

**Itinerary for
Auburn University
Tropical Veterinary Science and the Great Barrier Reef
12 July 2020 - 28 July 2020**



Note: Please ensure you read ahead so you are prepared for upcoming activities.

Sunday 12 July	Day 1: Townsville
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12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	Students arrive independently into Townsville Airport
1:30 PM	Depart for accommodation by coach This is the only airport shuttle provided for your group today. Students who do not arrive on the recommended flight will need to make their own way to City Oasis Inn for the start of the programme. Shuttles and taxis are available from the airport.
2:00 PM	Check in to accommodation
4:30 PM – 5:00 PM	Welcome and orientation meeting Faculty-led and held in the City Oasis Restaurant
5:45 PM	Depart on foot for Grill'd Exit City Oasis Inn and turn left. Walk for approx. 350 metres until you reach Denham Street. Turn right onto Denham Street and walk to the river and over George Roberts Bridge. When over the bridge the first road on your left is Palmer Street. Turn into Palmer Street and Grill'd is approximately 40 metres down on the right-hand side.
6:00 PM	Grill'd group dinner 3 Palmer Street, Townsville, Phone: 07 4976 9990 Please choose one main (burger or salad) from the menu. Platters of mixed fries will also be delivered to your table to share.

Accommodation

City Oasis Inn, 143 Wills Street, Townsville, Phone: 07 4771 6048
 Laundry facility - charged, Laundry service, Restaurant, Swimming pool, Wi-Fi - complimentary, Towels, Gymnasium, Air conditioning, BBQ facility

Monday 13 July	Day 2: Townsville
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7:30 AM	City Oasis continental group breakfast
8:35 AM	Depart City Oasis on foot for Reef HQ From your accommodation, turn left onto Wills Street. Turn right onto Stokes Street. Turn left onto Sturt Street. Turn right onto Denham Street. Turn left onto Flinders Street. Continue straight at the roundabout. Reef HQ Aquarium will be on the right. The walk takes about 20 minutes.
9:00 AM	Reef HQ Day One Welcome to Reef HQ Aquarium Reef HQ Aquarium is the world's largest living coral reef aquarium and the Australian Government's National Education Centre for the Great Barrier Reef. During this session participants will receive an orientation tour of the facility, get an overview of how it was built and learn about the some of the marine life that is on display.
	10:00 AM Morning tea
	10:30 AM Creature Feature Workshop The Discovery Lagoon is home to an amazing array of reef creatures. Students will discover the baby leopard shark, ray, sea cucumbers and sea stars that inhabit Discovery Lagoon and call the Great Barrier Reef home. Students will have the opportunity to have a hands on interaction with some of these creatures. Using state-of-the-art technology students will also be able to look at the mouth of a sea star, the tube feet of sea urchins and examine a variety of other reef creatures up close.
	11:00 AM Behind the scenes tour of Reef HQ Aquarium - animal husbandry and biosecurity focus The world's largest living coral reef aquarium! Go behind the scenes and explore what it takes to maintain a biological system of this size. During the behind the scenes tour, you will learn how Reef HQ Aquarium staff keep Reef HQ Aquarium's living exhibits healthy and how they monitor the conditions that are required to maintain a "Living Coral Reef on Land".
	12:15 PM Lunch at Reef HQ Café Today's lunch will be provided by the Reef HQ Café and a dedicated seating area will be made available for your use.



1:15 PM

Reef HQ Aquarium Turtle Hospital operations presentation

Reef HQ Aquarium's Turtle Hospital provides a dedicated facility, where sick and injured marine turtles can be cared for and rehabilitated. The hospital operates under and promotes the C.A.R.E (Conserve. Act. Rehabilitate. Educate) philosophy playing a key role in raising community awareness in relation to threatened species and encouraging behavioural change that will benefit the environment. During this truly inspirational experience students will learn more about marine turtles "the ancient mariners of the sea" and visit the Turtle Hospital where sick and injured marine turtles are being cared for.

- Turtle Hospital visit and assistance with turtle health checks
- Hands-on experience in performing health checks on sick and injured marine turtles.

2:15 PM

Meet an Aquarist and watch the feeding

See what is on the menu for the sharks and fish today!

3:00 PM

Coral propagation programme

Based on the same techniques frequently used in domestic gardens to start new plants from cuttings off mature plants, coral fragments "cuttings" are taken from donor colonies to start new colonies. This ensures Reef HQ's displays are maintained and developed in the most sustainable way. Sharing our secrets is also helping other facilities to reduce their ecological footprint.

