



# Reef Guardian School Profile

## HEATLEY SECONDARY COLLEGE

AUGUST 2003

### Location:

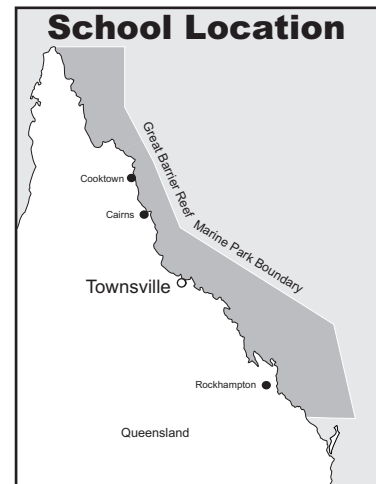
Situated in Townsville, North Queensland.

### Size of School:

Total of 832 students, with about 560 day students and 273 adult full time equivalents.

### Community:

Townsville is the capital of North Queensland and is the largest city located on the Queensland coast adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The Reef holds many important values for local residents and the city is home to Australia's largest living coral reef aquarium, Reef HQ.



### What's unique about Heatley Secondary College?

Heatley Secondary College is a leader in vocational education, providing practical learning experiences to students. Vocational education offers students experience in the workplace and valuable information about available career paths. Students often participate in marine-related career experience in areas such as commercial fishing and tourism. The College incorporates the Heatley Adult Secondary College, which operates during the day and at night.



### Heatley Secondary College as a Reef Guardian School

Heatley Secondary College participates in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Reef Guardian Schools program by focusing on the catchment area of Mount Louisa Creek and its impact on the Great Barrier Reef. Students also focus on reef ecology in classes such as Science and SOSE.

### Curriculum

Science:

- Through studies on classification, students learn about many of the unique and wonderful animals that live on the Reef; *and*
- Science-based school studies encourage students to learn about and consider a range of conservation issues on a day-to-day basis.

As part of the College's Marine Studies curriculum, students are assessed on their skills and actions to minimise human impact on the Great Barrier Reef through:

- Safe operation and anchorage of a boat;
- Safe leisure-time practices;
- Correct methods of snorkelling and diving on a reef;
- Travelling and camping on islands with minimal impact on the natural environment; *and*
- A 3-day environmental study incorporating habitat, behaviour and beach transects.

## Resource Management

As part of their resource management topic, the Year 12 Multistrand Science class studies the management of the Reef. The students in the Special Education Unit are undertaking a program to set up a compost area in the school grounds to recycle waste and reduce the amount of litter in the College. The College's Science Department has developed plans to propose a permaculture area in the College grounds.

The College is looking at designing and developing signs to put in classrooms to remind teachers, students and visitors to turn off fans and lights when not in use to help conserve resources.

## Community Resources

The Special Education Unit and Science Department are investigating the catchment area of the nearby Mount Louisa creek. Studies will determine its water quality, biodiversity and the creek's impact on the Great Barrier Reef. The Special Education Unit and Year 12 Multistrand Science class participated in the National Tree Planting Day by planting about thirty trees to help improve the catchment area around Mount Louisa creek.

## Community Education

The College educates the community about protecting the Great Barrier Reef by selling the message of reef guardianship through:

- Speaking at College assemblies
- Columns in the College newsletter

