

Welcome to Cairns



The Australian coral reef research community welcomes you to Cairns to participate in the 12th International Coral Reef Symposium (ICRS 2012).

Australia has a vibrant scientific community, active across all coral reef disciplines, which plays a prominent and highly collaborative role in international coral reef sciences. The ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies and James Cook University are delighted to have been invited by the International Society for Reef Studies to host the world's most important coral reef conference.

We are planning a conference that will provide you with the opportunity to showcase your recent research findings, to advance our knowledge on coral reef science, management and conservation, and to exchange ideas with colleagues.

The scientific program features renowned international experts, with close to 2,000 scientific talks and posters addressing major themes. Scientific field trips provide you with the opportunity to experience spectacular coral reefs on the Great Barrier Reef. Lastly, the Symposium's social activities will showcase Australian culture and food, as you experience Aussie hospitality and friendship.

Australia's coral reef community is eager to welcome our colleagues from around the world to ICRS 2012 for an intellectually stimulating and socially memorable occasion.



Terry Hughes
ICRS 2012 Convenor

It gives me great pleasure to extend a warm tropical welcome to delegates, partners, families, exhibitors and organisers of the 12th Coral Reef Symposium.

It is fitting that your prestigious event is being held in a city that is surrounded by natural beauty including one of the most amazing coral reefs in the world.

It is our privilege to be your hosts for the coming week and to share in the exciting scientific programme and many activities you will have the opportunity to experience.

We wish you a successful Symposium, a thoroughly enjoyable time and many wonderful memories of our stunning region.



Ross Steele
General Manager
Cairns Convention Centre

Today's Program Highlights

Plenary Speakers



Professor Jane Lubchenco
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator, USA

0900-0945 Plenary Hall 2

On 20 March 2009 Jane Lubchenco was sworn in as the ninth and first woman Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Professor Lubchenco has studied marine ecosystems around the world and championed the importance of science and its relevance to policy making and human well-being. Her scientific expertise includes oceans, climate change, and interactions between the environment and human well-being. Her plenary address today is titled **"From science to policy: using science to inform coral reef conservation and management"**.



Professor Jamaluddin Jompa
Hasanuddin University, Indonesia

1400-1445, Plenary Hall 2

Jamaluddin Jompa is one of Indonesia's prominent coral reef scientists and in 2007 established the Indonesian Coral Reef Society of which he is currently the Secretary. In addition to conducting research on coral reef ecology and management, especially in Eastern Indonesia, he has also been involved in helping the Indonesian Government as the Executive Secretary of one of the biggest coral reef management projects, the Coral Reef Rehabilitation and Management Program (COREMAP II). Jompa has also played important roles in the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) at both national and regional levels. His plenary address today is titled **"Scientific and management challenges in conserving the reefs in the Coral Triangle Region: lessons learnt from Indonesia"**.

ICRS 2012 Organising Committee



Terry Hughes

Terry Hughes is the Convenor of ICRS 2012, which is the only reason he may be wearing a tie on Monday, 9 July.

Terry is a Distinguished Professor at James Cook University, and Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies. He grew up in Ireland, where the water is very cold, and began his coral reef career in Jamaica for his doctorate at Johns Hopkins University. He hasn't dived under ice since.

He moved to Australia in 1990, has been a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science

since 2001, and was awarded the Darwin Medal of the International Society for Coral Reef Studies in 2008.

Terry's research in the Caribbean, Australia and across the Pacific, focuses broadly on the linkages between coral reef ecosystems, the goods and services they provide to people, and coral reef management and governance.

He has published more than 100 coral reef papers, and his research has been cited more than 17,000 times.

Terry has pioneered the concept of ecological resilience, leading to a deeper understanding of why coral reefs sometimes collapse in response to human impacts. When he's not working, Terry is usually asleep.



Eliza Glasson

Eliza is the ICRS 2012 Conference Co-ordinator at the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies.

After graduating with a degree in Socio-Environmental Assessment and Policy from Melbourne, Eliza set out to travel the world. She spent nearly 10 years away from Australia including working as a 'roadie' for Dire Straits on their European Tour back in 1992.

