



Our Marine Park Grants Round Three Projects

Proponent	Project Title	Project Summary	Amount (\$)
Billiaum Whale Dreaming Ltd	Whale Dreaming in Australian Marine Parks off Southern Australia	For over 65,000 years, the Traditional Owners of lands across Southern Australia have shared Country and Coast with whales and all animals of the ocean. Stories of the Gurawal (Mirning word for whale) are a breathing, active and continuing legacy of the important cultural stories held by the Traditional Owners of the lands. Through a community-led project by the Billiaum Whale Dreaming organisation, mapping and sharing of Whale Dreaming stories will raise public awareness of cultural heritage of Whale Dreaming in the Australian Marine Parks off the coast of Southern Australia.	\$184,000
Birdlife Australia	Understanding and securing the range extension of the Gould's petrel, Australia's rarest endemic seabird	The Gould's Petrel (Pterodroma leucoptera) is one of Australia's most endangered sea birds. Despite the significant level of conservation efforts, such as eradication of vertebrate pests and the monitoring and management of predators, the population has been in decline since 2013. Researchers have recently identified the Gould's Petrel as a significantly important seabird species in Australian Marine Parks, with tracking data in 2011 and 2012 revealing that this species may be reliant on marine parks in the Temperate East Network. Birdlife Australia will survey the foraging habits and flight patterns within the Port Stephens-Great Lakes and Batemans Marine Parks in the Temperate East using tracking devices to determine the importance of Australian Marine Parks in providing foraging areas, critical to survival of this rare endemic seabird.	\$216,364

Millstream Productions	Our Blue Heart - a documentary series	 Remote, inaccessible and ancient - Australia has one of the largest marine park networks in the world, yet very few people get the opportunity to visit them. The documentary series 'Our Blue Heart' will tell the story of Australia's marine parks through the eyes of First Nation custodians, scientists and passionate ocean adventurers. Each episode will reveal the natural splendour, culture, science and human impacts that underpin their commitment and connection to these places. The importance of Sea Country connections will be the focus of a five-part documentary. Each episode will feature an Indigenous Ranger group that has strong cultural connections to Sea Country, giving the audience a rare glimpse into the efforts to preserve culture and biodiversity. **Building Yamatji Nation marine park management capabilities ** 	\$454,018
Bundi Yamatji Aboriginal Corporation	Building Yamatji Nation marine park management capabilities	 A partnership between Bundi Yamatji Aboriginal Corporation and Batavia Coast Maritime Institute will enable Indigenous rangers to be active participants in the management of their traditional Sea Country and build an understanding of the biocultural values of the Abrolhos Marine Park. The partnership will provide training in marine operations and scientific research and monitoring techniques through classroom-based learning and be reinforced through practical on Country experiences together with Elders knowledge and guidance. Through this two-way learning model that combines traditional knowledge and practice alongside scientific methodology, the Yamatji Sea Rangers will be able to operate safely and support Traditional Owners to take an active role in the management of their Sea Country and enhance the cultural awareness and values of the Abrolhos Marine Park. 	\$496,400

Cairns Aquarium & Reef Research Centre Pty Ltd	Coral Sea Marine Park Discovery Centre Stage 2	 Welcoming over 400,000 visitors each year, the Cairns Aquarium is a major tourist attraction. Featuring species and habitats from Tropical North Queensland, the aquarium has 71 live displays, 16,000 fish and aquatic creatures and 180 educational signs. Through the installation of a new 25-metre-long and 5-metre-high seamount environment showcasing life-like and to-scale sculptures of deep-sea fish and corals, visitors to the Aquarium will have the opportunity to explore and learn about the rarely seen underwater landscape and deep-water species in the Coral Sea Marine Park. The interactive and educational display will engage visitors of all ages, increasing awareness about the importance in preserving our unique marine environment. 	\$200,000
Charles Darwin University	Looking After Sea Country - Understanding and protecting the values of the Arnhem Marine Park and Djelk Indigenous Protected Area	 This project is supporting the coastal Aboriginal people of West Arnhem Land to engage in management of Sea Country through knowledge sharing and experiential learning, in and adjacent to the Arnhem Marine Park. In strong partnership with Bawinanga Rangers, researchers from Charles Darwin University will characterise areas of high biocultural importance within the shared management area of the Sea Country component of the marine park within the Djelk Indigenous Protected Area (IPA). Through this collaboration, Traditional Owners will identify the natural and cultural values of the marine park and Djelk Sea Country IPA from an Indigenous knowledge perspective, share their preferred management methods and identify avenues to build skills to engage in the management of marine parks. 	\$499,845

