



REEF CHECK AUSTRALIA

TRAINING COURSE OUTLINE

July 2010

Thank you for your interest in Reef Check Australia.

Reef Check is part of an international network of volunteers that monitor the health of coral reefs in more than 90 countries. Your training in Australia can permit you to join teams in many locations around the world, and provides invaluable experience in coral reef monitoring. By joining the community of coral reef surveyors, you will learn how to monitor coral reef health, improve your underwater knowledge and skills, and build on your diving experience by logging lots of dives.

Once you have completed our training courses you will be a qualified Reef Check Surveyor, and are eligible to participate in as many of our survey expeditions as you like. The Great Barrier Reef Survey Season runs from February until July. The South East Queensland Survey Season runs from July until December.

Course	Training Cost AU\$	Student discount	What do you get?
Module 1: Course Introduction (compulsory for all courses)	\$495	\$395	Course Manual 1 pool dive
Module 2: Substrate surveys			Course Manual 6 dives
Module 3: Invertebrate surveys			Course Manual 2 dives
Module 4: Photo transect	\$365	\$325	Course Manual 2 dives
Module 5: Fish surveys			Course Manual 4 dives

Course prerequisites: 25 logged dives, an Advanced Diver certification from any agency. To participate in our Survey Program once trained you will need 50+ dives, Rescue Diver qualification, a current AS2299 Dive Medical, and DAN Dive Accident Insurance (or equivalent).

Contact support@reefcheckaustralia.org or call 07 4724 3950 to book your space.

Participants must provide:

- Course fee.
 - Own dive gear to include a dive computer, dive knife and snorkel, safety sausage and whistle.
 - Copy of Diver Certification (Minimum Advanced Diver or equivalent to participate in training, minimum Rescue or equivalent for participation in Reef Check surveys).
 - Will need access to a computer to do pre-course study on MS PowerPoint.
 - Must provide medical statement and sign the liability release.
- Please see our website www.reefcheckaustralia.org for more information on our projects.
 - A \$100 non-refundable deposit is required to secure your space. Full fees are required 2 weeks prior to your course start date. Please note that fees are only refundable up to 2 weeks prior to the course except for extenuating circumstances. Non-refundable fees are transferable to another course.
 - Please make cheques to “Reef Check Foundation Ltd” and post to PO Box 404 Townsville QLD 4810 or direct deposit to:

Reef Check Foundation, Bendigo Bank 633000 Acc # 132859927 (if you direct deposit please email support@reefcheckaustralia.org to let us know you have put the deposit in)

- Our office in Townsville is at Shop 5 (ground floor – far left) 358-360 Flinders Street Mall (Citilink Building), Townsville
- **Please note to participate in our Survey Program you will need 50+ dives, Rescue Diver qualification and a current AS2299 medical certificate.**

To ensure these courses are available to as wide an audience as possible, our courses are sponsored and supported by local businesses, university and government.

Training Locations 2010

Townsville	Part time/Full time. Expressions of interest invited.
Cairns	Part time/Full time. Expressions of interest invited.
Port Douglas	Part time/Full time. Expressions of interest invited.
Brisbane	Part time/Full time. Expressions of interest invited.
Sunshine Coast	Part time/Full time. Expressions of interest invited.
Gold Coast	Part time/Full time. Expressions of interest invited.

Please email support@reefcheckaustralia.org to express interest in any course.

For upcoming course timetables please see our course timetable online.

Reef Check Australia Training Course Outline

Module 1: Introduction

(this section is compulsory for all course participants)

Section	Approx Duration (hours)	Location	Description
Pre-Course	6	At Home	Familiarisation with the course content and knowledge review Participants are required to read the course manual and go through the PowerPoint training presentations provided and to familiarise themselves with this material. The purpose of the contact time with trainers is to go over the material and ensure it is understood – not to introduce this material for the first time.
1A	3	Training room	Introduction to Reef Check, Reef Check Methods overview, data entry and interpretation overview Participants learn about the importance of coral reefs, basic reef ecology, our need to understand how reefs change with time and potential threats to their health from a global and Australian perspective; the background on Reef Check and its importance in community monitoring worldwide; the structure and objectives of Reef Check Australia; the various team tasks and responsibilities; and finally the survey methods to include the point intercept substrate method, belt transect invertebrate and impact method, fish census method and video transect method.
1B	3	Training pool, confined water or open water sandy patch.	Buoyancy and methods practice Participants are introduced to the importance of good buoyancy when working on coral reefs; participants perform a number of tasks to practice and demonstrate their buoyancy skills; finally participants practice the survey techniques.
1C	2-3	Training room	Data entry, reporting and mapping Participants are introduced to the Reef Check Australia data sheets and review data entry and interpretation responsibilities of the Team Scientist and Reef Check volunteers. Participants are also shown site maps, what to include and how to use them. Knowledge review finalisation The trainer will go through the answers to knowledge reviews