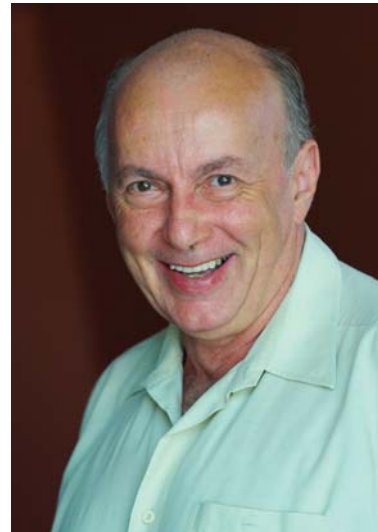
She has organised trade exhibitions in Malaysia and Thailand, and ministerial conferences for the British Government, World Health

Organization and European Economic Union.

Eliza has organised community events including air shows, street parades and fireworks displays with crowds in excess of 100,000 people.

She was in the communication team for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for four years when the Marine Park was rezoned last decade. It was here she met her husband and later had two children. They then spent three years living in the Solomon Islands where Eliza volunteered her expertise to assist with some event organising in Honiara but otherwise kept busy raising the children, including a baby they adopted while there.

Eliza has really enjoyed her role in coordinating ICRS 2012 on behalf of the hosts, combining her expertise in event organising and her passion for the environment.



David Yellowlees

Professor David Yellowlees is the Assistant Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence.

Educated in Scotland as a biochemist, he has undertaken extensive research on the symbiosis between coral reef organisms, particular coral in tridacnid clams since the mid-1980s. His major interests have centred on the metabolic relationship between the symbiotic partners.

David has published more than 80 papers in international journals. He now applies many of his skills learned as the Head of School of Pharmacy and Molecular Sciences to assist with

the running of the ARC Centre. In particular he mentors the postdoctoral fellows, assists researchers with grant submissions and award nominations, and acts as the postgraduate liaison officer from the ARC Centre.



Jennifer Lappin

Jennifer Lappin is the Chief Operations Officer of the ARC Centre of Excellence, headquartered at James Cook University (JCU) in Townsville.

Jennifer has a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Queensland and is a Certified Practising Accountant. She has more than 20 years of senior management experience with responsibilities for strategic planning, financial management, facilities planning and management, human resources, communications, business processes and policy development.

Starting work as an accountant in Townsville she progressed her career in Sydney, Melbourne and London before returning to Australia. She started as an academic in the Department of Commerce at James Cook University in 1988, moving to general financial management positions soon after.

Following various leadership positions in finance, research, foreign aid projects and as an executive officer at JCU, she moved in October 2005 to the Centre of Excellence to oversee, with the Centre Director, its establishment and development.

When Jenny is not organising ICRS 2012 or running the operations of a large research centre, she enjoys chilling out at the beach, gardening and spending as much time as possible with her two children.

She is a dinky-di local, born in Townsville with a whole of life love affair with the Great Barrier Reef and the North Queensland coast.

"In recognition of the sleepless nights I have spent worrying about making ICRS fabulous I was awarded the inaugural 'ICRS induced blood pressure award'," she quipped recently.

Poster Reception 1800-1930

Ground and First Floors of the Cairns Convention Centre adjoining Plenary Hall 2
Posters for the 12th International Coral Reef Symposium will be officially opened tonight with a reception held amongst the posters and their presenters. Light refreshments and beverages will be supplied for all delegates - we look forward to seeing you there.

Speakers' Preparation Guidelines

If you are presenting a talk, you must upload your presentation at least three (3) hours prior to your presentation, at the same venue where you are giving your talk: MR8 on the mezzanine at the Cairns Convention Centre and the Rosser Room on the first floor at the Sebel Hotel. The Speakers' Preparation Rooms at both venues will be open at these times:

Sunday: 1200 – 1700 • Monday-Thurs: 0730 – 1800 • Friday: 0730 – midday

Free WiFi

WiFi is available throughout the Cairns Convention Centre for the duration of the Symposium. WiFi is available throughout the Sebel Hotel for the duration of the Symposium. To access please enter the code **MNT68B** for Monday.