Curtin University	Discovering the biodiversity and ecological health of reefs in the Kimberley Marine Park with Uunguu Rangers and Traditional Owners	 This project will expand knowledge of natural and cultural values of Kimberley Marine Park and improve the capacity of the Uunguu Rangers and Traditional Owners to deliver outcomes that support ongoing management and health of Australian Marine Parks within their native title area and directly in Kimberley Marine Park. The project includes training for Uunguu Rangers to undertake a 5-day Reef Connect Culture camp at the Maret Islands and build skills in marine biodiversity and ecological health surveys on shallow water reefs within the Kimberley Marine Park as part of the Western Australia Museum Emerging Curators Program. Together, researchers and Traditional Owners will take an important step towards strengthening management of Sea Country in the Kimberley region and ensure traditional knowledge is celebrated and reflected in the management of Australian Marine Parks into the future. 	\$333,208
Deakin University	Apollo Marine Park habitat mapping, biodiversity assessment, and capacity building in Indigenous Sea Country management	Deakin University will undertake biological surveys to provide baseline information on fish community assemblages, rock lobster and benthic habitat within Apollo Marine Park. Not only is this information critical to our understanding of the marine park values, but it will also help target future research efforts so that we can learn more about the rarely seen marine communities and individual species far below the water's surface. The project will also build capacity in Sea Country management by the direct appointment of a marine ranger designated by the Eastern Maar Indigenous Corporation to assist in all aspects of this project. The involvement of the Eastern Maar in this project is an important step in developing ongoing engagement of Traditional Owners in Sea Country management in the South-east Network.	\$298,844
EOMAP Australia Pty Ltd	Satellite Mapping of Bathymetry and Habitats of Ashmore Reef and Cartier Island Marine Parks	 High-quality, high-resolution bathymetry is an important tool for marine management. It helps to predict different habitat types and where fish and other marine life will feed, live and breed. To assist in improving ecosystem health and understanding of marine park values at Ashmore Reef and Cartier Island Marine Parks, EOMAP Australia will use satellite imagery to map seafloor bathymetry, reflectance and benthic habitats at very high resolution (2m pixels) using state-of-the-art aquatic remote sensing techniques. 	\$92,400

Flinders University	Assessing shark movement patterns in relation to human activities within the Norfolk Marine Park	Norfolk Marine Park is one of the most remote Australian Marine Parks, located approximately 1400km from Australia's east coast. Managing waste streams in isolated communities such as Norfolk Island poses significant challenges and current processes are having a detrimental impact on the values of the marine park. In collaboration with Norfolk Island Regional Council and the local community, researchers from Flinders University will determine if the island's organic waste entering the marine park is a factor in the diet of tiger sharks. This will be done by assessing the movement of sharks at the disposal site and around the marine park. Educational material will be developed as part of the project to encourage waste reduction, while fostering stewardship for the diverse and unique underwater environments found in Norfolk Marine Park.	\$306,341
Great Australian Bight Fishing Industry Association Incorporated	Marine Stewardship Council Certification: Assessment of the Great Australian Bight Trawl Fishery	To ensure the long-term protection of Australian Marine Parks and sustainability of the fishery within the South-west Marine Parks Network, this project will support the Great Australian Bight Fishing Industry Association, to undertake an assessment of the Great Australian Bight Trawl Fishery under the Marine Stewardship Council's assessment criteria for sustainable fisheries. This fishery targets a range of species including deep-water flathead, bight redfish and blue grenadier and catches also often include species like ocean jacket, angel shark and jackass morwong. By examining the fishery's capacity to operate sustainably, this project will evaluate the fisheries' broader impacts on the ecosystem of the Great Australian Bight.	\$105,000

