

# Coralines

MAGAZINE OF  
THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AQUARIUM

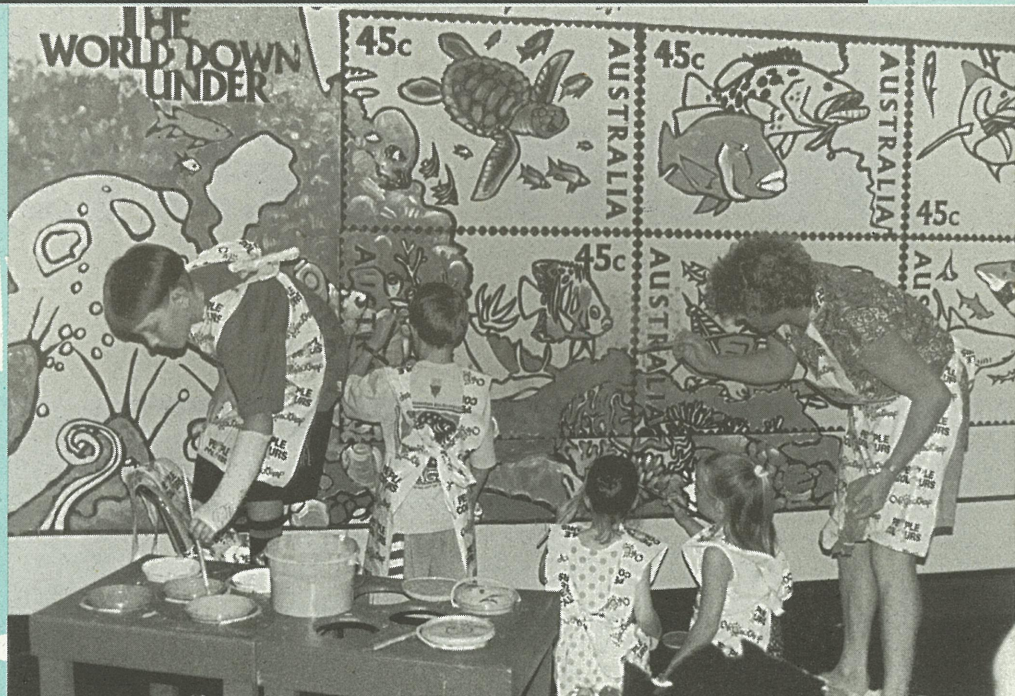


## OCTOBER DOWN UNDER

### A Growing Mural

As part of the stamp fever of October, hundreds of children were lucky to have the opportunity to paint with artist Gavin Ryan. Our thanks goes to those eager children and their patient parents.

*Gavin Ryan and helpers construct a large version of 'The World Down Under' stamp issue.*



Famous for his squashed toad artwork, local artist Gavin Ryan, has turned the heads of Australians by designing the newly released Australia Post stamp issue, 'The World Down Under'. Gavin has always had an affinity with the sea. He is a keen fisherman, yachtsman, and aquatic allrounder. Being a Magnetic Island resident for the past ten years has provided Gavin with lots of knowledge - his powers of observation for colour and detail are spectacular.

You know by now the new stamp issue, focusing on marine life, is very special - they glow in the dark! Free stamp packs were given away to Aquarium visitors during October. We hope you are enjoying yours now.

With the help of 150 eager stamp collectors, 'The World Down Under' was launched by The Minister for Communication and Arts, and for Tourism, the Hon. Michael Lee. A special performance by the Sue Jones School of Dance mirrored the wonder and delicate beauty of the marine world and momentarily transported the Aquarium to a place of magic and make believe.

As part of the celebrations, *The Stamp Gang Dive Down Under* was launched. Designed for children aged 7 to 12, this delightful cartoon magazine was written by Loretta Saunders and Kate Brown of the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium. Focused on a different theme every year, you can buy your copy in the Aquarium Shop or other Australia Post outlets for \$5.95.



*Coralines*



# Wahini

## also new



# Welcome New Additions to the Aquatic Family

Giant clams are unique and wondrous creatures, forming an important component of subsistence fisheries around the world. During the months of July and September, the Giant Clam Project funded by Earthwatch and coordinated by the research staff at the Aquarium

included the collection, appraisal and placement of giant clams on the reef. Used as a comparison group with the clams in the Aquarium, we are able to learn about the factors affecting marine life in the Great Barrier Reef.

