

**Richard Pearse**  
**Marine Conservation Photographer and Writer**  
7 / 921 Brunswick Street, New Farm 4005, AUSTRALIA  
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## **Personal Background**

Born and raised in Colorado, USA, I moved to the Pacific Northwest to study architecture at the University of Oregon, known for its commitment to sustainable design and energy conservation initiatives. I started my professional career upon moving to Seattle, Washington, where I learned to dive and photograph underwater wildlife and seascapes. Since that time, I've been committed to telling compelling stories about the oceans, their wildlife, and the peoples that are dependent on both. A fascination with the Great Barrier Reef since childhood and a growing desire to understand more about the oceans spurred my emigration to Australia in 2005.

Within Australia and neighbouring countries, I have continued to dive, explore, photograph, and journal about underwater environments, sharing my passion for marine creatures and their conservation. Since 2006, select marine photographs have been repeat finalists and semifinalists in the prestigious internationally recognised BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year Competition and Antibes Festival Mondial de l'image sous-marine à Marineland.

Since 2002, ongoing research, writing, and photography has been testament to my belief that critical, compelling and informed story telling focused on conservation of the underwater and coastal realms has never been more essential. At its best, my work invites the reader/viewer's investment in the outcomes for the real life participants in those stories, be they animals, persons, or communities.

Additionally, I have remained an active contributor of writing and photography services to selected research and conservation organisations.

## **Scientific Research and Conservation projects, supporting writings and photography**

- 2008 'Whale Rider' (*Working title*) To be self-published 2009.  
*Expedition: Ningaloo Reef Whale Shark encounter, Australia, vessel Ningaloo Dreaming*  
Freelance photographed, researched, and authored article proposal and outline about ecotourism funding whale shark research (2006 IUCN status: vulnerable), and development of sustainable tourism practices in rural, but developing community of Exmouth, Western Australia.  
Article proposal and outline completed.
- 2007 'Shark Sanctuary', self-published 2007.  
*Expedition: Osprey Reef Shark Encounter, Australia, vessel Undersea Explorer*  
Freelance photographed and authored article about ecotourism funding gray and whitetip reef shark research (2006 IUCN status: Low risk). Story proposal, outline, and photography submitted for review to National Geographic Magazine, Smithsonian Magazine, and The Nature Conservancy Magazine.
- 2005 'Hammerhead Eclipse', self-published 2006.  
*Expedition: Sea of Cortez and Revillagigedo Islands, Mexico, vessel Nautilus Explorer*  
Joined Dr. Peter Klimley's expedition team as writer and photographer under National Geographic Society Science and Exploration Grant. Photographed, researched and co-authored article about Dr. Klimley's research and satellite tagging of scalloped hammerhead sharks (2006 IUCN status: Low risk), and conservation efforts of local peoples.
- 2004 'Turtle Touch', self-published 2005.  
*Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center, Topsail Island, North Carolina, USA*  
Freelance photographed, researched, and authored article about center founder Jean Beasley's efforts to rescue, rehabilitate, and release critically endangered sea turtles. Story proposal, outline, and photography submitted for editorial review to National Geographic Magazine, Smithsonian Magazine, and The Nature Conservancy Magazine.
- 2003 'Flinder's Family', self-published 2005.  
*Expedition: Coral Sea, Flinders Cay remote weather station, vessel Mike Ball's Spoilsport*  
Freelance photographed, researched, and authored article about critical breeding grounds of marine wildlife including seabirds, sea turtles, the sharks that feed on bird and turtle juveniles, and the lone weather scientist working on the small remote sand cay, surrounded by temperamental and rising seas. Story proposal, outline, and photography submitted for editorial review to National Geographic Magazine, Smithsonian Magazine, and The Nature Conservancy Magazine.

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### **Research, Writing, and Photography Contributions to Conservation Organizations**

- 2009 The Wilderness Society, South Australia, Australia  
Contributed photography services and images plus usage rights for South Australian marine and coastal conservation campaigns.
- 2007 Australian Marine Conservation Society, Queensland, Australia  
Contributed photography services and image prints for shark conservation charity auctions.
- 2006 Iemanya Oceanica / Adopt A Shark, Baja California, Mexico and California, USA  
Contributed research, writing, photography services and images plus usage rights for ongoing shark conservation campaigns.
- 2005 Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center, North Carolina, USA  
Contributed research, writing, photography services and images plus usage rights for ongoing sea turtle conservation campaigns.

### **Professional Qualifications and Education**

- 2009 Green Building Council of Australia accredited professional  
2005 North American Nature Photographers Association Summit, Charlotte, NC, USA  
2004 North American Nature Photographers Association Summit, Portland, OR, USA
- 2003 Architectural registration, Washington State, USA  
2002 Leadership in Design Team Innovation, Harvard Graduate School of Design, Cambridge, MA, USA
- 1994 Master of Architecture, University of Oregon, USA – focus on sustainable, energy efficient design.  
Thesis project: American Center of Architecture, Paris.  
Extensive research and analysis of Paris city planning required.
- 1991 B.A. Molecular/Cellular/Developmental Biology, Fine Arts & Classics, University of Colorado, USA  
Extensive research and writing required.

### **Professional Skills**

- Facilitate exchange and integration of project stakeholders' positions to reach beneficial and sustainable solutions.
- Management of effective relationships at a range of levels
- Able to conduct sustained and focused campaign of research, writing, engagement
- Work autonomously and contribute to high performing team
- Excellent written, verbal, graphic, and interpersonal communication skills
- Writing for general and specific audiences
- Excellent research skills
- Computer literate with MS Word, Excel, In Design, Photoshop.

### **Marine/Conservation Photography Competitions and Awards**

- 2007 *BBC Shell Wildlife Photographer of the Year Competition*, Natural History Museum, UK  
Semifinalist: 'Sharkstorm' (grey reef sharks), category: underwater  
Semifinalist: 'Weedy sea dragon' male, category: portrait  
Semifinalist: 'Tasmanian crab', category: portrait
- 2006 *BBC Shell Wildlife Photographer of the Year Competition*, Natural History Museum, UK  
Semifinalist: 'Blue Belle', category: black and white print
- 33e Festival Mondial de l'image sous-marine à Marineland*, Antibes, France.  
Semifinalist: 'Blue Belle' (grey reef shark), category: black and white print
- ANZANG Nature Photographer of the Year Competition*, Australia  
Semifinalist: 'Moonscape' (brown booby seabird)  
Semifinalist: 'Sandtrap' (Australian hermit crab)
- 2005 *Ocean Conservancy Marine Wildlife Photography Competition*, USA  
Third Place Award: 'Shipwreck Sleeper' (green sea turtle)