James Cook University	The Jewel in the Crown - the cultural and ecological significance of Ashmore and Boot Reef	Ashmore and Boot Reefs in the far north of the Coral Sea Marine Park have been identified as 'bright spots' among reefs in the marine park, and the 'jewel in the crown' among Torres Strait reefs. Ashmore and Boot Reefs are also culturally significant to the Meriam people, the Traditional Owners of this Sea Country. Researchers from James Cook University will work with the Meriam people to develop a shared understanding of these remote, rich reef systems and to build their capacity to participate and take an active role in the management of the Coral Sea Marine Park. Together, researchers and Traditional Owners will survey benthic (coral, algae, seagrass, and sponge), macro-invertebrate (giant clam, trochus, sea cucumber, and Crown-of-Thorns starfish) and fish communities on Ashmore and Boot Reef using a range of innovative technology. In doing so, this project will provide the most extensive surveys of habitats and ecological communities on these unique reefs to date.	\$492,359
James Cook University	Reef lagoon benthic habitat mapping in the Coral Sea Marine Park	 This reef lagoon benthic habitat mapping project will map sections of the reef lagoon benthic habitats (seagrass, macroalgae, coral and other benthic communities) at four different reef systems in the Coral Sea Marine Park; Lihou, Holmes and Tregrosse Reefs and Herald Cays. Our team will provide information on how these benthic habitats are used through the deployment of remote underwater videos (RUVs), and sled tow and ROV footage, to capture the fish and invertebrate communities present, and provide information on the presence of juvenile fish that may be potentially using these habitats as nurseries and other marine animals of importance; e.g., giant clams, rock lobster, sea cucumbers, sea turtles and dugongs. By mapping these important benthic habitats and quantifying associated fauna, we will fill in some of the current knowledge gaps of key habitat communities present in the Coral Sea lagoons which will help to enhance management and conservation. 	\$498,092

Kimberley Land Council Aboriginal Corporation	Building knowledge and capacity for managing Brue Reef in collaboration with Mayala Traditional Owners	First Nations people have been sustainably using and managing their Sea Country for tens of thousands of years. The Kimberley Marine Park includes Brue Reef, which holds cultural significance for the Mayala and Bardi Jawi people, with many journeys undertaken historically on specific tides for collection of culturally important reef species such as the trochus shell. Through this project, Mayala Traditional Owners (with the support of the Kimberley Land Council) will voyage to Brue Reef to increase understanding of the cultural significance and marine values of Mayala Traditional Owner Sea Country. This knowledge will inform the development of a monitoring approach at Brue Reef, facilitate management of natural and cultural values and foster ongoing relationships between Parks Australia and Traditional Owners.	\$310,856
Ngiyambandigay Wajaarr Aboriginal Corporation	Ngurraa Ngiyambandigay Gaagal (Sharing our Sea Country)	First Nations people have significant cultural responsibilities to care for Sea Country. They have been sustainably using and managing their Sea Country, including areas now in the Solitary Islands Marine Park, for thousands of years. To showcase this incredible Sea Country, the Ngiyambandigay Wajaarr Aboriginal Corporation will work to establish a sea-based tourism business that includes diving and snorkeling, educational tourism, whale watching and sustainable/cultural fishing activities within the marine park. This First Nations-led approach for cultural and natural heritage immersion and educational experiences will increase understanding of the importance of marine park management. The project also includes the development of a traditional marine based seasonal calendar which will increase understanding of traditional knowledge and cultural values.	\$205,000