3:30 PM

Dangerous Wildlife Orientation with Jackie and Dan

Australia's wildlife has a deadly reputation: animals like the inland taipan, the most toxic snake on the planet, call Australia home so it is easy to see why. From snakes to crocodiles and even small spiders, it seems like all of Australia's animals are dangerous. During Hands on Wildlife's Dangerous Wildlife Orientation Program, you will discover which dangerous animals you may encounter in Tropical North Queensland, and, more importantly, you will learn what you should do if you do encounter these animals. You will get up close and personal with some of these creatures in a safe and secure environment, and will be able to touch and hold some of the less dangerous animals as well.

Held in the conference room at Reef HQ.

5:00 PM

Depart Reef HQ on foot for City Oasis Inn

Exit Reef HQ and turn left so you walk past the Cultural Centre and the Museum of Tropical Queensland. Continue on Flinders Street for approximately 550 metres until you reach Denham Street. Turn right onto Denham Street and walk for approximately 350 metres until you reach Wills Street. Turn left onto Wills Street and walk for approx. 350 metres and City Oasis Inn will be on your right.

5:30 PM

Free evening

Dinner on your own.

Accommodation

City Oasis Inn, 143 Wills Street, Townsville, Phone: 07 4771 6048

Tuesday 14 July

Day 3: Townsville

7:30 AM

City Oasis continental group breakfast

Today you will have the opportunity to snorkel within Reef HQ Aquarium's Coral Reef Exhibit. Please ensure you have a day bag packed with your swimwear and towel.

8:35 AM

Depart City Oasis on foot for Reef HQ

From your accommodation, turn left onto Wills Street. Turn right onto Stokes Street. Turn left onto Sturt Street. Turn right onto Denham Street. Turn left onto Flinders Street. Continue straight at the roundabout. Reef HQ Aquarium will be on the right. The walk takes about 20 minutes.

9:00 AM

Reef HQ Day Two

Introduction to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and its management

An ecosystem based approach is used, and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is widely recognised as one of the best managed marine protected areas in the world. The Marine Park is a multiple-use area that supports a range of communities and industries that depend on the Reef for recreation or their livelihoods. Tourism, fishing, boating and shipping are all legitimate uses of the Marine Park. The entire Marine Park is covered by a Zoning Plan that identifies where particular activities are permitted and where some are not permitted.

10:15 AM

Morning tea

10:45 AM

Leopard shark captive breeding programme

Reef HQ's leopard shark captive breeding programme is internationally recognised. Reef HQ Aquarium is one of only a



few aquariums worldwide that have eggs laid and new pups hatched successfully. Reef HQ donates offspring to other zoos and aquariums around Australia and the world which reduces the number of sharks collected from the wild. Growth rate research also helps environmental management agencies to better understand how to protect them.

11:15 AM

Reef Health Assessment Training

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's "Rapid Monitoring Program" is the latest citizen science (community monitoring tool) that enables community members to participate in monitoring the health of the Great Barrier Reef. The strength of the programme is that it can be used either at the same site repeatedly for monitoring changes over time or it can be deployed anywhere on coral reefs to get a snapshot of reef health. You will receive in-water training within Reef HQ Aquarium's Coral Reef Exhibition, instructed in the simplified steps and use of diagrams on underwater slates. The Rapid Monitoring Program can easily be adopted by people who may not have a scientific background, however the data collected provides enough detail to be of scientific value for reef managers.

12:30 PM

Lunch at Reef HQ Café

Today's lunch will be provided by the Reef HQ Café and a dedicated seating area will be made available for your use.

1:15 PM

Briefing prior to snorkeling activities

1:30 PM

Rotational activities

For this part of the programme, the group will be split into two smaller groups for activities on a rotational basis.

Group 1: Snorkel within the Coral Reef Exhibit - Reef Health Assessment Training. Put theory lessons into practice snorkeling in the Coral Reef Exhibition at Reef HQ Aquarium. Conduct a Reef Health Assessment on the world's largest living coral reef aquarium in preparation for your day trip to the Great Barrier Reef.

Group 2: Discover the Top 10 Families of Reef Fish.

In this session students will be introduced to the top ten families of Reef Fish found on the Great Barrier Reef and learn about the general characteristics of how to identify them.