It's a unique method of measuring our successes

in duplicating Mother Nature in the Aquarium. The clams placed in differently zoned areas of the Marine Park, will assist the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority in the management and conservation of our waters and marine life.

## Earthwatch Update

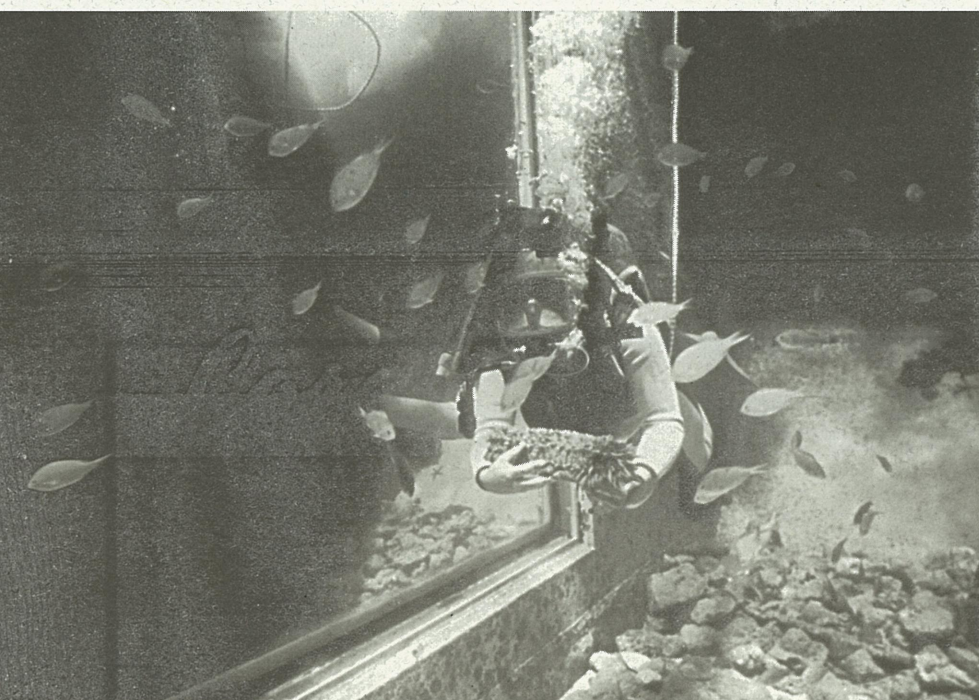
At a time when Earthwatch - the global organisation which combines research, travel and Volunteering - is cutting back its funding and allowing only one program per member institution, the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium remains the only institution with two research projects. Well done Aquarium research staff and volunteers!

Since September, you would have noticed some changes in the coral reef exhibit. Simply speaking, there are approximately 537 more fish, 200 assorted starfish, molluscs, and nudibranchs staring back at you!

Part of the collection trip to Lodestone Reef conducted during September, herbivorous, planktivorous and carnivorous creatures were bought back by exhausted Aquarium staff. Not sure what they are? Make sure when you visit, you meet some of these wonderful new creatures in the coral reef exhibit and ask an interpreter for more information.



*With a backdrop of sun, sand and scuba diving, Aquarium staff and Volunteers have a great day collecting.*



*The placement of new creatures in the Aquarium is a delicate task.*




# Turtle Power...

On three nights of November each year, Aquarium staff lead a turtle egg collection trip to Turtle Beach at the Australian Institute of Marine Science. Limited to small groups of 15 Volunteers and staff, the aim of the project is to relocate 12 eggs back to the Aquarium incubator (housed in the Coral Cay Exhibit). They will hatch approximately 8 weeks later.

## So cute...

These babies are left in the public viewing area for one month before most of them are returned to the wild at the same beach. The flatback turtle, unique to Australia, returns to the same beach to lay their eggs approximately 30 - 50 years later. Unfortunately, this is only an estimate because the turtles seem to outlive the humans researching them!