Norfolk Island Regional Council	Virtual cattle fencing to protect water quality at Norfolk Marine Park, Norfolk Island	Directly accessible from the shoreline, Norfolk Marine Park is home to one the world's most southern coral reefs, harbouring a diverse, rich and unique marine life. To protect the water quality in the marine park, Norfolk Island Regional Council will trial the use of a novel technology solution to water quality issues that are significantly impacting Norfolk marine ecosystems. This project will explore the use of 'Virtual fencing' to manage cattle on public land. Cattle grazing on unfenced public land is a long-standing practice on Norfolk Island, which assists in managing vegetation and weeds on roadsides and public land, while providing a source of income to local families. Controlling cattle using this method will ensure cattle are excluded from sensitive environments such as creeks, wetlands and erosion prone areas, resulting in a positive influence on water quality in the catchment and the marine park, helping to protect important habitats and precious marine wildlife.	\$124,000
Nyamba Buru Yawuru Ltd	Building capacity of Kimberley Indigenous saltwater people to contribute to the management of North-west marine parks	The Kimberley Indigenous Saltwater Advisory Group (ISWAG) was established by nine Kimberley saltwater groups for knowledge sharing between Traditional Owners and to enable collaborative two-way information exchange and capacity building between Traditional Owner groups, western scientists and agencies. This collaboration will improve the capacity of Indigenous saltwater country managers to engage in the management and research and monitoring of Eighty Mile Beach, Roebuck and Kimberley Marine Parks and facilitate the implementation of the ISWAG Turtle and Dugong Initiative.	\$156,868

Ocean Watch Australia Limited	Protecting Humpback Whales of the Temperate East Marine Park Phase 2 - Enhancing fishing industry mitigation success along the Humpback Whale Migration Pathway	 Humpback whales migrate along Australia's east coast as they move between their Antarctic feeding grounds and sub-tropical breeding grounds: they are a recognised value of Australian Marine Parks in this area. Encouragingly, whale numbers are increasing but this does bring an increased risk of interaction, and possible entanglement, with fishing gear. With a particular focus on the Temperate East Marine Park Network, Ocean Watch Australia Limited will engage the commercial fishing sectors and the seafood industry across three state jurisdictions to reduce fishing gear entanglements on Australia's growing east coast Humpback whale population. Project outcomes include providing fishers with training and education opportunities relating to best practice fishing activities and how to report sightings and entanglements incidents. This project will also facilitate the trial and uptake of modified fishing gear technologies aimed at mitigating the issue of whale entanglements. 	\$393,671
Southern Otway Landcare Network Inc	Apollo Marine Park knowledge building & infrastructure project	Apollo Marine Park is a place of cool, shallow waters, huge south-westerly swells, strong tidal flows and foraging seabirds. Visitors can spot many of the birds that feed in the marine park without getting their feet wet by grabbing their binoculars and heading to Apollo Bay on Victoria's western coast where it meets Bass Strait. To support the spectacular beauty and ecological richness of Apollo Marine Park and celebrate connections to Sea Country, the Southern Otway Landcare Network will collaborate with Eastern Maar Traditional Owners to develop interpretative signage that will be displayed along the walking trails between Apollo Bay and Marengo. This information will develop a sense of stewardship for Apollo Marine Park, as well as educate people about Australian Marine Parks and their importance in preserving our unique marine environment and species.	\$42,437

Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery	Enhancing the public's connection to and engagement with the natural and cultural values of the Southern Oceans and Antarctica at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery	The Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery will create a Southern Ocean and Antarctica Hub incorporating diverse perspectives, including those of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community, the sciences and the arts, to inspire and connect visitors with the southern polar region's natural and cultural values. In time for the 15th Anniversary of the 'Islands to Ice Gallery', the Museum will renew the exhibition to feature an immersive experience of the Southern Ocean ecosystems protected in the South-east Network of Marine Parks. These marine parks feature distinctive sub-Antarctic life and protect large tracts of the wild Southern Ocean to provide safe migration, feeding and breeding sites for seals, whales, penguins and seabirds.	\$325,500
Tangaroa Blue Foundation Ltd	Coral Sea Marine Park marine debris clean-up	Marine debris is a global problem and understanding the type, source and prevalence of this debris will help us better determine its impacts on our marine parks. This activity will support the Tangaroa Blue Foundation to undertake clean-up and data collection activities at 14 islands in the Coral Sea Marine Park to reduce the volume of marine debris that may impact listed threatened or migratory species. Tangaroa Blue is a successful and experienced community organisation that will engage and train regional and First Nationscommunities in proven methodologies to tackle the marine debris problem. Working with Traditional Owners, the organisation will deliver a targeted and integrated program to reduce and record data on the marine debris impacting the Coral Sea Marine Park, helping to fill existing marine debris data gaps.	\$163,676
University of Adelaide	Role of Australian Marine Parks in connecting and conserving sea snake populations across northern Australia	North-west Australia has five endemic sea snakes, including two that are critically endangered. To understand the importance of Australian Marine Parks for the conservation of sea snake species, researchers from the University of Adelaide will undertake the first comprehensive study of sea snake distributions, population connectivity and seascape ecology in and around Ningaloo, Montebello, Dampier, Kimberley and Eighty Mile Beach Marine Parks. This information will directly inform future management and research activities in these areas. This project will also deliver educational resources on sea snakes that will help to build public awareness, visitor safety and understanding of this important species.	\$400,000

