



Reef Guardian School Profile

AUGUST 2003

BOYNE ISLAND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE

What is the Boyne Island Environmental Education Centre (BIEEC)?

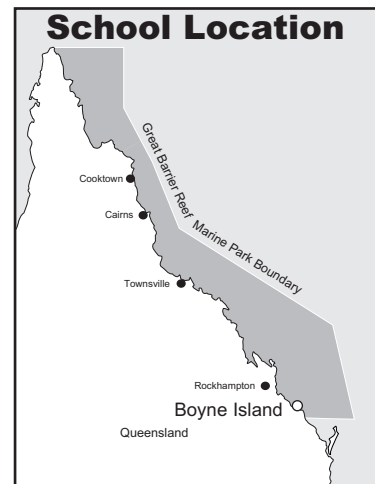
The Boyne Island Environmental Education Centre (BIEEC) is a residential facility designed to support school environmental education programs across all year levels. The BIEEC offers a statewide service and Great Barrier Reef programs conducted at the centre involve state, independent and catholic education schools.

Where is it located?

The BIEEC is located on Boyne Island, in the mouth of the Boyne River about 20 kilometres south of the industrial port city of Gladstone in Central Queensland.

About Boyne Island

Boyne Island is a popular departure point for the Capricorn Section of the Great Barrier Reef. The island is linked to the mainland by two bridges, and with adjacent mainland areas, supports a township of about 9000 people.



What's unique about BIEEC?

It is the only Environmental Education Centre to conduct extended wilderness excursions to the outer Great Barrier Reef. Offering Reef excursions and camps to North West or Lady Musgrave Islands, in addition to stays at the Research Station of the University of Queensland on Heron Island, has put BIEEC in the forefront of Reef education.

Boyne Island Environmental Education Centre as a Reef Guardian School

The BIEEC is involved in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Reef Guardian Schools program and offers a total Reef experience. It is truly a centre for studying from the ranges to the Reef. Students visiting the Centre learn about managing and protecting the Reef through studying reef environments, animals and plants, reading energy meters, interpreting water samples, participating in reef trails and debating or role-playing a zoning activity on the Great Barrier Reef.

Curriculum

The curriculum promotes environmental awareness in three stages, starting with skills on how to tackle environmental problems, then exploring natural or built environments to monitor human impact, and finally carrying out practical activities to help the Reef environment. A contemporary curriculum combined with specialist offerings provides maximum learning outcomes negotiated with visiting schools. BIEEC's unique location allows its curriculum to emphasise the natural coastal, marine and reef environments and human use of these areas.

As part of the Reef Guardian Schools program, the BIEEC promotes and assists with integration of teaching and learning about the Great Barrier Reef in school curriculums.

Resource Management

The BIEEC promotes resource management through introducing and educating students about better school practices. The Centre encourages students to consider the importance of managing resources in their school and local communities by teaching them how to manage outputs that affect the Great Barrier Reef, such as energy, waste, water and stormwater. The BIEEC also promotes better environmental practices by managing the Centre's grounds and surrounding areas in accordance with the principles of protecting the Great Barrier Reef.

The centre has a well-developed technology program and promotes strong links with industries and the community through joint programs such as Waterwatch, Water Wise and the Energy Efficiency in Schools program.

Community Resources

The BIEEC provides activities such as scuba diving, canoeing and boating as a means to enhance exploration of the Reef environment. The BIEEC proves jobs and the environment can go hand in hand through its vocational training programs preparing people for jobs in the tourism industry on the Reef.

Community Education

The BIEEC educates teachers, students and the community about Reef guardianship through their involvement in programs such as:

- Waterwatch;
- Energy Efficiency in Schools; *and*
- Water Wise.

The centre promotes Reef guardianship by increasing students' understanding of contemporary reef issues such as coral bleaching, water quality, crown of thorns starfish and pressures on biodiversity.

