

Volume 4 No 3 December 1994

# Coralines

MAGAZINE OF  
THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AQUARIUM



**4TO**  
74

**BREAKFAST**

under  
the sea

on  
the  
airwaves

August 23rd 1994

GREAT BARRIER REEF  
AQUARIUM



# ON THE ~~AIR~~ WAVES

Strange sounds were heard coming from the Coral Reef Exhibit in August. After two months planning the Aquarium became an underwater radio studio for Steve Price, local breakfast announcer for Radio 4TO and his mate Colin Hodson from the Dive Bell.

Colin was decked in a Siebe Gorman Pearl Diving Helmet used in the Torres Strait Pearl Fields between 1890 and 1929, while Steve used a state of the art Kirby Morgan A.H. 3 helmet. The brass pearl diving helmet had to be especially fitted with communications equipment.

A professional dive staff of seven was required to assist in this technological adventure under the sea. Over 200 metres of hose and two compressors supplied air to the deep sea divers. The divers were linked by sophisticated electronic communication equipment worth in excess of \$50,000 to provide one hour of broadcast on Radio 4TO.

Listeners were invited to witness what sounded too incredible to be true. Could Steve really talk underwater? To the surprise of some 58,000 listeners he did and what was originally an hour underwater program became two hours. If you were listening we hope you enjoyed a little Great Barrier Reef with your coffee.

## Coralines

ISSN 1037-0684

*Coralines* is published quarterly by the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium. All material in *Coralines* is copyright to the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium. Contributors are advised to retain a copy of manuscript and photographs. Unsolicited contributions must be accompanied by return postage, and will be handled with reasonable care, but this magazine assumes no responsibility. Any material accepted is subject to whatever adaptations and revisions are necessary to meet the requirements of the publication. Contributions from individuals are welcomed and should be addressed to:

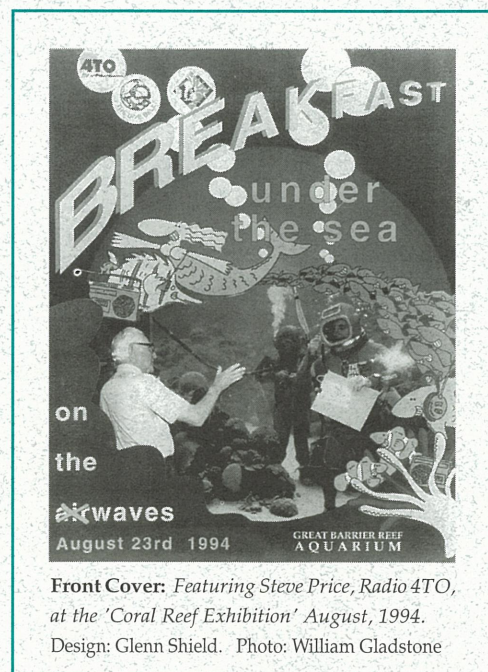
The Editor, *Coralines*  
Great Barrier Reef Aquarium  
PO Box 1379, Townsville 4810

The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

The Aquarium is a self funding section of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.



Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority



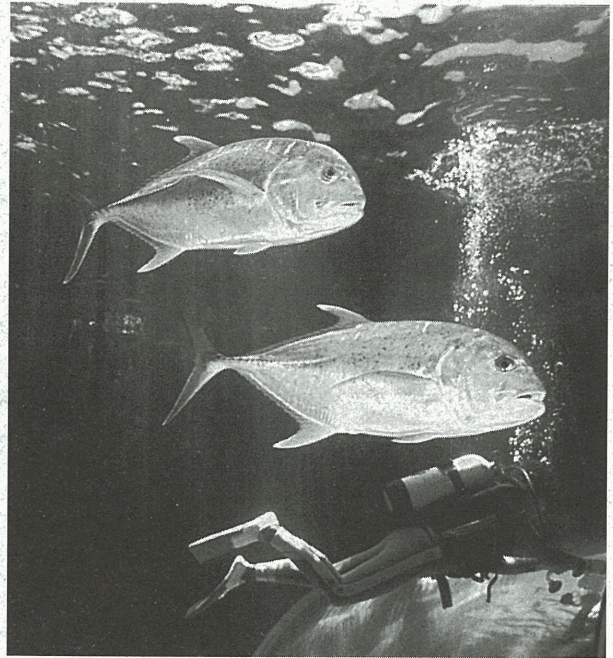
**Front Cover:** Featuring Steve Price, Radio 4TO, at the 'Coral Reef Exhibition' August, 1994.  
Design: Glenn Shield. Photo: William Gladstone



