

**The University of Texas at Austin:  
The Politics of Protecting the Great Barrier Reef**

**10 May (depart US 8 May) – 1 June 2023**





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## Introduction

The Great Barrier Reef (GBR) is iconic and imperilled. On a grand scale, it exemplifies how scientific evidence, economic calculations, and political imperatives combine and compete to shape environmental policy. The course introduces students to the complex world of environmental politics and policy. It showcases the trade-offs of environmental protection, explores the politicization of science, and illustrates how electoral politics and political institutions affect policy outcomes. Students will learn first-hand about the competing interests that have a stake in GBR policy by personally meeting with people who represent these interests, such as representatives from various local industries, environmental activists, politicians, bureaucrats, scientists, Indigenous peoples, and other local residents.



## WEDNESDAY 10 MAY: TOWNSVILLE

### Welcome to Australia!

*We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the Traditional Custodians of Australia's lands and waters and that they have an enduring cultural connection to this country. We pay our respect to the Elders past, present and emerging for they hold the stories, culture, and traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.*

### Student Note

When you land in Australia before your transit flight to Townsville, you may wish to purchase a local Australian mobile plan/SIM card. If you do not have enough time in the airport, then on arrival to Townsville in the evening, there is a Woolworth supermarket open until 9.00pm. Your faculty can assist you with setting this up if you need.

If you are arriving on the group flight, a coach transfer will be provided from Townsville Airport to City Oasis Inn.

If you are arriving independently, please make your own way to City Oasis Inn. Transfer options between Townsville Airport and City Oasis Inn include:

- Townsville Shuttle Services provides a pick-up and drop off service from the airport to/from city hotels for all major flights, seven days per week. To book your shuttle (at least three hours in advance), phone 0478 160 036, visit [www.shuttletsv.com.au](http://www.shuttletsv.com.au), or email [info@shuttletsv.com.au](mailto:info@shuttletsv.com.au). Bookings are essential. The prices are \$10 for a single rider, \$15 for two, and \$5 per person for a group of 3 or more.

- Alternatively, the Taxi Rank is located at the arrivals end of the terminal. A taxi ride to City Oasis is approximately \$20. The ride is short but the queue may be long. Note that tipping is not necessary in Australia.

All students should check in at City Oasis Inn by 2:30pm on 10 May 2023. If you experience flight delays, please advise City Oasis Inn in advance of your new arrival time, especially if you will be checking in after 3:00pm. Email Katie Cheetham ([katie@cityoasis.com.au](mailto:katie@cityoasis.com.au)) so that she can provide you with after-hours check-in instructions for collecting your key from the lockbox. City Oasis Reception Hours are 8:30am-6:00pm Monday to Friday and 9:00am to 5:00pm on the weekend. Should you encounter any issues



checking in outside of the reception hours, your Resident Director (Brendan Carter) will be on call at 0419 287 685.

Please notify your family of your safe arrival.

COVID-19 Reminders: We strongly suggest that you have a mask and hand sanitiser with you at all times during the program. It may be requested that you wear a mask by an activity provider or guest speaker or if you are symptomatic or a close contact. Please also wash your hands and use hand sanitiser regularly.

Each day you should also have with you the following: AUIP Emergency Card, full water bottle, sunscreen, sunhat, sunglasses, warm layers, rain jacket, and personal first aid kit/medications. Reef-safe sunscreen is recommended and essential while you are snorkeling on the GBR.

2:05 PM

**Qantas group flight QF 1922 arrives at Townsville**

2:20 PM

**Travel by coach to accommodation (travel time approximately 10 minutes)**

The students who have booked the group flight (or happen to arrive at a similar time at 2.00pm) will be met by a McMillians coach for transport to your accommodation. If traveling independently, make your own way to the accommodation as described above.

2:30 PM

**Check in to your accommodation**

2:45 PM

**Depart accommodation on foot for Quest Townsville on Eyre (travel time approximately 10 minutes)**

Gather at reception to walk together to your welcome and orientation sessions.

