

Traditional Owners leading monitoring in the Great Barrier Reef and Catchment

The Traditional Owner-led Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program under the Reef Trust Partnership is an opportunity for Reef Traditional Owners to lead monitoring of our culture and heritage values. Traditional Owners on the Technical Working Group are designing the Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program in partnership with the Great Barrier Reef Foundation using a Traditional Owner approach. Research support is provided from CSIRO.

Traditional Owners leading the work

Traditional Owners ideas and knowledge are leading the design of the program. Every person's experience and knowledge is listened to, respected and recognised. Team members who are not Traditional Owners respectfully support Traditional Owners who lead the program.

Traditional Owner perspectives shape the program

We have been monitoring the health of our People and Country for millennia. Our monitoring is about a holistic view of Country where People, Culture and Country are deeply connected. Our understanding of monitoring is different to the definition in Western science. It is important that we are in the driving seat, making decisions about our own monitoring and reporting.

We bring knowledge about how our communities work. We want to make sure communities can succeed and have control over their monitoring projects, their data and their knowledge.

Who are the Traditional Owners on the Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Traditional Owner Technical Working Group?



Chrissy Grant (Chair) – Eastern Kuku Yalanji Jalun Warra and Mualgal/Kubin

Chrissy has had ten years on committees and projects for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. She's also worked at the international and national levels for more than 35 years with communities on:

- cultural heritage management
- conservation and protection of natural resource management.



Gail Barry – Eastern Kuku Yalanji

Gail has over three decades of experience in culture and heritage management. She was the first Sea Forum Co-ordinator in the late 1990's and was the first Traditional Use Marine Resources Agreement (TUMRA) Implementation Project Officer. Gail represents her language and Traditional Owner groups on multiple committees and boards.



Dr. Cass Hunter – Kuku Yalanji and Maluilgal

Cass' research focuses on how to give communities better access to research information and outputs. She has led research on:

- collaborative environmental design
- information management
- science communication
- participatory tools to support sustainable ecosystems and livelihoods.

Who are the Traditional Owners on the Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Traditional Owner Technical Working Group?



Malachi Johnson – Gooreng Gooreng

Malachi is passionate about looking after his Land and Sea Country. He is focused on youth leadership, food security, health and well-being. His current role is the Darumbal TUMRA Project Manager, and is actively developing his leadership skills. Other roles include:

- Chairman of the Port Curtis Indigenous Youth Working Group
- member for the Crown of Thorns Starfish Control Innovation (CCIP) Steering Committee at the Great Barrier Reef Foundation
- member for the Local Marine Advisory Committee (Capricorn Coast)
- member of the United Nations Global Indigenous Youth Caucus.



Samarla Deshong – Koinmerburra and Kabi Kabi

Samarla has held a long list of cultural heritage management jobs in the environment sector over 15 years.

Samarla represents her Traditional Owner groups on several Great Barrier Reef and climate change initiatives. She grabs all Traditional Owner-led opportunities that prioritise First Nations People.



Scott Anderson – Nywaigi

Scott is Chair of the Mungalla Aboriginal Corporation for Business (MACB), where the Nywaigi people have developed award winning tourism products.

The MACB partnered with a range of agencies to restore wetland ecosystems on Mungalla Station, improving run off into the Great Barrier Reef.

More information

To find out more about the program, who we are, the *Strong Peoples-Strong Country* Framework, and how to get involved, see these resources:

- [Traditional Owner section on the Great Barrier Reef Foundation website](#)
- Traditional Owners protecting our heritage in the Great Barrier Reef (Fact Sheet 1)
- *Strong Peoples-Strong Country* framework (Fact Sheet 3)

Contact us

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