



Reef Guardian School Profile

IGNATIUS PARK COLLEGE

AUGUST 2003

Location:

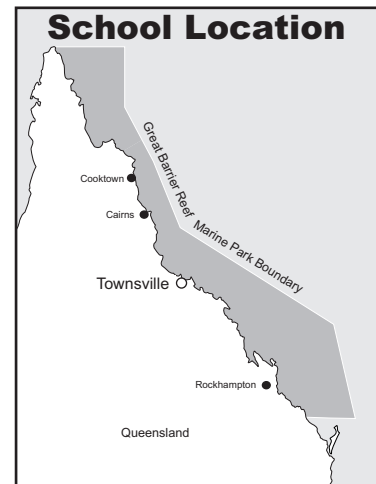
Situated in Townsville, North Queensland.

Size of School:

More than 700 students.

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 Ignatius Park College?

Ignatius Park College is an all-boys school and is part of a network of Edmund Rice schools, which have been established worldwide since 1803.

Ignatius Park College as a Reef Guardian School

As part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Reef Guardian Schools program, Ignatius Park College has developed innovative programs and reef activities to contribute to conserving the Great Barrier Reef and to raise awareness about the importance of protecting local marine environments.

Curriculum

The school curriculum includes Reef related activities that enhance student's understanding of the Great Barrier Reef and local marine environments, while promoting best environmental practices. As a Reef Guardian School, Ignatius Park College has included activities in four areas of their curriculum. Activities undertaken as part of the school's curriculum include:

- The Resource Management Unit, created through ReefEd and undertaken by Year 12 Multistrand Science students;
- Studies of Ross River and the development of weed management strategies, carried out by Year 11 Geography students;
- Analysis and study of coastal processes and beach development, undertaken by Year 9 & 10 students;
- Programs focusing on Reef ecology;
- Litter audits;
- Recording water quality & GIS mapping through liaison with the Townsville City Council Environmental Services Unit;

- The CSIRO student research scheme undertaken by Year 11 students; *and*
- The GBRMPA Youth Forum.

Resource Management

A number of Reef Guardian projects have been established by students including developing an action plan for the management of waste within the school, including implementing a plastic bottle refund scheme. Students are also stenciling drains to reduce storm water pollution and promote best environmental practices in the school.

Community Resources

Students are rejuvenating the school grounds and surrounding areas through ongoing monitoring of weeds in the Ross River and the development of rainforest habitats to increase biodiversity in these areas.

Community Education

Students are involved in many initiatives to educate the school and local communities about protecting and conserving the Great Barrier Reef. This is done through the school newsletter and local media outlets, such as the Townsville Bulletin. Students also access and distribute information from the Reef Ed website to inform teachers and students about the importance of protecting the Great Barrier Reef. Ignatius Park College has offered its skills and advice to the community and in return has gained a significant reputation as a Reef Guardian School.

