



Australian Government

Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority

Reef Guardian School Profile

ST AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE

AUGUST 2003

Location:

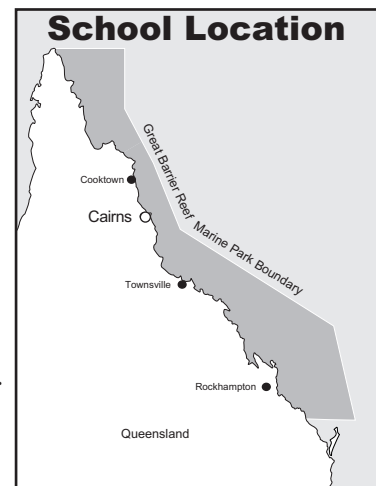
Situated in the inner city area of Cairns, North Queensland.

Size of School:

About 430 students, from year 8 to 12.

Community:

Cairns is known as the gateway to the Great Barrier Reef and has a population of about 120,000 people. The city's main industry is tourism. Most residents have strong connections with the Reef, as it holds many important values for the people and economy of the Cairns region.



What's unique about St Augustine's College?

St Augustine's College is an all-boys day and boarding school and is surrounded by a number of diverse ecosystems. The school is situated on swampland, providing a backyard environment where studies are undertaken to ensure conservation of the area. The school is located close to the mudflats of Cairns, and the Great Barrier Reef and unique islands off the Cairns coast. Students have unique opportunities to visit these diverse environments to carry out practical studies.



St Augustine's College as a Reef Guardian School

As part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Reef Guardian Schools Program, St Augustine's College has developed key areas in its curriculum to educate students about the Great Barrier Reef, focusing on the impacts of water quality and community education.

Curriculum

The school has implemented activities in the school curriculum to involve students in learning about the effects of water quality on the Great Barrier Reef. Within the Science Department's Biology Unit, students participate in Reef protection programs, learning about impacts on the Great Barrier Reef and discussing ways to help reduce these impacts.

As part of the school curriculum, St Augustine's College has developed specialist teaching and learning in Marine Studies. Through these studies, students have the opportunity to learn about marine activities and uses such as aquaculture, boating and recreational fishing.

let's keep it great

Community Resources

As part of the Biology Unit, year 8 students participate in the school's Water Quality Program. The program involves water testing and monitoring in local creeks, and environmental conservation and protection of the Great Barrier Reef. Students are encouraged to search the Internet and write a short report on issues confronting the Reef. Students also report on the impact the loss of the Great Barrier Reef and other nearby marine environments would have on the Cairns economy.

Through increased awareness about protecting the Reef within the school, a small group of students have become involved in the local Water Watch program to help improve water quality in the region.

The school has developed strong links with the local Surf Life Saving Club, and with support and advice from the club, students learn about the importance of beach conservation. Students also carry out studies on the mud flats along the Cairns beach area to learn about the development of this unique landscape and consider ways to ensure the coastline is preserved.

Community Education

Students at St Augustine's College participate in the Parent and Community Education Task. This activity involves writing and developing an information sheet to inform and educate teachers, parents and the community about issues impacting on the health of the Great Barrier Reef. Information sheets are distributed through the College newsletter every two weeks and with each issue students and the community learn more about protecting the Great Barrier Reef.