# Making Waves with the Predators

The Great Barrier Reef Aquarium tunnel has always provided a point for interesting conversation, particularly in relation to predators. Many visitors fear them while others wonder what it would feel like to share their environment. If you are one of the people who has wanted to experience a close encounter with shark, trevally, batfish and red emperor read on.

In the near future the Aquarium and Dive Bell will be providing scuba divers with this unique opportunity. Those 'brave' divers will have learnt about animal behaviour and how to interact with animals in the marine environment. A limited number of people will be allowed to dive with the sharks at one time to ensure the safety of the animals. If this sounds like your kettle of fish contact the Dive Bell phone 211155 for bookings and costs.



*You could be getting this fish eye view when you make the splash in the Predator Exhibit. Photo: William Gladstone*

## A Friend indeed

Learning to dive is an exciting experience for any person but one dive instructor in the Whitsundays sees understanding an environment so alien to us is just as important. Tony Fontes, PADI Instructor trainer for North Queensland, ensures that all his instructor candidates become members of the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium.

Tony sees the benefits of Aquarium membership for new instructors. 'By supporting an internationally recognised reef education centre, they are investing in the protection of one of the dive wonders of the world', Tony said. 'Instructors are concerned not only with the protection of the reef, but are concerned with the protection of their workplace and are more than willing to work for these goals.'



Tony Fontes has been working the Recreational Dive Industry since 1978. His time in the industry has been primarily in Queensland, operating his dive shop, Barrier Reef Diving Service. Since 1981, Mr Fontes has also been involved in PADI Instructor training. In 1992, he sold his shop to concentrate on full time instructor training.

Mr Fontes is a member of the Great Barrier Reef Consultative Committee which represents a wide cross section of interest in the Great Barrier Reef, from both the public and private sectors, including tourism, fishing, science, conservation, local government and Aboriginal communities. As a member he is involved in providing advice to the Minister and the Authority on issue that affect the Reef.

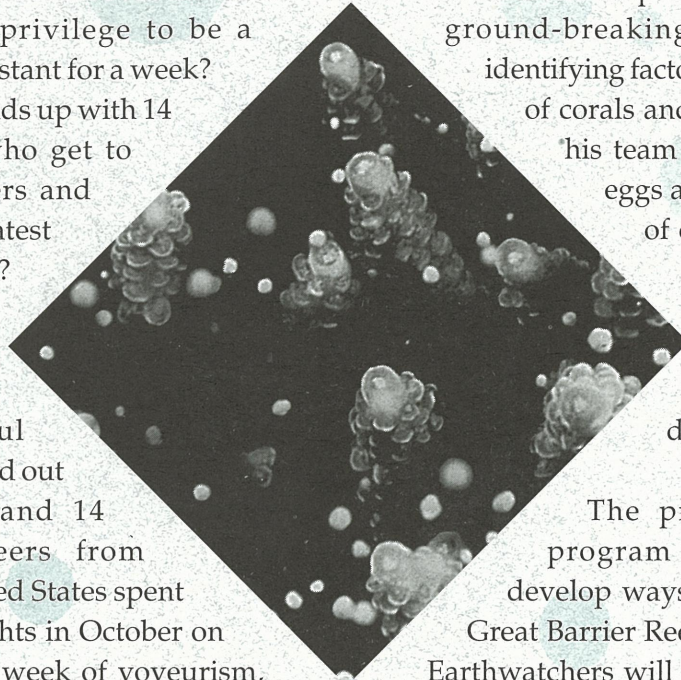


# The greatest show on earth under the magnifying glass

What group of people from all over the world would pay for the privilege to be a scientist's research assistant for a week? What lucky scientist ends up with 14 research assistants who get to dive in tropical waters and witness one of the greatest natural shows on earth?

