

OZFISH UNLIMITED LTD

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



**COVER IMAGE:** 1 million oyster shells  
deployed into Moreton Bay, Queensland

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

Our work on Australia's waterways is on the country of our First Nations peoples. We pay respect to their longstanding custodianship of this land when we meet. We acknowledge the deep connection and understanding they have with our waterways and our fish as we seek their support, advice and approval for our stewardship actions.

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# A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Following a decision of the Board to align our financial year with most other companies this report is for only an 8-month period and we are proud to say that the level of volunteer contribution, on-ground delivery and rec fisher engagement is at the same high level as last year's sensational outcome.

All of our success rests on these 28,079 volunteer hours and, encouraged by their counterparts around the country, each Chapter is delivering improvements that make a difference to their local waterways. Some of them are mind blowing in their efforts particularly our shellfish restoration and Seeds for Snapper focussed chapters. Yet all of them, whether mapping habitats, picking up litter or engaging fishers in sustainable practices are making a difference in their local waterway and collectively leading the way for the recreational fishing community nationwide.

To help them to do this we also need funds, and our partner BCF – Boating Camping Fishing and its customers are the epitome of world's best practice in sustainability. Their efforts

from Head Office down to the casual team members indicate a commitment to looking after our waterways that is unapparelled in corporate Australia, and in our view is world leading.

But we have many other corporate and individual supporters and together they support our nationwide staff to help these volunteers do what they do. Thank you for your contributions to making our waterways healthier. I hope this document gives you some pleasure at what you contributed to.

We would like to thank the staff of this amazing organisation who regularly, and with a smile on their face, travel large distances away from family and friends to provide support to the volunteers, negotiate with governments and landholders, and inspire communities that restoration can happen and that they will be standing behind you to help make things better.

Finally, we thank the Board who continue to volunteer their time, knowledge and capacity to provide direction to an organisation that continues to grow and deliver for the future of our waterways.

**David Coogan**  
Chairman

**Craig Copeland**  
Chief Executive Officer



## OUR MISSION

**TO PROTECT AND RESTORE  
FISH HABITAT AND  
SUPPORT RECREATIONAL  
FISHERS IN THESE ACTIONS.**

## HIGHLIGHTS

**3,706 OZFISH MEMBERS**

**11,150 SUPPORTERS**

**5,469 VOLUNTEERS**

TAKING ACTION IN OZFISH ACTIVITIES,  
CONTRIBUTING A TOTAL OF

**28,079 VOLUNTEER HOURS**

TO HABITAT RESTORATION ACROSS 52 CHAPTERS

## HIGHLIGHTS

SEAGRASS PLANTED  
**1,357,990**  
SEEDS/RHIZOMES RESTORING  
MORE THAN...

**9.5ha**  
OF SEAGRASS MEADOWS

121 WATERWAYS IMPROVED  
FOR BY LOCAL FISHERS

**33.6 km**  
OF BANK RESTORED WITH OVER  
**19,150**  
TREES PLANTED ALONG RIVERBANKS

**4 tonnes**  
OF LITTER REMOVED OVER  
70KM OF AUSSIE WATERWAYS

**252**  
FISH FOCUSED  
ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

SHELLFISH REEFS RESTORED  
**3,474**  
REEF MODULES DEPLOYED  
RESTORING OVER 11HA OF  
SHELLFISH REEF.

INCLUDING  
**54 tonnes**  
OF SHELL RECYCLED AND  
DIVERTED FROM LANDFILL

**110**  
MORE  
SNAGS

**94**  
FISH HOTELS  
IN OUR RIVERS

**325**  
ROCKY RIVER REEFS

PROVIDING MORE PLACES  
FOR FISH TO BREED, FEED  
AND SHELTER

**103km**  
OF RIVERBANKS ARE  
NOW MORE FISHABLE

**AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST AND LEADING:**

COMMUNITY DRIVEN SHELLFISH &  
SEAGRASS RESTORATION PROGRAMS

## DELIVERING

**BETTER HABITAT  
BETTER FISHING**

# MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

## SEAGRASS FOR SNAPPER

OzFish is delivering Australia's largest community-driven seagrass restoration program, Seagrass for Snapper, with projects already underway in Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia, and in the planning phase for New South Wales.

Unlike many restoration approaches, OzFish focuses on mobilising local communities to achieve the scale of change necessary to make a significant impact. The success of this approach is evidenced by the restoration of 9.5 hectares of seagrass and the growing number of volunteers participating each year.

Established in Western Australia following extensive trials conducted by the University of Western Australia, the Seeds for Snapper initiative is now in its sixth successful year of operation within Cockburn Sound, south of Fremantle. The project sets an ambitious target of deploying over one million seagrass seeds each season and this year alone, it surpassed expectations by achieving a remarkable milestone of over 1.2 million seeds. These were harvested, treated and deployed by a dedicated team of more than 400 volunteers across 2.3 hectares. The project's growing number of partners serves as a testament to its resonance within the local community. These valued partners include the University of Western Australia, the Western Australian Government's Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund, BCF – Boating Camping Fishing, Recfishwest, Water Corporation, Adreno, MMA Offshore, Scubanautics Diving Academy, Jervoise Bay Sailing Club and the City of Cockburn.

Its sister project in South Australia, spans Adelaide's metropolitan coastline and expanded this year to include a trial on the Fleurieu Peninsula, demonstrated significant success. The technique employed in South Australia involves sandbags as a support structure for sowing the seeds.

More than 700 local recreational fishers, boaters, beachcombers and members of the broader community collaborated to collect and disperse over 18,000 seeds across a restored seagrass bed location encompassing 1.1 hectares. We're still monitoring for establishment results but despite the challenging weather conditions, we're hopeful for good survival.

This seagrass activity is supported by partners including Green Adelaide, South Australia Research and Development Institute, EPA South Australia, Aquatic Biosecurity, Estuary Care Foundation, RecfishSA, the Cruising Yacht Club of SA, Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board through funding from the South Australian Government's Landscape Priority Fund, Department for Environment and Water, City of Victor Harbour, Alexandrina Council, and BCF – Boating, Camping, Fishing.

Seagrass restoration efforts marked a significant milestone with an inaugural trial in Tasmania. This project is conducted in collaboration with the University of Tasmania's Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) and enjoys support from the QBE Foundation. Collectively, we are conducting trials of diverse restoration techniques at multiple sites to gather valuable insights and pave the way for the future large-scale restoration of *Zostera* seagrass in the region.

In Victoria, OzFish joined forces with commercial fishers and Yarram Yarram Landcare Network to establish over 100,000 seagrass seeds in innovative 'sand snakes' technique across six hectares of restored seagrass bed. Supported by the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, the project will trial establishing seagrass with the aim of scaling up restoration across Corner Inlet.

In Queensland, our collaboration with the James Cook University Seagrass Ecology Lab within the Centre for Tropical Water and Aquatic Ecosystem Research (TropWATER) has entered its fifth year as we diligently work on trials for tropical seagrass restoration in Mourilyan Harbour. These ongoing trials encompass innovative seagrass restoration techniques aimed at identifying a scalable method for tropical seagrass restoration. Some of these techniques involve securing seagrass to steel mesh frames, utilising biodegradable materials like potato starch, and employing steel nuts in our restoration efforts.

So far, individually weighted down shoots have shown the best growth in trials and by using this method we've increased restoration five-fold in this past year, expanding into Trinity Inlet (Cairns) as well as continuing at Mourilyan Harbour, as part of our ongoing collaboration with James Cook University, local Mandubarra, Goondoi and Gimuy Walubara Yidinji and Yirrganydji Land & Sea Rangers, and other project partners.

OzFish's commitment to seagrass restoration has yielded remarkable results over our reporting period, not only in terms of ecological impact but also in fostering strong partnerships within local communities and organisations. Through innovative techniques and dedicated volunteers, we have witnessed the rejuvenation of vital seagrass habitats.

As we move forward, our focus remains unwavering, and we are excited about the continued growth of this nationwide initiative and its enduring positive effects on our marine ecosystems. With the support of our partners, volunteers and stakeholders, we are positive about the future of seagrass restoration, ensuring healthier oceans and thriving aquatic ecosystems for generations to come.





# MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

## SHELLFISH REVOLUTION

OzFish is at the forefront of community-driven shellfish reef restoration efforts throughout Australia, spearheading an array of innovative projects. Our ongoing initiatives encompass well-established shellfish reef restoration projects in Moreton Bay, Queensland, and Port Phillip Bay, Victoria, alongside exciting new endeavours in the Port River, South Australia and the South Coast of New South Wales.

In Western Australia, our groundbreaking Pimp My Jetty initiative garnered enthusiastic participation from over 50 private jetty owners eager to host suspended shellfish habitats. These environmentally friendly rope structures serve as essential habitats for mussels, which, in turn, play a pivotal role in the dietary needs of black bream and other indigenous fish species within the Peel-Harvey Estuary. Research has revealed a notable decline in the mussel component of a black bream's diet in the region, dropping from 64% to as low as 19% in recent years.

The project's funding comes from a coalition of supporters, including Navico, Recfishwest, the Western Australian Government's Royalties for Regions program and BCF – Boating, Camping, Fishing. Additionally, we receive great support from the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council.

Pimp My Jetty is also gaining momentum on the Gold Coast and in Sydney. The Sydney Harbour Chapter has secured access to five private jetties where they will install hanging shellfish structures, adding extra complexity to the Harbour's habitat. Furthermore, the OzFish Lake Macquarie Chapter is eager to embark on similar endeavours and has already initiated its search for suitable jetties to enhance.

Interestingly, our shellfish research continued to make progress through our OzRex Richmond River rock oysters. These naturally occurring oysters, discovered by members of our Richmond River Chapter, continue to show their disease resistance and are now subject to a number of trials by oyster growers across NSW as well as for use in our upcoming shellfish restoration in the Richmond River.

Our Shellfish work continued in South Australia as OzFish volunteers constructed 70 Robust Oyster Baskets (ROBs) filled with clean recycled shells. These ROBs were strategically positioned at approved sites within the Port River in a trial which builds on previous work of the Estuary Care Foundation SA. Monitoring was undertaken by the University of Adelaide and the results were promising, showing native oyster spat already colonising on the

structures. Shellfish habitats play a crucial role in maintaining the health of coastal ecosystems and it's evident that we're only beginning to address the profound decline in Australia's shellfish reefs. Currently, these reefs comprise less than 5% of their original extent and our dedicated fishers are not only identifying and studying the remnants of that 5% but also actively working towards rebuilding habitats that closely resemble those that were lost.

Our Moreton Bay restoration initiative, in partnership with Healthy Land and Water, continues to go from strength to strength. In the past year alone, our volunteers deployed 3,021 oyster baskets of recycled shell to the Bay. We are on track for reinvigorating 19 hectares of lost reef with the first 10 hectares already thriving.

The results from what this group of rec fishers have achieved are astounding but more importantly the Moreton Bay project stands as a shining example of what can be achieved when a community unites behind a restoration initiative. The OzFish Central Moreton Bay Chapter is leading the way in Australia, and it showcases the boundless potential that can be realised through collective efforts, collaboration and determination.

Funding support is provided by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program – Fish Habitat Restoration Program, Queensland's Community Fishing Grants Program, BCF – Boating Camping Fishing, Moreton Bay Foundation, Turner Family Foundation, Unity Water, Tackle Tactics, Iona College and Rotary. The work is further supported by Port of Brisbane, and researchers from the University of Queensland, University of Sunshine Coast and Griffith University.

In New South Wales, the OzFish Eurobodalla Chapter has forged a valuable partnership with the Nature Coast Marine Group to assist NSW DPI Fisheries in monitoring the recently established oyster reef at Wagonga Inlet. On a monthly basis, during low tide, our dedicated volunteers venture out to the reef to meticulously survey the rocks for oyster spat recruitment. Furthermore, volunteers have played an essential role in assisting the Eurobodalla Shire Council in the collection of 800 kilograms of oyster shells, originally slated for landfill, during the popular Narooma Oyster Festival. These shells have found a purposeful home at our burgeoning South Coast Oyster Shell Recycling Centre, ready to contribute to planned oyster reef restoration efforts.

With each passing year, our shellfish reef restoration initiatives grow stronger, underscoring the potential of habitat restoration when communities unite.

# MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

## TACKLING LITTER

OzFish has been attuned to the voices of our recreational fishing community and a recurring concern we've identified is the issue of litter in our waterways. In response to this pressing problem, we've introduced our Tackling Litter Program in 2023, aimed at addressing litter-related challenges on multiple fronts, spanning from litter prevention to recycling.

The program sees us on a long journey to try and find more solutions and improve what we can. It means collaborating with others to change the way the industry works, empowering fishers, and creating the environment and infrastructure required for the recreational fishing sector of the future.

We've made an impressive start, developing from local clean-ups as our only activity in this realm to litter prevention investigations for inland rivers, exploring the discarded 'ghost' crab traps issue, expanding our tangle bin distribution, yabby trap collection and exploring the potential for tackle recycling.

