

Coralines

AQUARIUM SUPPORTERS' MAGAZINE



GREAT BARRIER REEF
AQUARIUM



From left. Jan Coghlan, Chick Nelson, Ian Mc Phail, Loretta Saunders and Sue Hutchison.

NORTH QUEENSLAND TOURISM AWARDS

The Aquarium made quite an impact at the recent Townsville, North Queensland Tourism Awards. Winning the four categories for which it nominated was the perfect 10th birthday gift and with twenty-four Aquarium staff and volunteers there to celebrate on the night, their high spirits did not go unnoticed.

The awards are for excellence and for contribution made to the tourism industry. They are a good way to raise the profile of the region and

the standard of products and services on offer.

The Great Barrier Reef Aquarium won the awards for Significant Regional Attraction, Tourism Retail (for the Aquarium Shop), Special Commendation for General Tourism Services (for the Aquarium Volunteers) and Outstanding Contribution by a Tourism Industry Employee. This last award was won by Chick Nelson who has worked with the Aquarium since before it opened in 1987 and retired last month.

SAIL AWAY ON THE SOUTH PASSAGE

There is no pleasure in life quite like it—and there's no better time than to go sailing now that the air is crisp and the sunsets are so picturesque. Join the spirit of those who regularly participate in twilight sailing on one of the most stunning and impressive vessels – the tall ship South Passage. This majestic 29.5 metre schooner is in Townsville for a strictly limited season and is available for two nights for Aquarium Members.

This vessel is like no other you have travelled on. With its traditional method of sailing and navigating it will conjure images of times long past. The South Passage will leave the Wonderland complex at 5.30 pm and return at 8.30 pm. All you will need is warm clothing. Light musical entertainment will be provided and refreshments may be purchased on board. Please refer to the Members' Program for further details.

Please phone (077) 500 800 immediately to book!



South Passage – special Members' activity during July.



These innovative, hands-on experiences allow students to develop a better understanding of the reef.

NEW VOLUNTEER HATCHLINGS

Volunteers are a group of unique people; motivated by the knowledge that they contribute to worthwhile causes and meet lots of fun loving people. They are very special and dedicated.

The Great Barrier Reef Aquarium Volunteer Association of Townsville literally make everything work. The other Aquarium staff would be lost without their support, their sense of vision, energy and commitment.

The Aquarium Volunteer Association attracts a certain kind of person, usually one who loves marine life and likes to be part of a large organisation that is actively educating the community on management issues of the Great Barrier Reef. These special people come from all levels of the society profile, university students, high school students, retired people, busy mums and dads, and very busy professional people. Ultimately all are looking to enhance the quality of their lives and meet other people with the same interests.

It sounds so easy...

'Well it isn't! To become an Aquarium Volunteer means that you have survived the interview and selection process, lived through a 10 week part time course, and have had to cram study a whole range of marine animals facts and understand the operations of the Aquarium,' said Lyn Hastings, Coordinator and Trainer of new Volunteers at the Aquarium.

From a group of about 99, 47 people were invited to participate in the Volunteer training course. 'Of those lucky few, some have indicated that they would prefer to work in the public area, others with the curatorial operation of the Aquarium (like food preparation and feeding) some like to be out in the community as part of the Community Outreach program, and some like administration work. Generally a lively and 'rowdy' bunch, Aquarium Volunteers are a close-knit group of people,' said Lyn. 'The idea is to bring together a group of people as diverse as possible to fully complement the structure of the Aquarium.'

EXPERIENCE THE LIVING CLASSROOM

All living things, including humans, are part of the intricate system that makes up the ecology of the Great Barrier Reef. We depend on the ocean's resources in many ways.

Understanding the ocean and how best to protect it is the broad educational message promoted through the Aquarium Education Program. Designed for all ages, these innovative, hands-on experiences allow students to develop a better understanding of the reef and their role in ensuring its survival.

The Education Program is designed to make the most of this incredible reef discovery centre and teaching resource. There are 19 separate activity programs for teachers to choose from,

all designed to complement the Queensland curriculum. Teacher Open Houses, in-service programs and constant updates and translations ensure the Aquarium provides a comprehensive education service.

Success of the Aquarium Education Program has been extensive. An estimated 12 000 students visited the Aquarium to participate in the program last year. These students came from the Townsville region, interstate and over-seas to experience something very special.

