



Reef Guardian School Profile

BELGIAN GARDENS STATE SCHOOL

AUGUST 2003

Location:

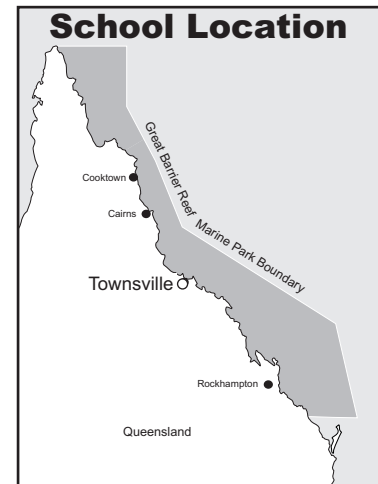
Situated in Townsville, North Queensland.

Size of School:

About 560 students

Community:

The twin cities of Townsville and Thuringowa are located along the Queensland coast, adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef. Combined, they have a population of more than 150,000 people. The Reef holds many important values for local residents and the region is home to Australia's largest living coral reef aquarium, Reef HQ.



What's unique about Belgian Gardens State School?

Over the years different groups of Belgian Gardens State School students have banded together to create 'The Rainforest'. 'The Rainforest', containing many and varied rainforest species, as well as pathways, bridges and benches, has developed into its own ecosystem. 'The Rainforest' is located within the school grounds and provides a unique setting for students to enjoy a pristine learning area. 'The Rainforest' also reminds students about the importance of protecting the environment and preserving beautiful and fragile ecosystems.



Belgian Gardens State School as a Reef Guardian School

As one of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Reef Guardian Schools, students at Belgian Gardens State School focus on protecting the Great Barrier Reef by managing resources within the school and community, and protecting coastal environments.

Curriculum

Belgian Gardens State School prides itself on its environmental education programme, which takes place as part of the school's 'Study of Society and the Environment' curriculum. This programme aims to foster the principles of environmental education in order to promote an awareness of the importance of caring for the environment (locally and globally).

As a Reef Guardian School, Belgian Gardens State School provides curriculum offerings in three key areas of marine management:

- Coastal Management;
- Mangrove Management; *and*
- Reef Management.

Resource Management

The school's environmental education program promotes environmental awareness through interactive and hands on activities within the school grounds. The school is involved in the Natural Recycling Program, which involves activities such as:

- Gardening;
- Composting;
- Worm farming;
- Water conservation; *and*
- Propagating and planting.

Community Resources

Students at Belgian Gardens State School participate in a number of community programs and activities such as *Bushcare*, *Clean-Up Australia*, *Greening Australia*, *Landcare* and *Waterwatch*. A number of students are also involved in community groups such as the *Herbal Society* and the *Permaculture Society*. The school community works closely with the Townsville City Council and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to promote protection of the environment and the Great Barrier Reef.

Community Education

Students are involved in a major project to help protect and conserve local catchment areas. The project involves developing and distributing a brochure to the community, outlining the importance of looking after the local catchment area. The brochure contains helpful hints and best environmental practices for households.