OzFish volunteers are actively engaged in annual clean-up efforts within their local waterways, exemplified by the 21 events held across Australia this year. These events resulted in the removal of more than 4 tonnes of litter from 70 kilometres of cherished fishing spots nationwide. Notably, Clean Up Australia Day in March is a popular occasion for OzFish Chapters to make a significant impact. We are also collaborating with NSW DPI on its Fish for Life and Keep it Clean campaigns, participating in clean-ups alongside anglers and promoting some brilliant and essential messages about what it takes to be a sustainable fishing superstar.

Over the reporting period we additionally established a network of 28 tangle bins and adopted some that were no longer managed across the Gold Coast. The bins are designed especially for fishing gear, line and hooks, to ensure they are collected and not harming other wildlife. OzFishers collect it, sort it, record it and recycle what we can. This year we collected 7,736m of line, 514 bait bags, 165 sinkers and 428 hooks, through the tangle bin program. Ten more tangle bins are set to be installed in Darwin in the year ahead.

OzFish has forged a partnership with OceanEarth Foundation, who runs the GhostNets Australia program and we're intensifying our efforts to round up lost and discarded crab traps from estuaries and bays. We're also working together to round up opera house traps that are now banned from use in NSW and South Australia, recycling these nets and embarking on a broader tackle recycling initiative through our newly established Tackle Loop program to give rec fishers a place to send their unwanted or broken gear.



# MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

## MURRAY DARLING BASIN RIVER REPAIR BUSES

Our River Repair Bus program, generously supported by local, state, and federal government agencies, as well as BCF, has continued to make substantial strides in fish habitat restoration along key inland rivers, including the Gwydir, Macintyre, Macquarie and Murray catchments.

Over the past year, the three buses stationed in Dubbo, Mildura, and Moree have made significant contributions, such as removing over 1.3 tonnes of rubbish, planting 8,000 native plants, conducting habitat mapping along more than 30 kilometres of waterways and constructing over 80 purpose-built, environmentally friendly fish habitats. These remarkable achievements owe their success to the unwavering dedication of our volunteers, numbering more than 700, who collectively contributed thousands of hours to these crucial efforts.

## FISH EMERGENCY RECOVERY

Over the years, OzFish's Fish Emergency Recovery Teams have been called into action nationwide in response to various environmental disturbances, including bushfires, floods and even alterations to flow conditions due to irrigation channel drainage. Unfortunately, this year was no exception, but we take immense pride in our pivotal role in activating our fish emergency recovery teams in rescuing numerous freshwater aquatic species.

Our efforts this year have resulted in the successful rescue of more than 700 endangered Murray crayfish, an impressive volume of over 200 litres of freshwater mussels and the safeguarding of 350 native fish, including critically endangered silver perch, trout cod, eel-tailed catfish and the iconic Murray cod.

These recovery efforts were supported by Fisheries agencies in NSW and Victoria as well as Mallee Catchment Management Authority (CMA), Murray-Darling Basin Authority, First Nations communities, aquaculture organisations and our local recreational fishers. Working in unison with all organisations has proven highly effective in executing coordinated planning and action to get the most out of our volunteer's rescue efforts.



## FISH DREAMING

In our pursuit of learning, celebrating and supporting the indigenous cultural knowledge of the local communities in the regions where we engage in restoration efforts, OzFish has been diligently crafting a cultural program known as 'Fish Dreaming.' We have made important headway, with the successful launch of this program in Moree, accompanying the work of our River Repair Bus and the local chapter.

During the past year, our Cultural Officer for Gomerioi/Kamilaroi country has played a pivotal role in establishing and facilitating the sharing of knowledge in a direct and practical manner during every facet of our activities. This connection has led to several noteworthy initiatives that strengthen OzFish supporting traditional land use and the shared values and connections to country that are intertwined with fishing-related practices.

Whittaker's Lagoon serves as a working example of what we are trying to achieve together. Located on the outskirts of Moree, this lagoon was once a vibrant source of food and medicine for local and visiting tribes. However, the lagoon has endured significant changes in land use over the years.

Thanks to the invaluable contributions of our local Cultural Officer, we have not only learned about the significance of this place but have also embarked on a journey to restore its cultural importance to the contemporary community. This has encompassed the creation of yarning circles, serving as communal spaces for local schools and communities to engage in knowledge-sharing activities on country hands-on experiences in crafting coolamons and include night camps where dreamtime stories about the stars are passed down.



Furthermore, our efforts extend to the restoration of native vegetation in and around the lagoon, as well as comprehensive plans for managing the water regime and reintroducing native fish and mussels to the lagoon.

Our enthusiasm is unwavering as we continue to enhance culturally significant fishing locations and breathe life back into rivers, lagoons and billabongs, nurturing them to support their traditional uses. Our goal is to expand our network of Cultural Officers, fostering deeper connections with Indigenous communities and incorporating their aspirations for these cherished waterways.

## THREATENED FISH

OzFishers are more than proud to know their river or creek is home to some very special and rare fish and they are invariably keen to understand them, look after them and ensure they have everything they need to thrive.

Across the Basin, OzFish volunteers are caring for at least 10 threatened species including olive perchlet, trout cod, eel-tailed catfish, silver perch, Oxleyan pygmy perch, Macquarie perch, purple-spotted gudgeon, Eastern freshwater cod, Murray hardyhead, and stocky galaxias.

Our work includes monitoring, restocking, mapping habitat, restoring critical habitat features and the management of invasive weeds and fish. All our threatened species' projects are conducted in close collaboration with the relevant state fisheries departments, including assisting with their restocking programs.





# MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

## FISHER SCIENCE

Engaging fishers in citizen science, such as mapping, monitoring and surveying, supports our restoration efforts and deepens our understanding of waterways. Fishers represent a motivated, knowledgeable and substantial resource for expanding data collection, providing invaluable insights into our fisheries and waterways on a broader scale.

Our eDNA projects this year have encompassed a wide range of endeavours from quests to locate prehistoric lungfish in previously uncharted territories to exploring the small creeks in North Queensland and we have continued to contribute fish frame samples to ongoing science projects conducted by universities and the Department of Primary Industries

Our habitat mapping has gained popularity among OzFishers, leading to the mapping of over 100 kilometres of waterways. These extensive efforts serve the crucial purpose of identifying areas with insufficient instream habitat. It guides our decisions on where to implement snag replacements, as well as the strategic placement of river reefs and fish hotels.

Water quality monitoring continues to be a pivotal aspect of our data collection efforts at OzFish. Creekwatch in Townsville, now under our management for its fourth year, is made possible

through the generous support of the Townsville City Council. Additionally, we are embarking on a new water quality initiative on the Clarence River working with NSW EPA.

In addition to comprehensive monitoring at our work sites, our partnerships with universities are instrumental in gathering essential data to evaluate the effectiveness of our habitat restoration efforts.

Work by Griffith University students has unveiled really impressive results from our OzFish ROB (Robust Oyster Baskets) which serve as biodiversity hotspots. They have not only provided new habitats for over 11.5 million shellfish but also fostered the growth of various invertebrates, including crabs, prawns, worms and sea snails.

Our fisher science activities are supported by a growing number of research institutions across Australia. These esteemed institutions we work with include James Cook University, University of Sunshine Coast, University of Queensland, Griffith University, Southern Cross University, University of Newcastle, University of NSW, University of Melbourne, University of Tasmania, University of Western Australia, Deakin University, Central Queensland University and University of Adelaide.



## URBAN & COASTAL HABITATS

With more than 85 per cent of Australians living within 50 kilometres of the coast, it's no surprise OzFish have a lot of interaction with our seagrass, mangrove, saltmarsh and coastal floodplain habitats.

In Victoria, we've forged collaborations with Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authorities, Bass Coast Landcare, Parks Victoria, Mornington Peninsula Shire, and Deakin and Melbourne Universities. Together, we've achieved significant success in the replanting of mangroves within Westernport, specifically in the Hastings area. Our efforts have harnessed techniques tailor-made for this unique location, resulting in favourable outcomes. This project is poised for further expansion in the coming year, building upon our achievements.

Our OzFishers have been looking after their local saltmarsh in NSW, Tasmania and Victoria over the past year. Restoration has included monitoring post flood, debris removal, weed control, edge protection, access management and saltmarsh health and habits.

OzFish is also continuing its progress in delivering on another major goal – the restoration of the Tuckean Swamp in NSW. One of the largest degraded wetlands in the country, this area was once abundant with fish and other wildlife, but historical changes have led to a dramatic drop in water quality and loss of habitat. We've made considerable progress this year with the Steering Committee finalising the assessments needed to move into the implementation phase of the project, so watch this space!



# OZFISHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

OzFish paid tribute to our growing band of volunteer members with the second annual OzFishers of the Year Awards. It's our way of putting the spotlight on these hard-working volunteers who give up so much of their spare time to help improve our nation's aquatic habitats to provide better fishing for everyone. They're all too modest to promote their efforts but after receiving a flood of nominations, our panel selected a winner in each state, and an overall national recipient.



## NATIONAL OZFISHER OF THE YEAR

### DAVID HASTINGS

**Chapter:** Central Moreton Bay

David thoroughly deserves the honour of winning the second ever National OzFisher of the Year award for his many hours devoted to several projects for the Central Moreton Bay Chapter. Affectionately known as "Muttley" by his fellow OzFishers, he has taken the lead on monitoring the largest community-driven shellfish restoration project

in Australia. David drives OzFish's underwater video monitoring program as well as providing valuable input into process improvements and safety at the Shellfish Recycling Centre while also offering regular assistance to the Chapter's volunteer oyster shell collection effort.



### NEW SOUTH WALES

#### GRAEME CARR

**Chapter:** Richmond River

Graeme is one of the founding members of the Richmond Chapter in 2015 and has been responsible for numerous projects, including several riparian plantings, root ball snag acquisition and deployment into Emigrant Creek, as well as saltmarsh monitoring and preservation activities.



### QUEENSLAND

#### JULIAN BALMER

**Chapter:** Central Moreton Bay

Julian has helped OzFish's process for filling Robust Oyster Baskets by building a motorised shaking sieve to remove dry grit from stockpiled oyster shells, instead of throwing the shells against an inclined screen using shovels.



### TASMANIA

#### Courtney Wilson

Courtney has been a reliable and dedicated volunteer who was attended a range of fish habitat events and is not afraid of getting her hands dirty, including sinking into saltmarsh mud up to her knees.



### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

#### ANNE SAWLEY

**Chapter:** Adelaide

Anne has been a dedicated volunteer in the Seeds for Snapper program since its inception and has been a great support to the project manager, ensuring logistics are taken care of as required.



### VICTORIA

#### SCOTT AND TRACEY SINCLAIR

**Chapter:** Euston Robinvale

Scott and Tracey took time off during the working week and dedicated at least one day every weekend for two months to rescue aquatic species after the flooding emergency which devastated the north of Victoria last summer.



### WEST AUSTRALIA

#### MICHAEL CROWLEY

**Chapter:** Perth

Michael was at the forefront of the Seeds for Snapper project – Australian largest and longest running seagrass restoration program. Offering a hand on short notice to help keep the pumps running at OzFish's seed processing facility at the peak of the season, his efforts saved tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of seagrass fruit from becoming unviable.

# CORPORATE PARTNERS

We collaborate with government entities, businesses, peak industry associations, community organisations, and universities across Australia. Our partnership with BCF – Boating, Camping, Fishing – stands as a bedrock of shared commitment and it runs from the head office to the shop floor and beyond. Thanks to the support of all our sponsors, generations of Aussie recreational fishers have been granted the gift of a cleaner and healthier fishing future.

# MAJOR PARTNER



**BOATING ■ CAMPING ■ FISHING**

2023 was another outstanding year for our proud partnership with OzFish Unlimited that enabled us to deepen our relationship and take our projects to new heights. BCF and OzFish share a passion for Australia's waterways and have a joint desire to foster a culture of custodianship whereby those who spend their recreational time in and on these waterways are invested in their restoration and protection. We're delighted that our customers and team continue to lead the way in this space and their dedication to leave our outdoor spaces in better shape for future generations continues to inspire.

This year was one of consolidation and allowed us to build on the foundation that we set in years gone by. We're proud to support all of the projects that OzFish carries out across the country, especially in the areas of shellfish and seagrass restoration where OzFish are leading the way. This industry-leading work continues to be supported by our customers and stores, particularly through our Small Change for Big Change donation drive. In only its second year this one weekend in June saw customers contribute \$81,053.92 across three days. Not only did this weekend raise valuable funds for OzFish but it also

provided an opportunity for our team to undertake training that has undoubtedly furthered the understanding and appreciation of the work that OzFish undertakes across our business. In total our customers committed \$634,469.20 to improving waterways around the country which is the largest contribution to date.

Earlier in the year we were incredibly pleased to receive the 'Best Partnership Award' at the World Recreational Fishing Conference. Being awarded with this recognition was an honour and a privilege, one that comes with great responsibility to continue the important mission we have started. As a result we are proud to announce that we have extended our partnership with OzFish for another three years. We are eager to continue to grow our partnership while giving back to our customers, team, and the wider fishing community who have supported us along the journey so far. 2023 was another fantastic year and we're looking forward to what the new year will bring.