From your accommodation, turn left onto Wills Street and left again onto Stokes Street. Turn right onto Hale Street and then left onto Denham Street. Turn right onto Leichhardt Street. Quest Townsville on Eyre will be on your left. Ask the reception staff to direct you to the conference room.

3:00 PM

**Welcome and health and safety orientation**

Your local program Resident Director, Brendan Carter, and Dr Rhonda Evans will introduce your time in Australia along with key health and safety information. They will provide you with an AUIP Emergency Card that you should keep with you throughout the program.

3:45 PM

**Brief break**

4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

**Hands on Wildlife session**

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 Quest Townsville on Eyre conference room.

5:40 PM

**Depart on foot for accommodation (approximately 10 minutes)**

6:00 PM

**Group welcome dinner**

A classic Australian fish and chips dinner (or vegetarian option if applicable) will be served in the City Oasis Inn restaurant.

#### **Accommodation**

City Oasis Inn, 143 Wills St, Townsville QLD 4810, Australia, Phone: 07 4771 6048

Laundry facility - charged, laundry service, Restaurant, Swimming pool, Free Wi-Fi, Gymnasium, Air conditioning, BBQ facility.

### **THURSDAY 11 MAY: TOWNSVILLE TO MAGNETIC ISLAND**

7:00 AM

**City Oasis Inn cooked breakfast**

Continental and cooked breakfast will be out for your group at 7.00am.

8:00 AM

**Check out of accommodation**

8:10 AM

**Travel by coach to Townsville Ferry Terminal (travel time approximately 5 minutes)**

8:20 AM

**Check in at SeaLink**

8:30 AM

**Board ferry**



You need to have your ferry ticket in hand to board the ferry. Please note that the ticket issued to you is for return transportation. Keep the ticket in a safe place to ensure that you have it for your return journey on May 13.

- 8:45 AM **SeaLink Ferry: Townsville to Magnetic Island (approximately 25 minutes)**  
Phone: 07 4726 0800
- 9:10 AM **Travel by coach from SeaLink ferry terminal to accommodation (travel time approximately 10 minutes)**  
Sunbus Phone: 07 4778 5130
- 9:25 AM **Check in to accommodation**  
Your rooms may not be ready until this afternoon, so please store your luggage in reception until check-in.
- 10:00 AM **Managing the Marine Park Presentation**  
Reef HQ, currently undergoing a total refurbishment, is the national education centre for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA). Today, you will meet one of Reef HQ's expert educators to find out about the enormity of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, what challenges it is facing, and how it is cooperatively managed, making it arguably the best managed natural resource on planet Earth.  
  
Led by a member of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) Education team. Held on the Education/Wellness Deck at Selina.
- 11:15 AM **Brief break**
- 11:30 AM **Fish and coral identification lecture**  
Led by a member of Reef HQ's Education Team, Julie Spencer.
- 1:00 PM **Lunch on your own**
- 2:00 PM **Free time**  
Dinner on your own.

#### **Accommodation**

Selina 40 Horseshoe Bay Rd, Magnetic Island, Phone: 0475 219 295

Laundry facility – charged, Restaurant, Swimming pool, Air conditioning, Kitchen, ATM, Luggage storage, Free Wi-Fi, co-work space, wellness deck, camp kitchen, wildlife park.

