



## Reef Guardian School Profile

# MAGNETIC ISLAND STATE SCHOOL

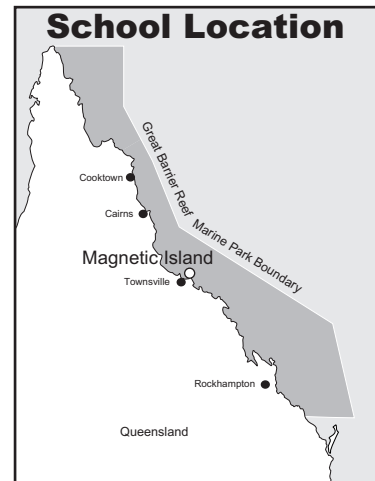
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### Location:

Magnetic Island State School is located in Nelly Bay, Magnetic Island (near the new Magnetic Harbour development). Magnetic Island is situated eight kilometres off the Queensland coast and is a suburb of Townsville.

### Size of School:

Magnetic Island State School is the only school on the island and currently has 214 students.



### Community:

Magnetic Island is the only island on the north coast to combine a National Park with a permanent residency of more than 3000 people. Magnetic Island can be accessed by boat, ferry or barge from Townsville. The Island contains a variety of wildlife and is located within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. Many locals and tourists visit the Island each year to experience its unique environment and go swimming, snorkelling, diving, boating and reef walking.

### What's unique about Magnetic Island State School?

The culture and unique features of Magnetic Island attract a wide range of people with varying degrees of expertise in environmental fields, and many of these people live on the island. This benefits the school as it is often able to access these people for education, knowledge and advice. They are an exceptional resource for the school and willingly assist with many environmental projects.

### Magnetic Island State School as a Reef Guardian School

As part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Reef Guardian Schools program, Magnetic Island State School has developed its own activities to raise awareness about protecting Magnetic Island and the Great Barrier Reef.

### Curriculum

Environmental issues play a large part in the school curriculum. Staff and students enjoy a relaxed school environment with teaching and learning programs focusing on developing students to achieve their best. A key curriculum area is preparing the students for a changing world and much focus lies with management of the local environment.

## Resource Management

Students have participated in activities and audits to help manage resources within the school that impact on the health of the Great Barrier Reef.

- The school grounds are quite extensive with large amounts of natural vegetation evident. One of the school's Reef Guardian projects is the replanting and enhancement of a creek that runs through the school grounds. So far a lot of work has been done with the clearing of weeds, planting, mulching and watering. Many individuals and organisations are involved with this project and the school won the 2001 Queensland Arbor Day awards – School Tree Planter award.
- Classes enjoy the challenge of looking after the school environment. The 2002 Year 5/6 class was involved in the Planet Maintenance program and these students audited the schools use of water, electricity and waste management. Students have devised plans for the school that will see significant savings in both the school's finances and the environment through better resource management.
- Students have undertaken and developed the following activities and responses to manage water, electricity and waste usage:
  - Audit of water, electricity and waste management;
  - Turning off lights, fridges, air-conditioners and photocopiers when not in use;
  - Establishing a worm farm for food waste;
  - Recycling paper – using the unused side of paper so that paper is used both sides where possible;
  - Identifying the need to install automatic sensor flushes on toilets and installing dual flush systems;
  - Quickly reporting leaking taps when noticed and ensuring art sink taps are turned off;
  - Installing more sprinkler/watering systems to water gardens and using timers; *and*
  - Mulching program to preserve water on plants/gardens.

## Community Resources

Students have identified ways for the school community to maintain and implement a school environment that focuses on good resource management i.e. water, electrical and waste management. These better environmental practices benefit the wider community as they encourage all residents to consider ways to protect the island environment.

## Community Education

The school's Reef Guardian activities focus on local water issues and the marine environment, and as students learn more about their unique world they realise the effort that needs to be put into ensuring the area is conserved. The students are passionate about the island and about what can be achieved through sharing their home with the world. However, they also understand the importance of ensuring tourists are well informed about the need to protect the Island's land and marine environments to preserve the area for generations to come.

'Wet Kids' promotes the need to maintain and protect the Island and the water environments that surround the island to residents, tourists and visitors. Through this project, staff and students promote the notion of sustainable tourism and best environmental practices. With the Island about to experience a huge development boom from the opening of Magnetic Harbour, there is a critical need to educate new residents, visitors and tourists on how to protect the Island for the future. Learning from this program, students are now acutely aware that the water run off from Magnetic Island affects the immediate marine environment in many ways. Therefore, students are using new initiatives to encourage the community to consider how they use and manage waste and water to help prevent pollution in the Reef environment. Through this program, classes will complete studies on the Reef, mangroves, geology of the Island and it's Aboriginal heritage. A 'Wet Kids' brochure and CD will soon be produced.