These babies are the delight of many

## The hottest gossip around town...

Never has there been a more magical, more wonderful night of illusion and make believe. 'Hot Tropics' spilled forth a wave of colourful dance and sensuous music. The first partnership between the Aquarium and Dance North had the Aquarium sizzling with the passionate performance in their stunning interpretation of life on the reef. As a fundraiser for both the Aquarium and Dance North, and the first contemporary dance performance at the Aquarium, the two nights were a fabulous success.

A real hothouse - a mixture of dance, wine and supper against the sensual backdrop of the exquisitely lit living coral reef. Whilst sipping wine, many people experienced the Aquarium as never before. This wonderful, interactive performance, bought forth many 'eek!' reactions from the startled and appreciative audience.

*Members of the Aquarium and Friends of Dance North were caught by our roving photographer.*

*Coralines - November 1995*



# NEW AQUARIUM EXHIBIT



The Great Barrier Reef is made of thousands of different organisms like plants and animals. All these pieces link together to make a complicated picture puzzle making the total community of the reef.

Focusing on the nature of individual links and types of links, this new exhibit is as expansive and complex as the Great Barrier Reef itself. This new exhibit means that we can be responsive to opportunities - such as that when jellyfish are in season, or when someone brings in a shark egg they have found on the beach. Continual change will be the essence of this new exhibit - something new for visitors and Members every time they visit the Aquarium.



**Sanbrook Distributors**  
North Queensland's Own  
Wholesale Aquarium and Pet  
Supplies Specialists

*Proprietors Peter and Jenny Wark*

## First Sponsor of Pieces of the Reef

Sanbrook Distributors is north Queensland's wholesale distributor and supplier of the pet industry retail stores from Mossman to Rockhampton and from Mount Isa to the east coast. Peter and Jenny also have

customers in the Northern Territory and Papua New Guinea.

Peter and Jenny said they were pleased to donate the glass aquaria to the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium, and hope their sponsorship can be used to further increase the public awareness of the dynamic and diverse wonder we have on our doorstep, the Great Barrier Reef.

Can't wait until it's finished? Don't forget - Members Premier 8 December at 5.30pm.

Please call 81 8886 to find out more about our Sponsorship program.



*What a mess! We can't wait to see the new exhibit.*



# ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

NOVEMBER 1995 - APRIL 1996

**BEAT THE HEAT – COME AND RELAX IN AIR CONDITIONED COMFORT**

## \*THEATRETTE PRESENTATION ON 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  
**Cost:** Free with Aquarium admission



## \*DIVER TALKBACK SHOW:

Talk to the divers while they are underwater in the Coral Reef Exhibit. Amazing stories with your questions answered from the deep.

**Time:** 10.30 am daily  
**Cost:** Free with 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 & 2.20pm daily  
**Cost:** Free with Aquarium admission



## \*TURTLE FEEDING:

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

**Time:** 12.20 pm daily  
**Cost:** Free with Aquarium admission

## \*SHARK FEEDING:

It's always an exciting time when the predators are being fed. Sharks, trevally, cod and the huge grouper vie for food. A shark talk often precedes the feed.

**Time:** Sunday, Tuesday & Thursday 3.30 pm  
**Cost:** Free with 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 & Sunday 11.00 am to  
midday; and 2.00 pm - 3.00 pm  
School Holidays - 11.00-12.00 Daily  
**Cost:** Free with 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:** 3.20 pm week one Tuesday &  
Saturday; 3.20 pm week two  
Wednesday & Sunday. Call 81 8886  
for confirmation of program  
**Cost:** Free with Aquarium admission

*\*The Aquarium reserves the right to cancel programs or change times.  
To confirm daily events, please telephone the Aquarium on  
(077) 81 8886, Monday to Friday and (077) 81 8891, weekends only.*

## TAILOR-MADE NIGHT TOURS

Who (or what) roams the galleries after dark? Become a biological peeping Tom and discover the unique nocturnal behaviour of some of your favourite Aquarium residents. Your chance to see the night cruisers of the reef. A great idea as a fund-raising event for your sports or social club.

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>Date:</b>    | Whenever you like (as long as some one else hasn't booked us first) |
| <b>Time:</b>    | 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm   |
| <b>Cost:</b>    | Contact Aquarium Office for prices                                  |
| <b>Minimum:</b> | 25  |
| <b>Maximum:</b> | 100   |

For more information and to arrange bookings please phone Lee Langley on 81 8886.