2:45 PM

Rotational activities continue

Group 1: Discover the Top 10 Families of Reef Fish

Group 2: Snorkel within the Coral Reef Exhibit

4:00 PM

Break

4:15 PM

Discussion of results and overview of reef snorkel trip.

5:00 PM

Depart Reef HQ on foot for City Oasis Inn

6:30 PM

City Oasis group dinner

Accommodation

City Oasis Inn, 143 Wills Street, Townsville, Phone: 07 4771 6048

Wednesday 15 July

Day 4: Townsville

6:00 AM

City Oasis continental group breakfast

6:30 AM

Depart on foot for the marina

Exit City Oasis Inn and turn left walking until you reach Denham Street.

Turn right onto Denham Street and walk for approx. 300m then turn left onto Melton Terrace.

Walk for approx. 550m until you reach The Strand.

Turn left onto The Strand and walk alongside Anzac Park.

At the end of the park turn right onto Mariners Drive and onto the Breakwater Marina.

You will find the Adrenalin Snorkel and Dive vessel on the fuel wharf at the end of Mariners Drive (Past 'G' wharf).

Please wear your swimsuit under your clothes and bring a towel, sunhat, sunscreen, sunglasses, water bottle and camera.

7:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Adrenalin Snorkel: Great Barrier Reef Excursion

Adrenalin Snorkel and Dive, Townsville's most experienced marine tourism operator, will escort you to some of the best sites on the Great Barrier Reef.

During the day you will complete a Reef Health Assessment under supervision of experienced dive crew and marine experts. Learn about both natural and human-induced impacts on the reef. Find out about some of the practices local operators have adopted to minimise their impact on the environment and help rehabilitate the reef. Discuss business operations and concerns with management of SeaLink Travel Group, one of Australia's largest tourism and transport



providers.

What to bring:

- Wear swimsuit under clothes
- Towel
- Hat
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Camera, if desired
- Any personal medications

Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea, as well as tea, coffee, water and cordial will be provided, as well as a full-length wetsuit, mask, snorkel and fins.

6:00 PM

Dinner on your own

Accommodation

City Oasis Inn, 143 Wills Street, Townsville, Phone: 07 4771 6048

Thursday 16 July

Day 5: Townsville

7:30 AM

City Oasis continental group breakfast

8:30 AM

Depart accommodation by coach

9:00 AM

Billabong Sanctuary

Billabong Sanctuary is a leader in conservation; their excellent corporate management behaviour ensures the long term sustainability of the business and its lasting contribution to environmental causes. They strongly believe that their holistic and passionate approach to conservation is the secret behind their success.

This experience with qualified rangers will showcase the positive role model Billabong Sanctuary provides through education to the wider community focusing on the life and history of Australia's native Dingo:

- A presentation on Australia's native dog, its evolution and social interaction with indigenous Australians and the changes since white settlement in Australia
- Adaptations since its arrival to Australia and behavioural instincts
- The plight of the modern Dingo
- Saltwater crocodile encounter
- Behind-the-scenes tour including Q&A with ranger on training, diet and enrichment programmes at the sanctuary
- Koala and Wombat experience for the group

Students will also have time to explore the sanctuary and join Billabong's regular public educational sessions. Please wear sturdy walking shoes and bring sun protection, insect repellent and water.

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Guided Sanctuary Tour with staff rangers

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Free time to explore the Sanctuary

12:00 PM

Billabong Sanctuary group lunch

12:45 PM

A presentation on Australian dingoes and crocodiles

This experience with qualified rangers will showcase the positive role model Billabong Sanctuary provides through education to the wider community focusing on the life and history of dingoes and crocodiles.

Crocodile feeding at 1:00pm.

1:30 PM

Billabong Sanctuary animal enrichment project

Discussion facilitated by Ranger Jules and the Billabong team about the difference in management of dingoes and crocodiles and why they are different.

In groups you will then identify and build an enrichment item for selected animals which will be judged by the rangers. Groups will be able to give the items to the animals to see how they interact and respond.

3:30 PM

Depart activity by coach

4:00 PM

Free evening

Dinner on your own. Please purchase a snack to take to the Conservation Volunteers activity tomorrow.



