



Reef Guardian School Profile

MALANDA STATE HIGH SCHOOL

AUGUST 2003

Location:

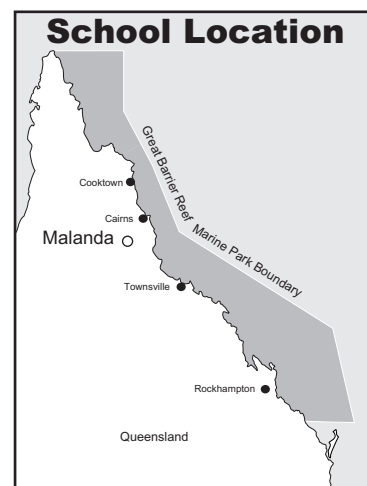
Situated in the township of Malanda on the banks of the Johnstone River in the Atherton Tablelands, North Queensland. The Johnstone River is located adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef.

Size of School:

About 400 students.

Community:

Malanda has a population of about 900 people. The town is built on fertile volcanic soils and is surrounded by rainforest and dairy farms. One of the world's largest dairy factories is located in the town and provides the main source of employment in the area. It is supported by over 190 local dairy farmers.



What's unique about Malanda State High School?

Malanda State High School is a leader in the field of aquaculture programs and has its own aquaculture facility where students can conduct experiments in individual aquariums.



Malanda State High School as a Reef Guardian School

As part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Reef Guardian Schools program, Malanda State High School has established innovative and extensive programs to promote the Great Barrier Reef, and increase understanding and appreciation of the local area and its impact on the marine environment. The success of the Reef Guardian program at the school has been achieved through the cooperation of teachers, students, landcare groups, local farmers and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) officers.

Curriculum

The school curriculum has a strong environmental focus with studies being integrated across a number of curriculum areas. Students at the school are actively involved in learning about their catchment area, environmental sustainability and the preservation of the Great Barrier Reef. The studies involve classes in SOSE, Science, Agriculture, Outdoor Recreation and Information Technology. This program is

delivered using practical experiences as well as real life contexts to facilitate learning.

As part of the curriculum, a number of school activities and projects focusing on protecting the Great Barrier Reef have been developed including:

- Aquaculture programs for Red Claw, Rainbow Fish and Barramundi;
- Catchment Care field studies;
- Marine Studies of Coral Reefs and Reef Organisations;
- A Revegetation Project which involves propagating second story plants to rehabilitate creek banks; *and*
- Information Technology projects on aquatic environments which involves developing powerpoint presentations and producing a web site.

Aquaculture studies are central to Malanda State High School's program to promote understanding of aquatic environments. At the aquaculture facility, students operate and maintain the system as well as conduct their own experiment in individual aquariums. Growth trials are conducted over an extended period.

Community Resources

Students study the geography of the area by undertaking a field study of the North Johnstone catchment. An extensive folio of digital photographs of the range of features along the river has been assembled. This enables a more intensive investigation of features to be conducted and will allow comparisons to be made over time. The students identify areas in need of management and propose possible solutions to help protect and restore the sites.

Community Education

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

- Speaking at school assemblies;
- Newsletter columns;
- Awareness displays at local markets;
- Presentations at the Malanda Environment Centre; *and*
- the school's website.