

Annual Report

Financial Year 2024 - 2025



The Moreton Bay
Foundation

Acknowledgement of Country

The Moreton Bay Foundation acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the Lands of and around Moreton Bay. The Foundation pays respect to their Elders — past, present and emerging — and acknowledges the important role Traditional Owners play within Moreton Bay communities.

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Chairman's report

For the year ending 30 June 2025, I am honoured to present the 2024/2025 Annual Report. This period has been one of consolidation, strategic alignment and purpose-driven action, as we continue to advance our vision of a thriving and healthy Moreton Bay for both nature and people.

Since its founding in 2018, the Foundation has pursued its mission to enable action for a sustainable future for Moreton Bay. In August 2024, we launched our landmark strategic plan – “Blueprint for a Sustainable Moreton Bay 2035” – which sets out priority actions for the coming decade for the Bay and its catchments. The aim of this blueprint is to provide guidance to assist all stakeholders focus on key areas for the Bay’s protection and health.

Simultaneously, our updated Strategic Plan 2024-2027 continues to guide our work in the key focus areas identified by the Blueprint: knowledge exchange; strategic communications; leadership; collaboration; and research funding. Specific actions are outlined further in this Annual Report.

The Foundation was only able to continue to deliver on the important work due to the commitment of the Board and our dedicated team - Katie Walters, Ainsley Leaning, led by Sam Capon as CEO. Sam decided not to renew her contract at the end of FY25 and I make special mention of the tremendous work she did for the Foundation and Moreton Bay.

This year, Rob Siganto, a co-founder of the Moreton Bay Foundation and Board Chair since its inception, stepped down from his role as Chair. Rob has worked tirelessly in this role as well as a director, and chief of fundraising. He helped to raise the awareness of the Bay and the Foundation. I would like to acknowledge his vision, commitment and incredible generosity.

The Foundation finished the year with a pleasing financial result, thanks to the support of our members, donors and participation in our various fundraising events including a very successful “Day on The Bay” fundraising luncheon at the Little Ship Club, North Stradbroke Island / Minjerribah. Funds raised allow us to continue the Foundation’s important work.

Chairman's report (cont)

I also acknowledge the generous support we continue to receive from our core members: University of Queensland, Griffith University, University of the Sunshine Coast, Queensland University of Technology and the Goodman Foundation.

This year we also welcomed our first corporate partner, Norman R. Wright & Sons, whose history and future is inextricably linked to Moreton Bay. We look forward to a long and fruitful partnership with Norman R Wright & Sons.

Over the next 12 months, we will be working on key Blueprint actions that we can leverage from our existing resources, including:

- Raising community awareness of Moreton Bay, including: its beauty; its rich diversity; its globally significant RAMSAR listed wetlands; its migratory shorebirds with international pathways; and its unique proximity to a major metropolitan area.
- Bay management leadership: facilitating conversations between all stakeholders that are researching, managing, planning, living and/or involved in activities on the Bay.
- Deepening our role as convener of knowledge, enabling evidence-based decisions and advocating for protective policy and management measures.
- Translating science and knowledge into action, bridging the gap between research, policy and on-the-ground implementation.
- Ensuring that diverse voices, especially those of Traditional Owners and local communities, are embedded in decision-making and that the cultural values of the Bay are respected and integrated.

We are working in an extremely complex environment, with many challenges. However, we are excited about the work in front of us and the potential that we can make a positive contribution to the future of Moreton Bay.

**Rob Mactaggart , Chair
The Moreton Bay Foundation.**



Our people

Board of Directors



Rob Siganto
GradDipInfoTech DipEd
Chair of Fundraising Committee
Outgoing Board Chair
Appointed 30 August 2018
Re-elected 4 November 2021
Meetings attended 6/6



Rob Mactaggart BBus
(Valuation)
Incoming Board Chair
Appointed 7 February 2024
Meetings attended 5/6



Meta Goodman
BSc (Home Eco) GradDip Securities
Institute (FINSIA) GAIDC
Appointed 13 August 2018
Re-elected 3 November 2022
Meetings attended 4/6



Dr Mark Gibbs
BE MBA PhD
Appointed 13 August 2020
Re-elected 13 December 2023
Meetings attended 5/6



John Goodman
BCom CA
Appointed 13 August 2018
Re-elected 4 November 2021
Retired: 16 January 2025
Meetings attended 4/4



