



## **Reef Guardian School Profile**

# **WHITSUNDAY ANGLICAN SCHOOL**

AUGUST 2003

### **Location:**

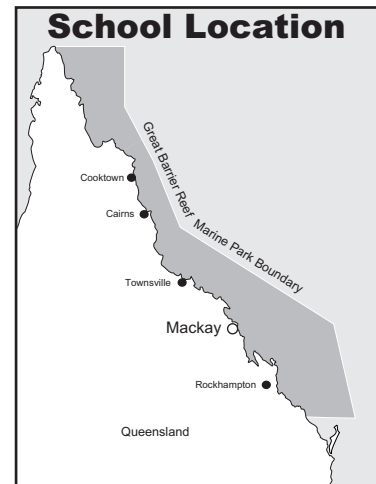
Situated in Mackay, Central Queensland.

### **Size of School:**

About 545 students from preparatory to year 12.

### **Community:**

Mackay is located on the Queensland coast adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef. It has a population of approximately 77,000 people. Mackay is surrounded by sugar cane with one-third of Australia's sugar crop processed in the region. Its other main industries include coal mining and agriculture.



### **What's unique about Whitsunday Anglican School?**

Whitsunday Anglican School is a day and boarding school and students come from a variety of geographic areas in and around central Queensland. Many students have a close affiliation to the Reef through their families economic or recreational association with the area.




### **Whitsunday Anglican School as a Reef Guardian School**

As part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Reef Guardian Schools program, Whitsunday Anglican School focuses on protecting the Great Barrier Reef from land-based impacts, to enhance the message of responsible appreciation of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

### **Curriculum**

Studies about the Great Barrier Reef and the importance of protecting local marine environments are part of the school curriculum. Subjects such as Marine Studies have a heavy focus on educating students about the Reef.

As part of the class curriculum, students in Year 12 Marine Studies have adopted a class from the junior or middle school area and have designed a series of activities aimed at expanding student awareness of



the Reef, and its importance in their lives and local community. Activities developed are tailored to maximise the younger student's understanding of the values of the Great Barrier Reef. Senior students evaluate the success of the activities in changing or expanding the views of the younger students.

This program at Whitsunday Anglican School has been developed to ensure that all students progress through their education with a growing awareness of the significance of the Great Barrier Reef to their own future and the future of the region.

### **Resource Management**

As a Reef Guardian School, students from many levels participate in activities that focus on learning about marine animals and plants and the ecosystem of the Reef, as well as the impacts (both good and bad) on the Great Barrier Reef.

Whitsunday Anglican School is focusing on the impacts of run-off and litter on the marine environment. Students study waterways in and near the school grounds to identify where water used by the school ends up after entering drains and nearby creeks. Students are developing strategies to help reduce run-off from the school ground, by looking at improving structures and landscapes within the school. Students have also implemented programs to reduce litter entering local drains and waterways so they don't end up in the nearby Great Barrier Reef.

### **Community Education**

Students understand the importance of educating the community to increase awareness and encourage all people to help protect the Great Barrier Reef. Whitsunday Anglican School is encouraging the local community to become involved in helping to protect the Great Barrier Reef for the future. Students provide advice and inform the community about upcoming environmental activities and Reef guardianship through their school newsletter.