University of Tasmania	The utilisation of the Macquarie Island Marine Park by seabirds and marine mammals - a review of current knowledge and future directions.	 Macquarie Island Marine Park lies offshore from the isolated subantarctic Macquarie Island (half way between Australia and Antarctica) and extends far out into the Southern Ocean. The marine park's Sanctuary Zone provides the highest level of protection for birds and other marine life that are reliant on this area for foraging. To increase our understanding of the biodiversity and natural values of the region, researchers from the University of Tasmania and collaborators will examine which seabirds and seals are known to forage in the waters around Macquarie Island and develop a strategy to fill gaps in our current knowledge. By better understanding where seabirds and marine mammals forage we can provide stronger protection for the places they use and the food supplies they need. This project will educate and inform through a public talk and information brochure showcasing the seabirds and marine mammals using the waters around Macquarie Island. The brochure will be made available to tourist vessels visiting the region, engaging visitors of all ages on the on the values of the waters surrounding Macquarie Island and its importance in preserving the marine environment for the many species that call it home. 	\$55,370
University of Tasmania	Discovering the role of rare and endangered marine predators in the Tasman Fracture Marine Park	Collaboration is the key to surveying the extraordinary biodiversity of the Tasman Fracture Marine Park, where underwater canyons and mountains hold a remarkable diversity and abundance of marine creatures, many of which are found nowhere else in the world. This project will see the University of Tasmania engage with First Nations people and key local scientific organisations, government, and community groups, including the Tasmanian Department of Natural Resources and Environment, CSIRO, and the Australian Antarctic Division, to improve our understanding of the cultural and natural values of the marine park. It will also build the capacity of First Nations organisations and regional community groups to engage in marine park management activities. The project will include training for Tasmanian Parks & Wildlife Service Working on Country Rangers to engage in important research activities that will provide insight into the importance of the marine park for the protection and conservation of culturally significant species such as short-tailed shearwaters and long-nosed fur seals. Educational materials for tourism operators, schools and teachers, interactive acoustic art-science outputs and exhibitions for community engagement will engage and inspire people of all ages.	\$427,178

University of Tasmania	A communications catalogue for biodiversity assets in Australian Marine Parks	Each time scientists glimpse below the surface of Australia's southern marine parks it is a reminder of how diverse and colourful deep reefs are. Yet many Australians are unaware of this diversity and colour on their doorstep. The deep reefs along Australia's southern coastline rival the tropical coral reefs of the Great Barrier Reef in terms of colour and biodiversity. To "put a face" to the key natural values and help communicate the intrinsic importance of these areas, the University of Tasmania will develop a readily accessible catalogue of photo and video imagery and short communication products. Underwater imagery that has traditionally been a key tool for helping scientists monitor these deep reefs, will now be available to a wider audience, enabling people to enjoy and appreciate the diversity contained within Australian Marine Parks.	\$275,780
University of Western Australia	Murujuga Sea Country discovery - cultural, socio-economic, and biodiversity values of the Dampier Marine Park	Dampier Marine Park is an internationally recognised area of conservation significance, a critical cultural area for Traditional Owners, and an internationally recognised recreational fishing destination. Through a collaboration with Traditional Owners from the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation and experienced representatives of the commercial and recreational fishing sector, the University of Western Australia will document traditional approaches to management, Traditional Owners values and aspirations for managing the Sea Country, and identify the critical steps to achieving the balance between conservation and sustainable use of the area. The project will also include a training package for rangers on the use of baited remote underwater videos (BRUVs) and drop cameras to assess biodiversity and build capacity to assist with marine park management and monitoring into the future. This project will engage and inspire through the development of culturally sensitive maps interpreted by a First Nations Australian artist and short 360° immersive videos for the tourism industry that will provide insights into the ongoing cultural responsibilities of First Nations people to care for Sea Country and the natural values of Dampier Marine Park.	\$329,602