Give up? Well, talk to the Aquarium's Research Officer Paul Hough and you will find out the answer. Paul and 14 Earthwatch volunteers from Australia and the United States spent the warm summer nights in October on Magnetic Island for a week of voyeurism, witnessing the mass spawning of corals.

*What a sight! Coral spawning as witnessed by Earthwatch members at Aquarium research program on Nelly Bay. Photo: M. Ross*



This ambitious project covered areas of ground-breaking research involving identifying factors affecting survival rate of corals and fertilisation. Paul and his team set up traps to capture eggs and sperm from colonies of corals throughout Nelly Bay. Once caught, the team painstakingly counted eggs and sperm in order to determine survival rates.

The project is an ongoing program with Earthwatch to develop ways of captive breeding of Great Barrier Reef corals. So stay tuned, Earthwatchers will be coral watchers again next year.

## Spreading the word about our education programs

On the 18th of September the Aquarium hosted the opening event of the annual Science Teachers Association of Queensland (STAQ) conference. This was the first time that the conference had ever been held outside the southeast corner of the state. Education Officer Paul Hauenschild and Interpreter Lyn Hastings made a presentation about Aquarium to the conference group. Delegates were guided through the Aquarium by volunteers. We received high praise for our education programs from the Senior Policy Officer on Science from the

Queensland Education Department, and the STAQ President, as well as Science teachers from around the State.

Aquarium education programs were also highly regarded by environmental education leaders from around Australia at the Australian Association for Environmental Education, and the Marine Education Society of Australasia Conference in Cairns recently.



# THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AQUARIUM



at the

## TEACHER'S OPEN HOUSE 1995

Preschool & Primary Teachers - 3:45 pm 14th February Secondary Teachers - 3:45 pm 21st February  
**NEW PROGRAMS ! NEW IN-SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES !**

An entertaining and Informative afternoon of Presentations and Interactive workshops  
For further information, or to register, please phone Paul Hauenschild (Education Officer) on (077) 818886.

## ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

The following activities are free for Members or with Aquarium admission.

- **Theatrette Presentation on the Great Barrier Reef:**  
10.00 & 11.00 am & 12.00 noon, 1.00, 2.00, 3.00 & 4.00 pm  
(Daily)
- **Diver Talkback: 10.30 am (Daily)**  
Talk to a diver in the water of the Coral Reef Exhibit. Listen to amazing stories and have your questions answered from the deep.
- **Discovery Tour: 11.20 am & 2.20 pm (Daily)**
- **Turtle Feeding: 12.20 pm (Daily)**
- **Reef Tucker Man:**  
Either Tuesday or Wednesday and either Saturday or Sunday at 3.20 pm. See how and what some of the Aquarium animals eat on our gastronomical tour.
- **Shark Feeding:**  
Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday 3.30 pm. The feeding is often preceded or followed by a talk on sharks.
- **Kid's Corner (a craft session for children):**  
Saturday and Sunday 11.00 am - 12.00 noon & 2.00 - 3.00 pm.  
School Holidays: 11.00 am - 12.00 noon (Daily)
- **Sunday Sessions:**  
2nd and 4th Sunday of the month, 1.30-2.00 pm. Sunday sessions are great! You have a chance to explore the reef in more detail with experienced Aquarium staff. Why not get out of the summer heat and enjoy a Sunday afternoon getting to know your marine environment.

Other activities may be scheduled during the day, please phone to confirm times.

• The Aquarium reserves the right to cancel or change program times. To confirm daily events please telephone the Aquarium on (077) 818886 Monday to Friday and (077) 818891 weekends only.

### Aquarium After Dark Tours

Who (or what!) roams the galleries of the Aquarium after dark? Become a biological 'peeping Tom' and discover the unique nocturnal behaviour of some of your favourite Aquarium residents. Find out whether the sharks stop swimming at night.

These exciting tours will give your group the answers to this and much more.