**Paul Bradshaw**  
Managing Director  
BCF



**SPECIAL MENTION**  
The thousands of anonymous donors who donated in-store at BCF stores around Australia.



## MAJOR SPONSORS



## BCF AWARDS

### OZFISHER OF THE YEAR

Nominated by their peers, the OzFisher of the Year award recognises someone who has gone over and above to support OzFish in their local area.

**Winner:** Olivia Cannard, BCF Belmont and Midlands

### BIG FISH AWARD

Awarded to the store that raised the most dollars for OzFish during the year.

**Winner:** BCF Toowoomba

### HABITAT HERO AWARD

This award goes to the highest like-for-like percentage increase for OzFish dollars raised.

**Winner:** BCF Waurn Ponds

### FEISTY FISH AWARD

There is one winner per area, and it is the store that raised the most dollars per customer in FY22/23.

**Winners:**

- Everton Park (Brisbane Metro)
- Gympie (Central QLD/Sunshine Coast)
- Cairns (FNQ)
- Springfield (Gold Coast/Far North NSW)
- Dubbo (NSW Central)
- Lakehaven (NSW North)
- Warrawong (NSW South/ACT)
- Noarlunga (South Australia)
- Launceston (VIC Central/Tasmania)
- Pakenham (VIC East)
- Ballarat (VIC West)
- Balcatta (WA North/NT)
- Busselton (WA South)



## OUR PARTNERS

It would not be possible to deliver our work without the support of our partners who we work with to deliver on-ground action. We plan and work together to deliver effective projects in a timely manner.



## OUR DONORS

Our supporters and donors are fundamental to our success, with each individual, business and organisation helping to make it possible for us to deliver our work across Australia.

### \$10,000 AND OVER



### \$1,000 AND OVER

AITKEN ROWE TESTING LABORATORIES PTY LTD

Andersen Truck & Tractor

Anonymous

E.B. Mawson & Sons Pty Ltd

Lowes Petroleum

Shear Power Contracting

WT Investments

### \$500 AND OVER

Andreazza Electrical

Coleman Rural

Goondiwindi Mower & Bearings

Goondiwindi Regional Council

Gundy Guns & Outdoor Supplies

KLC SOLUTIONS PTY LTD

Makim Builders

Orreal Custom Cabinetry

Owen Toyota

ProTen Pty Ltd

PT Blueboys

RDO Equipment

Riverina Skips

Robert Hegarty Painting

Rodney Hollands

WTB Carpentry

### DONORS

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Alan Scarlett

Amanda Peppernell

Amber McBride

Amelia Clifford

Andrea Barber

Andrew Hales

Athene Dwyer

Benjamin Yap

Bill Werdmuller

Bob Welch

Brad Heathcoate

Bradley Reynolds

Brenton Rule

Brian Aslin

Brianna Porter

Bryan Rollins

Cameron Matters

Cassie Price

Charlie Guilloteau

Chenade Dwyer

Chris Allatt

Chris Barrett

Chris Yu

Christopher Joleski

Cindy Thummel

Claire Lyons

Constanza Idarraga

Craig Morrow

Damien Martin

Daniel Riggio

Daniel Wyrwich

Dave Eccleston

David Aloisio

David Puchert

Dhane Stevenson

Douglas F

Dryside Engineering

Dylan Twight

Elizabeth Rainford

Emma Wright

Fedor Nikandrov

For Blue

Garden Hotel Fishing Club

Fishing Club

Gareth Robertshaw

Geert Lampen

Glen Harrison

Graeme Gover

Graeme Tonkin

Graham Whibley

Greame Keast

Greg Collihole

HC Contracting

Idishta Nabi

Imogen Paine

Imran Ahmed

Jake Ingle

James Fink

James Lawrence

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James Legge  
Jeffrey Fischer  
Joe Ditrapani  
John Cumberland  
John Landos  
Jonty Bruce  
Josh Rogers  
Joshua Thompson  
Julie Dunn  
Kate Hicks  
Kate Moylan  
Katie Nawrath  
Kelly Lee-Justine  
Ken Holley  
Ken Trowbridge  
Kevin Clinch  
Kim Ambrogetti  
Krista Hall  
Kyle White  
Lauren Gunther  
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Lindsay Flack  
Lou Norton  
Luke Mcelhinney  
Luke Pearce  
Lynda Franks  
Lynne Parrott  
Mackenzies Home Timber &  
Hardware  
Maddie Hodgman  
Maree Fudge  
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Maria Wilton  
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Martin Ward  
Maryam Somroo  
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Michael Murphy  
Michael Shannon  
Mitch Birt  
Mitchell Cameron  
Murdoch Noyes

Nathan Williams  
Neil Cuneo  
Nicholas Murphy  
Nick Jackson  
Noeline Dresser  
Pascal Bompard  
Paul Piccoli  
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Robert Van Blanken  
Rod Moseley  
Ross Willis  
Royce Baxter  
Samantha Adams  
Sameer Punde  
Samuel Malone  
Shanae Aisbett  
Shane Gardiner

Shannon Hudson  
Shot 2 U  
Sid K  
Simon Beer  
Simon Bruce  
Simon Campbell  
Simon Vitucci  
Soyoung Shim  
Stephen Coburn  
Steve Lawson  
Steve McBride  
Steve Tizard  
Theo Lylo  
Thomas Flodin  
Tim Boyle  
Tim Criswell  
TJ Bolat  
Tom Carter  
Trent Webster  
Vanessa Bright  
Vicki Winton  
Victoria Jennings  
Will Robertson  
Yenny Lopez

## OUR SUPPORTERS

### LIFE MEMBERS

John Burgess

### HABITAT CHAMPIONS

\$5,000 Donors

Brian Elton  
David Coogan  
David Gardiner  
Ross Cooke  
Maria Wilton  
David Murray

Matt Hansen  
Mark Mentha  
Deborah McMurtrie  
John McMurtrie  
Anonymous x 2  
Craig Copeland

# OZFISH BOARD



**David Coogan** Chairman

David is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia and New Zealand and was a senior partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers. He was awarded the PwC Edwin Flack Partner of the Year award in 2014 for his client service and community achievements. He and his wife, Evelyn, run a family vineyard on the Murray River in Torrumbarry in Victoria, and David is a keen trout fisher in his spare time.



**Craig Copeland** Director / CEO

Craig is the CEO and founder of OzFish, and has been leading the protection and restoration of waterways throughout Australia for over 30 years. He has delivered ground-breaking work in fish passage restoration, wetland rehabilitation, and river resnagging, as well as floodgate and acid sulphate soil management. He is a Churchill Fellow, is on the Editorial Board of Ecological Management and Restoration and holds Adjunct positions as Associate Professor at James Cook University and Senior Lecturer at the University of Newcastle.



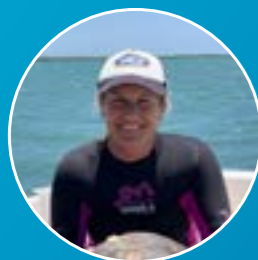
**Paul Tully** Director / Company Secretary

Paul is the Managing Director of McInnes Wilson Lawyers and a Fellow of the Institute of Company Directors. Paul has a strong interest in litigation, dispute resolution and a commitment to uphold professional standards. He is a long-standing member of the Queensland Law Society, founding director of the Brain Injury Association, and Chairman of the Qld Rugby Judiciary.



**Martin Mallen-Cooper** Director

Martin is an internationally recognised expert in fish ecology and fish passage with over 35 years' experience in researching and delivering improved outcomes for fish. His research on the ecology of fish migration, fish behaviour and swimming ability led to the first successful fishways for native fish in Australia. Martin has worked with state and federal government agencies, water authorities, engineering firms, local councils, and community groups mainly in Australia, but also in Laos, Cambodia, Bangladesh, China, and New Zealand.



**Dianne Lanyon** Director

Diane has in-depth experience of managing community engagement programs, marine park planning and marine surveys for seagrasses, turtles, reef health and invertebrates. She has a wealth of international, government and project management experience having worked as an environmental scientist in Honduras, Fiji, Solomon Islands, and Australia.



**Miranda Bain** Director

Miranda has worked in international public relations, feature film and documentary production, journalism and online education. She was nominated for an Australian of the Year Award in 2018, recognising her ability to create innovative solutions to solve complex issues. Miranda volunteers as one of the key advocates calling for Macedon Ranges to be declared a Distinctive Area and Landscape, to protect the region from overdevelopment and its pristine waterways and forests.



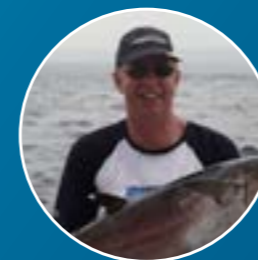
**Dr Kate Brooks** Director

Kate is a social scientist, passionate about increasing collaboration between community, industry and government in the area of fisheries and natural resource management. She has developed an international career in the area of fisheries and coastal management, for social research and advice for industry and policy, about drivers of behaviour and culture, and generating positive outcomes for stakeholders.



**Brian Elton** Director

Brian has over 40 years' experience in urban and regional planning in the UK and Australia, focusing on urban strategy, policy and governance, and the delivery of major projects. He has been involved in some of Australia's largest urban renewal, major infrastructure and city-making projects and in groundbreaking urban policy reforms. Brian is a passionate fresh and saltwater fly fisher, committed to sustainability and the restoration of aquatic and terrestrial ecological systems.



**David Gardiner** Director

David has had a successful career as an experienced executive in a number of leading Australian public and private businesses, including being founder and CEO of his own business, NextMedia. David was born in rural Victoria and has a strong appreciation and respect for the land and the waterways, and is an avid fly and saltwater fisher.



**Dr Russell Reichelt AO FTSE** Director

Russell has worked in federal and state agencies in the fields of marine science, fisheries, maritime safety and ocean policy. He has served as Chair of the Fisheries R&D Corporation, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, as a Director of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, and as CEO of the Australian Institute of Marine Science. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technology Science and Engineering, and the Institute of Marine Engineering Science and Technology.



**Rachael Cavanagh** Director

A proud member of the Yugambah Nation of Northern NSW and South-East Queensland, Rachael has a graduate in Health and a post graduate diploma in Natural and Cultural resource management. Bringing over a decade of senior executive experience, her collaborations within Indigenous communities have increased genuine investment and awareness of the important role that First Nations Women and communities hold within the Environment and Climate Change sectors.

**John Burgess** Director (Resigned June 2023)

# AMBASSADORS

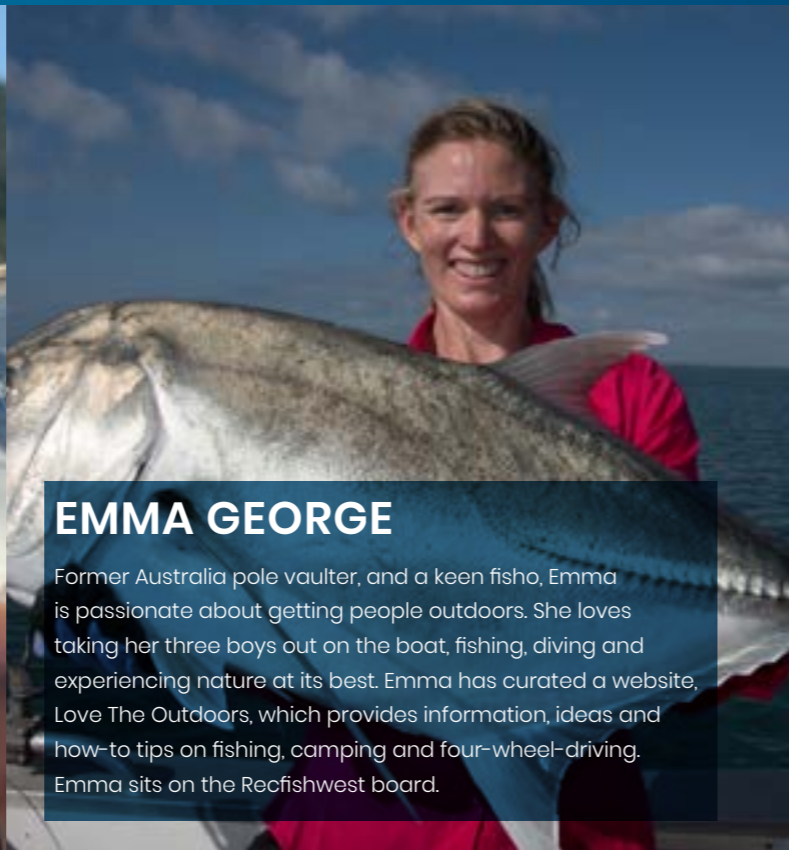
OzFish is proud to have a number of active and highly engaged ambassadors who are passionate about using their profile to promote our work across Australia. Their support is key to our success and the continued growth of the recreational fishing movement as responsible waterway stewards.

In 2023, OzFish added five female recreational fishers to the ambassador program, providing them with the platform to share knowledge and empower more women to get involved. Not only are they talented women and great anglers but they are also extremely generous in their community advocacy, they are wonderful role models and understand the vital importance of supporting OzFish's work.