---

## FOLLOW FINLAY FOR FUN!

Great activities for the kids and littlies. Who gets bored during the school holidays? Do you wish there was something different you could do? Something new and fun?

This unique program includes interactive craft workshops and a hug from Finlay himself!

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| <b>Date:</b> | 2-21 January 1996  |
| <b>Time:</b> | 11.00am - 1.00pm   |
| <b>Cost:</b> | Free for Aquarium Members, or included with Aquarium admission |



*Who's that? Fun at the last Follow Finlay activity.*

## PIECES OF THE REEF - MEMBERS PREVIEW

This is your opportunity to see what all the noise is about. Our newest exhibit, focusing on the complex relationships of marine creatures, it is guaranteed to tickle your interest, and quench your curiosity.

|                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Date:</b>         | 8 December 1995   |
| <b>Time:</b>         | 5.30 pm - 6.30 pm |
| <b>Cost Members:</b> | Free for members  |
| <b>Non-members:</b>  | \$5               |
| <b>Bookings:</b>     | 1 December 1995   |

---

## RIPLEY THE CLEANER WRASSE - CHILDREN'S PUPPET SHOW

For children and the young at heart. This puppet show tells the tale of Ripley the cleaner wrasse who needs to learn the lesson that all living things deserve respect. Starring Ripley the Cleaner Wrasse, also featuring a grouper, sea stars, schools of small fish, a sea cucumber, sea anemone, clown fish and snails. This package also includes puppet making workshops before and after each show.

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Date:</b>                       | 3-21 January 1996                                  |
| <b>Show and workshop combined:</b> | 11.00 am to 12.00<br>12.00 to 1.00pm               |
| <b>Cost:</b>                       | Free to Members, or included in Aquarium admission |

---

**GREAT BARRIER REEF  
AQUARIUM**





*Exclusive!*

**Interview with  
Ripley,  
the star of the  
puppet show.**

*You can meet Ripley  
and friends in the  
puppet show in the  
Aquarium this  
Christmas holidays.*

Of latin discention, *Labroides dimidiatus*, cleaner wrasses are hot blooded individuals with very high expectations. Ripley the wrasse, star of the new puppet show, is no exception. This is one opinionated fish! By his own words, Ripley's world is very organised, 'I'm a greedy little wrasse, and I'll keep pigging out because I can always find fish about'.

But Ripley's problems begin one day when he runs out of food. The puppet show explores how Ripley the greedy wrasse learns how to care for the Great Barrier Reef. Ripley takes on a job as a cleaner wrasse. Fish come to Ripley's work station to be cleaned until they sparkle, much like a car wash.

### **Ripley's Profile**

This cool individual has developed its own swimming style. Who wants to swim like every other fish? Ripley's full of surprises, very social and on the weekends it likes to take friends out to dinner in the mouth of its

favourite grouper. Ripley's favourite food are tender baby barnacles, and leftovers from in between the teeth of other fish! Its best friends are a huge grouper, a sea star, lots of small fish, a sea cucumber, sea anemone, clown fish and snails.

When Ripley has a day off work, it likes to cruise the reef, watch favourite TV shows like 'Sea Quest', play hide 'n' seek with friends amongst the coral, and for kicks it likes to ride the bubbles from scuba divers. When Ripley grows up, it would like to audition and win the part of Darwin, the dolphin in 'Sea Quest'. Ripley figures as a cleaner wrasse it has a greater grip on marine life.



# 1996

## Volunteer

## Intake

Aquarium volunteers donate their time and talents to help the Aquarium expand and improve its services to the public. Depending on your time availability, talents and interest, you can be involved and assist in a wide range of Aquarium activities: guiding, assisting with the schools program, clerical assistance, helping behind the scenes and some animal husbandry.

Applications will be available from the front desk from 6 February 1996. Successful applicants participate in a nine week part-time training course. The course commencing 5th March focuses on marine science, public relations, and logistical education.

An open information night for prospective volunteers will be held on:

**Date:** 27 February 1996

**Time:** 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm.

For further information please call Sue Hutchinson on 81 8886. Applications close 27 February 1996.