### **FRIDAY 12 MAY: MAGNETIC ISLAND**

- 7:30 AM **Selina group breakfast**
- Today faculty will allocate you to either Group A or Group B.**  
Sunbus Phone: 07 4778 5130
- Group A with Dr. Evans.**  
**Meet at the coach pickup area no later than 7.45 AM.**  
Sunbus will depart at 8.00 AM. Meet by no later than 8.15 AM on Peppers Boardwalk. Your tour will depart at 8.30 AM sharp. Morning tea will be provided. The tour will return by 12.30 PM. Sunbus will be dropping off the Group B students and will then transport you back to your accommodation for you to have your lunch and free time.
- Group B with Sierra.**  
Free time in the morning. Please have an early light lunch or purchase snacks to bring with you as only an afternoon tea will be provided by Aquascene.  
**Meet at the coach pickup area no later than 12.00 PM.**  
Sunbus will depart at 12.15 PM. Meet by no later than 12.30 PM on Peppers Boardwalk. Your tour will depart at 1.00 PM sharp. Afternoon tea will be provided. The tour will return by 5.00 PM. Sunbus will transport you back to your accommodation.
- Details for both Group A and B tours:**  
**Magnetic Island circumnavigation explorer tour with Aquascene**  
Please bring a towel, swimwear, sunscreen, sunhat, sunglasses, a warm layer, and a water bottle for the tour today. All snorkeling gear, wetsuits or UV stinger suits and flotation aids will be provided.





Magnetic Island Marina, 123 Sooning Street, Nelly Bay, Magnetic Island, Phone: 0439 785 216 (Office), 0427 900 028 (Skipper)

You will enjoy exploring Magnetic Island by sea, visiting secluded bays and pristine beaches including the '5 Bays' on the northern side of the island (weather permitting), hearing stories and the history of the area, and interacting with marine and wildlife. On this tour you will learn about the Great Barrier Reef and its health and conservation with a Master Reef Guide and snorkel on the fringing reefs and connect with Magnetic Island through the eyes of your hosts, long term residents of Magnetic Island.

There will be an opportunity to swim and snorkel on the fringing reefs.

5:00 PM **Free time**

7:00 PM **Group dinner with local community members at Selina**

You will be joined at dinner this evening by Magnetic Island residents to hear about current local issues and their perspective on protecting the Great Barrier Reef. Les Sampson is the President of the Magnetic Island Community group and takes the lead on their World Heritage Island Plan. With the Vision "The Leading Sustainable Reef Island Community" the group uses a combined approach of both a "Top Down" Strategic Framework and "Bottom Up" Community Driven Projects and Actions that are owned by the Community.

Les will join the group for discussion over dinner with one or two additional members from the MICG for some good conversation over dinner with you all.

#### **Accommodation**

Selina, 40 Horseshoe Bay Rd, Horseshoe Bay QLD 4819, Australia 0475 219 295

### **SATURDAY 13 MAY: MAGNETIC ISLAND TO TOWNSVILLE**

8:00 AM **Selina group breakfast**

8:45 AM **Check out of accommodation**

Please make sure that you leave your room clean and tidy and that you do not leave anything behind.

Please store your luggage at reception and meet at the Education/Wellness Deck for your day's activity with Shakira Todd.

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM **Marine Conservation on Magnetic Island field experience  
Wildlife Surround, with Shakira Todd**

Showcasing its golden beaches, Magnetic Island is one of the most visited islands within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Today's field activity will begin with a lecture on the threats posed to the Great Barrier Reef including impacts from sediment, herbicide, and pesticide runoff from agricultural land within the broader catchment. There will be a focus on the impacts of climate change and plastic pollution on our Marine life, specifically turtles. An interactive group exercise will then provide the opportunity to determine your own carbon footprint based on your personal and household habits and choices.

Including time at the beach and one of Magnetic Island's coral bays, you will undertake a study on the impact of microplastics in the marine ecosystem. Students will be tasked with setting up quadrants, taking samples of sand and sifting it through a fine sieve to reveal any micro-plastics present. After sorting and labeling by size, all debris will be audited and entered the Australian Marine Debris Database.

#### **Lunch on your own**

A break will be provided for you to get lunch on your own during this activity.

2:00 PM **Return to Selina to load your luggage onto the coach**

2:25 PM **Travel by coach to Magnetic Island Ferry Terminal (travel time approximately 10 minutes)**  
Sunbus, Phone: 07 4778 5130

2:35 PM **Check in at SeaLink**  
Please have your roundtrip ticket ready for boarding.

