

Cairns-Port Douglas Reef Hub



2022 SUMMARY



What is the Cairns-Port Douglas Reef Hub?

The Hub is an open collaborative network for activities to strengthen and scale assisted coral reef recovery. The Hub enables diverse partners to design and pilot locally-relevant approaches that boost outcomes for the Reef and Reef community. The network supports opportunities that unite and leverage a range of knowledge, skills and capability for new innovative approaches to grow collective capacity for meeting the urgency and scale to protect reefs in the face of climate change.

www.barrierreef.org/cpd-hub



The Cairns Port Douglas Reef Hub is a collaboration between the Great Barrier Reef Foundation and the Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program and is funded by the partnership between the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Foundation. The Hub is coordinated by TropWATER at James Cook University with a network of local partners.



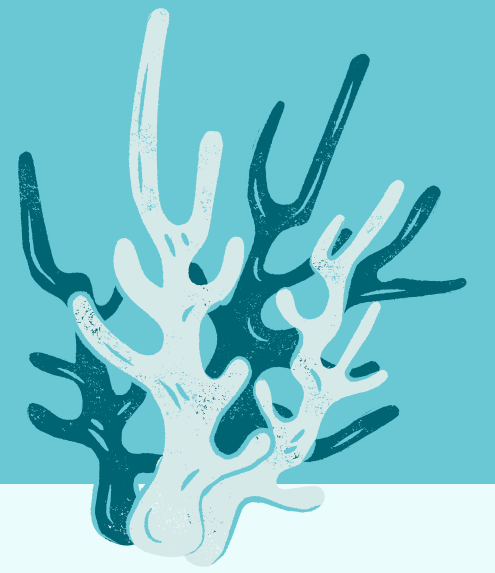
Great Barrier
Reef Foundation



Cairns-Port Douglas Reef Hub



2022 HIGHLIGHTS



Knowledge sharing workshop

Held in March 2022 with 32 participants from the Hub network to set priorities for the year

Regular Hub meetings

Meetings every two months with guest speakers including both local partners and scientists

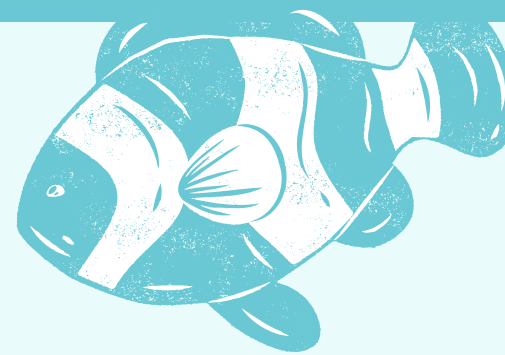


On water workshop to Moore Reef

Learning about local reef stewardship projects and Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program research

Coral ID workshop

Two day Reef Finder and Coral Finder workshop with Russell Kelley in October 2022

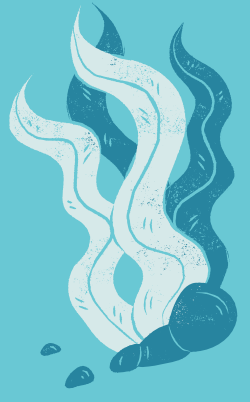


Collaborative monitoring pilot

Working with RRAP scientists to design a collaborative project at Moore Reef



Cairns-Port Douglas Reef Hub



2022 IN DEPTH



Knowledge sharing workshop

Our first Hub workshop provided an opportunity for the network to meet, share ideas, shape the future of the Hub and learn more about the Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program (RRAP).

This workshop identified priorities for the year including:

- Training and upskilling
- Knowledge sharing
- Connecting with researchers
- Piloting ways to work together for impact

These priorities were used to inform the Hub work plan and direct activities for 2022.



Regular Hub meetings



Our regular meetings every two months were a chance for informal discussions and an opportunity to learn more about relevant projects, research and issues that impact the Hub community.

Our 2022 meetings included guest talks from:

- Kerry Cameron from Reef Recruits on larval seeding methods and results
- Julia Chandler from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority with an update on permitting
- Dean Miller from Great Barrier Reef Legacy on the living coral biobank project

On-water workshop to Moore Reef

Our on-water workshop provided an opportunity for Hub network to meet and learn from scientists, managers, Traditional Owners and each other.

We were able to see some of the reef stewardship projects in action underwater, with a snorkel tour of the Mars reef stars and a demonstration of how to deploy and monitor Coral Aquaculture Devices (CAD devices) from the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) team. We were also joined by Gunggandji Traditional Owners who welcomed us onto their Sea Country and shared some of their knowledge.



Cairns-Port Douglas Reef Hub



2022 IN DEPTH



Coral ID workshop

In October the Hub hosted a two-day reef finder and coral finder workshop led by Russell Kelley. This workshop showed us how to use these guides to effectively identify corals to genus level. We used classroom exercises and practiced coral ID using Russell's extensive collection of coral skeletons.

There was a really noticeable improvement in everyone's ID skills, at the start of the workshop participants could identify an average of 33% of corals, but by the end this had increased to 90%.



Collaborative monitoring pilot

The Hub has been working with the CSIRO RRAP engagement subprogram and RRAP scientists from AIMS to design a pilot collaborative monitoring program at Moore Reef.

As part of this project, we brought together the operators and stakeholders who visit Moore Reef, and the Gunggandji Traditional Owners of the area. We discussed what kinds of information everyone was interested in collecting and learnt more about the AIMS/RRAP research already taking place.

There was an interest from everyone to learn more about the CAD devices which AIMS are using, and to understand more about coral recruitment. So we worked with AIMS to run training days at Moore Reef where they taught us how to survey they CAD devices, as part of this training day we also trialed a survey to understand more about substrate suitability for coral recruitment.

A big focus for this pilot was engaging with the Traditional Owners of Moore Reef to collect information of interest and to provide training for Rangers and community. We delivered an information session in community about this work and provided an opportunity for Traditional Owners to join us for a training day at Moore Reef.

The vision for this project is to develop a pilot which can be applied across more of the Cairns-Port Douglas region and provide pathways for collaborations with AIMS. The success of this pilot has enabled further collaborations with partners at Moore Reef and a new experiment in 2023.