Connect at ICRS 2012 with Social Media

To discuss today's media briefings online, use the following hash tags:

Lessons from the Great Barrier Reef -

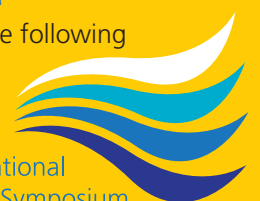
#icrs2012 #reef

The State of Coral Reefs -

#icrs2012 #coral

12th International
Coral Reef Symposium

9-13 July 2012 • Cairns • Queensland • Australia



United front

The six nations of the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) presented their inaugural reports at the Sebel Hotel in Cairns on Saturday.

Common themes featured in all the State of the Coral Triangle Reports (SCTRs) – the need for additional government funding, over-fishing, destructive fishing practices such as reef blasting, pollution, climate change, and coastal population growth and the resulting strain on food security.

The Coral Triangle Initiative was founded in 2009 by six countries – Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste. It covers 5.7m square kilometres of oceans and coast.

Representatives of each nation gave their respective reports at the Australian meeting – the first time a CTI gathering had been hosted by a non-member.

Food security, marine protection and

sustainable economic activity continued to be the priorities of the CTI, said Dr Sharifah Zarah Syed Ahmad, of Malaysia, who opened the SCTR meeting on behalf of the Chair of the CTI Council of Ministers.

She praised delegates for their contribution to the recent Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, adding that the “science and policy interface is very important and has to be at the centre stage of the agenda”.

Pavit Ramachandran, an environmental specialist at the Asian Development Bank, said CTI countries faced the challenge of “sustainable financing”.

It was a prerequisite for members to “look at the financial value of the argument” in order to gain greater fiscal support.

He praised the group’s focus on “sound science and evidence-based practices”.

Dr Terry Hughes, of James Cook University, identified population growth



in CTI countries as a “large-scale driver” in stressing the marine environment, stating their respective numbers were likely to double in the next 25 years.

He said economic changes, a greater influence of China and demands for food were “all leading to run-off from land, over-fishing and climate change”.

“The scale of threat is growing and requires unprecedented international co-operation,” Dr Hughes said.

In praising the six CTI countries for their reports, Dr Bob Pressey, also of James

Cook University, urged members to cross-map their goals, jointly assess policy impacts and avoid focusing only on outputs and outcomes.

Dr Marea Hatzios, a senior coastal and marine specialist at the World Bank, observed the need for “more robust data” that was centralised and available to individuals and decision-makers.

She also encouraged members to undertake more comprehensive monitoring “so we can understand the dynamics over time”.



Dr. Pavit Ramachandran (Environment Specialist, Southeast Asia Department Asian Development Bank) with Annabelle Trinidad, speakers Dr Sharifah Zarah Syed Ahmad (CTI Malaysia) and Dr Suseno Sukoyono (CTI-CFF Interim Regional Secretariat) and attendees.



Dr Sharifah Zarah Syed Ahmad (CTI Malaysia)



Maurice Knight with Annabelle Trinidad (Asian Development Bank)



Indonesia: 17 laws not enough

Only 5.58 per cent of coral reefs in Indonesia were in “excellent condition”, Dr Dirhamsyah revealed in his release of his nation’s State of the Coral Triangle report.

Almost one-third of Indonesia’s 51,000sq km of coral area – the largest in South-East Asia – was poor, he said.

A total 36.9 per cent of reef area was “fair” and 26.9 per cent could be assessed as “good”.

Dr Dirhamsyah said Indonesia had 18 per cent of the entire coral area in the waters of South-East Asia, and featured four types of reef – fringing, patch, barrier and atoll.

A total of 17 separate laws were designed to protect the environment, said Dr Dirhamsyah.

The Indonesia report, however, laments that “over-exploitation of marine resources is widespread with many fish stocks exploited well beyond biological limits”.

It describes as rare marine species such as sea turtles, giant clams, dugong and humphead wrasses.

“Critical coastal habitats”, particularly mangroves and coral reefs, have been over-fished, says the report.