2:45 PM **Board ferry**

3:00 PM **SeaLink Ferry: Magnetic Island to Townsville (travel time approximately 25 minutes)**  
Phone: 07 4726 0800

3:25 PM **Travel by coach from SeaLink ferry terminal to accommodation (travel time approximately 5 minutes)**  
McMillans Bus Charters, Phone: 0401 270 470



3:30 PM **Check in to accommodation**

4:00 PM **Free evening**  
Dinner on your own.

**Accommodation**

City Oasis Inn, 143 Wills St, Townsville QLD 4810, Australia, Phone: 07 4771 6048

Laundry facility - charged, laundry service, Restaurant, Swimming pool, Free Wi-Fi, Gymnasium, Air conditioning, BBQ facility.

**SUNDAY 14 MAY: TOWNSVILLE**

**Free day**  
All meals on your own today.

**Accommodation**

City Oasis Inn, 143 Wills St, Townsville QLD 4810, Australia, Phone: 07 4771 6048

**MONDAY 15 MAY: TOWNSVILLE**

6:00 AM **Enjoy your City Oasis Inn breakfast pack**

6:50 AM **Coach departs accommodation for Breakwater Marina Fuel Wharf (travel time approximately 5 minutes)**  
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.

Today's activity takes place in the open ocean, and it is a long boat ride out to the reef. You may want to take motion sickness medication, following the dosage, timing directions, and contraindications carefully. Please note that even with the help of medication, there is no guarantee against seasickness. The excursion will be cancelled if weather conditions are unsafe.

7:00 AM **Great Barrier Reef Snorkel Day Trip #1**  
Townsville's most experienced marine tourism operator will escort you to some of the best sites on the Great Barrier Reef for snorkeling. You will also be accompanied by two GBRMPA Education Team reef guides who will introduce you to key features of the reef. They will also help you practice collecting data for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's "Eye on the Reef Rapid Monitoring Program" which is the latest citizen science (community monitoring tool) that enables community members to participate in monitoring the health of the Great Barrier Reef.

You will also 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
- Reef safe Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Water bottle
- Camera, if desired
- Any personal medications

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

5:00 PM **Free evening**



Make your way back to your accommodation on foot. At the end of the wharf, continue onto Mariners Drive. Turn left onto the Strand and walk alongside ANZAC Park. Turn right onto Melton Terrace, and then after 300m, right again onto Denham Street. Turn left on Wills Street and continue to City Oasis Inn.

Dinner on your own.

#### Accommodation

City Oasis Inn, 143 Wills St, Townsville QLD 4810, Australia, Phone: 07 4771 6048

### TUESDAY 16 MAY: TOWNSVILLE

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 8:00 AM  | <b>Group Breakfast.</b> Continental items will be available starting at 7am for early risers, we have asked for your hot food items to be out at 8.00am for the group breakfast.   |
| 8:30 AM  | <b>Depart on foot for the Quest Townsville on Eyre (travel time approximately 10 minutes)</b>  |
| 9:00 AM  | <b>Guest lecture: Sally Harman, Assistant Director of Planning at GBRMPA (Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority).</b><br>Title: Policy and Permitting on the Great Barrier Reef   |
| 10:00 AM | <b>Brief break</b>   |
| 10:15 AM | <b>Great Barrier Reef Zoning Simulation Activity</b><br>A Reef HQ Education Team member will provide background on the 2004 rezoning of the Great Barrier Reef, which involved 300 public consultations and responding individually to 35,000 public feedback submissions. This role-playing activity will consider viewpoints of a range of stakeholders, including Traditional Owner groups, fishermen, dive clubs, etc.   |
| 12:15 PM | <b>Lunch on your own</b><br>There are numerous lunch options within a short walk from Quest Townsville on Eyre as you head toward the waterfront (known as 'The Strand'), including Subway, Getta Burger, the Strand Souvlaki Bar, and Longboard Grill. There is also a Coles supermarket if you prefer to pick up groceries to make your lunch.<br><br>Return to City Oasis Inn to meet the coach for this afternoon's Port Tour.   |
| 2:00 PM  | <b>Depart by coach from City Oasis Inn for your bus tour of the Port of Townsville</b>   |
| 2:15 PM  | <b>Townsville Port tour with Elaine Glen and Kristian Mandaran</b><br>As you travel by coach through the Port of Townsville, hear Port staff deliver information about their areas of expertise in the field, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Environmental considerations, monitoring, and mitigations, at Environment Park</li><li>- Trade information, held in the Port boardroom</li><li>- Cruise and shipping, held in the cruise terminal</li></ul><br>You may also visit the Quayside Gardens overlooking Ross Creek, the Port boundary air-monitoring stations, and a potential Channel Upgrade site. |
| 4:30 PM  | <b>Free evening</b><br>Dinner on your own.   |