Prof Sam Capon
BSc MA PhD GCHE
Research Advisory Committee Chair
Appointed 03 November 2022
Elected 03 November 2022
Retired 31 May 2024
Meetings attended 5/5



A Prof Ian Tibbetts
BSc (Hons) PhD
Appointed 30 August 2018
Re-elected 13 December 2023
Retired 26 November 2024
Meetings attended 1/3



Suzy Wilson AM
Founder of Indigenous Literacy
Foundation
Appointed 20 August 2024
Elected 26 November 2024
Meetings attended 5/6



Emily Davies
BSc LLB LLM
Appointed 20 August 2024
Elected 26 November 2024
Meetings attended 4/6

Our partners

Principal Members

The Goodman Foundation
University of Queensland
University of Sunshine Coast
Griffith University
Queensland University of Technology

Major Sponsor

Norman R Wright & Sons

Shorebird Sponsors

Motorama DNR Capital
Hyne Group GDM
Noja Power



Our Major Supporters

Morgans
Ralph Wilson
King & Wood Mallesons
Siganto Foundation

TMBF Staff

Samantha Capon, Chief Executive Officer
Katie Walters, Program Manager
Ainsley Leaning, Operations Manager



Thank you to the Brisbane Airport Corporation for sponsoring The Moreton Bay Foundation through its Containers for Change program which raised over \$60,000 for the 24/25 financial year



Our Initiatives

Knowledge Building

Blueprint for a Sustainable Moreton Bay 2025-2035

In July 2024 TMBF launched *A Blueprint for a Sustainable Moreton Bay for People and Nature (2025-2035)*, setting the vision and strategic direction for coordinated action across the Bay’s land-sea interface over the coming decade.

The Blueprint’s official launch took place at the Queensland Museum, adeptly hosted by Ellen Fanning - award-winning journalist and broadcaster with the ABC. A panel of experts including Dr Bianca Beetson (Queensland Museum), Dr Paul Maxwell (EcoFutures), Steve MacDonald (Redlands2030) and Dr Melissa Staines (marine scientist) responded to the Blueprint’s key themes, discussed implications for local management and highlighted next-step commitments across sectors.

Following the event, TMBF delivered a series of presentations to councils, research institutions, community groups and industry partners in the region. These briefings helped raise early awareness and understanding of the Blueprint and highlight priority actions for coastal management, restoration, sustainable recreational and industrial use, and climate resilience.



Our Initiatives

Knowledge Building



Moreton Bay Knowledge Hub

The Foundation continued to advance the Moreton Bay Knowledge Hub, a digital platform designed to connect research, data and people across sectors. Building on the visual data platform developed by QUT through the Living and Playing Together project (supported by TMBF and the SmartSat Cooperative Research Centre), the Foundation engaged QUT to expand and refine this work into a functional prototype for the new Hub.

The enhanced platform will integrate scientific data, narrative content and collaboration opportunities to create an accessible and engaging space for users. QUT's work includes revising the platform's Story Mode to showcase the Bay's diverse natural and cultural values, upgrading the Data Mode visualisations, and developing a standalone metadata database to link all components.

The project will continue through the next financial year to advance Action 3.2 of the [Blueprint for a Sustainable Moreton Bay](#): develop and maintain a centralised knowledge hub or portal for Moreton Bay.

This initiative will provide a trusted, enduring resource - supporting collaboration, transparency and collective action.

Sedimentation Impacts in Moreton Bay

To address one of the Blueprint's highest-priority issues, The Moreton Bay Foundation commissioned David Brewer Consulting to undertake *Sedimentation Impacts in Moreton Bay: a Priority Knowledge Synthesis* for TMBF.

This project responds directly to the [Blueprint's](#) call to reduce catchment-derived sediment - identified as one of the most significant threats to the Bay's ecological, cultural and community values. The study is compiling an 'evidence pack' that summarises existing knowledge of how sedimentation affects the Bay's coastal and marine ecosystems and the values they support.

The report will include a series of detailed impact statements outlining what is currently known about sediment impacts on specific ecological values - such as sea turtles, saltmarshes, teleost fish, hard corals and other key habitats and species groups. It will also collate a register of data sources and develop conceptual models of sedimentation processes to guide restoration and management.

The work will review published and grey literature, collate relevant data sources and develop conceptual models of sedimentation processes to guide restoration and management. The report, to be delivered in late 2025, will provide direct evidence of impacts that should guide intervention, investment and advocacy.