Almost all domestic sewage is discharged into the sea, or into rivers, without treatment, resulting in red tides and harmful algal blooms.

Looking to the future, the report says it will prioritise the management of six seascapes that are part of 12 marine eco-regions that have been created.

Indonesia will also strengthen its Marine Protection Area strategy and increase its collaboration efforts with neighbouring countries to protect areas through the Sulu Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion.

Focus on ecosystems-based approach to fisheries management (EAFM) would increase to “improve the income, livelihoods and food security of an increasingly significant number of coastal communities”.

Among its research priorities, says the report, will be the valuation of the impact of resources degradation on the wealth and health of women.



Malaysia: Forces of destruction

Some 50 per cent of Malaysia coral reefs are “under threat” even though the country has more than 200 protected areas.

Destructive “forces”, sedimentation and expanding coastal developments were among the primary reasons for the bleak future of many reefs, said Professor Dr Nor Aieni Haji Binti Mokhtar.

Releasing Malaysia’s State of the Coral Triangle Report, Dr Mokhtar said conflicting government priorities provided significant challenge for the protection of marine life.

Pressure from the tourism sector and industrial development were major concerns.

The report says: “Overlapping policies are slowing down the implementation of laws.”

The dependency of Malaysians on fisheries and other coral resources is increasing. Each citizen is expected to consume an average 56kg of fish each year – an 18-point increase on 1999 estimates.

Dr Mokhtar said research priorities for Malaysia would include assessing the impact of ocean acidification as a result of sedimentation spills and coastal development pressures.

Like the Solomon Islands, fears about the effects of the release of ballast from

cargo ships also exist among Malaysia's science community.

Dr Mokhtar said colleagues would look at the impact on the ecosystem of "marine pollution and the introduction of invasive species" along major shipping routes from Port Klang to Sabah.

Sabah has critical importance for Malaysia, which has 4000sq km of coral area and a coastline of 4809km and seven coastal borders.

Some 60 per cent of its 575,000ha of mangroves feature in Sabah.

The report says that Malaysian scientists will also look at the impact of land-based activities, such as palm oil plantations, on coastal ecosystems.

Its figures relating to demersal fish and coastal small pelagic fish suggest that despite protection policies there continues to be an "over-exploitation of coastal fisheries compared with offshore fisheries".

The report adds that most offshore fishing is conducted by foreign fleets and "catches are not fully accounted for and probably result in a declining trend as well".



Papua New Guinea: Cash is king

Desire to fish for cash rather than food is putting increasing pressure on marine stocks in Papua New Guinea, according to Mr Vagi Rei, who released his country's State of the Coral Triangle report.

"For many food is scarce but at some stage this has now become a source of income," said Mr Vagi, who is a member of PNG's CTI co-ordinating committee.

He said the nation's fast-growing population of 7.6 million was placing added stress on marine resources.

PNG was battling pollution, climate change and habitat destruction that had contributed to flooding and the resulting run-off into marine areas that had affected seagrass and turtle areas.

Like many of his colleagues, Mr Vagi said more government funding was needed for protection and marine management.

"Sustainable financing is a very difficult challenge," he said.

Current funding would be spent on mapping coastal resources and stepping up research activities and monitoring.

More work on educating coastal communities on the importance of sustainable marine management was essential.

"The significant loss of coastal fisheries is very evident along the coastline," says PNG's report.

"Food security has been a serious problem, mainly in the coastal provinces that have major gold and copper mines."

PNG's new action plan would focus on "improved governance and effective management".

No large Marine Protection Area exists in PNG currently. However, a wildlife management area in Western Province, called Maza Wildlife Management Area, focuses on turtles and dugongs.

The Kimbe Bay Marine Management Area is a network of 11 locally-managed areas.



The Philippines: Coral health slipping

The health of coral areas is diminishing in the Philippines, Dr Theresa Mundita Lim has revealed in her report for the Coral Triangle Initiative.

Some 40 per cent of the Philippines' coral was now assessed as "poor" – up from the 27 per cent stated previously, Dr Mundita Lim told colleagues.

"It makes me cry," she said.

