

Working to protect and preserve the Great Barrier Reef.

The reopening of the Heron Island Research station marks a significant and exciting development for the GBRF.

Already in strong partnership with the University of Queensland, GBRF is positioned to continue its support for essential research into the Great Barrier Reef to ensure its survival in the future.

“We are one portal into the reef research sector for the private sector investor. The Great Barrier Reef Foundation brings the resources of the private sector to the research pool,” GBRF Managing Director Judy Stewart said.

GBRF sees itself as an investor in science that will maximize the sustainability of the GBR for all Australians.

“Heron Island Research Station is not only a world-class teaching and research facility but also a significant contributor to our Foundation’s knowledge bank. If we want to show our investors what real scientists are doing it is our first port of call. “

The GBRF particularly has strong ties with the University of Queensland.

Vice-Chancellor of UQ, Professor Paul Greenfield AO chairs its International Scientific Advisory Committee (ISAC), on which UQ Director for Marine Science Prof. Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, a world recognized leader in coral reef research, also sits.

Our other research partners include: AIMS, JCU, and CSIRO. GBRMPA is another important voice on the Reef, which is committed to GBRF.

Working with all these agencies the GBRF has developed a research vision, scientific framework and funding plan focussed on climate change research and its practical application on the Reef.

Never before has there been such urgency for action. Climate change is threatening the GBR right now in the form of coral bleaching and ocean acidification.

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IPCC predictions made in 2007 indicate that by 2020, if we do nothing, 60% of the Reef will bleach every second year.

In 2007, the Foundation established the **ZooX Fund** to raise funds specifically for climate change research on the Reef. The ZooX Fund continues to attract donations from individuals, corporate and philanthropic investors.

Major projects include:

- The Future Reef partnership with **Rio Tinto Alcan** was formed in November 2005. This partnership supports a four-year ocean acidification research project and an innovative employee engagement program with the **University of Queensland**.
- In 2007, **BHP Billiton** provided funding towards the **CReefs** project, a study of the biodiversity of Australian coral reefs by the Australian Institute of Marine Science.

The Foundation's Board of Directors is led by Chairman Dr John Schubert, Chairman of the Commonwealth Bank.

Ms. Judy Stewart, Managing Director GBRF, and Chairman John Schubert will be available for comment at the Heron Island Research Station opening.