Our Initiatives

Collaboration and Capacity Building

Inaugural Moreton Bay Leaders Forum

In May 2025, TMBF convened the first Moreton Bay Leaders Forum, a full-day workshop held at the Ship Inn in South Brisbane. The event brought together senior representatives from government, research, industry, First Nations organisations and community groups to explore what *protection* means for Moreton Bay in an era of rapid technological and ecological change.



The theme was an exploration of *“Protection– What do we mean by protection? What do we want to protect? How can we best protect these values now and into an uncertain future?”*

Environmental Law Professor Jan McDonald provided the keynote, and workshops through the day encouraged participants to reflect on the Bay’s natural and cultural values, discuss contemporary approaches to protection, and imagine what future stewardship might look like as pressures on the Bay evolve.

The Forum was a remarkable success and set a strong foundation for continuing dialogue and collaboration across sectors. The Leaders Forum will continue next year with quarterly gatherings of three online meetings and a full day in-person event.



Our Initiatives

Change making

Port of Brisbane Channel Enhancement Project

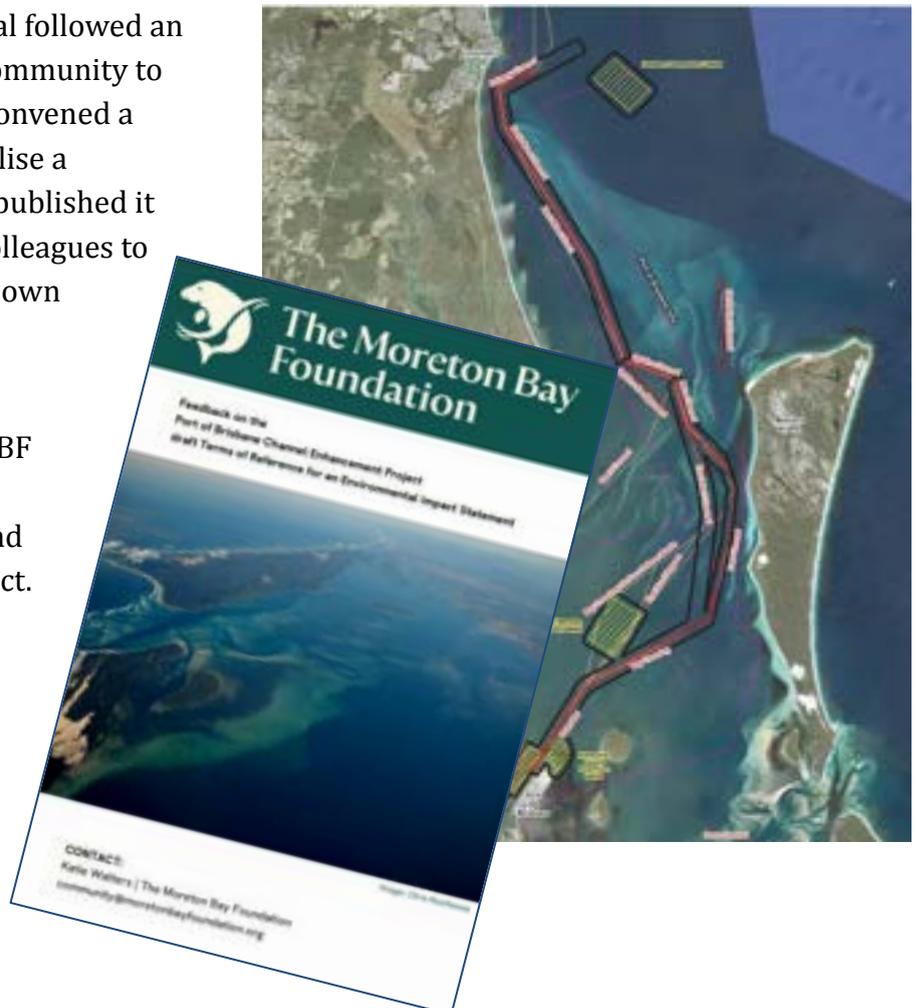
Early 2024, the Port of Brisbane (PoB) released an Initial Advice Statement for a proposed Channel Enhancement Project (CEP) to make the existing shipping channel bigger, deeper, and wider, and allow massive container ships (10-14,000 TEU vessels) to be accepted to the Port.

The project would involve significant dredging (and dumping of dredge spoil) over a 25-year period, and has the potential to significantly impact many ecological, social, and cultural values of Moreton Bay.

The Queensland Coordinator-General has declared the CEP a 'coordinated project' requiring an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and the draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for the EIS was released in April 2025.