Don't forget - as Aquarium Members, your child can participate in school excursions to the Aquarium FREE. All they need to do is quote their membership number to their teacher.

WHERE HAVE OUR BOX JELLYFISH GONE?

We all know of the danger of box jellyfish. The stinging tentacles which the jellyfish use to catch their food are a deadly danger to human swimmers during summer. Now, during the winter months of June to September, it is much safer for us to swim in the ocean. Where have all the box jellyfish gone?

Adult box jellyfish spawn in autumn in rivers and creeks, producing large numbers of fertilised eggs. Many adult jellyfish die soon after spawning. By winter there are usually few, if any, dangerous adult jellyfish swimming in the ocean, and it is safer for us to swim. Meanwhile each of the fertilised eggs grows into a microscopic animal called a planula which swims until it finds a suitable place to settle on the bottom. It then grows into a polyp, similar to a tiny sea anemone, only two millimetres long. The polyp lives for months in a creek or a river attached to a rock and unable to swim.

In spring, the polyp changes into a tiny jellyfish, which breaks free from the bottom and swims away to grow into an adult jellyfish by the following summer. So where are all the box jellyfish at the moment? They are tiny polyps attached to rocks in rivers and creeks, and are not a danger to humans.

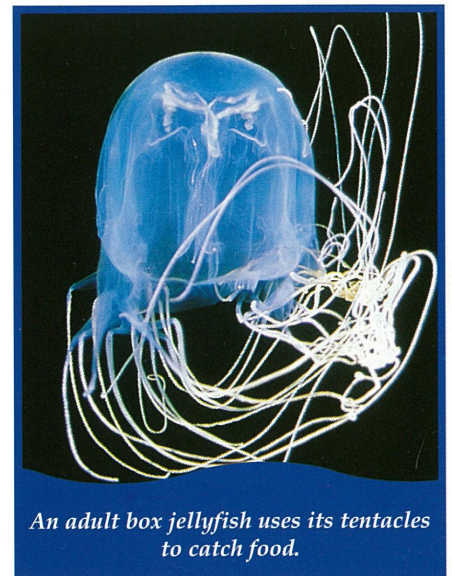


AQUARIUM COMMEMORATIVE WINE RELEASE

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium, a special wine release will be available, in strictly limited numbers. The 1993 Barossa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz and the 1996 McLaren Vale Semillon Chardonnay are two exceptionally good wines.

With a beautifully designed label, these wines are perfect for a special gift or occasion, if you can resist the temptation to drink them straight away. The wines can be purchased by phoning the Aquarium during business hours Monday to Friday on 500 800.

Special Members' price
6 bottles \$70 12 bottles \$132



An adult box jellyfish uses its tentacles to catch food.

◆ DAILY PROGRAM ◆

APRIL 1997 – JUNE 1997

THEATRETTE PRESENTATION OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

This show is a fantastic introduction to reef life. Take 15 minutes to acquaint yourself with the complexities of a coral reef ecosystem.

Time: 9.30 am, then hourly from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm ever day

Cost: included in Aquarium admission

DIVER TALKBACK SHOW

Talk to the divers while they are underwater in the Coral Reef Exhibit. Hear some amazing stories and have your questions answered from inside.

Time: 10.30 am daily

Cost: included in Aquarium admission

DISCOVERY TOUR

Take a tour of discovery through the Aquarium with experienced reef interpreters. Unravel the mysteries of the reef and the secrets of keeping a living reef on land.

Time: 11.20 am and 2.20 pm daily

Cost: included in Aquarium admission

SHARK FEEDING

It's always an exciting time when the predators are being fed. Sharks, trevally, the huge 200 kg grouper and a friendly turtle vie for food.

Time: Every Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday at 3.30 pm

Cost: included in Aquarium admission

KIDS CORNER

A special place for the young and the young at heart and every month we have a different theme. There is no age limit to having fun!

Time: Saturday and Sunday 11.00 am – 12.00 pm, and 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm

Cost: included in Aquarium admission

TURTLE FEEDING

Come up to the Contact Zone and learn how these beautiful baby turtles are reared.

Time: 12.20 pm every day

Cost: included in Aquarium admission

ANIMAL FEEDING TOUR

Join the Aquarists as they handfeed a variety of marine creatures such as the deep sea nautilus, crayfish and sea snakes. Our routine varies so please phone to check the program.