The Philippines' marine areas were blighted by challenges common to many South-East Asian countries – over-fishing, bad fishing practices, oil spills, hazardous waste from industry and agriculture, and the growth of coastal populations.

Dr Mundita Lim, director of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau at the Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources, said her country had been identified as "one of 34 bio-diversity hotspots in the world".

However, increasing strain was continuing to be placed on marine management.

She estimated 50 million Filipinos were now dependent on "the coastal ecosystem".

Some 1 million people were now employed in the fisheries industry.

It continued to be the "principal form of protein" for citizens and it represented 3.84 per cent of the national gross domestic product (GDP), she said.

The Philippines' report identifies four key areas of future research.

Scientists will monitor the "interactive impacts of government responses" through programs such as Marine Protection Areas, assessing the ecological, social and economic dimensions.

Assessment will be made of the "limits" to which resources could be used from coastal and marine resources.

There will also be further development of incentives to encourage payment for ecosystem services, as well as sustainable financing mechanisms dedicated to helping protect the marine environment.



Solomons' explosive message

A photograph of a home-made bomb designed to kill coral fish off the Solomon Islands provided a stark illustration of the challenge facing the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI).

Such explosives – one method of destructive fishing that is depleting stocks and damaging reefs – were being used "all the time" by Solomon Islands fishermen, said Dr Reuben Sulu, of his nation's CTI co-ordinating committee.

Dr Sulu, who presented his nation's first report on the State of the Coral Triangle, said explosives were mostly used off the coast of the capital, Honiara.

This was a response by fishermen to meet the increasing demand for fish at local markets. Solomon Islanders consumed an averaged 23kg of fish each year, he said.

Some 90 per cent of men and half the population of women actively fished, and this provided an increasing strain on fish stocks.

Dr Sulu also said he feared ballast released from cargo vessels was also killing marine life.

He expressed particular concern about ships that entered local waters with no cargo, ready to export logs. These vessels "must use ballast to stabilise themselves and release it in our waters when they have their cargo".

The Solomon Islands' report says it will investigate the prevalence of invasive marine species, "especially within ports, marinas and locations where logs are loaded on to ships".

The shift to a cash economy and the resulting impact of "coastal resources exploitation" would be another research priority, says the report.

Work would also be conducted to measure the growth parameters of coral and gauge the volume at which it can be sustainably harvested.



Timor-Leste: Getting to the baseline

COLLECTION of baseline data to reveal the biodiversity of local waters has been recognised as a top priority for Timor-Leste in its report.

A first assessment of in-shore and off-shore fisheries is essential to create a baseline from which scientists can track progress of various policy initiatives, says its co-ordinating committee for the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI).

A National Fisheries Census will be conducted to uncover fishing patterns and fish consumption of the Timor-Leste people.

The findings will provide "an assessment of threatened species" and help contribute to the "formulation of fisheries policies and management plans" for a proposed network of Marine Protection Areas (MPAs).

The Timor-Leste CRI report says high-value, tropical species such as snappers and groupers are in "low abundance", indicating over-fishing and an "emergent threat of destructive fishing".

It is vital to monitor and manage fishing once the MPAs network has been established to prevent reckless practices, it says.

The rehabilitation of mangrove forests is also a priority.

Fears are expressed in the report that the diminishing state of fishing stocks and marine degradation would further reduce the health of Timorese.

The report states some 30 per cent of the population experiences hunger and lives in poverty. Multinational companies – especially those in the oil sector – need to provide assistance.

"Seizing opportunities to derive payments for ecosystem services from offshore oil resources should be considered to help fund resource management and enhance (the) access and use-rights (of) the impoverished sectors, and make food available as part of corporate social responsibility," the report says.