## SCOTTY HILLIER

Scott regularly puts his face and voice to major OzFish initiatives, including Small Change 4 Big Change and Gone Fishing Day. Scott has also hosted two OzFish specials on Channel Seven's Creek 2 Coast, promoting our work in freshwater inland rivers in NSW, and our industry leading seagrass restoration program - Seeds For Snapper.



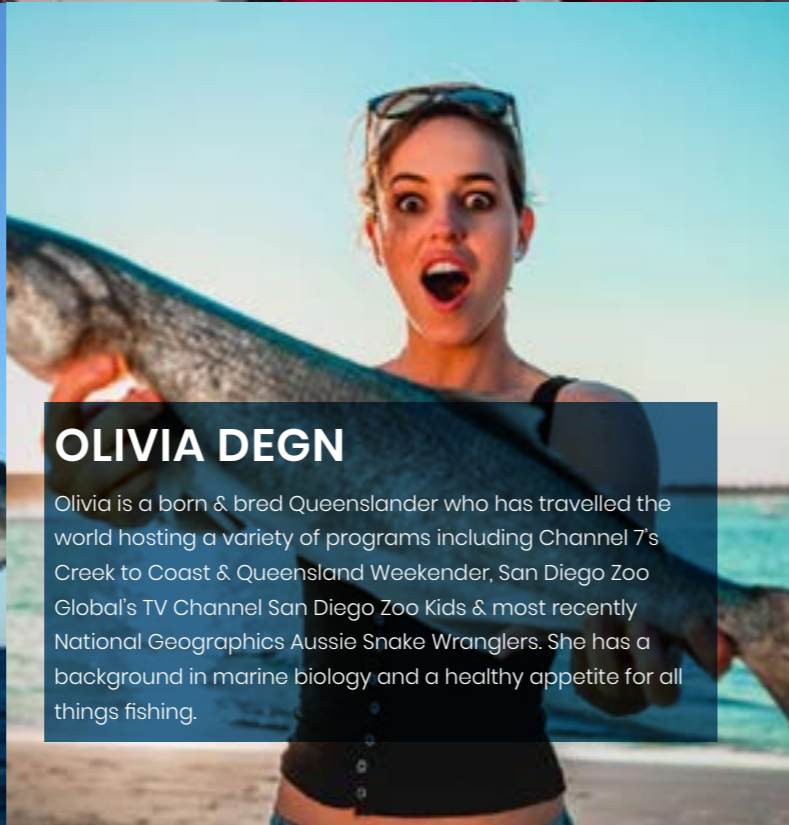
## EMMA GEORGE

Former Australia pole vaulter, and a keen fisho, Emma is passionate about getting people outdoors. She loves taking her three boys out on the boat, fishing, diving and experiencing nature at its best. Emma has curated a website, Love The Outdoors, which provides information, ideas and how-to tips on fishing, camping and four-wheel-driving. Emma sits on the Recfishwest board.



## MICHAEL 'GUESTY' GUEST

Guesty consistently supports OzFish through his weekly podcast and Australia's largest fishing audio platform - The Reel Action Fishing Podcast. Guesty has produced more than 10 episodes dedicated to the work of OzFish. He also MC'd the Fishers For Fish Habitat Forum and promoted the event via his channels.



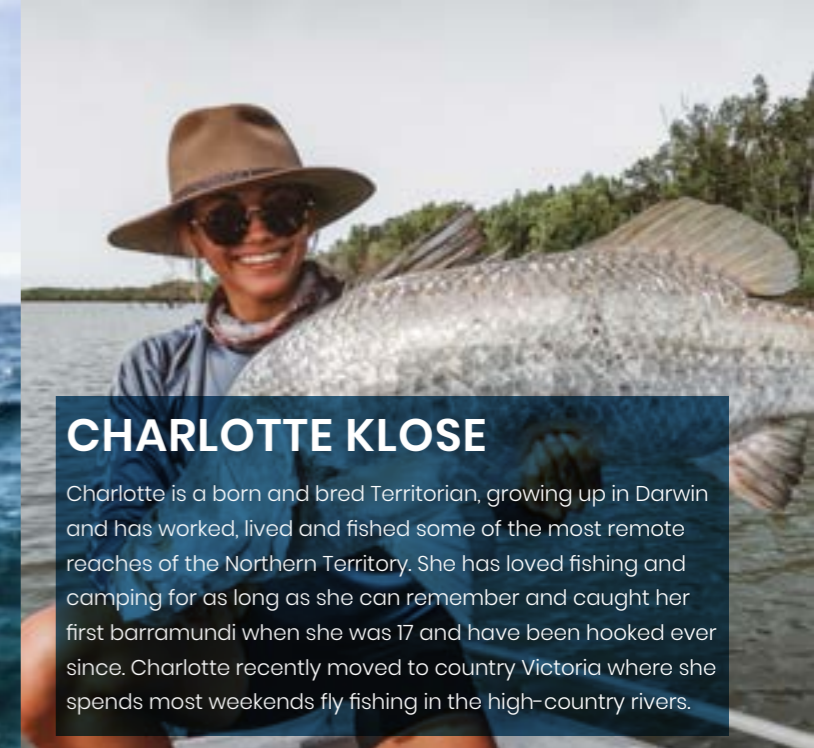
## OLIVIA DEGN

Olivia is a born & bred Queenslanders who has travelled the world hosting a variety of programs including Channel 7's Creek to Coast & Queensland Weekender, San Diego Zoo Global's TV Channel San Diego Zoo Kids & most recently National Geographic's Aussie Snake Wranglers. She has a background in marine biology and a healthy appetite for all things fishing.



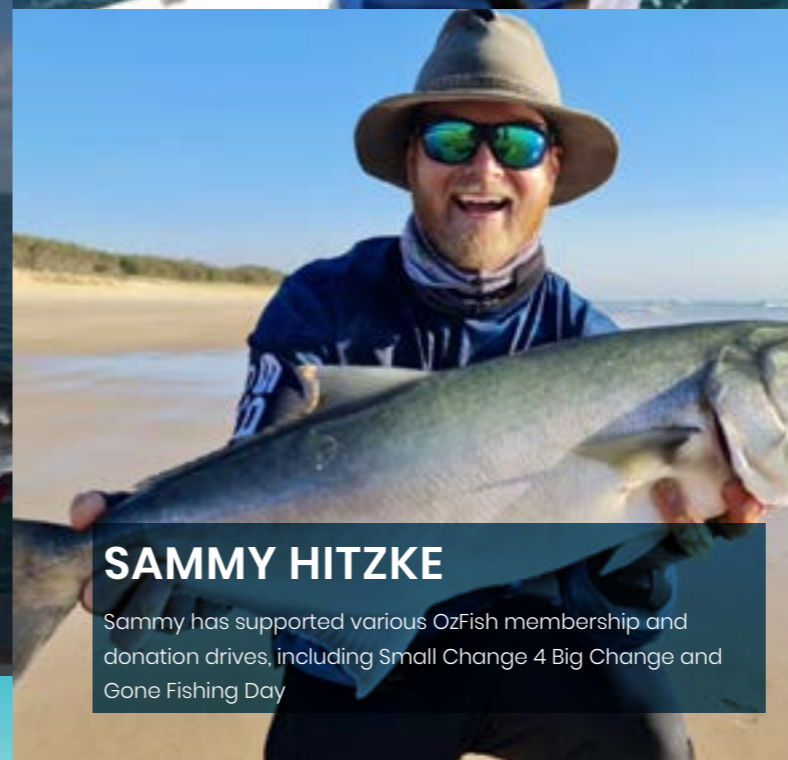
## AL MCGLASHAN

Through his weekly column in the Daily Telegraph, which reaches a readership of 750,000, Al has spread the word about OzFish's habitat restoration work. Al was also a driving force behind the successful launch of the new Sydney Harbour Chapter. He has attended numerous events and regularly promotes the Chapter and its restoration ambitions to his large social media following.



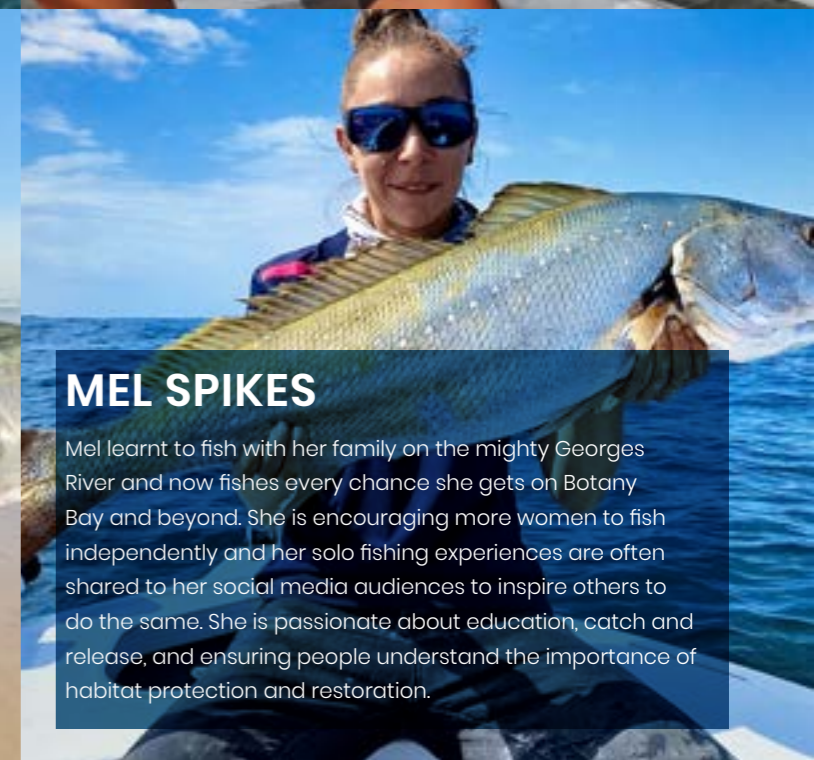
## CHARLOTTE KLOSE

Charlotte is a born and bred Territorian, growing up in Darwin and has worked, lived and fished some of the most remote reaches of the Northern Territory. She has loved fishing and camping for as long as she can remember and caught her first barramundi when she was 17 and have been hooked ever since. Charlotte recently moved to country Victoria where she spends most weekends fly fishing in the high-country rivers.



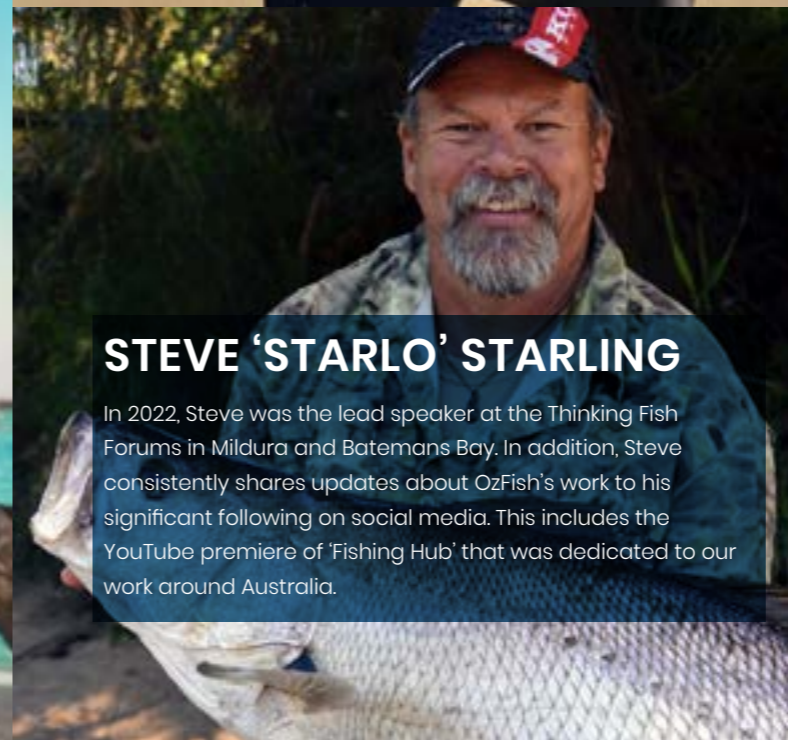
## SAMMY HITZKE

Sammy has supported various OzFish membership and donation drives, including Small Change 4 Big Change and Gone Fishing Day.



