

\$157,000 seed funding granted for Magnetic Island Reef Community Action Plan

The Magnetic Island (Yunbenun) Reef Community Action Plan (MICAP) brings together science, management, business, community, youth, and Traditional Owner partners to identify local community-led actions that address regional priorities to protect the Great Barrier Reef. It includes a suite of projects designed as a roadmap to translate ideas into action. For more details see the Community Action Plan <https://arcg.is/19y9q1> and the Partnership Investment Prospectus <https://arcg.is/15bvWW>.

The following three MICAP projects have been granted seed funding by the GBRF:

1. **Community Partnerships for Ecosystem Monitoring (\$47,000)** – managed by MICDA.
2. **Protect and Strengthen Traditional Owner Cultural Heritage (\$75,000)** – auspiced by MICDA on behalf of Wulgurukba Traditional Owners
3. **Develop, communicate, and implement a community vision and actions for Magnetic Island’s World Heritage Values. (\$35,000)** – managed by MINCA.

The major objective of the **Community Partnerships for Ecosystems Monitoring Project** is to harness the energy and knowledge of residents, Traditional Owners, and stakeholders to systematically record, report on, and communicate the island’s marine and coastal ecosystem health, and factors affecting this health. Through this project, a funded part-time coordinator will establish a partnerships group to advise and implement the following:

1. Working with scientists and managers to train residents, Traditional Owners and stakeholders in ecosystem monitoring and reporting techniques.
2. Encouraging two-way knowledge sharing between Traditional Owners, scientists, residents, and Reef managers.
3. Increasing voluntary participation in ecosystem monitoring and citizen science initiatives to benefit the Reef and to inform management responses.
4. Ensure clear lines of communication between the Magnetic Island CAP leader and leaders of other island-based CAP projects to avoid duplication of effort and ensure efficiencies.

The **Protect and Strengthen Traditional Owner Cultural Heritage Project** will see Traditional Owners being increasingly involved in on-country initiatives through employment of one or two Traditional Owner part-time coordinators to facilitate Traditional Owners participation in:

1. Updating and maintaining the NQDT cultural database for Magnetic Island.
2. Reef-based monitoring activities to:
 - (a) Build on past knowledge by re-visiting and recording changes to previously monitored reef sites - on SCUBA with local scientists.
 - (b) Record the condition of local sites using GBRMPA’s *Eye on The Reef* - training provided by GBRMPA.
 - (c) Monitor turtle activities - training provided by MINT.
3. Island-based citizen science activities including restoration and revegetation of local waterways in partnership with MICDA, MINCA, Arcadia Coastcare and QPWS.
4. Two-way knowledge sharing through regular meetings with the Yunbenun Advisory Group (YAG), NQDT, TCC, Reef Managers, the Magnetic Island CAP Leader and CAP Project Leads.

The **Magnetic Island World Heritage Values Project** will build a comprehensive knowledge base describing the island’s natural values using existing and new scientific, local, and traditional knowledge. This will enable the island community to identify the natural values needing protection, and the best way to reduce any threats. The project will employ a part-time coordinator to run workshops that will review existing knowledge, identify significant information gaps, gather further information, and present this information in a readily accessible way. This community led project will:

1. Work closely with the Ecosystems Monitoring project to identify suitable monitoring sites and incorporate early results from monitoring into the Values project.
2. Work with the Traditional Owner project to review current knowledge and information gaps regarding areas of significance to Traditional Owners.
3. Undertake targeted surveys to fill information gaps and train community members in survey techniques.
4. Prepare and disseminate factsheets and an Information Kit outlining the islands outstanding natural features and values and suggest best management practices to support their protection.



These projects are funded by the partnership between the Australian Government’s Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation. For more information regarding the Ecosystems Monitoring or Cultural Heritage projects contact Les Sampson at micda.president@gmail.com, and for the World Heritage Values project contact Gethin Morgan at president@minca.org