ICRS 2012 Program changes

Monday 9 July

Nathalie Germain – Speed talk at 1030, Hall B. *Presentation to be given onsite by Manon Fourriere or Mariana Walther.*

Amelia Wenger – Oral presentation at 1115, MR3. *Presentation to be given onsite by Nicola Browne.*

Scott Donahue – Oral presentation at 1215, Hall B. *Presentation to be given onsite by Billy Causey.*

Danielle Jayewardene – Oral presentation at 1500, Sebel Kuranda. *Withdrawn.*

Joanie Kleypas – Oral presentation at 1515, Sebel Bluewater. *Presentation to be given onsite by Zack Powell.*

Kerry Reardon – Oral presentation at 1515, MR5. *Presentation to be given onsite by TBA.*

Micaela Hellstrom – Oral presentation at 1730, Sebel Tully. *Presentation to be given onsite by TBA.*

Karine Pothin – 1115 Hall B. *Changed with Jerry Garcia, 1015 Hall B on Tuesday.*

Posters

Arnaud Brayard – P007. *Presentation to be given onsite by George Stanley.*

Rafael Chesori – P033. *Presentation to be given onsite by TBA.*

James Moore – P095. *Presentation to be given onsite by Stuart Field.*

Natosha Ripley – P100. *Withdrawn.*

Jonas Leite – P114. *Presentation to be given onsite by TBA.*

Lea Urvoix – P141. *Presentation to be given onsite by TBA.*

Emily Gaskin – P192. *Presentation to be given onsite by Wendy Cover.*

Paul Sanchez-Navarro – P235. *Presentation to be given onsite by TBA.*

Bryan Costa – P239. *Withdrawn.*

RED SEA RESEARCH CENTER

RESEARCH PROGRAMS

- Coral Genome and Cell Type Transcriptions
- Sponge Genome
- Coral Reef Ecosystem Studies
- Marine Microbial Environment
- Extremophiles/Deep Brines
- Evolutionary Biology of Red Sea Marine Life
- Fisheries/Aquaculture/Pelagic Environment
- Mesopelagic Fish
- Coastal Meteorology/Air-Sea Interaction
- Red Sea Hydrography and Oceanography
- Red Sea Biogeographic Information System (RBIS)
- Field Work for Marine Science Courses



About KAUST

King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) is an international, graduate level university committed to advancing science and technology through transdisciplinary research, education, and innovation. The University's unique matrix structure supports both basic and goal-oriented research in the globally significant areas of energy, water, food, and environment to benefit Saudi Arabia and beyond.



www.kaust.edu.sa

Discover Cairns



Half day Reef Tour to Fitzroy Island

Operates: Daily

Duration of tour: 5 Hours (approx)

Purchase tickets at the Registration Desk

Cost of tour: \$90.00

Inclusions: Transfers departs Cairns Convention Centre

Tour Description:

Fitzroy Island is a beautiful coral cay on Australia's Great Barrier Reef. Fitzroy Island is a Marine National Park with unique rainforests, surrounded by white sandy beaches and magnificent coral reefs and abundant marine life.



Helicopters: Great Adventures Fly, Cruise Outer Barrier Reef

Operates: Daily

Duration of tour: 8 Hours

Cost of tour: \$363.00

Inclusions: Cairns Marina, Hot lunch on board 10 min Helicopter Ride

Purchase tickets at the Registration Desk

Tour Description:

Depart from Cairns Marina on a luxury catamaran heading out to the stunning Great Barrier Reef where you will have the option to snorkel or dive amongst some of the greatest marine life in the reef, with a semi- submersible and underwater observatory on board also. Enjoy a hot and cold buffet lunch before you head out to the helipad where you will partake in a 10 minute helicopter adventure of the amazing Norman Reef. Return to Cairns on board the luxury catamaran



Great Adventures Outer Barrier Reef Cruise

Operates: Daily

Duration of tour: 8 Hours

Cost of tour: \$208.00

Inclusions: Cairns Marina, Hot lunch on board

Purchase tickets at the Registration Desk

Tour Description:

Depart from Cairns Marina on a luxury catamaran heading out to the stunning Great Barrier Reef where you will have the option to snorkel or dive amongst some of the greatest marine life in the reef, with a semi- submersible and underwater observatory on board also. Enjoy a hot and cold buffet lunch. Return to Cairns on board the luxury catamaran



Cape Tribulation and Daintree Tour

Operates: Daily

Duration of tour: 11 Hours

Cost of tour: \$181.00

Inclusions: Transfers departs Cairns Convention Centre & tropical lunch

Purchase tickets at the Registration Desk

Tour Description:

