

Sheree Marris

Aquatic Scientist/ Environmental Communicator

If Sheree had her choice, she would have gills instead of lungs, a breath hold to rival the sperm whale and a sparkly green mermaid-esque tail.

Since she doesn't, she does the next best thing and spends as much time as she can scuba diving and blowing bubbles. When she's a land lover you can find Sheree working on a range of innovative projects that aim to engage, entertain and educate people about the environment.



Sheree Marris is one of Australia's most passionate and dynamic marine ambassadors. Through radio talk-back, television appearances, hosting documentaries and featuring in commercials, Sheree has gained a reputation and profile among the Australian community, national corporate organisations and all levels of government as an expert in her field.

In 2002 Sheree's profile was heightened when she picked up three Young Australian of the Year awards: the National Unilever Environment Award, Young Australian of the Year (Victoria) and Victorian Unilever Environment Award. In 2009 she completed a scholarship with the Centre for Sustainable Leadership.

An award winning author, Sheree has just finished her fifth book, *Melbourne Down Under* a stunning photographic book that reveals Melbourne's best kept secret – a marine environment more diverse and colourful than any tropical reef. Preceding this was the highly successful *KamaSEAttra - Secrets of Sex in the Sea*, a humorous read about the unique reproductive methods of sea creatures and the parallels they share with humans.

Current projects

Victoria, Underwater Living Galleries – Creation of a series of Australia's first underwater sculpture installations for the tourism industry and private sector. These installations will become 'living pieces of artwork' that fuse art, environment and sport, while creating new tourism assets. The installations will attract marine life to the area, build a greater awareness of the marine values of the southern shores and create a marine stewardship ethic in the community.

World, The Great Barrier Reef Experience – An international travelling exhibition that will immerse visitors in the colour and diversity of the Great Barrier Reef. Visitors will be taken on an incredible journey of discovery using Emmy award-winning cinematography that reveals various habitats of the reef and how tiny animals have created the only living structure that can be seen from space. A strong component of the exhibition is engaging and educating visitors on the valuable role they can play in helping to protect one of the worlds greatest natural wonders.

Australia, Melbourne Down Under –Revealing Melbourne's best kept secret, a marine environment with colour and diversity that rivals tropical reefs, showcased to an audience of millions across several high profile media platforms. Using world-class underwater imagery the campaign features a flagship book, documentary DVD and travelling outdoor exhibition.



Past projects:

Vanuatu, Yumi Tugeta - An innovative marine conservation project and DVD with the youth of Pele Island. People under 25 are posing the highest threat to the valuable reef ecosystems of Pacific communities. With this film the youth demonstrated to their brothers and sisters around the Pacific how they could secure their futures, adapt to climate change, develop their villages and sustainably manage the coral reef ecosystems.

World, Ocean Predators Exhibition – A world travelling exhibition on ocean predator. Think scorpions, ghosts, lions, goblins, dragons, lizards... but not the type you imagine and it's more than sharks and sharp teeth. In the ocean there are expandable mouths, arms with hooks, beaks that bite and animals that not only steal the life but the weapons from the food they eat. From a microscopic animal that feasts on prey its same size through to the largest animal that has ever lived that devours millions of its prey in one sitting... all this with no teeth!

Philippines, The Saving Philippine Reefs Project – A yearly reef monitoring expedition that aims to improve the quality and quantity of information available on coral reefs for use in improving management and creation of appropriate policies for protection and sustainable use of coastal resources for the Unico Conservation Foundation in partnership Centre for Coastal Conservation Education Foundation (CCEF).

Rye, Octopuses Garden Marine Trail – Victoria's first underwater marine trail located on the Mornington Peninsula, Rye Pier. Visitors put on a mask and snorkel or a pair of swimming goggles to discover the wonders of the marine life in the bay. Underwater signs mounted to the pylons highlight marine life in the area. This has led to the development of other marine trails including at Rottneet Island.

Awards

2003 Centenary Medal

2003 Australia Day Ambassador

2002 Committee of Melbourne Achiever Award

2002 Young Australian of the Year - National Unilever Environment Award

2002 Young Australian of the Year - Victoria

2002 Young Australian of the Year - Victorian Unilever Environment Award

1999 Wilderness Society Environment Award for Children's Literature

Boards & Committees

Director, Unico Conservation Foundation (current)

Co-Chair Port Phillip Bay Plan (current)

Australia Day Committee, Victoria (2004-2011)

Director, Parks Victoria (2005-2008)

Other

Judge Banksia Awards 2009 to present