#### Accommodation

City Oasis Inn, 143 Wills St, Townsville QLD 4810, Australia, Phone: 07 4771 6048

### WEDNESDAY 17 MAY: TOWNSVILLE

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 8:00 AM  | <b>City Oasis Inn cooked breakfast</b><br>Continental items will be available starting at 7am for early risers, we have asked for your hot food items to be out at 8.00am for the group breakfast. |
| 8:45 AM  | <b>Depart on foot for Quest Townsville on Eyre (travel time approximately 10 minutes).</b>   |
| 9:00 AM  | <b>Faculty led class time</b>  |
| 10:15 AM | <b>Brief break</b>   |





- 10:30 AM **Fran Rudischhauser, Stakeholder Engagement Officer at (AMCS) Australian Marine Conservation Society**  
Introduction, discussion, and Q & A session on AMCS.
- The Australian Marine Conservation Society was formed by a community of scientists and ocean conservationists, who came together to take action to protect our marine life 57 years ago. Together they advocate for real, evidence-based solutions based on the best available science. They work closely with research centers across the globe and employ conservation experts to drive their work safeguarding the future of Australia's amazing oceans.
- Today you will hear from Fran Rudischhauser who works as part of the campaign 'Fight for Our Reef'. Fran engages with tourism operators, collaborating on all things' climate within the reef space and empowering them to be powerful spokespeople of the reef.
- 11:45 AM **Lunch on your own**
- 1:00 PM **Guest lecturer: Paul Groves**  
**Title: Protecting the long-term health of the Great Barrier Reef through restoration and enhancement of adjacent coastal ecosystems**
- Introducing the GBR catchment
  - Relationship between GBR health and the water catchment's coastal ecosystem
  - Efforts at managing the reef and catchment
- Paul Groves is a Marine Scientist with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. Paul is an expert on the important role catchment plays in maintaining the health of the Great Barrier Reef. Prior to this, Paul worked for many years in public aquariums (including Reef HQ) and is a life-long fish enthusiast. Paul's current role in GBRMPA is to identify a network of resilient reefs.
- 2:00 PM **Simon Cheers Politics of the Great Barrier Reef, Queensland Greens**  
You will hear from Simon Cheers, the Rural and Regional Convenor for the Queensland Greens and office bearer for the local Branch. Simon has worked in the Environment and Sustainability sector who 20 years in Government and NGO's. He was elected to the Management Committee of the Queensland Greens in 2021. Simon brings a wealth of experience from his on-ground environmental work, policy development and political advocacy. Simon will talk about the threats posed to the Great Barrier Reef by climate change, agricultural run-off, shipping traffic, port dredging, coastal development, and the political landscape of protecting the Great Barrier Reef.
- 3:00 PM **Faculty-led class time**
- 5:00 PM **Free evening**  
Dinner on your own.