Accommodation

City Oasis Inn, 143 Wills Street, Townsville, Phone: 07 4771 6048

Friday 17 July Day 6: Townsville

7:00 AM	City Oasis continental group breakfast Please note, you will not have cell phone reception while at Hidden Valley Cabins over the next few days. Please let your friends and family know today that you will be out of contact for a few days.
7:45 AM	Depart for activity Conservation Volunteers Australia will be providing your transport to and from the site today where you will be assisting with their tree planting and weed treatment project.
8:15 AM - 12:00 PM	Conservation Volunteers Australia Ross River Community Weed Control (or similar project) The project site is along a very popular stretch of the Ross River, next to public parks and a bike and walking trail which is very popular with the locals. The flood waters ripped out a lot of the weeds but also took some of the established native trees along this stretch of river, so you will be restoring the riparian habitat by planting new trees. The aim of this project is to involve the community in the removal of invasive woody weed species, <i>Leucaena leucocephala</i> , from the bank of the Ross River in Mundingburra, Townsville. <i>Leucaena leucocephala</i> forms a dense monoculture on the river bank and has greatly reduced biodiversity in the area. Following weed treatment we aim to restore biodiversity by revegetating the area with a range of local native tree species, produced by our volunteer nursery. Please bring snacks and a full water bottle (a water urn will be supplied for topping up) and wear appropriate clothing for outdoor work: closed-toe shoes, long pants, long sleeve shirt, hat, sunglasses. The two CVA Team Leaders will have sunscreen and insect repellent, first aid kits, gloves, hi-vis vests and any tools that will be required.
12:00 PM	Depart activity for accommodation
12:30 PM	Free afternoon Lunch and dinner on your own.

Accommodation

City Oasis Inn, 143 Wills Street, Townsville, Phone: 07 4771 6048

Saturday 18 July Day 7: Townsville to Hidden Valley

8:00 AM	City Oasis continental group breakfast
8:45 AM	Check out of accommodation
Guide	Ross McLennan Ross runs a small, family-run tourism business called Hidden Valley Cabins located 103 kilometres northwest of Townsville. The McLennan family have owned and operated the business since 1986. Because of its remote location, Hidden Valley Cabins has no town amenities and is totally self-sufficient. In December 2007, the retreat switched off its diesel generators and since then the entire resort's electrical needs have been supplied by the sun, saving the resort up to 26000L of diesel and 78 tonnes of CO2 per year. Ross is very passionate about sustainability, the natural environment that he calls home, and finding ways to implement best practice into his business. Hidden Valley – Day 1 Please note: the schedule set out for your time at Hidden Valley Cabins is subject to change. Ross will keep you updated with any changes. Starting in Townsville you are joined by Hidden Valley Cabins guide Ross McLennan and local plant expert Greg Calvert. Travelling from Townsville to Hidden Valley via the World Heritage Listed Wet Tropic Rainforests, Greg will showcase the flora and fauna of the Paluma Range and Dry Open Woodlands of Hidden Valley. You will get the chance to look at the value of plants as a resource for food and medical applications Picnic lunch provided by Hidden Valley Cabins. Continued rainforest exploration. Hidden Valley Cabins group dinner.

Accommodation

Hidden Valley Cabins, 67 McLennan Road, Hidden Valley, Phone: 07 4770 8088



Swimming pool, Complimentary transfers, Towels, BBQ facility

Sunday 19 July

Day 8: Hidden Valley

7:30 AM

Hidden Valley Cabins group breakfast

Hidden Valley – Day 2

Please note: the schedule set out for your time at Hidden Valley Cabins is subject to change. Ross will keep you updated with any changes.

08:00 AM

Service learning with Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC)

AWC's reserves cover more than 3 million hectares (7.4 million acres), which represents the largest private conservation estate in Australia. Hidden Valley Cabins, AUIP and AWC have developed a partnership to do critical work on two of AWC's reserves, Mt Zero and Taravale. The day will be spent working on a range of activities which may focus on physical activities and/or business assessment and monitoring.

Please wear a long-sleeved shirt, long pants and socks that cover your ankles. Hidden Valley will supply gloves, tools, etc.

A picnic lunch will be provided.

Platypus spotting

Australian Geographic recognises the area as one of the top five places to see platypus in the wild.

Free time

7:00 PM

Hidden Valley Cabins group dinner

Accommodation

Hidden Valley Cabins, 67 McLennan Road, Hidden Valley, Phone: 07 4770 8088

Monday 20 July

Day 9: Hidden Valley

7:00 AM

Hidden Valley Cabins group breakfast

Hidden Valley - Day 3

8:00 AM

Travel by coach to Charters Towers

10:30 AM

Texas Longhorn Farm - Leahton Park

Introduction to visit and property with owner Michael Bethel. Experience country farm life on an Outback station, learning about the rural lifestyle, connections to the land and creative alternatives to urban provisions.