- Date:** Whenever you like  
*(as long as someone hasn't booked us out first)*
- Time:** 7.30 -9.30 pm
- Cost:** Contact Aquarium Office for prices
- Minimum:** 25
- Maximum:** 100

### Aquarium Christmas Party

See Santa in his board shorts when he drops in to visit the Aquarium. Can he really sing jingle shells underwater and to what depths will he go to make an appearance at his favourite place. Come join Santa and Finlay at the Aquarium Christmas party for an evening of fun and laughter. Santa has special surprises for children aged 12 years and under.

- Date:** Friday 9 December 1994
- Time:** 6.30 - 9.00 pm
- Cost:** Includes light Supper
- Members:** Adults \$13.50  
Children \$9.00
- Nonmembers:** Adults \$16.00  
Children \$12.00
- Bookings Close:** Friday 2 December 1994
- Minimum:** 80 Children

*All children must be accompanied by an adult.*

### 1995 Volunteer Intake

GBR Aquarium volunteers donate their time and considerable talents to help the Aquarium expand and improve its services to the public. Depending on your time, talents and interests you can assist in a wide range of Aquarium activities: guiding, assisting with Friends and Schools programs, clerical assistance, helping behind the scenes and some animal husbandry.

Application forms will be available at the front desk from 11 February, 1995.

An open information night for prospective volunteers will be held on 28 February, 1995 from 7.00 - 9.00 pm.

**Applications close on 28 February.**



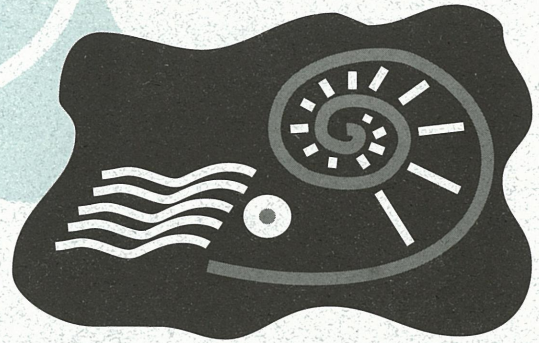
# Living fossils

The latest additions to the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium are 'living fossils', the Nautilus.

Nautilus swam in seas during the age of the dinosaurs and have remained unchanged for 200 million years. Somehow they survived the disaster that caused the extinction of dinosaurs, 65 million years ago, unlike their close relative the Ammonites who died about the same time as the dinosaur. Today the nautilus closest living relatives are the octopus and squid.

These animals were caught in an offshore trawler net at 60 metres depth. The nautilus is rarely seen because it lives in depths up to 200 metres, feeding from the bottom of the sea floor on fish and crabs. It has about 90 tentacles used to smell and grasp its prey.

Their home is a new aquarium which is especially cooled and dimly lit to duplicate their natural environment. This is a temporary home with a larger aquarium planned to house more animals with the hope of establishing a breeding program.



## New exhibit documents an Aquarium with the works

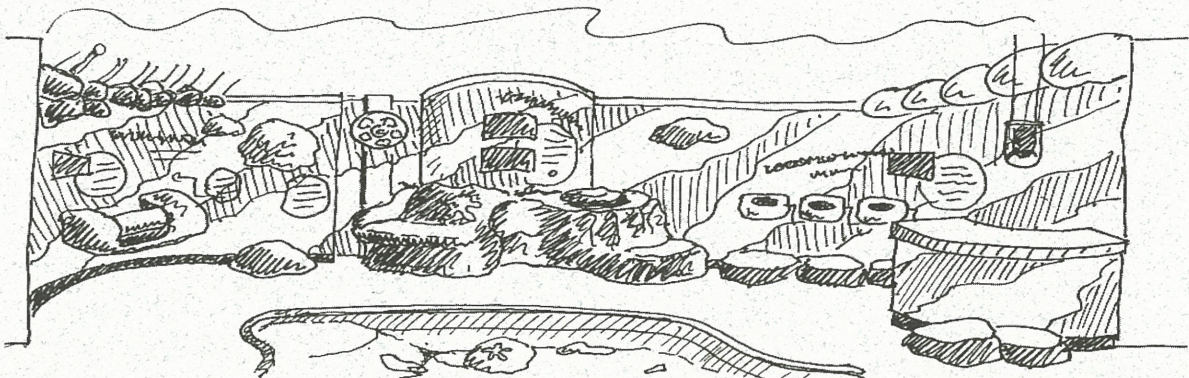
If you wanted to create your very own coral reef, what would you need? How would you make it work? How does the Aquarium make it work in the Coral Reef Exhibit? You can find out how a reef works in our new exhibit, 'Reefworks'. This display now fills the gallery between the Coral Cay and the Coral Reef exhibit with bright pictures and graphics. You will leave 'Reefworks' with an understanding of how water temperature, water quality, sunlight,