Experience this world-class rainforest interpretive centre including the new Aerial Walkway and climb the unique Rainforest Tower, giving you access to the rainforest canopy and magnificent views. Guided tour and morning tea included Walk on this world-renowned rainforest beach and admire the coastline and fringing coral reef from the Kulki Lookout. With special access at a private rainforest property, enjoy a short walk along a delightful rainforest creek before a delicious tropical lunch. Choice of quality steak, fish or vegetarian meal with fresh salads and fruit platter, followed by coffee or Daintree Tea.

AJ Hackett: Bungy Jump Tour

Operates: Daily

Duration of tour: 4 Hours

Cost of tour: \$169.00

Inclusions: Transfers departs Cairns Convention Centre, T Shirt and Certificate

Purchase tickets at the Registration Desk

Tour Description:

Get ready to push your limits and break the laws of gravity at the Cairns Bungy site- the ONE & ONLY in Australia! With a world first Jump Menu offering 16 different jump styles there is Jump for everyone. Whether you are a first time jumper or a seasoned thrill seeker, no doubt we've got a jump to take you right out of your comfort zone. There's nothing like a little adrenaline hit to remind you that you're still alive! Located 15 minutes north of Cairns in the middle of dense tropical rainforest, the mountains, trees and natural waterfall flowing into the pond make for a lush oasis to kick back and relax after getting your thrills Jumping from the tower. 196 stairs to the highest viewing platform in Cairns and one of the biggest thrills you'll experience in your lifetime. From the top of the 50 metre tower you can see out over the Northern Beaches and out to the Great Barrier Reef. So when you're on the edge, ready to jump, suck in the views as it all looks quite different on the rebound!!

Discover Yourself



Kuranda, Scenic Rail, Sky rail

Operates: Daily from Cairns Convention Centre

Cost of tour: \$147.00

Duration of tour: 9 Hours

Inclusions: Transfers departs Cairns Convention Centre

Purchase tickets at the Registration Desk

Tour Description:

Your tour today offers the wonders of the rainforest. The Kuranda Scenic Rail offers wonderful views as you wind your way to Kuranda, over bridges & through tunnels. After free time in Kuranda, glide over the rainforest with Skyrail.



Tjapukai by Night

Operates: Daily

Duration of tour: 4 Hours

Cost of tour: \$125.00 **Inclusions:** Transfers departs Cairns Convention Centre

Purchase tickets at the Registration Desk

Tour Description:

Feel the powerful spirit of Indigenous Australia vibrate through your body as you embark on a mysterious journey into the ancient Tjapukai culture by night. The Quinkan spirit comes to life and takes you through the story waters into the Dreamtime for an evening of entertainment celebrating the unique customs of the people of the rainforest.



Hartley's Crocodile Farm Tour

Operates: Daily 12pm (noon) **Duration of tour:** 5 Hours

Cost of tour: \$83.00

Inclusions: Transfers departs Cairns Convention Centre

Purchase tickets at the Registration Desk

Tour Description:

After arrival, there is then plenty of free time to explore the remainder of the park, including the unique eco experience of the Wetlands cruise through the ecologically significant Melaleuca wetlands; the domain of the saltwater crocodile. Explore the rest of the park with its abundance of wildlife including water birds, turtles, wallabies and cassowaries. See the notorious head shake and death roll of a huge crocodile at the Crocodile Attack Show, also the opportunity to hold a crocodile for a photo (own expense). Discover the world's most venomous snakes at the Snake Show before your return transfer departs at 4.50pm.