# AQUARIUM CHRISTMAS PARTY

**Check out Santa in his board shorts when he drops in to visit the Aquarium and wishes all the boys and girls a Merry Christmas. Come join Santa and Finlay at the Aquarium Christmas Party for an evening of fun and laughter.**

**Santa has special gifts for children  
12 years and under.**

**DATE:**  
1st December 1995

**TIME:**  
6.30pm - 9.00pm

**COST MEMBERS:**  
Adults \$12  
Children \$8

**COST NON-MEMBERS:**  
Adults \$16  
Children \$12

**BOOKINGS CLOSE:**  
24th November, 1995

**Includes light supper.  
All children must be  
accompanied by an adult.**



# We Salute Our Volunteers

Volunteers are a group of unique people, motivated by the knowledge that they contribute to worthwhile causes and meet lots of great people. They are very special and dedicated. They literally make everything work. Aquarium staff would be lost without their support, sense of vision, energy and commitment.

We extend a very special **thank you** to the 145 volunteers who have contributed their personal time of 15 000 volunteer hours in the past year. That converts to a sum of \$180 000 in wages. **Wow!**

*Volunteers are an integral part of the Aquarium operations.*



We would like to give special recognition to the following:

## **2 000 hours**

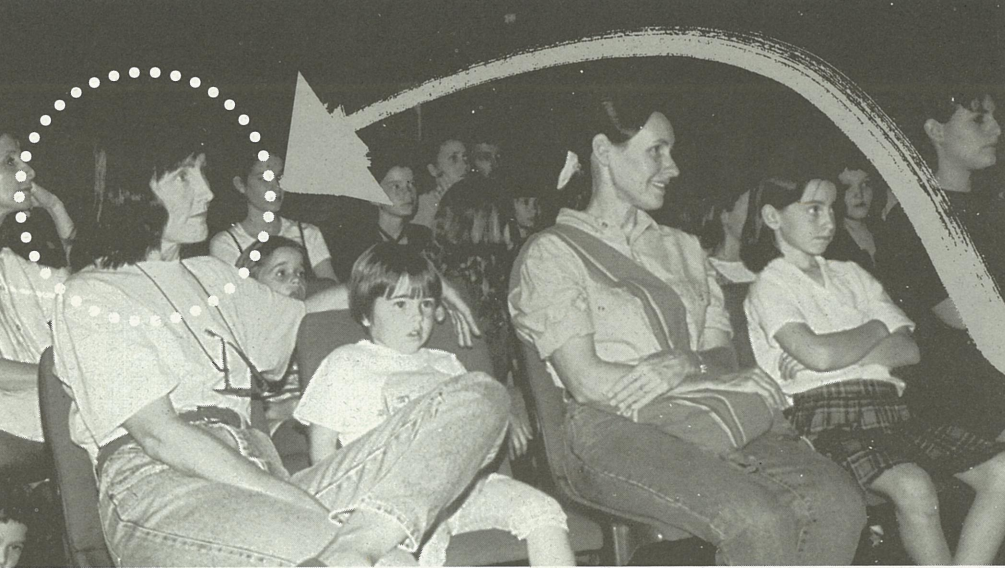
- Michael Mc Neil

## **1 000 hours**

- Jenny Brazier
- Rosemary Burdeu
- Mac Godwin
- Lynne Hastings
- Jaymie O'Keeffe
- Rosemary Payet
- Shirley Richards
- Tom Walter
- David Young
- Dorothy Young
- Ralph Zillman

## **500 hours**

- Nancy Armati
- Mieke Berns
- Helen Brayne
- Sally Clayton
- Margaret Collins
- Alison Downes
- Maggie Eichenbrenner
- Erica Evans
- Alison Ferry
- Warren Forster
- Terry Fox
- Florence Goodwin
- Glen Harris
- Mick Jackes
- Corrina James
- Pat Kirkman
- Jan Penbrook
- Margaret Pickersgill
- Kevin Poschalk
- Desma Spiegelhauer
- Delphine Turnbull
- Doug Tweedie
- Olive Tweedie
- Elsbeth Twyman
- Bill Wheeler
- Ross Williams
- Florence Yates



# Whose face is this?

We thank our members! Through you, we are able to continue our education programs and research into the complex world of marine life. These Members caught by our photographer at previous Members' functions have won the opportunity to spend a day out on the reef with Pure Pleasure Cruises, swimming, diving,

snorkelling and generally having a great time.