diversity of animal life and water movement are essential to the survival of a coral reef and to the running of the Aquarium. One of the highlights of the exhibit is a small working replica of the wave machine used to create water movement in the Coral Reef Exhibit. Now you are more than welcome to come and make waves at the Aquarium.

## What place do marine creatures fear the most?

There are many places where marine creatures feel the threat of impending death or destruction. These are the 'Contact Zones', the seashores, reef flats and shallow lagoons where people can easily enter and become part of the world of the sea by wading or snorkelling. This can also be a scary experience for people who are unsure of what they may encounter in this

other world. Thanks to a grant from the Aquarium Volunteers Association you can learn how to take the fear and danger (for the animals) out of a visit to these areas. This new display adds an extra dimension and insight to the Aquarium's own 'Contact Zone', the Touch Pool. So come and make contact in the 'Contact Zone'.



*An artist impression of the new 'Contact Zone'*



# AQUARIUM EDUCATION BIGGER AND BETTER

You're never too old to learn! Workshops for volunteers and interpreters have aimed to make Aquarium educational services even better! Paul Hauenschild (Education Officer) has conducted monthly workshops for staff and volunteers who work with school groups at the Aquarium.

Workshop participants have come up with some great ideas for making education programs innovative and most important, fun. Workshops have examined ways to tailor programs to students of different ages, and have enabled volunteers to practice their techniques and receive feedback from each other.

This enthusiastic team is continuing to deliver top quality education programs to school children, and is working hard to maintain the high standards!



*Fun was the key word for Aquarium volunteers at recent workshop to learn about delivering education programs. Photo: Glenn Shield*

## Thankyou

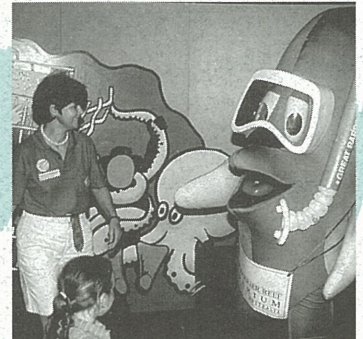
A big thanks to our new Sponsors Pilkington Glass who helped out with new Aquarium glass.



*Refitting glass to octagonal tanks, GBR Aquarium. Photo: Glenn Shield*

## Snap shots to remember

*Underwater Dreamers program give members a night they will never forget.*







GREAT BARRIER REEF AQUARIUM  
TOWNSVILLE • AUSTRALIA

# Look!

Here's the new GREAT BARRIER REEF AQUARIUM POSTER. Available at Aquarium Shop for the great price of \$9.95.

Also out now for Christmas is a SPECIAL LIMITED EDITION PRINT of the poster signed by local artist Fiona Alongi.

## \$9.95

## Bored with run of the mill Christmas presents?

Then why not shop at the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium Shop where you will not only find that fishy present but also get a 10% discount\*.

*\*Discounts applies to Friends of the Aquarium only.*



## Spawn to be wild!

You may have noticed a rather long strip of paper fall onto your lap as you opened this edition of *Coralines*. Take a closer look. There's Finlay that lovable and cheeky fish making his mark. Finlay loves being the centre of attention, so put the sticker in a prominent place like your car bumper, business window or school binder. This is the Aquarium's early Christmas present to our Friends. Aquarium visitors can support the Aquarium by purchasing the sticker in the Aquarium Shop for \$1.95 each.