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Horse-drawn wagon ride or safari. View the Texas Longhorns, Bison, Scottish Highlanders, African Watusi, Buffalo and pasture inspection.

12:30 PM - 1:15 PM

Presentation at Cattle Yards on Artificial Insemination

Leahton Park uses artificial insemination exclusively and below is a selection of the bulls used in the breeding programme at Leahton Park, both past and present. We use the best genetics available in Australia and work with other leading Texas Longhorn breeders in this country to import semen from some of the best AI sires in the USA.

1:15 PM - 2:00 PM

BBQ lunch

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Travel to Hidden Valley Cabins

7:00 PM

Hidden Valley Cabins group dinner

8:30 PM

Southern Skies star gazing

The Southern Hemisphere's night sky has unique sights on display only visible in this region of the world, including, but



not limited to, the Southern Cross, Coal Sack and Jewel Box. The Milky Way and its neighboring galaxies, the Magellanic Clouds, are also easily visible.

Accommodation

Hidden Valley Cabins, 67 McLennan Road, Hidden Valley, Phone: 07 4770 8088

Tuesday 21 July	Day 10: Hidden Valley
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7:30 AM	Hidden Valley Cabins group breakfast
8:00 AM	Hidden Valley - Day 4 Please note: the schedule set out for your time at Hidden Valley Cabins is subject to change. Ross will keep you updated with any changes. 8:00 AM Travel by coach to Wallaman Falls (travel time approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes) 10:30 AM Wallaman Falls hike and master plan development Travel to the largest sheer drop waterfall in the southern hemisphere. Wallaman Falls plummets an amazing 305 metres into the Stony Creek Gorge. This guided hike takes you to the base of the waterfall where you will enjoy a picnic lunch provided by Hidden Valley Cabins before returning to the summit. 3:30 PM Travel by coach to Hidden Valley Cabins (travel time approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes) 7:00 PM Hidden Valley Cabins group dinner 8:30 PM Night walk and nocturnal wildlife spotting

Accommodation

Hidden Valley Cabins, 67 McLennan Road, Hidden Valley, Phone: 07 4770 8088

Wednesday 22 July	Day 11: Hidden Valley to Townsville
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7:30 AM	Hidden Valley Cabins group breakfast
8:15 AM	Depart Hidden Valley Cabins by coach for Mungalla Station
10:30 AM	Mungalla Aboriginal Tours cultural experience Your tour will start with a cultural session introducing you to the Nywaigi Aboriginal culture. During the session you may be able to try your hand at traditional activities such as throwing boomerangs and spears. This is followed by a session called "Captive Lives" during which you will tour the exhibition hall and hear the story of the ancestors of the Aboriginal people from Mungalla Station and surrounding areas and how they were exhibited as cannibals and savages in the nineteenth century circuses and sideshows of Europe and America. After a BBQ lunch, your group will participate in a wetland and waterways restoration project. You will undertake service-learning in which you will help with the restoration of the Mungalla wetlands, which is being cleared of introduced weeds. You may clear areas for revegetation or plant trees using water crystals and fertilising tablets. It is recommended that you wear a long-sleeved shirt and long pants to protect yourself from wildlife. You must wear closed-toe shoes (no sandals or Tevas). Please bring water, insect repellent, sun protection and snacks. 3:30 PM Depart Mungalla Station by coach for Townsville 5:30 PM Check in to accommodation 6:30 PM City Oasis group dinner

Accommodation

City Oasis Inn, 143 Wills Street, Townsville, Phone: 07 4771 6048

Laundry facility - charged, Laundry service, Restaurant, Swimming pool, Wi-Fi - complimentary, Towels, Gymnasium, Air conditioning, BBQ facility