University of Western Australia	Drones in the deep - demonstrating low-cost and novel mini Autonomous Underwater Vehicles to map deep biodiversity within the Australian Marine Parks	 The majority of Australian Marine Parks protect and conserve deep, offshore areas. Preliminary findings suggest that mesophotic reefs may act as regions of refuge, where organisms can escape the impacts of climate change and flourish. Robust, repeatable and cost-effective methods for conducting surveys of seafloor features of interest can help identify biodiversity hotspots and areas that are less susceptible to change. The University of Western Australia will pilot low-cost and novel miniaturised Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs) to map biodiversity at depths of 60 – 600 metres. This innovative technology could transform our ability to understand and manage our ocean. Using the mini AUVs, researchers will conduct spatially balanced benthic surveys of deep features of interest in the South-west Corner and Huon Marine Parks that have been recently surveyed using traditional underwater imagery techniques. This will allow for comparisons of image quality, processing methods and biodiversity data to demonstrate the reliability of the mini AUVs to cost effectively map deep biodiversity within Australian Marine Parks. 	\$255,719
University of Western Australia	Exploring the deepest parts of Australian Marine Parks	 Some of Australia's marine parks are deep, wild and remote. One third of the Australian Marine Parks off the coast of Western Australia have a depth greater than 3000 metres. The fauna and physical characteristics of Australia's deepest waters are largely unexplored, unseen and undescribed. Using a multibeam echo sounder, deep-sea baited landers and long-term observatories, the University of Western Australia will explore the deep-sea habitats in the 3000m depth range of the South-west Corner, Gascoyne and Perth Canyon Marine Parks, providing unprecedented access to a seemingly different world. The surveys will result in high-definition maps, video and oceanographic data which will be used to explain fauna diversity, abundance and distribution. These data will be combined with cultural knowledge to write a contemporary and true narrative of Australia's deepest marine environments. A First Nations Australian artist is to participate in the research voyages to produce artworks which reflect modern scientific exploration with traditional culture. 	\$491,660

University of Western Australia	Wudjari Sea Country Discovery - Cultural, socio- economic and biodiversity values of the Eastern Recherche Marine Park and South-west Corner Marine Park	This activity is supporting a collaboration between Traditional Owners from the Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation (ETNTAC) and researchers from the University of Western Australia (UWA). It will produce a Sea Country discovery report for the Eastern Recherche Marine Park and South-west Corner Marine Park,which will document traditional approaches to management, Traditional Owner values and aspirations for managing Sea Country, and identification of critical steps to achieve the balance between conservation and sustainable use of the area. This project will also provide critical training for ETNTAC Rangers in biodiversity and socio-economic survey methods and deliver a series of culturally appropriate science communication products to increase their capacity for marine park monitoring.	\$141,760
Wind & Sky Productions Pty Ltd	Marine Parks Discovery Zone	During Australia's last ice-age, a land bridge periodically linked the eastern Bass Strait islands to Tasmania and the mainland. On and off over millennia, animals, plants and people would cross and then be cut off by changing sea levels. Traditional Owner connections to the Ancient Land Bridge will be celebrated through a digital story about the unique eastern Bass Strait granite rise underpinning the marine and coastal environment. To raise awareness of the cultural and natural heritage above and beneath the waves, Wind & Sky Productions will work with Parks Australia, Parks Victoria, Tasmanian Parks & Wildlife, Traditional Owners, scientists, teachers and historians to create engaging digital assets. These will be made available for schools and visitor centers to use as an accessible and long-lasting resource for the education, tourism and community sectors on both sides of Bass Strait.	\$324,051