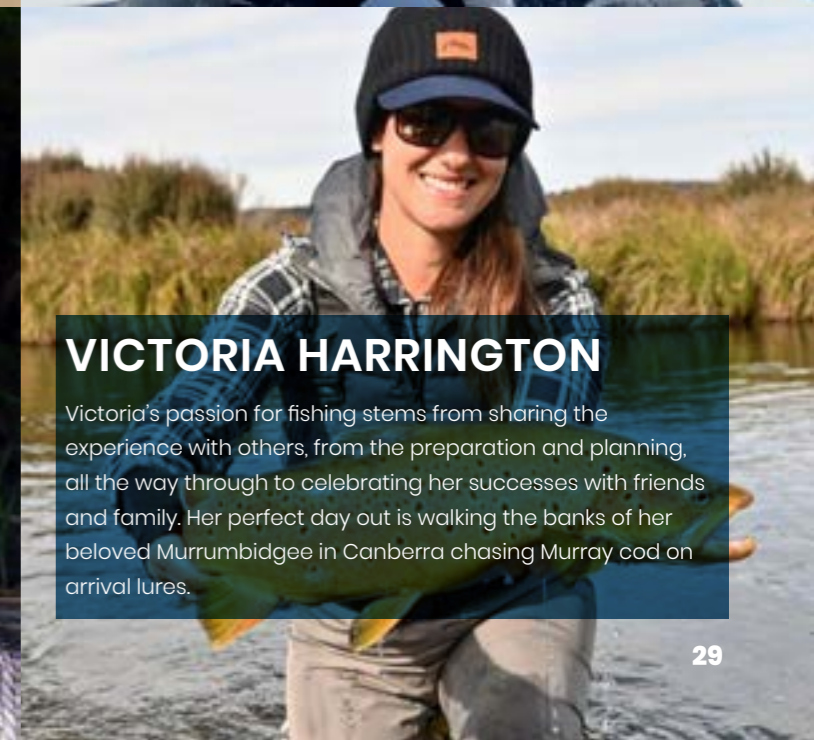
## MEL SPIKES

Mel learnt to fish with her family on the mighty Georges River and now fishes every chance she gets on Botany Bay and beyond. She is encouraging more women to fish independently and her solo fishing experiences are often shared to her social media audiences to inspire others to do the same. She is passionate about education, catch and release, and ensuring people understand the importance of habitat protection and restoration.



## STEVE 'STARLO' STARLING

In 2022, Steve was the lead speaker at the Thinking Fish Forums in Mildura and Batemans Bay. In addition, Steve consistently shares updates about OzFish's work to his significant following on social media. This includes the YouTube premiere of 'Fishing Hub' that was dedicated to our work around Australia.



## VICTORIA HARRINGTON

Victoria's passion for fishing stems from sharing the experience with others, from the preparation and planning, all the way through to celebrating her successes with friends and family. Her perfect day out is walking the banks of her beloved Murrumbidgee in Canberra chasing Murray cod on arrival lures.



# OZFISH STAFF

Our team boasts a collective expertise encompassing marine ecology, project management, environmental conservation, marketing, media and community engagement. This diverse skill set has paved the way for the successes we've achieved over the past 12 months. Each team member has devoted their time and energy wholeheartedly to our projects.



## MANAGEMENT

- Craig Copeland**  
CEO
- Cassie Price**  
Director of Habitat Programs
- Tim Davenport**  
Director of Fundraising and Sponsorship
- Victoria Elmsly**  
Business Manager

## ENGAGEMENT

- Renee Ferenc**  
Director of Engagement and Culture
- Jonathan Bleakley**  
Media Manager
- Chris Black**  
Community Engagement Manager
- Adrian Turner**  
Graphic Design / Editor
- Adelaide Harmony**  
Communications Coordinator
- Paul Suttor**  
Communications Manager

- Domenic Holland**  
Project Officer Western Australia
- Steve Pursell**  
Program Manager Western Australia

- Ruby Hatfield**  
Project Officer NT
- Rachel Williams**  
Project Manager South Australia

- Adrian Macey**  
Project Officer North Queensland
- Dr Geoff Collins**  
Senior Project Manager North Queensland
- Nathan Frisby**  
Project Officer North Queensland
- Robbie Porter**  
Special Project Officer South East Queensland
- Abbie Taylor**  
Project Manager South East Queensland

- Ben Cleveland**  
Senior Program Manager Victoria/Tasmania
- Vere Michiels**  
Project Officer Tasmania

- Jay Barnett**  
Team Leader Moree River Repair Bus
- Michael Kirk**  
Cultural Officer NSW
- Michael (Harry) Davey**  
Project Officer Murray-Darling Basin
- Dr Sophie Pryor**  
Senior Project Officer Northern NSW Coast
- Dr Shane White**  
Project Manager NSW North Coast
- Alacia Cockbain**  
Project Officer Coffs Harbour
- Taylah Kirk**  
Senior Project Officer
- Ethan Chant**  
Team Leader Dubbo River Repair Bus
- Sean Graham**  
Team Leader Dubbo River Repair Bus
- Bron Powell**  
Project Manager Central Murray-Darling Basin
- Lucas Kas**  
Project Officer Greater Sydney and Hunter Region
- Ryan Lungu**  
Program Manager New South Wales Coast
- Braeden Lampard**  
Program Manager Murray-Darling Basin
- Raymond De Groot**  
Team Leader Sunraysia River Repair Bus
- Michelle Slater**  
Project Manager Northern Victoria
- Andrew Foudoulis**  
Senior Project Officer Victoria
- Jordan Whitmore**  
Project Manager Victoria

# ENGAGING OUR FISHERS AND TELLING OUR STORY

Engaging with external media and community and amplifying the OzFish story to a nationwide audience remained a key focus for our team throughout the year. This year saw us develop some new initiatives and launch some new programs that will support us driving meaningful change in the world of recreational fishing and habitat restoration.

## FISH TALKS & FORUMS

This year has seen a surge in our efforts to engage with fishers face to face, from extensive forums to intimate discussions. We've disseminated a wealth of fish-related information to enthusiasts across the country, hosting over 250 events that drew in more than 3,300 participants over the past year. These events covered a diverse range of topics, from enhancing fishing skills through habitat knowledge sharing and the latest local fishing insights. We extend our gratitude to the dedicated speakers who made these gatherings possible and to all of you who showed a keen interest. To ensure OzFish's presence is unmistakable at events, we've progressed the introduction of our distinctive blue volunteer shirts that foster a sense of identity. They have emerged as a crucial element of our community engagement initiatives, making a vibrant appearance at numerous events and prominently featuring in various national media coverage.

The most significant and pivotal event of the year was our participation in the 10th World Recreational Fishing Conference (WRFC), hosted by the Victorian Fisheries Authority in Melbourne. This prestigious international conference serves as a gathering point for fisheries experts, researchers, policymakers, industry leaders, and anglers from across the globe. It offered a unique opportunity for attendees to share their scientific findings and collectively envision the future of recreational fishing. With over 350 guests and speakers hailing from 21 countries, including dedicated OzFish staff and volunteers from across Australia, our presence at WRFC underscored our commitment to being a driving force in empowering recreational anglers and communities to contribute to fish habitat restoration.

Keynotes echoed our key programs and staff got to share their finding and frustrations of their rehabilitation projects to a world audience, not to mention the personal stories told by Janine and Roy Field from Western Australia, Peter Kelly from Mildura and Steve Hawthorne from Moreton Bay who delivered workshops on their motivations to volunteer. The resounding message from the conference was crystal clear: the foundation of future fisheries management must prioritise water quality improvement and habitat protection and restoration.



## OZCAST

In a bid to bolster awareness and understanding of Australia's aquatic ecosystems, this year we invested in launching our very own podcast titled 'OzCast: a look below the surface.' This podcast aims to offer recreational fishers deeper insights into ongoing research, with the hope of inspiring greater involvement and stewardship. Featuring prominent scientists, fish ecologists and industry experts, the podcast delves into critical issues affecting the nation's waterways and fish populations.

We believe OzCast will facilitate more dialogue on our conservation messages, offering listeners the flexibility to tune in at their convenience. OzCast now has episodes released monthly, accessible on all major streaming platforms, ensuring that its vital message reaches a diverse and new audience.

The podcast episodes have been downloaded 3,250 times and have over 250,000 online engagements from short-form content on our social media channels.





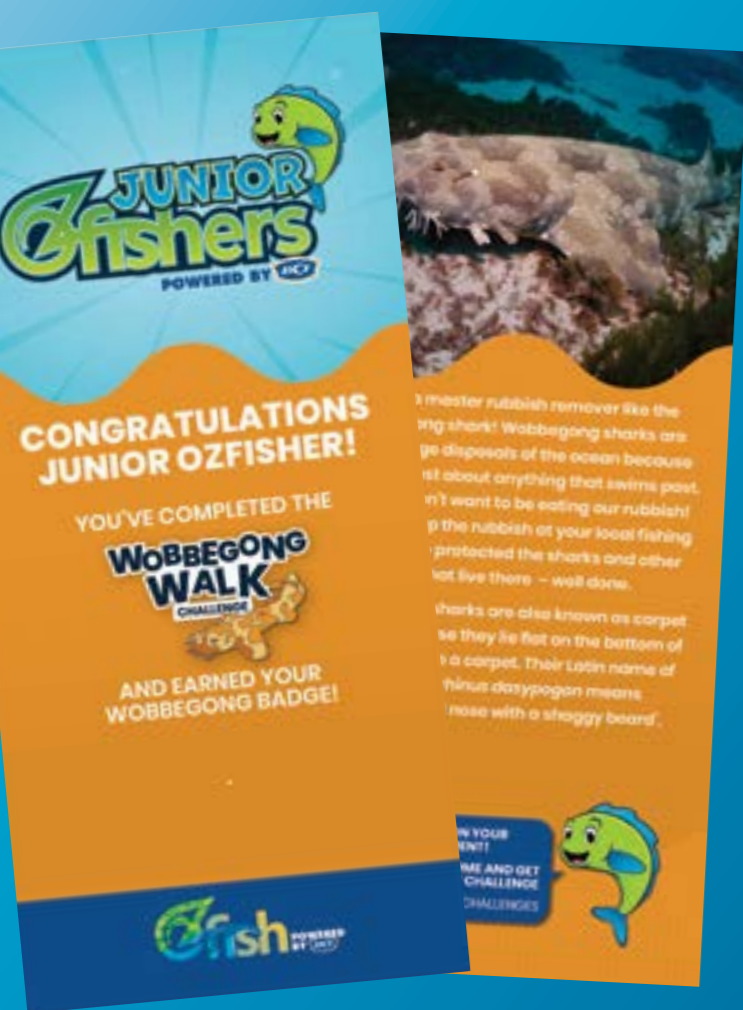
## JUNIOR OZFISHERS

In an effort to cultivate lifelong habits and foster a love for fishing from an early age, OzFish launched the Junior OzFishers program this year. Designed exclusively for OzFish members between the ages of 4 and 14, this innovative program offers young fishers the chance to actively contribute to OzFish work. By instilling knowledge, skills and experiences at an early age, we aim to mould these young waterway stewards into responsible and passionate advocates for recreational fishing.

The Junior OzFishers program encourages young members to take part in a series of challenges, that cover a wide array of topics, including habitat restoration, sustainable fishing practices and conservation alongside the Junior Mascot Ozzie. As they complete each challenge, participants receive distinctive badges showcasing iconic native Australian fish species like bass, yellowbelly and Murray cod. These badges are not only a source of pride but also a lasting reminder of their commitment to preserving our aquatic ecosystems.

Our belief is the behaviours learned during childhood often shape our future and we know fishing is a tradition deeply rooted in Australian culture, passed down through generations. With the Junior OzFishers program, we aim to ensure this tradition continues by nurturing responsible and knowledgeable young anglers.

Alongside the program launch, we're thrilled to announce BCF's generous support for the Junior OzFishers program. BCF has joined forces with us to feature our adorable Ozzie mascot on boys' and girls' fishing polos for kids. Furthermore, they are set to release an exciting video content series named "BREAD AND BUTTER," designed to promote the Junior OzFishers program and teach kids the basics of fishing with kids. This engaging series will be unveiled on their channels in the near future, and the specially branded shirts will be available in BCF stores soon.