**Thursday 23 July****Day 12: Townsville**

8:00 AM	City Oasis continental group breakfast
9:30 AM	Depart for JCU by coach
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM	<p>James Cook University Veterinary Science Site Visit Hosted by Professor Margaret Reilly, Head of Veterinary Sciences. Margaret is a general practice small animal veterinarian with many years' experience in small business and human resource management. She has been affiliated with JCU for almost 30 years in varying capacities and is also the rotation coordinator of the Small Animal Practice rotation in the veterinary teaching hospital.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Tour of the veterinary hospital and facilities- Teaching and research in JCU Veterinary Sciences- Australian local specifics, toxins, diseases and conditions <p>The campus visit will also include a tour of the turtle health research facility with an opportunity to see baby turtles up close.</p>
12:15 PM	Depart by coach
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	<p>Lecture or site visit – TBC Options include a medicinal lecture or practitioner visit, such as an equine visit or koala rehabilitation talk.</p>
3:15 PM	Depart by coach
3:30 PM	<p>Free afternoon Dinner on your own.</p>

Accommodation

City Oasis Inn, 143 Wills Street, Townsville, Phone: 07 4771 6048

Friday 24 July**Day 13: Townsville to Magnetic Island**

7:30 AM	City Oasis continental group breakfast
8:15 AM	<p>Check out of accommodation Please help to load your luggage on the coach. Please wear comfortable walking shoes and bring your water bottle with you today.</p>
8:30 AM	Depart accommodation by coach for the Australian Institute of Marine Science
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM	<p>Tour of AIMS Cape Ferguson facility Tours include presentations on AIMS' current research and a guided walk around the facilities, including a tour of the 'world's smartest aquarium', the National Sea Simulator.</p> <p>Sturdy, closed-toe footwear and a hat to protect against the sun are required. Bring a full water bottle with you as well.</p>
11:45 AM - 12:45 PM	<p>Group lunch Catering trays have been provided for your lunch today. The AIMS cafe offers your choice of indoor and outdoor seating available for your group to enjoy the lunch break.</p>
12:45 PM - 1:30 PM	Depart by coach for the Townsville ferry terminal
2:15 PM - 2:40 PM	SeaLink Ferry: Townsville to Magnetic Island
2:45 PM	Depart by coach for accommodation
3:00 PM	<p>Check in to accommodation Unpack and settle in to your accommodation. Bungalow Bay staff will advise you on arrival where your welcome dinner and breakfasts will be served and about complimentary Wi-Fi access.</p> <p>Please note: When checking in to accommodations, check your room thoroughly for any damage. If you discover any existing damage, report it to reception immediately so you are not charged for it when you check out.</p>



If you need to purchase supplies for the next few days there is a Foodworks grocery store located at 8/7 Pacific Drive, about a 10-minute walk from Bungalow Bay Koala Village. From your accommodation, turn right onto Horseshoe Bay Road. Turn right onto Pacific Drive. Foodworks will be on the right. They are open 7:00am - 7:00pm.

5:30 PM

Bungalow Bay wildlife introduction and welcome dinner

Group dinner and a hands-on introduction to Australian wildlife with a Bungalow Bay Koala Village ranger providing discussion on the diversity of Australian terrestrial ecosystems and the species therein.

Accommodation

Bungalow Bay Koala Village, 40 Horseshoe Bay Rd, Magnetic Island, Phone: 07 4778 5577

Laundry facility - charged, Restaurant, Swimming pool, Air conditioning, Kitchen, ATM, Luggage storage, Wi-Fi - complimentary in some areas

Saturday 25 July

Day 14: Magnetic Island

8:00 AM

Bungalow Bay continental group breakfast

9:00 AM

Koala population survey project

You will be given the opportunity to take part in a field-based study surveying koala populations on Magnetic Island. This work is modelled on a study conducted by James Cook University (JCU) researchers in 2011 which collected data on koalas for both publishing and management purposes. The day will include a seminar on koala biology and ecology, a briefing on the survey methodology and a discussion of the JCU study and their use of data. You will be immersed in the natural environment of the island while undertaking the survey, in addition to having the opportunity to see koalas both in their natural habitat and in captivity.

Dr Julie Funnell grew up in the Blue Mountains in New South Wales and spent a lot of her childhood out in the Australian bush. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Biology and a PhD on native Australian birds. She has worked as a lecturer, tutor and field guide, and has held positions in research administration, consulting, management and edutourism project leadership. Dr Funnell has specialist knowledge in dingoes and koalas; she has worked with dingoes extensively at Billabong Sanctuary and has developed a koala research project on Magnetic Island. She now works for NQ Dry Tropics, a not-for-profit natural resources management company.

You will be riding a bicycle for a total of 5 kilometres at a steady pace. As the landscapes are based in eucalypt woodland, you are required to wear long pants, long sleeves, closed-toe shoes and ankle length socks for the morning activity. Please bring a hat, raincoat, sunscreen, sunglasses, insect repellent, snacks, 1 litre of water and any personal medications.