TMBF's response to the proposal followed an initial meeting for our expert community to discuss the proposal; we then convened a working group to draft and finalise a response to the draft TOR, and published it widely for the public and our colleagues to draw on when submitting their own recommendations.

At the end of 24-25 FY, the final TOR had not been released, TMBF continue our open communication with the PoB and our community, about the project.



Supporting Research

Vehicle Impacts on sandy beaches and dune ecosystems.

Prof. Thomas A. Schlacher et al 2025, USC.

This TMBF funded project has been completed, delivering two reports on the ecological impacts of off-road vehicles (ORVs) on coastal ecosystems.

The first study, ***Adverse impacts of off-road vehicles on coastal dune vegetation are widespread, substantial, and long-lasting***, provides the first global meta analysis of ORV effects on dune vegetation. Results show severe and widespread damage to plant abundance, cover, and diversity after very few vehicle passes, with recovery often taking a decade or more. The findings indicate that no safe threshold of ORV use exists for most dune habitats.

The second study, ***Vehicles kill birds on sandy beaches: The global evidence***, quantifies the extensive harm ORVs cause to beach-nesting and foraging birds. Vehicle traffic reduces bird abundance and breeding success through nest destruction, disturbance, and habitat displacement, causing population-level declines worldwide.

Together, these studies offer comprehensive global evidence of ORV impacts on coastal systems. The findings provide a strong scientific basis for managing vehicle access and protecting vulnerable dune and beach habitats.



Supporting Research

Assessing wetland restoration effectiveness for frogs using acoustic monitoring

Dr Berndt Janse van Rensburg (UQ)

This TMBF-funded project, successfully built local capacity in bioacoustic monitoring to support long term ecological management of restored wetlands on Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island).

The Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC) rangers received training in the use of bioacoustic techniques to monitor acid frogs and related species across the Eighteen Mile Swamp, Keyholes, and Yarraman Valley wetlands. The project established important population baselines and demonstrated that acid frog populations in restored wetlands are significantly larger than in disturbed sites, indicating positive ecological recovery, though not yet equivalent to reference habitats.

The study also confirmed bioacoustics as an effective, low impact monitoring tool, reducing disturbance in sensitive areas while maintaining data quality. Water quality analyses revealed that elevated pH levels negatively affect acid frog presence, highlighting a key management challenge for disturbed sites such as the Keyholes.

The project additionally supported Indigenous training and academic collaboration, contributing to an Honours thesis and ongoing PhD research focused on the ecology and restoration of coastal “wallum” habitats.



Wallum Sedge Frog: *litoria olongburensis*. Photo courtesy Alannah Filer



Researcher Dr Berndt Janse van Rensburg installing acoustic recording equipment in wallum habitat, photo courtesy Alannah Filer

Our Engagement

Connecting with our supporters

TMBF values its members, sponsors and other supporters. In the 2024-25 a number of events were held to raise awareness and much needed funds. These included:

- Morgans evening event
- Day on the Dugong
- Inspiration Day
- Inaugural Women of the Bay twilight event
- Day on the Bay 2024



Above: Day on the Dugong
Left: Women of the Bay hosted by Dame Quentin Bryce
Bottom left : Day on the Bay
Bottom right: Morgans evening event





Finance Report

Financial Summary

During the year, and based on advice from our lawyers, the Directors of the Trustee have resolved to transfer the operations including all assets and liabilities from the Moreton Bay Foundation Limited to the Moreton Bay Foundation Trust effective 1 July 2024. Full details can be found [HERE](#)

Income Statement and Profit and Loss Year Ended 30 June 2025

	\$
Donation	317,020
Member Subscriptions	72,090
Other Income	24,977
Interest Received	7,131
Unrealised gain/loss on revaluation of investment	3,938
Employee Benefit Expense	(195,901)
Depreciation & Amortisation	(472)
Professional Fees	(8,870)
Project Expenditure	(140,290)
Other Expenses	(25,282)
Net Profit / Loss	54,341

The Foundation finished the year with a pleasing end of year result due to being the recipient of the Brisbane Airport Corporation's Containers for Change program, good donor support stemming from the Foundations "Day on the Bay" fundraising event, and the introduction of a new corporate partner, Norman R Wright & Sons.

As at 30th June available funds (cash and cash equivalents) were \$421,415 compared with \$415,167 as at 30th June 2024.

Rob Mactaggart
Acting Treasurer



www.moretonbayfoundation.org



Make a donation