields, Joe Shields and Graham Ewing for additional help skippering the catamaran, and to Paul Day, Kevin Smith, John Turnbull, Ian Shaw, Tom Davis and Nicola Davis for logistical support.

Alan Wilkins
Alicia McArdle
Alicia Sutton
Andrew Green
Antonia Cooper
Ashley Smith
Ben Jones
Bill Barker
Bob Edgar
Brian Busteed
Carly Giosio
Carolina García
Cecile Decazes
Charlie Bedford
Cheryl Petty
Christo Haseldon
Dan Ierodiaconou
Daniel Brock
David Miller
Debbie Dalziel
Don Love
Edgar Herrera
Eloise Ashworth
Germán Soler

Graham Edgar
Ian Shaw
James Brook
Janet Abbott
Jennifer Hoskin
Joe Shields
John Lemburg
John Turnbull
José Antonio Sanabria Fernández
Kate Tinson
Kevin Smith
Kirsty Whitman
Kristine O'Keeffe
Laura Smith
Laurel Trebilco
Louise De Beuzeville
Margo Smith
Marjon Phur
Martin Filleul
Martin Puchert
Matt Nelson
Meryl Larkin
Michael Abbott
Nahum Torres

Nahum Torres
Neil Vaughan
Nicola Davis
Paul Day
Paul Tinkler
Peter Pfennig
Pieter van der Woude
Rick Stuart-Smith
Rowan Trebilco
Sallyann Gudge
Sam Gaylard
Scott Jones
Scott Ling
Shane
Simon Morley
Simon Talbot
Sophie Powell
Sue Baker
Sue Newson
Tim Crawford
Tom Davis
Warwick Noble
Yanir Seroussi
Zach Foltz

