



Reef Guardian School Profile

DEPOT HILL STATE SCHOOL

AUGUST 2003

Location:

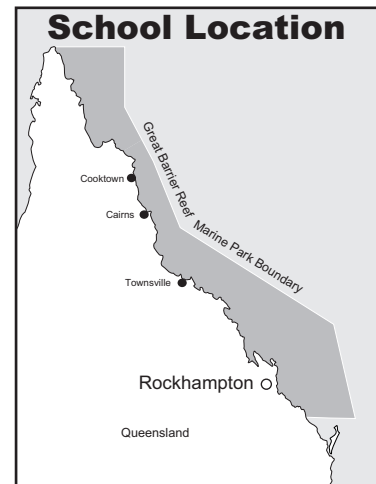
Situated in Rockhampton, Queensland.

Size of School:

84 students

Community:

Rockhampton is known as the Beef Capital of Australia and is part of the Capricorn Coast, located adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef. It has a population of 120,000 people and contains significant mining and rural industries. Some of the most diverse stretches of coral reef are located off the Capricorn Coast and the spectacular Keppel Islands can be accessed from Rockhampton's boat harbour at Roslyn Bay.



What's unique about Depot Hill State School?

Depot Hill State School is located on the Fitzroy River flood plain. Due to the school's location, students can participate in many outdoor activities such as horse riding. Amazing birds and other wildlife live in the school's surrounding environments and students are able to study two of Australia's most diverse ecosystems, the Great Barrier Reef and the Outback, without leaving the region.



Depot Hill State School as a Reef Guardian School

As part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Reef Guardian Schools Program, Depot Hill State School focuses on providing important reef-related education for students, as well as reef protection messages and education to the community.

Curriculum

As a Reef Guardian School, all students at Depot Hill State School learn about the Great Barrier Reef as part of the school curriculum. Curriculum studies focusing on reef education are implemented in key subject areas, such as SOSE and Science. Students participate in curriculum activities that focus on the relationships between living things and their environments, connections between elements of simple ecosystems, and the affects of human and natural impacts on marine environments.

Resource Management

As part of the Reef Guardian Schools program, students are learning about best environmental practices and the need to ensure drains and gutters are free of waste to reduce the impacts of litter, debris, chemicals and waste on the marine environment. To help protect the Great Barrier Reef, students have established a recycling and composting program and have adopted a local stream where they carry out water testing. They also regularly collect fallen leaves and audit and clean drains within the school, and monitor and study local catchment areas.

Community Resources

The school has joined the Young Achievement Australia's A Business Enterprise program and as part of this have integrated reef protection messages on recycled film canisters with slogans such as 'Butts off our Reef'. The aim of the canisters is to encourage people to deposit cigarette butts into the containers instead of on the ground. Students will market their product to other students and the local community.

Students participate in local field studies, which involve studying and analysing data obtained through investigations and surveys of a nearby area. Using the results of their field studies, students recommend the most effective ways to care for the area.

Students will attend a school excursion with an ocean and Reef theme and will study marine environments in the Brisbane area.

Community Education

As part of the Reef Guardian Schools program, students at Depot Hill State School focus heavily on educating the community about Reef guardianship and protecting the Great Barrier Reef. The following activities have been established to increase awareness and help educate the public:

- Students have made posters about protecting the Great Barrier Reef to display in local shops;
- Poetry written by students about protecting the Reef has been published in the local newspaper;
- Students have put together a CD of screensavers that give people advice about protecting and preserving the Reef for the future;
- Students include Reef protection messages in their school newsletter; *and*
- Students have developed displays for the school library.