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Lunch on your own at Bungalow Bay

1:00 PM

Koala population survey project continues

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Bungalow Bay group dinner

Accommodation

Bungalow Bay Koala Village, 40 Horseshoe Bay Rd, Magnetic Island, Phone: 07 4778 5577

Sunday 26 July

Day 15: Magnetic Island

8:30 AM

Bungalow Bay continental group breakfast

9:00 AM

Free day

Lunch and dinner on your own.

Accommodation

Bungalow Bay Koala Village, 40 Horseshoe Bay Rd, Magnetic Island, Phone: 07 4778 5577

Monday 27 July

Day 16: Magnetic Island to Townsville

7:30 AM

Bungalow Bay continental group breakfast

Meet at the Education Deck by 8:25am for your lecture.

8:30 AM

Terrestrial Landscapes of Queensland

Led by staff from North Queensland Dry Tropics.



NQ Dry Tropics is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that is committed to sustaining North Queensland's natural resources for the benefit of current and future generations. NQ Dry Tropics operates within the 146,000km² Burdekin Dry Tropics region, an area which covers vast rural areas, as well as Townsville, Charters Towers, Greenvale, Ayr, Home Hill, Bowen, the lower Burdekin towns, Collinsville and Alpha. The natural resources with which they are concerned include native plants and animals, rivers, oceans, beaches, paddocks and bushland.

- 10:15 AM **Morning break**
Please use this time to check out of your rooms, store your luggage at reception, and prepare for the Balding Bay hike. A picnic lunch will be provided.
- 11:00 AM - 2:30 PM **Balding Bay hike**
During this 3-hour hike you will progress through Magnetic Island National Park into the low wetlands area of Horseshoe Bay before climbing into the dry sclerophyll forests bordering the granite boulder habitats. Your guide will showcase some diverse habitats that are home to over 75 species of reptiles, mammals and birds found in the dry tropics.

Enjoy your packed lunch at Balding Bay. Please carry all rubbish back to Bungalow Bay Koala Village and dispose of it in the proper receptacle bins.
- 4:15 PM **Depart for the ferry terminal by coach**
- 5:10 PM **SeaLink Ferry: Magnetic Island to Townsville**
- 5:40 PM **Depart for accommodation by coach**
- 5:50 PM **Check in to accommodation**
- 6:45 PM **Depart on foot for Cowboys**
Exit City Oasis Inn and turn right walking until you reach Stanley Street.
Turn left onto Stanley Street and walk for approx. 400m until you reach Flinders Street.
Turn left onto Flinders Street and walk approx. 250m and Cowboys Leagues Club will be on your left.

Dinner tonight is at a traditional Australian club which is a licensed premises. Although you will not be drinking, ID may be required, so please bring photo ID such as a drivers licence or passport. An acceptable standard of tidy casual dress is also required - no hats, flip flops, swimwear or singlets please.
- 7:00 PM **Group Dinner at Cowboys League Club Match Restaurant**
Please order one main from the 12 Club Classic menu options; the salad bar is included. Vegetarian, vegan and dairy-free variations are all available; please check with your server if you have dietary requests.

Accommodation

City Oasis Inn, 143 Wills Street, Townsville, Phone: 07 4771 6048

Laundry facility - charged, Laundry service, Restaurant, Swimming pool, Wi-Fi - complimentary, Towels, Gymnasium, Air conditioning, BBQ facility

Tuesday 28 July

Day 17: Townsville to USA

- 4:00 AM **City Oasis breakfast**
Due to the early departure of some of the group City Oasis Inn will deliver a breakfast pack to each of your rooms Monday evening for you to enjoy this morning.
- 4:15 AM **Check out of accommodation**
If you are not departing on an early flight this morning please ensure you are checked out by 10:00am. Luggage storage is available at reception.
- 4:20 AM **Depart for Townsville airport by coach**
This is the only airport shuttle provided for the group today. If your onward travel arrangements differ, please make your own way to the airport allowing at least 20 minutes travel time and 90 minutes for domestic check-in for flights that connect to an international service. The staff at reception will be happy to help with onward travel arrangements.
- 5:55 AM **Students depart independently from Townsville Airport**

Safe and happy travels! We hope you enjoyed your study abroad programme in Australia!