We have commenced a short research project at Langford Island to discern opinion on public art in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. We would love your views on reef art and restoration in the Whitsundays. Please click on this short online social survey (it takes 2-4 minutes to complete).

So far we have received 29 surveys during recent the Whitsunday Reef Festival.

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Reminder- call to artists closes 10 August
Don’t forget, only a few days left to submit your proposal for the Whitsundays Reef Recovery and Public Art Project. We have been pleased with the strong interest from local, Australian and international artists who wish to submit their ideas for marine public art to help the reef. For further information and links to the online form go to www.reefecologic.org

Partnership and presentations
Throughout the month of July we continued our extensive consultations with key stakeholders throughout the region by phone, email, conference calls and face-to-face meetings. We have participated in over 200 consultation activities involving over 300 people so far. We applied for two research permits and one of these (Public Art Research) has been granted (see Public Art Installations below). We attended the Whitsunday Reef Festival from Friday-Sunday, August 3-5. We also presented a talk ‘Can underwater art help reef restoration science’ at the Great Barrier Reef Restoration Symposium (Link) and an article ‘The science and art of reef restoration’.

Public Art Installations
On Monday 6 August we temporarily installed four sculptures at Langford Island to research how they integrate with the natural environment, and what visitor perceptions are of the artwork. The research will assist in determining whether locals and tourists prefer large or small sculptures, marine species and if the preferred location of art installations is on the beach, intertidal or underwater. The sculptures will be removed after 3 months and may be relocated as part of the larger project. A short video of the installation and establishment of the Public Art Research project can be found HERE.
Reef Restoration

As part of Reef Ecologic’s Whitsundays Reef Recovery and Public Art Project we have proposed conducting active reef restoration activities in two locations in the Whitsunday Islands. These activities will be focused on coral gardening involving the collection of coral fragments from populations around the Whitsundays, and using these to seed regeneration at Manta Ray Bay and/or Blue Pearl Bay. We have submitted a permit application to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. Pending approvals, we hope to commence reef restoration activities in September or October. The reef restoration activities have been designed to facilitate substantial community participation during both the installation phase and throughout the course of the one-year project. For further information or to volunteer your services to be a part of reef restoration activities, please email nathan.cook@reefecoogic.org or phone 0437 318802.

Upcoming activities

Proposed activities and milestones in August
10 August – Call to artist’s ends
5 Sept – Local Marine Advisory Committee Meeting (Bowen)
6-9 Sept – Social research at Langford Reef
6-12 Sept – Active Reef Restoration Phase 1 to commence (pending approvals)
11 Sept – Local Marine Advisory Committee Meeting (Airlie Beach)

Figure 3: Indicative project timeline.

Thank you for your support
Tourism Whitsundays
Explore Whitsundays
Whitsunday Reef Festival

David Edge Barge
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority