



MEDIA RELEASE

Join Reef Check Australia to celebrate the reefs of the Mackay/Whitsunday region

Residents from the region invited to a day of discovery, inspiration and appreciation

18th and 19th JUNE 2016

Reef Check Australia (RCA) will be hosting two 'Reef Check 101' events that will feature a variety of short talks from local scientists, an interactive training session to learn the basics about reef ecology and identification with Reef Check's globally-standardised citizen science monitoring program.

Events will be held on June 18 at The CQUniversity, Mackay and June 19 at the Whitsunday Arts and Cultural Centre, Whitsundays. Each event will feature a series of talks about key findings from Reef Check Australia volunteer reef health monitoring surveys, information about connections between catchments and corals, and an update about coral bleaching in the region.

'This event is a fantastic opportunity for community members to find out more about their local reefs, meet those working in the region, and discover how they can get involved in reef monitoring projects,' says Pete Faulkner, from Reef Check Australia.

'Our goal is to provide pathways and resources to boost understanding of reef ecology, reef threats and local reef resources. We want to empower individuals and communities to engage in reef science and decision making,' says Jennifer Loder, RCA Director of Programs and Partnerships.

To sign up for one of the events, please head to <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/dive-in-with-reef-check-101-tickets-25691258245>. To find out more about Reef Check Australia go to www.reefcheckaustralia.org.

This initiative is proudly supported by Reef Catchments, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme, in collaboration with Reef Check and the Mackay-Whitsunday Healthy Rivers to Reef Partnership.

-ENDS-

For all media enquiries please contact Pete Faulkner 0439 490 088, or pete@reefcheckaustralia.org.

Reef Check Australia is an innovative environmental charity that empowers the community to save their reefs and oceans through hands-on research and education. For more information, visit www.reefcheckaustralia.org.



Reef Check Australia

Community Event

9am- 3pm

18 June
CQU Campus
Mackay

19 June
WACC,
Whitsundays

Free
event!

Dive in with Reef Check 101!

Join Reef Check Australia & local partners at The CQ University, Mackay on June 18 or at the Whitsunday Arts and Cultural Centre on June 19 for a day of discovery, inspiration and appreciation of local marine and coastal environments. Learn about how you can get involved in reef monitoring and protection.

Workshop Schedule:

9-10:30am: Current reef updates from scientists, organisations and researchers working in the local area

10:30-11am: Morning tea

11am-3pm: Fast-track Reef Check 101 course with talks & hands-on activities to learn the basics in reef ecology & identification with Reef Check's globally standardised citizen science monitoring.
Lunch provided for full day participants.

3pm: Wrap up

Join in for talks &/or hands-on training. This is a FREE Event, but **registration is essential**. Please go to www.eventbrite.com.au/e/dive-in-with-reef-check-101 to register.
Want to know more? Head to www.reefcheckaustralia.org | **For event info:** annie@reefcheckaustralia.org

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