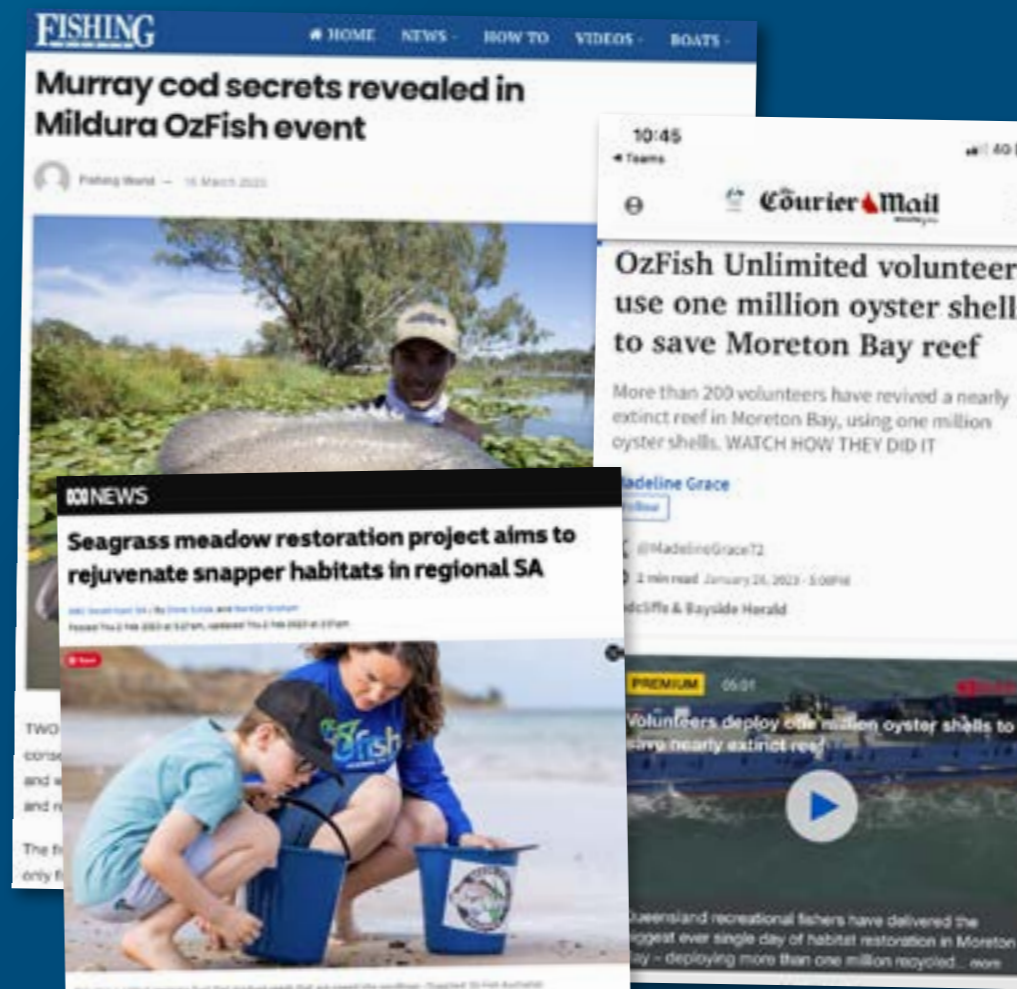


## MEDIA & SOCIAL MEDIA

OzFish has maintained a strong presence in traditional media outlets, with numerous features, articles and radio interviews across national and regional publications. Our stories showcase our success and highlight the importance of habitat restoration and sustainable fishing practices. This has resonated with a broad readership, furthering our mission and engaging the wider public. This has included the highlight of hosting Channel 7 Creek to Coast to showcase the seagrass restoration underway in Cockburn Sound and our ROB deployment in Moreton Bay, this initiative reached an audience of more than 1.7 million on the TV network and 1.5 million on social channels.

Our social media engagement has experienced remarkable growth, with a substantial increase in followers and engagement across our platforms. By consistently sharing engaging content, including success stories, informative posts and interactive conversations we've strengthened our online community. Additionally, our active engagement with followers through comments, messages, and discussions has fostered a sense of belonging and commitment among our digital audience.

As we continue to adapt to the evolving media landscape, we remain committed to raising awareness about OzFish and the importance of looking after our waterways. We also will focus our attention on membership engagement and retention of our existing members and supporters and improving user experience on our digital platforms.



76,000  
WEBSITE VISITORS

11,150  
EMAIL SUBSCRIBERS

**f FACEBOOK**  
FOLLOWERS 15,840  
REACH 3.56 MILLION  
IMPRESSIONS 4.22 MILLION  
INTERACTIONS 268,640

**@ INSTAGRAM**  
FOLLOWERS 3,730  
REACH 399,120  
IMPRESSIONS 539,470

**in LINKEDIN**  
FOLLOWERS 1,050  
REACH 31,720  
IMPRESSIONS 53,500

**🎧 PODCAST**  
DOWNLOADS 3,225  
VIEWS 261,000

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# CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

## ADELAIDE (SA)

**Volunteer Hours: 2,352**

The Chapter worked on three significant habitat restoration projects - Seeds for Snapper in the St Vincent Gulf and Fleurieu Peninsula, and the native oyster reef restoration in the Port Adelaide River. The Chapter also gained an entirely new committee of enthusiastic members who are keen to drive the membership forward and undertake new projects.

## APYAC (VIC)

**Volunteer Hours: 262**

Albert Park Yachting and Angling Club Chapter, which has been a strong supporter and primary driver of shellfish restoration efforts in the area since 2014, focused on supporting reef restoration in Port Phillip Bay as well as mangrove restoration in Western Port Bay. APYAC worked alongside the Bayside Chapter for these projects.

## BAROSSA (SA)

**Volunteer Hours: 1,740**

The Barossa and Mid North Chapter has been working with SA Water to place complex habitat in two reservoirs - Warren and Bundaleer. This has included procurement of materials, construction of habitat structures and deployment into reservoirs. Chapter members also held a demonstration day and participated in SA Water media activities. They also attended the BCF new store opening at Munno Parra as well as the World Recreation Fishing Conference.

## BAYSIDE (VIC)

**Volunteer Hours: 262**

The Chapter focused on supporting reef restoration in Port Phillip Bay as well as mangrove restoration in Westernport. Chapter members engaged our local fishing community in a series of hands-on events and worked alongside the APYAC Chapter.

## CAIRNS (QLD)

**Volunteer Hours: 376**

The Chapter, which was established in 2018, contributed to improving seagrass habitat at Mourilyan Harbour and to improving the condition of mangrove habitat at Cairns Airport. Overall, ensuring that urban and rural waterways are as healthy as they can be for fish habitat is the guiding foundation of the Chapter's work in Cairns.

## CAMPASPE LODDON (VIC)

**Volunteer hours: 10**

The Chapter has been focused on their planning and engagement to establish habitat structure back in Lake Eppalock. The vast waters have good fish populations and the Chapter's work will help make it a hot spot for recreational fishing.

## CENTRAL MORETON BAY (QLD)

**Volunteer hours: 5,039.25**

The Chapter has been involved in 65 work events this year with scheduled and ad-hoc working bees, routine maintenance and process improvements producing more than 3000 Robust Oyster Baskets (ROBs).

There were two major deployments at the Port of Brisbane pilot site, with over 52 tonnes of recycled shell restoring around 10 hectares of shellfish habitat. The shell collection team of nine donated 963 hours and travelled 11,716 kilometres to collect around 138 tonnes of shell.

The Chapter started a monitoring program, producing 70 underwater videos for a total viewing time of 88.9 hours with 31 members attending monthly meetings to help guide the project. A clean-up event at Swan Lake returned 800 metres of shoreline to a pristine state. In addition, members actively promoted OzFish at the World Recreational Fishing Conference and had a visible presence at BCF stores and environmental festivals.

A trial of a plant-based material for ROBs was introduced and the Chapter worked collaboratively with multiple universities, including supporting scientists on a field research trip to Turkey Beach. Overall, 301 volunteers donated an amazing 5345.25 hours to make this a hugely successful year.





## CLARENCE (NSW)

**Volunteer hours: 492.5**

The enormous Clarence catchment is home to many great anglers and is a popular area for tourists to wet a line. This year, the Chapter collaborated with local landholders and organisations such as councils, Landcare and DPI to engage with recreational fishers and the wider community. One of the highlights has been the fisher science project where volunteers have collected samples in the catchment area as part of a Water Quality Pilot Project.

## COFFS HARBOUR (NSW)

**Volunteer hours: 234**

The Coffs Harbour Chapter, which covers a wide area from Woolli to the North, Macksville to the South and West as far as Ebor, combined forces with the Clarence Chapter for several projects. The Chapter focused on furthering the movement for better habitat for better fishing with instore BCF promotions, clean-up event days, community planting and citizen science days and hosting Fish Talks.

## COORONG (SA)

**Volunteer hours: 150**

The Chapter continued its epic Coorong Beach Clean Up from 42-Mile Crossing. More than 45 bags and six cubic meters of rubbish were removed by recreational fishers from one of Australia's most iconic beaches. All of the litter collected was sorted, counted and will be entered into the Australian Marine Debris Database which is used by researchers to determine the best way to combat marine litter.

## DARWIN (NT)

**Volunteer hours: 0**

The Chapter has been reignited with the recruitment of a new project officer, jointly working with AFANT. It has reconnected with members and recruited young families through our Junior OzFisher program. Tackling Litter has been a priority for the Top End and Tangle Bins have been installed at 10 locations around Darwin and Palmerston, providing an avenue for recreational fishers to recycle their discarded fishing line and tackle.

## EAST GIPPSLAND (VIC)

**Volunteer hours: 260**

The Chapter has been improving the fish habitat complexity of Lake King. The fish in the waterway now have more than 250 new habitat structures to feed, breed and shelter. The Chapter also supported the Corner Inlet Seagrass Restoration in South Gippsland in partnership with the commercial fishers and Yarram Yarram Landcare.

## EUROBODALLA (NSW)

**Volunteer hours: 348**

The Chapter collaborated with organisations to grow their presence in the region. It worked with Nature Coast Marine Group to monitor recruitment to the new oyster reef installed at Wagonga Inlet by NSW DPI Fisheries and The Nature Conservancy and collected 800kg of shell at the Narooma Oyster Festival to be stored for future projects. Members also collaborated with South-East Local Land Services to engage stakeholders along the Clyde River and Eurobodalla Landcare to restore riparian vegetation. Another project was wetting fishing lines to assist the University of Newcastle with fish sampling in Burrill Lake.

## EUSTON-ROBINVALE (VIC)

**Volunteer hours: 205**

High rainfall, limited river access and flooding along the Murray River have caused some challenges for the Chapter. Despite this, members have been working hard behind the scenes to spread the word about the work that OzFish is doing around the country and raising money through the local IGA. The Chapter also hosted a Fish Focus Community Night to update community members on local projects and encourage them to get involved in future restoration work.

## FREMANTLE (WA)

**Volunteer hours: 2,500**

The Chapter has been primarily working on Seeds for Snapper in Cockburn Sound, which has been a resounding success now going into its sixth year.

## GEELONG (VIC)

Volunteer hours: 196

The Chapter has been working hard on the Barwon and Curdies Rivers with a series of clean-up events and riverbank planting days resulting in improved fishing for some key stretches.

## GEOGRAPHE (WA)

Volunteer hours: 292

The Chapter, located in and around Busselton and the Vasse River catchment, continues to grow. The Clean-Up Australia Day event at the Busselton Jetty continues to be popular with local and Perth divers. Based on the success of last year's Howie's Junior Jetty Classic, it was expanded to two events. The Chapter has had an outreach stall at local community events, including a volunteer expo and night markets. With sponsorship secured for the Vasse River Goldrush project we hope the Chapter will have more opportunities to engage with the community over the next 12 months.

## GOLD COAST (QLD)

Volunteer hours: 35

While doing a lot of planning for the year ahead, the Chapter has also completed two monitoring activities in the Logan River Catchment. Saltmarsh monitoring was undertaken at Riedel Park to create a baseline prior to large-scale earthworks. BRUV fish monitoring was also conducted at the 2021 tree-planting site at Logan Parklands.

## GOONDIWINDI (QLD)

Volunteer hours: 420

The Goondiwindi Fishing Classic had its most successful year with 335 entrants taking part. The Chapter would like to thank event sponsors which has included; Rachel Holmes, Rob Mackenzie, Think Quality Building, Gundy Guns & Outdoor Supplies, Element on Coolum Beach, ACW Irrigation, Porky's Pizza, McIntyre Cricket Club, Goondiwindi Bowls Club, Coles Goondiwindi, Northwest Rural, Growth Agriculture, Coleman Rural, Repco Goondiwindi, Border Builders, Supercheap Auto Goondiwindi, Border Tyres, Goondiwindi Tyre Service, Schofield's Goondiwindi, Northern Rivers Sportsfishing, Oh the places you'll go Travel Co., Kindt's Furniture, Twidale Auto, Woods Grain, Betta Home Living, North West Rural, Mangrove 2 Brigalow. We also completed our first litter clean-up and look forward to completing our first habitat project next year.

## HASTINGS RIVER (NSW)

Volunteer hours: 72.5

The Chapter hosted the Port Macquarie Fish Talks, linking members and volunteers with knowledge to improve their local waterways and the surrounding environments. More engagement, project events and assistance from members and recreational fishers would benefit this Chapter.

## HAWKESBURY-NEPEAN (NSW)

Volunteer hours: 1,459

In response to the major flooding that impacted the Nepean catchment last year, the Chapter devoted its attention on developing and delivering a riparian planting and stabilisation project. Over the course of six months, this involved the completion of a planting event on the Macdonald River in St Albans and ongoing discussions with four landowners to develop future restoration sites. Four new Chapter executives have been added, which will increase capacity to create and deliver projects closer to the coast.

The Chapter has represented OzFish at multiple council weeding events within the Brisbane Waters area.

## HUNTER (NSW)

Volunteer hours: 34

The Chapter's largest accomplishment for 2023 has been receiving a \$20,000 grant to replant the riparian zone and re-snag a section of the Hunter River in Luskintyre that will involve ample opportunities for volunteering among OzFish members. The addition of new executive members has also spurred on efforts to develop a weeding program in Maitland and run fishing events to eradicate carp from the area's waterways.