Time: week one – Tuesday and Saturday at 3.20 pm

week two – Wednesday and Sunday at 3.20 pm

Cost: included in Aquarium admission

PREDATOR DIVES

Come face-to-face with some of the ocean's predators. Spotting a shark while diving is rare, at the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium it's a guaranteed experience! An exciting 20 minute dive, you'll swim with reef sharks, leopard sharks, a huge 200 kilogram grouper – fondly known as Dominator – stingrays, trevally and a very inquisitive turtle. You must show your Diver 'C' Card and gear can be hired.

Time: Every Wednesday and Saturday at 8.45 am, 9.30 am and 10.20 am.

Cost: Members \$55.00 Non-Members \$65.00

which includes admission to the Aquarium

Bookings: You need to book a minimum of 24 hours before your dive. Book at the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium shop or phone The Dive Bell on 211 155.

Maximum group: 6 people per dive session



**GREAT BARRIER REEF
AQUARIUM**

FLINDERS ST, TOWNSVILLE. OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK.

TO CONFIRM DAILY PROGRAM, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE AQUARIUM (077) 500 800 WEEKDAYS AND (077) 500 891 ON WEEKENDS.

MEMBERS' PROGRAM

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND BOOKINGS PLEASE CALL
WEEKDAYS 500 800 AND WEEKENDS 500 875.

UNDERWATER DREAMERS

A sleepover for children

Join the Aquatic Rangers who will explore with you a trail or eerie discovery – you'll encounter ancient marine creatures and their descendants who live in the seas today.

There are games, craft, torchlight tour and a delicious supper and breakfast. Please bring a sleeping bag, pillow and a torch.

Date: 18 July

Time: 7.00 pm – 8.00 am

Cost: Members Non-members

1st child \$26 \$32

2nd child \$22 \$27

3rd child \$20 \$25

Age group: 6 – 12 years

Maximum group: 30 children

Bookings close: 11 May

Don't worry – this sleepover will be in October as well for those who missed out!

BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR

For Aquarium Members only

Behind the scenes at the Aquarium is a fascinating place. Join us on tour and see a side of the Aquarium not normally seen by our visitors.

All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Date: 17 August

Time: 2.30 pm

Cost: FREE

Age group: 8 years plus

Bookings close: 13 August

MUST SEA MUST DO

Welcome to the family. The Aquarium Members Program is the happiest club in Townsville. The Program offers a huge range of fun and entertainment the whole family will love to do together. There are many activities to look forward to this year, including the September School Holiday Program, a sleepover in October, Melbourne Cup luncheon and the huge Christmas Party.

MARINE ECOLOGY

A discovery course

1997 is International Year of the Reef. In recognition of this important cause, a marine ecology discovery course is offered to marine enthusiasts. The course is designed for participants who wish to advance their sound knowledge in marine biology.

Date: 12, 14, 19, 21, 26 & 28 August

Time: 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm, every day

Cost: Members \$70

 Non-members \$90

 Concession \$80

Age group: 15 years plus

Bookings close: 8 August

FATHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

OK – you cooked Mum breakfast and served it to her in bed for Mother's Day. What can you do for Dad on Father's Day? It's a simple solution – give Mum another break from preparing breakfast and come to the Aquarium to watch the sleepy-head fish spring to life. Menu consists of: bacon, eggs, sausages, fruit, croissants and coffee.

Date: 7 September

Time: 8.00 am

Cost: Members Non-members

Family \$40 \$50

(2 adults + 2 children)

Adults (over 14 years) \$14 \$17

Child (4 – 14 years) \$9 \$10

Child (2 – 4 years) \$5 \$6

Children under 2 years FREE

Bookings close: 4 September

SOUTH PASSAGE

This amazing night of sailing on a tall ship under the stars is available to the first 120 people who book. Musical entertainment provided, refreshments available.