Is this you? If you recognise yourself highlighted in this photo, please ring 81 8886. Present a photo ID to claim your reef prize, valued at \$240. This includes a full day at the reef for two people with Pure Pleasure Cruises, morning and afternoon

tea, marine biologist education slide show, introductory dive lecture, snorkelling equipment, glass bottom boat tour, reef fishing (including bait and tackle) and a day of leisurely fun!

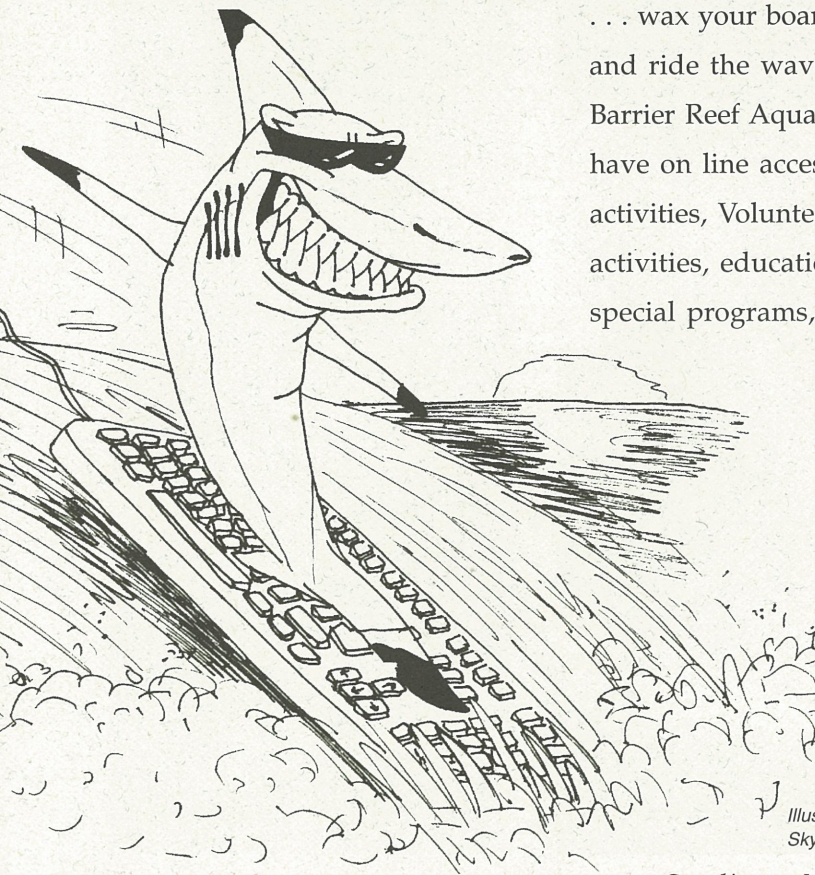
Compliments of the Aquarium Member's program.

*Has this been claimed?*

## Surf's Up!



# Calling all surfers and chip heads...



... wax your boards (keyboards) and ride the waves to the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium. You now have on line access to Members' activities, Volunteer training and activities, educational programs, special programs, curatorial and

research data, general Aquarium logistical details, and you can place your orders with the Aquarium Shop for Christmas.

An exciting step into the nineties, the information super highway is our key to exchanges of knowledge, ideas and opportunities from all over the world. Come on kids - surf's up! If you'd like more information on your next sleepover, want to order a book for someone's birthday, need some general information for that school project, **who you gonna call?**

**Aquarium home page:**  
<http://aquarium.gbrmpa.gov.au>

*Illustration by  
 Skye Tranter*



**All you ever wanted to know,  
but were too scared to ask!**

## *Ask the Surgeon Fish...*

Here are ten of the most commonly asked questions.

**1. How old is the grouper in the Predator Exhibit, and how much does it weight?**

'Dominator', as he's affectionately referred to by us, is around 20 years old and weighs approximately 180 kilograms.

**2. Do the sharks bother 'Lucky'?**

'Lucky', the aptly named turtle who lives in the Predator Exhibit is one tough cookie! Don't worry, she can take care of herself. If one of the sharks bumps her, she behaves very assertively and pushes them back.

**3. Will we see sharks when we go snorkelling out on the reef?**

No, they'll probably see you first, get frightened, and swim away.

