



Reef Check Ambassador Workshop Report & Updates *August - September 2015*

In August and September 2015, Reef Check Australia, with the support of Redland City Council, conducted its first ever Reef Check Ambassador Course, with 29 participants completing the course. The training arose from a recognized need to empower Reef Check volunteers to act as champions for the oceans by providing knowledge, skills and confidence to engage their community about reefs, reef conservation and Reef Check Australia programs.

Those who were chosen to participate in the course were asked to complete a survey prior to the training, upon completion of the training, and weeks after the training. The surveys aimed to identify opportunities to best support ambassadors and address any challenges.

Key survey findings (from 24 participants):

- **Motivations:** The primary motivator for participating in the course was to get more involved in reef conservation. Other top motivators were: career development, increased social opportunities, and learning more about reefs.
- **Confidence:** Prior to the course, participants felt most confident in motivating peers to adopt environmentally-friendly behaviour and conducting hands-on reef education activities with children. They felt less confident in conducting hands-on reef education activities with adults, and participating in reef health monitoring. Following the course, participant confidence increased in all areas, with reef health monitoring increasing the most.
- **Knowledge:** In comparing pre- and post-course results, participants felt that their knowledge about citizen science and reef monitoring had increased the most.
- **Development Opportunities:** Attending science talks was the most popular way participants would like to develop their knowledge and skills, followed by participating in community events, regular updates on relevant information, and social interactions with other ambassadors.

Got an idea or want to get involved? We want to hear from you!
ambassadors@reefcheckaustralia.org

The 2015 program launch
was proudly supported by:



Reef Check Ambassador Workshop Outcomes Aug 2015 - September 2016



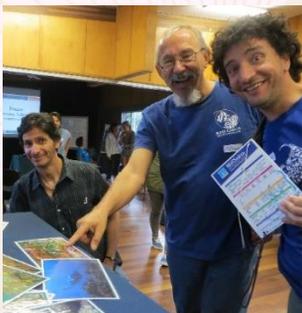
100% of participants wanted to participate in upcoming events and continue learning and building their skills through attending future science talks

Ambassador Workshop feedback:

Most participants indicated that the workshop increased their knowledge on: Subtropical reefs (85%), Reef threats (82%), Individual actions that can protect reefs (93%)



"I enjoyed meeting new people that have similar interests and passions and learning about how we can communicate science so people will understand."



Post workshop confidence scores increased for: running hands-on education activities, reef monitoring, discussing reef health issues and motivating peers to act on conservation

"I look forward to promoting positive change."

Participants amplified their ocean optimism, with volunteers reporting feeling motivated (99% of participants), optimistic (96%), excited (96%) and confident (86%) after the workshop



"It was a very positive and re-affirming day with a great group of people and lots of useful info and activities!"