Date: 2 August, first sail

 3 August, second sail

Time: 5.30 pm – 8.30 pm

Cost: Members Non-members

 \$25 \$30

Age group: 15 years plus

Bookings close: 28 July



GREAT BARRIER REEF
AQUARIUM

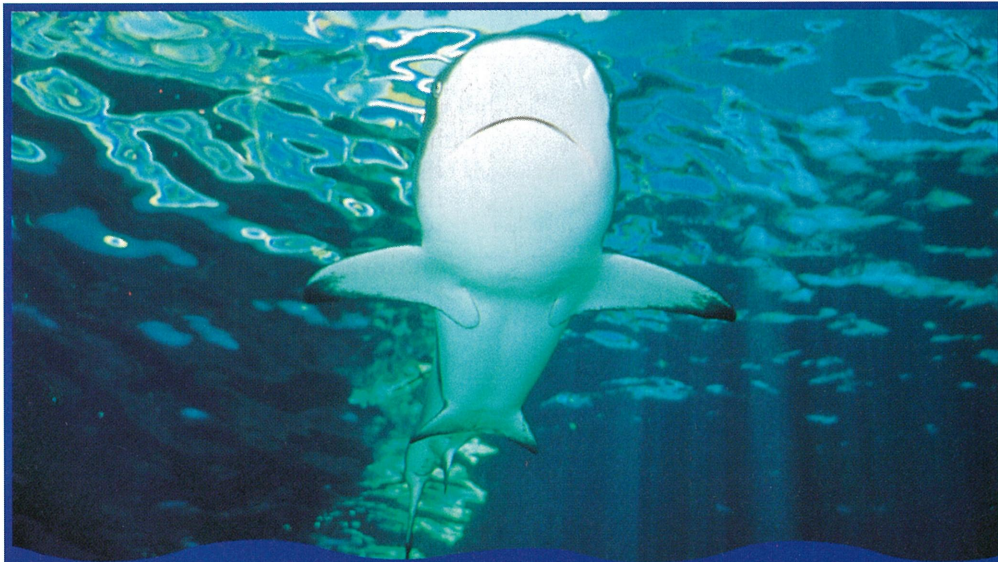
Aquarium Members' Program is proudly sponsored by



SHARKS HAVE BEEN AROUND MUCH LONGER THAN HUMANS... MAYBE, WE SHOULD GET USED TO THEM.

Sharks first appeared about 400 million years ago and evolved to their current shape about 100 million years ago. This means that sharks have been around 3 times longer than dinosaurs and 100 times longer than humans.

Worldwide there are about 350 species of sharks and of those, about 100 species live on the Great Barrier Reef. Sharks are probably the most misunderstood marine animals, with many promoting that all sharks present an extreme threat to humans. Scientists agree that the white pointer and the tiger shark are man eaters. However, while most sharks have a preferred diet, the tiger shark is described as an indiscriminate eater. Stomach contents of specimens have included shoes, tin cans, parts of animals and all sorts of waste that float the seas.



Sharks have been around 3 times longer than dinosaurs and 100 times longer than humans.

THANK YOU ANSETT AUSTRALIA.

The Great Barrier Reef Aquarium is grateful for the continued support of one of its major sponsors, Ansett Australia. To help celebrate our 10th Birthday party and make the Wonderland Funday a really special occasion, Ansett Australia through the generosity of their new manager

Lets get it into perspective

We humans should fear ourselves. We can expect fatalities from motor vehicle accidents 2 979 times the national average of shark attacks and related deaths. In fact, there are only 11 recorded shark attacks and fatalities in Australia from 1980 to 1990.

Let's look after them

Humans have developed quite a liking for sharks. Fish and chips, one of Australia's most popular dishes, often relies on shark meat. Shark fins are used in some countries for soup, the skin is used for leather goods and the teeth for jewellery. The oil of the deep sea sharks is used for cosmetics and pharmaceuticals. Biologists have found sharks age differently to humans and don't suffer diseases like cancer – which has prompted the study of the co-enzyme within the shark's liver as a possible cure for cancer.

Sue MacFarlane provided airfares for the stars of Totally Wild and for the family holiday prize draw on the 22nd of June.



ANSETT AUSTRALIA

TREASURES OF THE REEF

Aquarium School Holiday Program

This year is the International Year of the Reef, a chance to highlight the environmental problems of coral reefs worldwide. In many parts of the world, coral reefs are facing huge problems caused by pollution and overfishing.

We are lucky to have the world's largest and best preserved coral reef just off our coast – the Great Barrier Reef. As the future users and protectors of the Great Barrier Reef, all young people have a very important role to play.

Help us celebrate the International Year of the Reef by discovering some of the treasures of the reef. Join in games, lots of craft activities and give-aways.

Date: 21 June – 7 July

Time: 11.00 am – 1.00 pm

Age group: 3–12 years

Cost: Included in Aquarium admission or FREE with Aquarium Membership.

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