#### Accommodation

City Oasis Inn, 143 Wills St, Townsville QLD 4810, Australia, Phone: 07 4771 6048

### THURSDAY 18 MAY: TOWNSVILLE

- 8:00 AM **Group Breakfast.** Continental items will be available starting at 7am for early risers, we have asked for your hot food items to be out at 8.00am for the group breakfast.
- 8:40 AM **Depart on foot for the Quest Townsville on Eyre (travel time approximately 10 minutes)**
- 9:00 AM **Guest lecture (virtual): Alisa Wilkinson, Group Manager–Environment and Sustainability, Evolution Mining**  
Evolution Mining is an Australian gold mining company with projects across Australia (and Canada). Hear about the environmental and social responsibility policies in place and information regarding mining in Queensland area.
- 10:30 AM **Guest lecturer: Fred Nucifora**  
**Title: GBRMPA's programs to incorporate Traditional Owners and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community**
- 11:45 AM **Lunch on your own**
- 1:00 PM **Guest lecturer: Mike Nicholas**  
**Title: Collaborative management of culturally significant wetlands**



- Collaborative relationships between Indigenous Australians and 'Western' science
- Methods and novel concepts to control invasive aquatic freshwater plants in coastal wetlands
- Introduction to re-vegetation processes currently undertaken by the Nywaigi traditional owners of Mungalla Station

Mike Nicholas was a private consultant who was formerly employed by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO- [www.csiro.au](http://www.csiro.au)). His research work included investigations in landscape ecology and natural resource management, specifically: the ecology of introduced plant species and their impacts on natural systems and animal production in northern Australia; the stability and persistence of native pasture systems under cattle grazing regimes in north Australian grazing lands, and the management and use of fire to control both invasive weeds and shrubby growth of native vegetation.

More recently, Mike has investigated the use of alternative methods for restoration and repair of coastal wetlands in northern Australia. He has a long history and relationship with indigenous Australians having worked for an indigenous resource agency in the Northern Territory and more recently with the Nywaigi people of the Ingham district in North Australia.

This lecture will provide context for your upcoming excursion to Mungalla Station.

2:00 PM

**Free afternoon**

Dinner on your own.

**Accommodation**

City Oasis Inn, 143 Wills St, Townsville QLD 4810, Australia, Phone: 07 4771 6048

**FRIDAY 19 MAY: TOWNSVILLE TO HIDDEN VALLEY**

8:00 AM

**City Oasis Inn Continental breakfast**

Please pack a small day bag with your swimwear and towel as there will be an opportunity to swim on the way to Hidden Valley. You should also pack water, a face mask, hand sanitiser, insect repellent, sunscreen and a sunhat and wear sturdy walking shoes. City Oasis will be providing you with a packed lunch to take also for lunch.

9:45 AM

**Check out of accommodation**

Be sure to collect your packed lunch for today from the City Oasis reception.

10:00 AM

**Meet your Hidden Valley Guides Ross McLennan and Kurt Harlow**

Steve and Sonia Ellery, along with their daughter Tahlia, son-in-law Kurt, and grandsons Bill and Jack Harlow are the proud owners of Hidden Valley Cabins, located 103 kilometers northwest of Townsville. 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 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. As Australia's first solar-powered resort, Hidden Valley Cabins provides a completely off-the-grid experience. Kurt Harlow will be one of your guides throughout your stay.

Ross is a member of the family that previously owned Hidden Valley Cabins. He remains very passionate about sustainability, the natural environment that he calls home, and finding ways to implement best practice into his business and tourism. He will return to also be your guide throughout your time at Hidden Valley.

**Lunch at Little Crystal Creek**

You will have time to swim and explore the Paluma Range National Park and enjoy your packed lunch.

**Travel by coach to Paluma Village (travel time approximately 25 minutes)**

Stops will be made at McClellands Lookout and Witt's Lookout.

**Guided rainforest walk: Rainforest to Reef**

You will take a rainforest walk following the Witt's Lookout Trail for 3 kilometers. The walk takes in beautiful views of the coast and the World Heritage-listed Wet Tropics. Your guide will teach you about the local plants and ecosystems.

**Check in to accommodation**

**Hidden Valley Cabins group dinner**

**Night safari**

See some of Australia's cutest—and in some cases—rarest nocturnal animals including gliders, possums,



wallabies, bettongs, spiders, birds, owls, and much more. Remember to keep a safe and respectful distance from wildlife.

Please wear closed-toe shoes and warm clothing and bring a flashlight and water.