## ILLAWARRA (NSW)

**Volunteer hours: 132**

One of the highlights for the Chapter was the Clean-Up Australia Day event in Wollongong that saw 40 attendees lend a hand to remove around 270kg of rubbish along the harbour, foreshore and beaches. The Chapter also hosted one of the NSW East Coast Fish Talk Tour nights that featured presentations from OzFish project officers, university researchers, local council and fisheries. Chapter members have been busy working with local Councils to develop new projects for the area and have submitted a funding application to complete saltmarsh restoration at Lake Illawarra.

## INDENTED HEAD (VIC)

**Volunteer hours: 1,740**

The Chapter continued working to restore local reefs at Corio Bay. It helped recycling shell and its deployment as well as a stack of engagement opportunities for the local fishing community.

## INLAND WATERWAYS (NSW)

**Volunteer hours: 944**

The Chapter based in the Wambuu-Macquarie River catchment in central NSW empowered partner community groups by increasing their capacity to be aware of and participate in restoration activities, creating river stewards by undertaking activities on the river repair bus, including over 10km of willow and riparian weed control.

## LAKE MACQUARIE (NSW)

**Volunteer hours: 1,225**

There has been significant growth in Chapter membership. The Chapter started the planning of the Pimp My Jetty project that will result in ample new fish homes being installed across the lake. The Chapter also hosted the NSW East Coast Fish Talk night with more than 250 locals attending to hear from a line-up of fishing experts.

## MIA LEETON (NSW)

**Volunteer hours: 500**

The Chapter in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area undertook willow control and ran three community events to engage the local fishing community.

## MACKAY (QLD)

**Volunteer hours: 16**

The Chapter met regularly to discuss habitat issues and future project opportunities in the Mackay-Whitsunday region.

## MANNING RIVER (NSW)

**Volunteer hours: 292**

The Chapter combined forces with other organisations in the NSW Mid Coast region to improve their local waterways and surrounding environment. Litter clean-ups were a high priority due to the volume of rubbish around the waterways. With the help of members and their connections to the community, the Chapter was invited to a local landholder's property to replant a substantial portion of their acreage for aquatic and terrestrial habitat, linking to existing wildlife corridors and revegetating the bank.

## MAROOCHY (QLD)

**Volunteer hours: 80**

One of the main focuses for the Chapter was recycling three cubic metres of shell from local restaurants. Members travelled to Oyster World at the Port of Brisbane to donate the collected shell and join in on a BESE building workshop. The BESE bags were deployed into the Bunya Bunya oyster lease in Bli Bli.

## MOREE (NSW)

**Volunteer hours: 424**

The Chapter cleared invasive vegetation from two areas of the Mehi River to reduce the impact of weeds and to open up overgrown areas that had been traditionally used by the Moree fishing community. More than 600m of river is now accessible by car that was previously overgrown, re-establishing some old tracks along the upper banks and adding much-needed access to good fishing areas for the older demographic of the Chapter. OzFish volunteers removed dumped rubbish in these areas on multiple occasions. They also helped establish a living classroom at Whittaker's Lagoon for local students to attend the area and learn on country.



## MORNINGTON (VIC)

Volunteer hours: 0

Planning and growth have been the key focal points for the Chapter in the south of Victoria and members are looking forward to starting a major shellfish recycling project in the near future.

## MURRAY GOULBURN (VIC)

Volunteer hours: 0

The Chapter has been looking to grow its membership and is aiming to sink its teeth into some positive on-ground action in the next 12 months in popular fishing hot spots like Greens Lake, Broken Creek, the Goulburn River, Lake Eildon and the Murray River.

## MURRUMBIDGEE (ACT)

Volunteer hours: 40

The Murrumbidgee ACT Chapter held its first events after it was established in early 2023 and undertook a clean-up along the river at Shepherd's Lookout to the west of Canberra. It also held a fish talks event in collaboration with other local organisations to plan future works and events.

## NOOSA (QLD)

Volunteer hours: 0

The Chapter has been looking towards promoting membership in the area. It is looking to add more locals who have a passion for the local waterways and help it prosper for years to come.

## NORTH MORETON (QLD)

Volunteer hours: 62

The Pumicestone Passage Chapter has been renamed to North Moreton as part of a process to rebuild this Chapter and members have been busy brainstorming project ideas for 2024. The Chapter helped complete a successful clean-up event with more than 45 participants removing 28kg of rubbish from the Bribie Foreshore.

## NORTH QUEENSLAND

Volunteer hours: 751

The Chapter has been monitoring the health of waterways, contributed to novel sampling for fish using environmental DNA and worked to improve pathways for fish migration. Operating from Townsville, the team of volunteers and support staff contribute to projects from the Herbert to the lower Burdekin.

## NORTHERN TABLELANDS (NSW)

Volunteer hours: 616

One of OzFish's longest-running Chapters, the Northern Tablelands crew have been focused on sustainable fishing engagement, getting more young people into the sport, cultural fishing experiences and clean-up days.

## NYAH-NYAH WEST (VIC)

Volunteer hours: 370

There have been some challenges for the Chapter this year with significant flooding throughout the region and hypoxic blackwater events. Volunteers collected Murray crayfish as part of the recovery efforts to be released back into the Murray River when conditions improved. Once flooding had subsided, the Chapter was able to host the Nyah Fishing Competition during the first weekend of February, with 72 boats and 150 people participating. Post flooding litter collections were a high priority for the Chapter and a Clean Up Australia Day event was held with seven volunteers removing almost 60kg of rubbish from 2km of riverfront.

## ONKAPARINGA (SA)

Volunteer hours: 39

This Chapter south of Adelaide continued to maintain and install fish hotels in the Onkaparinga River. Chapter members also attended a RecFish SA "come and try fishing" day with more than 100 people in attendance.





## PEEL HARVEY (WA)

Volunteer hours: 30

After a busy 2022 rolling out Pimp My Jetty, the local Chapter has been a bit quieter this year but the members are proud to see this initiative being set up in different parts of the country. There is still good community interest around the project with OzFish presenting to school groups about the achievements and guiding them through the canals to inspect the habitat units by kayak.

## PERTH (WA)

Volunteer hours: 258

The Chapter has supported the Seeds for Snapper project in Cockburn Sound, as well as kayak clean-ups and monitoring pygmy mussels in partnership with The Nature Conservancy.

## RICHMOND (NSW)

Volunteer hours: 1,142

OzFish volunteers have been tirelessly working to preserve and enhance the Richmond River ecosystem. With a team of 81 dedicated members, they've been actively engaged in a variety of tasks. Their commitment to learning has been evident in their attendance at numerous training and education sessions, equipping them with the knowledge to effectively promote the values of our projects and monitor the vegetation and fish habitat.

Their hands-on involvement has seen the installation of 25 reef balls in Emigrant Creek, providing a much-needed complexity to the in-stream environment. These reef balls are now under a monitoring program, assessing their success as fish habitats and providing invaluable data on ecosystem health.

The volunteers have also been instrumental in the saltmarsh rehabilitation project, collecting data and participating in the Trees for Fish community planting days. These events not only raised awareness of the projects but also resulted in the planting of 6350 native vegetation along the riparian zone. Their efforts extend to the Richmond River oyster population, where they've been collecting spat and researching habitat improvement methods. They've even taken part in the BCF Small Change for Big Change open weekend, engaging with customers and collecting donations. Our Chapter volunteers have shown dedication and hard work, driving us forward in our mission to protect and enhance our precious ecosystems.

## SNOWY MONARO (NSW)

Volunteer hours: 6

The Chapter is finding its feet after shifting from focusing on a small area in Bungarby to the entire region. It has been working to stabilise an executive and grow partnerships in the region.

## SOUTH WEST VICTORIA

Volunteer hours: 0

The Chapter covers quite a large geographical area, from Glenelg River in the west to Curdies River in the east and is looking to reestablish its executive to pursue habitat restoration options in the area.

## SUNRAYSLIA (VIC)

Volunteer hours: 2,900

The Chapter empowered existing community groups by increasing their capacity to be aware of and participate in restoration activities, creating river stewards and providing a unique opportunity to achieve positive outcomes for native fish. Chapter members undertook five large-scale restoration projects which resulted in in-stream habitat installed, native vegetation planting and fish motels built.

## SYDNEY HARBOUR (NSW)

Volunteer hours: 126

The Chapter has hosted multiple events including executive meetings, BCF BBQs, a Clean-Up Australia Day event at Watsons Bay and a presentation night featuring talks from university researchers, NGOs, OzFish project officers and an expert angler as part of the East Coast Fish Talk Tour nights.

Its focus has largely been on project development work, culminating in the recent launch of Pimp My Jetty project, as well as leading discussions with partners, research institutions and funding sources for a potential project in Centennial Park.

## TAMWORTH (NSW)

Volunteer hours: 300

The Chapter's main focal point has been on maintaining the considerable Peel River plantings, hosting the annual carp competition and engaging their local fishing community with 'Fish Talks' events.

## TASMANIA

Volunteer hours: 93

Multiple engagement events have been held this year, providing opportunities for volunteers to be involved in a range of restoration projects. These events have provided significant learning opportunities through a number of talks and educational events, raising awareness surrounding the importance of fish habitat and healthy waterways. A number of hands-on events were also conducted, allowing fishers and other volunteers to be involved in the projects and to learn important skills such as saltmarsh, flora and fauna identification, seagrass seed collection and conducting inspections on environmentally friendly moorings, that build capacity for citizen science-based restoration opportunities in the future.

## TWEED RIVER (NSW)

Volunteer hours: 12

The Chapter supported Tweed Landcare to undertake works to restore flood-damaged riparian zones through river clean-ups and tree plantings along the Tweed River and its tributaries.

## WAGGA WAGGA (NSW)

Volunteer hours: 300

The Chapter engaged its fishing community with three events, installed 20 woody habitats and rocky habitat into Bethungra Dam, near Junee, which was completed after volunteers jumped into kayaks to help undertake extensive in-stream habitat mapping.

## WELLINGTON (NSW)

Volunteer hours: 300

The Chapter has been focused on engaging the local fishing community in sustainable fishing events, as well as tackling the local willow problem.



**FINANCIAL/AUDITOR'S REPORT**

**OZFISH UNLIMITED LIMITED  
ABN 29 602 568 696**

**FINANCIAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
30 JUNE 2023**



**OZFISH UNLIMITED LIMITED**  
**ABN 29 602 568 696**

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**Auditor's Independence Declaration**

To the members of  
OzFish Unlimited Limited

As auditor for the audit of OzFish Unlimited Limited for the eight months ended 30 June 2023, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- no contraventions of the independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

**Susan Barbour**

Subar Assurance Pty Ltd

Date: 18 October 2023

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	Note	8 months ended 30 June 2023 \$	12 months ended 31 October 2022 \$
<b>Income</b>			
Revenue	3	4,260,271	3,864,680
Other income	3	8,899	9,271
		<u>4,269,170</u>	<u>3,873,951</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Project Expenditure		3,259,485	3,050,557
Employee Costs		170,264	407,319
Marketing, Fundraising and Communications		181,909	330,256
Accounting, Insurance and Legal fees		28,051	29,949
Depreciation and amortisation expenses		76,096	90,944
Interest expense		1,872	513
Bad & Doubtful debts		13,636	-
Other Expenditure		319,637	395,196
		<u>4,050,950</u>	<u>4,304,734</u>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the period</b>		<u>218,220</u>	<u>(430,783)</u>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the period</b>		<u>218,220</u>	<u>(430,783)</u>

The above statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

	Note	30 June 2023 \$	31 October 2022 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	1,589,757	977,681
Accounts receivable	6	789,292	486,157
Other current assets	7	34,704	23,388
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>2,413,753</u>	<u>1,487,226</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Plant and equipment	8	308,377	308,951
Right of use assets	10	31,021	46,531
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>339,398</u>	<u>355,482</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u>2,753,151</u>	<u>1,842,708</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and Other Payables		143,148	35,456
Other payables	9	361,755	268,715
Lease Liabilities	10	21,630	22,454
Employee Benefits		95,262	87,278
Contract liability		1,515,409	1,029,881
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>2,137,204</u>	<u>1,443,784</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Lease Liabilities	10	8,213	24,077
Employee Benefits		18,306	3,639
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>26,519</u>	<u>277,716</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<u>2,163,723</u>	<u>1,471,500</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>589,428</u>	<u>371,208</u>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Accumulated surplus		589,428	371,208
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<u>589,428</u>	<u>371,208</u>

The above statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	Accumulated Surplus \$	Total \$
<b>Balance at 31 October 2021</b>	801,991	801,991
Surplus/(deficit) for the period (12 months)	(430,783)	(430,783)
<b>Balance at 31 October 2022</b>	371,208	371,208
Surplus/(deficit) for the period (8 months)	218,220	218,220
<b>Balance at 30 June 2023</b>	589,428	589,428

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	Note	8 months ended 30 June 2023 \$	12 months ended 31 October 2022 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Receipts from customers		4,796,825	4,216,173
Government grant		-	9,271
Payments to suppliers and employees		(4,111,775)	(4,352,697)
Interest received		5,598	-
Interest paid		(1,872)	(513)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<b>15</b>	688,776	(127,766)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(60,012)	(117,714)
Finance lease repayment		(16,688)	(22,165)
Net cash used in investing activities		(76,700)	(139,879)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		612,076	(267,645)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the financial period		977,681	1,245,329
Cash at cash equivalents at end of the financial period	<b>5</b>	1,589,757	977,681

The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

These financial statements cover OzFish Unlimited Limited as an individual entity. OzFish Unlimited Limited is a Public Company limited by guarantee incorporated and domiciled in Australia.