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Modules 2 & 3: Substrate, and Invertebrates & impacts

2A	2.5	Training room	<p>Substrate Identification training part 1 Participants review the Reef Check Australia substrate survey categories and codes and the importance of the information acquired by using these categories; photographic examples additional to those contained in the PowerPoint presentation are used to illustrate the classification of hard and soft corals and algae.</p>
2B	2.5	Training room	<p>Substrate identification training part 2 Participants are shown photographic examples additional to those contained in the PowerPoint presentation for the remaining substrate categories. The substrate survey method is reviewed.</p>
2C	6	Reef	<p>Substrate identification training: practical 1 (sinker training): 2 dives Participants review the dive planning and safety procedures for Reef Check Australia prior to commencing their first dive. Dive 1: Participants follow a trail of 50 numbered fishing sinkers at 5 m depth and are required to identify into which category the labelled substrate should go. On completion of this dive the answers are given. Dive 2: participants return to the sinker trail with the correct identifications and check those they got wrong on the first dive.</p>
	1.5	If applicable Reef HQ	<p>Visit Reef HQ Participants review the identification of substrate and invertebrates.</p>
2D	9	Reef	<p>Substrate identification training: practical part 2: 2 dives One member of the team will be given Team Divemaster responsibilities for the day. Participants follow the trainer who points out various substrates and the categories to which they belong. Trainer also points out Reef Check inverts if and when they are seen.</p>
2E	2.5	Training room	<p>Substrate identification test – photo Participants are tested on their substrate identifications from photographs. Participants must score 80+% on this test.</p>
2F	9	Reef	<p>Substrate identification test – field. Dive 1, Substrate methods test – field. Dive 2 One member of the team will be given Team Divemaster responsibilities for the day. Dive 1: Participants must identify 50 substrates that are pointed out to them by the trainer. The answers are reviewed in the surface interval. The pass-mark is 95%. Dive 2: participants do 2 x 20 m substrate transects in buddy pairs.</p>

			<p>The results are reviewed following the dive as well as a discussion on site selection.</p> <p>During any remaining time the trainer also points out Reef Check inverts if and when they are seen.</p>
3A	2	Reef	<p>Invertebrate and impact training Participants review the Reef Check Australia invert survey categories and the importance of the information acquired from this survey; photographic examples additional to those contained in the PowerPoint presentation are used to illustrate the classification of key invertebrates and coral impacts.</p>
3B	2	Reef	<p>Invertebrate and impact test – photo Participants are tested on their invert and coral reef impact identifications from photographs. Participants must score 80+% on this test.</p>
3C	9	Reef	<p>Invertebrate identification test and survey method test One member of the team will be given Team Divemaster responsibilities for the day. Dive 1: Participants must identify 20 invertebrates or impacts that are pointed out to them by the trainer. The answers are reviewed in the surface interval. The pass-mark is 95%. Dive 2: participants do 2 x 20 m invertebrate transects in buddy pairs. The results are reviewed following the dive as well as a discussion on site selection.</p>

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Module 4: Photo Transect

Section	Duration (hours)	Location	Description
Pre-course	2	Home study	<p>Familiarisation with the course content and knowledge review Participants are required to read the photo transect chapter of the course manual and complete the knowledge review. The purpose of the contact time with trainers is to go over the material and ensure it is understood – not to introduce this material for the first time.</p>

4A	1.5	Training room	Photo transect methods training Participants are taught how to set up and care for the digital camera and underwater housing; review and practice the photo transect methods on dry land
4B	6	Reef	Photo transect methods training and test: practical 1:2 dives Participants perform the photo transect methods on a coral reef. Exit the water and review their video. Participants then perform the transect again underwater and review their improvement. Participants must perform the tasks to an acceptable standard to pass this section.

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Module 5: Fish Surveys

Section	Duration (hours)	Location	Description
Pre-course	4	Home study	Familiarisation with the course content and knowledge review Participants are required to read the fish monitoring chapter of the course manual, familiarise themselves with the identification and complete the knowledge review. The purpose of the contact time with trainers is to go over the material and ensure it is understood – not to introduce this material for the first time.
5A	2.5	Training room	Fish identification training Participants learn the different shapes of main fish families and how to identify the main ones to include the target species and families for Reef Check. Participants also learn the importance and the limitations of fish visual census data.
5B	9	Coral reef	Fish identification training practical: 2 dives Participants are shown the Reef Check target fish that reside in the local area
5C	2	Training room	Fish identification post dive briefing Participants go through photos of fish to confirm their identification skills
5D	2	Training room	Fish identification photo test Participants are tested on their fish identifications from photographs. Participants must score 80+% on this test.
5E	9	Coral reef	Fish identification test and Fish survey method practice: 2 dives Dive 1: Participants are tested on their identification ability. Dive 2: participants do a practice fish survey. The results are reviewed following the survey