**4. Is that fish kissing the other?**

No! The cleaner wrasse often looks like it's kissing other fish. In fact it's cleaning them, that is, eating bits of dead scales and food leftovers.

**5. Is that fish sick?**

This fish, a remora - commonly known as a sucker fish, is very healthy! Perhaps a little lazy, the sucker fish in the Predator Exhibit has adopted 'Dominator' as its best friend.

**6. Are the turtles trying to get out?**

In the Coral Cay exhibit, baby turtles can be seen swimming and generally practicing how to swim. It's only the adult females who, when ready to lay eggs, leave the water to lay their eggs on a beach.

**7. How many fish are there at the Aquarium?**

Current estimations - approximately 1500 individual fish.

**8. How many species of marine creatures are there in the Aquarium?**

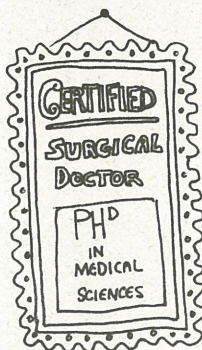
Over 3000.

**9. Does the water get pumped in from the sea?**

The Aquarium is a 'closed' system, meaning we recycle the water by filtering it through a complex and revolutionary natural cleaning system. The algae turf farm is that system. The algae clean all the waste from the water and replace the oxygen.

**10. Do the sharks eat the fish in the Predator Exhibit?**

Unfortunately, sometimes a fish will disappear. As the sharks are fed every second day, they are rarely hungry and usually co-exist happily with the fish.



### **DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?**

Please write to 'Ask the Surgeon Fish'

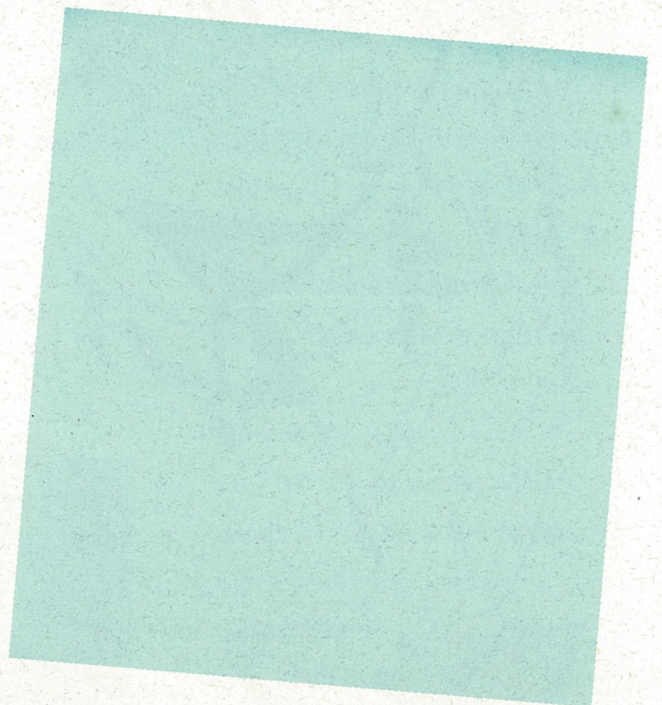
The Editor, Coralines

Great Barrier Reef Aquarium

PO Box 1379, Townsville Qld 4810

# Pirates...

*... in the Pacific  
Sleepover*



# Finlays' Summer Secrets



# Tailor Made Night Tours

Who and what roams the galleries after dark? Become a biological peeping Tom and discover the unique nocturnal behaviour of your favourite marine creatures. Your chance to see the night cruisers of the reef. A great idea as a fund raising event for your sports or social club.

Prices slashed for all Tailor Made Night Tours during the month of February '96. Call Lee Langley on 81 8886 to make a deal. Great fun for the whole family.

Experience  
the Aquarium  
after dark.



*Special  
Offer*

10% DISCOUNT

## A Unique Place to Christmas Shop

*As a Member of the Aquarium you receive a 10% discount at the Aquarium Shop.*

Need that special something for someone who has everything? We guarantee you'll be surprised at our range of windchimes, jewellery, posters, home decorator items, cuddly toys, books, videos, stationery etc.

*Almost everything imaginable.*

*Christmas shopping is easy at the Aquarium Shop*