Hot Air Ballooning Tour

Operates: Daily

Duration of tour: 3 and half Hours

Cost of tour: \$245.00 **Inclusions:** Transfers departs Cairns Convention Centre

Purchase tickets at the Registration Desk

Tour Description:

Experience the fun & unique sensation of being in a Hot Air Balloon, flying gently high above the Atherton Tablelands, Australia. The balloon takes off from Mareeba on the Atherton Tablelands. Enjoy the picturesque landscape at dawn; spend 30 minutes floating in your Hot Air Balloon, time to really breathe in the wide-open spaces! We have Australia's largest fleet of Hot Air Balloons and a fun and highly trained crew to maximise the enjoyment of your balloon flight. It's just like a balloon festival, every day! Your tour includes: Arrive at the launch site in time to see the massive balloons take shape then float gently above the trees and the wide open spaces with glorious 360° views as you drift above the Tablelands below. Keep an eye out for kangaroos; there are binoculars on board to capture sightings of local birdlife. After ballooning, there's a choice of drop off locations, to another tour or to your hotel or to one of our recommended local breakfast spots.



Kuranda, Scenic Rail, Sky rail & Tjapukai

Operates: Daily from Cairns Convention Centre

Duration of tour: 9 Hours

Cost of tour: \$183.00

Inclusions: Transfers departs Cairns Convention Centre

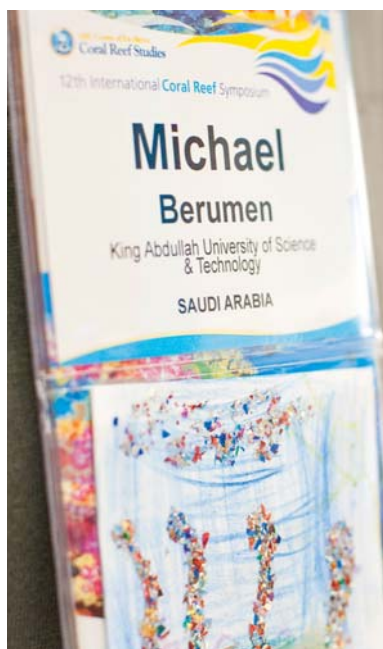
Purchase tickets at the Registration Desk

Tour Description:

Your tour today offers the wonders of the rainforest, as well as our unique indigenous culture. The Kuranda Scenic Rail offers wonderful views as you wind your way to Kuranda, over bridges & through tunnels. After free time in Kuranda, glide over the rainforest with Skyrail. Meet your Indigenous guide at Tjapukai, who will show you the many attractions of this fascinating park.

Meeting old friends and **making new ones**

A gallery of images from the ICRS 2012 Welcome Reception



Delegates brave **choppy seas**

Today marks the opening of the 12th International Coral Reef Symposium (ICRS 2012), the first of five intense days sharing the most recent and relevant science among the world's coral reef research community.

Research coming out of this event will also be shared with the public through media coverage.



Yesterday, an all-star party of the world's top coral reef researchers and conservationists faced 25-30 knot seas just off Cairns aboard the Quicksilver diving and snorkelling vessel the Silverswift, on a media excursion to enjoy the Great Barrier Reef.

It was a worry leading up to the day on whether the party would reach any part of the reef for the scheduled snorkel and dive sessions, with talks of stormy conditions turning the stomachs of many.

Those who braved the morning's forecast were treated to on-board talks by Dr Norelle Daly, Dr Laurence McCook, Dr Glenn Almany and ICRS 2012 Convenor Terry Hughes, before heading out to sea.

The presentations gave those on-board an overview of just some of the research

activities and findings taking place on the Great Barrier Reef.

The aim of the trip, supported by the Development Portfolio of the Cairns Regional Council, was for media to enjoy a perfect setting in which to meet more than 30 outstanding scientists based in North Queensland.

This was the ideal way to showcase the outstanding pool of talent dedicated to marine science in Queensland.

Meg Caldwell, Director of the Center for Ocean Solutions, Stanford University, says, "My impressions of the reef dive were that the coral is in really great shape given the fact that a cyclone came through here fairly recently.

"It's really quite beautiful. I really



appreciate how it seems to be doing."

For some, this was a first-time experience of the Great Barrier Reef, including a film crew from Japan's national public broadcaster, NHK.

Kristine Alave from the Philippine Daily Inquirer says: "It was my first time in the open sea. I was really surprised at how deep it was, but it was very pretty.

"I got a new appreciation for the corals because I've never seen them before. I saw a lot of big fish. Really just very beautiful and I'm glad I did it."