**1 Basis of Preparation and Statement of Compliance**

The general purpose financial statements of the Company have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001*, Australian Accountings Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs unless otherwise stated in the notes.

The financial statements were authorised for issue by the Directors of the Company on xx October 2023.

**2 Statement of Significant Accounting Policies**

**Income Taxes**

No provision for income tax has been raised as the Company is exempt from income tax under Div 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

**Property, Plant and Equipment**

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment.

Leasehold improvements are measured at cost less amortisation.

The useful lives used for each class of depreciable assets are:

<i>Class of Fixed Asset</i>	<i>Useful life</i>
Project equipment	5 years

**Financial Instruments**

**Initial recognition and measurement**

Financial instruments are recognised initially using trade date accounting, i.e. on the date that Company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

On initial recognition, all financial instruments are measured at fair value plus transaction costs (except for instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss where transaction costs are expensed as incurred).

**Classification and subsequent measurement**

Financial instruments are subsequently measured at either *fair value*, amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, or cost. Fair value represents the amount for which an asset could be

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

exchanged or a liability settled, between knowledgeable, willing parties in arm's length transaction. Where available, quoted prices in an active market are used to determine fair value. In other circumstances, valuation techniques are adopted.

The *effective interest rate method* is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset and of allocating interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial assets, or, where appropriate, a shorter period.

The classification of financial instruments depends on the purpose for which the investments were acquired. Management determines the classification of its investments at initial recognition and at the end of each reporting period for held-to-maturity assets.

**Loans and receivables**

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market and are stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

**Financial liabilities**

Non-derivative financial liabilities (excluding financial guarantees) are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Fees payable on the establishment of loan facilities are recognised as transaction costs of the loan.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the Company has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the reporting date.

**Impairment**

At each reporting date, the Company assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial instrument has been impaired. The carrying amount of financial assets including uncollectible trade receivables is reduced by the impairment loss through the use of an allowance account. Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are credited against the allowance account. Changes in the carrying value of the allowance account are recognised in profit or loss.

**Derecognition**

Financial assets are derecognised where the contractual rights to receipt of cash flows expires or the asset is transferred to another party whereby the entity no longer has any significant continuing involvement in the risks and benefits associated with the asset. Financial liabilities are derecognised where the related obligations are either discharged, cancelled or expired. The difference between the carrying value of the financial liability extinguished or transferred to another party and the fair value of consideration paid, including the transfer of non-cash assets or liabilities assumed is recognised in profit or loss.



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

### Leases

At inception of a contract, the company assesses whether a lease exists - i.e. does the contract convey the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

This involves an assessment of whether:

- The contract involves the use of an identified asset - this may be explicitly or implicitly identified within the agreement. If the supplier has a substantive substitution right then there is no identified asset.
- The company has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from the use of the asset throughout the period of use.
- The company has the right to direct the use of the asset i.e. decision making rights in relation to changing how and for what purpose the asset is used.

The non-lease components included in the lease agreement have been separated and are recognised as an expense as incurred.

At the lease commencement, the company recognises a right-of-use asset and associated lease liability for the lease term. The lease term includes extension periods where the company believes it is reasonably certain that the option will be exercised.

The right-of-use asset is measured using the cost model where cost on initial recognition comprises of the lease liability, initial direct costs, prepaid lease payments, estimated cost of removal and restoration less any lease incentives.

The right-of-use asset is depreciated over the lease term on a straight line basis and assessed for impairment in accordance with the impairment of assets accounting policy. The estimated life of the right-of-use assets is based on those of property, plant and equipment. The right-of-use asset is subject to the impairment requirements and is assessed for impairment indicators at each reporting date.

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the remaining lease payments at the commencement of the lease. The discount rate is the rate implicit in the lease, however where this cannot be readily determined then the company's incremental borrowing rate is used.

Subsequent to initial recognition, the lease liability is measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. The lease liability is remeasured whether there is a lease modification, change in estimate of the lease term or index upon which the lease payments are based (e.g. CPI) or a change in the company's assessment of lease term.

Where the lease liability is remeasured, the right-of-use asset is adjusted to reflect the remeasurement or is recorded in profit or loss if the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset has been reduced to zero.

#### *Exceptions to lease accounting*

The company has elected to apply the exceptions to lease accounting for both short-term leases (i.e. leases with a term of less than or equal to 12 months) and leases of low-value assets. The company recognises the payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

The non-lease components included in the lease agreement have been separated and are recognised as an expense as incurred.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

### Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the Company's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled. Employee benefits that are not expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. On determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increases and the probability that the employees may not satisfy vesting requirements. Liabilities for non-accumulating sick leave are recognised when the leave is taken and are measured at the rates paid or payable.

The Company presents employee benefit obligations as current liabilities in the statement of financial position if the Company does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve (12) months after the reporting period, irrespective of when the actual settlement is expected to take place.

### Provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets

Provisions are recognised when the Company has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

Provisions are measured using the best estimate of amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period, including the risks and uncertainties associated with the present obligation. Provisions are discounted to their present values, where the time value of money is material.

Any reimbursement that the Company can be virtually certain to collect from a third party with respect to the obligation is recognised as a separate asset. However, this asset may not exceed the amount of the related provision.

No liability is recognised if an outflow of economic resources as a result of present obligation is not probable. Such situations are disclosed as contingent liabilities unless the outflow of resources is remote in which case no liability is recognised.

### Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value. Bank overdrafts also form part of cash equivalents for the purpose of the statement of cash flows and are presented within current liabilities on the statement of financial position.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

**Revenue and Other Income**

*Grant Income*

A number of the Company's programs are supported by grants received. If conditions are attached to a grant which must be satisfied before the Company is eligible to receive the contribution, recognition of the grant as revenue is deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

Revenue from non-reciprocal grants that are not subject to conditions are recognised when the Company obtains control of the funds, economic benefits are probable and the amount can be measured reliably. When a grant may be required to be repaid if certain conditions are not satisfied, a contract liability is recognised at period end to the extent that conditions remain unsatisfied.

*Donation Income*

Donation income received through BCF has been accounted for when received by BCF, as they are acting as agents on behalf of the Company.

**Interest revenue**

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

**Critical accounting estimates and judgements**

The Directors make estimates and judgements during the preparation of these financial statements regarding assumptions about current and future events affecting transactions and balances.

These estimates and judgements are based on the best information available at the time of preparing the financial statements, however as additional information is known then the actual results may differ from the estimates.

There are no areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	30 June 2023	31 October 2022
	\$	\$
<b>3 Revenue and other income</b>		
<b>Revenue</b>		
General Donations	704,264	676,678
Grant Income	3,165,991	2,934,839
Membership	14,401	34,948
Operational Income	375,615	218,215
	<u>4,260,271</u>	<u>3,864,680</u>
<b>Other income</b>		
Interest income	8,899	-
<b>Government Grants</b>		
Jobmaker	-	9,271
	<u>8,899</u>	<u>9,271</u>
<b>4 Auditors' Remuneration</b>		
Remuneration of the auditor		
- Auditing the financial report	6,500	6,500
	<u>6,500</u>	<u>6,500</u>
<b>5 Cash and Cash equivalents</b>		
Ozfish Gift Fund	62,060	64,365
Ozfish Unlimited Limited Operating accounts	1,527,697	913,316
	<u>1,589,757</u>	<u>977,681</u>
<b>6 Accounts receivable</b>	789,292	486,157
Accounts receivable as at 30 June 2023 includes \$183,529 (2022: \$234,627) from the relationship with BCF, being Nil (2022: \$64,167) of grants receivable and \$183,529 (2022: \$170,461) of donations. Under AASB 1058, donations are accounted for when collected by BCF on behalf of OzFish.		
<b>7 Other Current Assets</b>		
Prepayments	30,023	22,008
Accrued interest income	3,301	-
Security deposit	1,380	1,380
	<u>34,704</u>	<u>23,388</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

30 June 2023      31 October 2022  
\$                      \$

30 June 2023      31 October 2022  
\$                      \$

**8 Plant and Equipment**

Plant & Equipment	487,693	427,681
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(179,316)	(118,730)
<b>Total Plant and Equipment</b>	<b>308,377</b>	<b>308,951</b>

**Movements in carrying amounts**

Movement is the carrying amounts for each class of plant and equipment between the beginning and end of the financial period.

	Plant & Equipment	Total
	\$	\$
Carrying amount at 31 October 2021	261,077	261,077
Additions	117,714	117,714
Depreciation	(69,840)	(69,840)
Carrying amount at 31 October 2022	308,951	308,951
Additions	60,012	60,012
Depreciation	(60,586)	(60,586)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2023	308,377	308,377

**9 Other Payables**

GST payable/(receivable)	134,714	39,741
Sundry payables and accrued expenses	227,041	228,974
	<b>361,755</b>	<b>268,715</b>

All above liabilities are short term. The carrying values are considered to be a reasonable approximation of fair value.

**10 Leases**

Information relating to the leases in place and associated balances and transactions are provided below.

*Terms and conditions of leases*

The building lease is for the corporate office and had an original term finishing on 14 October 2022. During the prior year the Company negotiated an additional lease term of two years.

**Right of use assets**

Balance at beginning of period	46,531	21,104
Addition in period	-	46,531
Depreciation charge	(15,510)	(21,104)
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	<b>31,021</b>	<b>46,531</b>

**Lease Liabilities**

The maturity analysis of lease liabilities based on contractual undiscounted cash flows is shown in the table below:

	<1 year	1 – 5 years	> 5 years	Total undiscounted lease liabilities	Lease liabilities included in this SOFP
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>2023</b>					
Lease Liabilities	25,000	6,250		31,250	29,843
<b>2022</b>					
Lease Liabilities	25,000	25,000	-	50,000	46,531

**Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income**

The amounts recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income relating to leases where the Company is a lessee are shown below:

	2023	2022
Interest expense on lease liabilities	1,872	513
Depreciation of right of use assets	15,510	21,104
	<b>17,382</b>	<b>21,617</b>

**Statement of Cash Flows**

Total cash outflow for leases	16,665	22,678
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	30 June 2023	31 October 2022
	\$	\$
<b>11 Employee Benefits</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Provision for Annual Leave	95,262	87,278
<b>Non-current</b>		
Provision for Long Service Leave	18,306	3,639
<b>Total Employee Benefits</b>	<u>113,568</u>	<u>90,917</u>
<b>12 Contingent Liabilities</b>		
There are no contingent liabilities that have been incurred by the Company in relation to 2023 (2022: Nil).		
<b>13 Related Parties</b>		
Transactions between related parties are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable than those available to other parties unless otherwise stated.		
<b>14 Key Management Personnel</b>		
Payments to key management personnel in the period were \$210,685 (8 months) (2022: 298,298 for 12 months)		
<b>15 Events after the Reporting Period</b>		
No matters have arisen since the end of the period that have or may significantly affect the Company's operations, results of those and its state of affairs in future financial years.		
<b>16 Cash Flow Information</b>		
Reconciliation of net income to net cash provided by operating activities		
Surplus/(deficit) for the period	218,220	(430,783)
Non-cash flows in surplus		
- Depreciation and amortisation	76,096	90,944
Changes in assets and liabilities		
- (increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(314,451)	(63,395)
- Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payable	200,732	153,840
- Increase/(decrease) in unearned income	485,528	94,506
- Increase/(decrease) in employee benefits	22,651	27,122
Cash flow from operations	<u>688,776</u>	<u>(127,766)</u>

DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

The Directors of the Company declare that:

1.

The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 1 to 14 are in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including

- (i) Complying with Accounting Standards –Simplified Disclosures, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2013 and other mandatory professional reporting requirements; and
- (ii) Giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its performance for the period ended on that date, and

2.

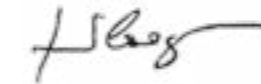
In the Directors' opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debt as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors:

Director:



Director:



Dated this 18 day of October 2023

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of OzFish Unlimited Limited

### Opinion

I have audited the financial report of OzFish Unlimited Limited (the Entity), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the 8 month period then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and managements' assertion statement.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial report is in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001 and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) Act 2012, including:

- a) Giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its performance for the 8 month period ended on that date; and
- b) Complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for profits Commission Regulation 2013.

### Basis for Opinion

I conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. I am independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that is relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

I confirm that the independence declaration required by the *Corporations Act 2001*, which has been given to the directors of the Company, would be in the same terms if given to the directors as at the time of this auditor's report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

### Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for profits Commission Regulation 2013* and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using

the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at:

[http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors\\_responsibilities/ar4.pdf](http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf). This description forms part of our auditor's report.



**Susan Barbour**

Subar Assurance Pty Ltd

Date: 18 October 2023

Melbourne

# 10th World Recreational Fishing Conference 2023

*Keeping pace in a dynamic  
and challenging world with  
changing fisheries*





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