#### **Accommodation**

Hidden Valley Cabins, 67 McLennan Road, Hidden Valley, Phone: 07 4770 8088  
Swimming pool, Free Wi-Fi, Complimentary transfers, Towels, BBQ facility

### **SATURDAY 20 MAY: HIDDEN VALLEY**

Full day

#### **Hidden Valley group breakfast**

##### **Sustainable Business in Rural Australia**

Your guide will take you on a tour of the solar plant and lecture on energy use and the carbon tax in Australia. Hidden Valley Cabins is an award-winning eco-friendly resort and operates on 100% solar power. See the system working and educate yourself on renewable energy. Your guide will do a presentation on running a sustainable business in a remote location. You will have the opportunity to discuss the business operation with the owners.

##### **Tourism and the Great Barrier Reef**

Led by your guide.

##### **Lunch at Hidden Valley Cabins**

Please use this time to prepare for the Running River Gorge hike. You will need sturdy hiking shoes, sun protection, and plenty of water, as well as your cossie (swimwear) and towel if you wish to swim in the gorge.

##### **Travel by coach to Running River Gorge trailhead (travel time approximately 20 minutes)**

##### **Running River Gorge hike**

The hike into the gorge will take around 50 minutes. Once there, you will have time to swim and explore. The walk out of the gorge will take 1 hour and 20 minutes. If you are not a confident swimmer, please enjoy the gorge from the shore.

##### **Travel by coach to Hidden Valley Cabins (travel time approximately 20 minutes)**

The coach will stop at Hidden Valley Cabins en route to the platypus spotting activity for a restroom break and so you can change into warm clothes as it can get cold in the evening.

##### **Travel by coach to platypus spotting location (travel time approximately 30 minutes)**

##### **Platypus spotting**

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

##### **Travel by coach to Hidden Valley Cabins (travel time approximately 30 minutes)**

##### **Hidden Valley Cabins group dinner**

#### **Accommodation**

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

### **SUNDAY 21 MAY: HIDDEN VALLEY**

Full day

#### **Hidden Valley Cabins group breakfast**

##### **Coach departs for Ingham (travel time approximately 1 hour 45 minutes)**

##### **Excursion to a sugar cane region**

Travelling to the Herbert Valley sugar-growing district, you will stop at a few locations to learn about the world-leading growing techniques that are being implemented between two World Heritage-listed areas of the Wet Tropics and the Great Barrier Reef. At the TYTO Wetlands Centre in Ingham, you will learn from your guide and an active local representative, Mary Brown, about the sugar industry and discuss the diversification of the sugar industry including ethanol production and how the industry is being driven by demand from Asia.



**Coach departs for Hidden Valley Cabins (travel time approximately 1 hour 45 minutes)**

**Hidden Valley Cabins group dinner**

**Accommodation**

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

**MONDAY 22 MAY: HIDDEN VALLEY TO TOWNSVILLE**

Full day

**Hidden Valley group breakfast**

**Check out of accommodation**

Please make sure that you leave your room clean and tidy and that you do not leave anything behind.  
Please load your luggage onto the coach.

8:00 AM

**Coach departs for Frosty Mango (travel time approximately 1 hour)**

The Hidden Valley team will drop you at Frosty Mango to transfer to your McMillians transport who will take you on to Mungalla Station, and then back to Townsville at the end of the day.

**Mungalla Aboriginal Tours cultural experience**

Mungalla Station, 1236 Forrest Beach Road, Allingham, Phone: 07 4777 8718, 0428 710 907

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 fertilizing 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) and socks above your ankles. Please bring water, insect repellent, sun protection, snacks, and rain gear.

**Talk with member of Girringun Aboriginal Rangers**

The Great Barrier Reef's Management Plan includes Traditional Use of Marine Resource Agreements (TUMRA), which is a formal agreement with traditional owner groups to traditionally manage their portion of the marine park. Indigenous Rangers are also trained by GBRMPA to have full investigative powers to pursue non-compliance issues with legal evidence and ramifications, among other responsibilities. Hear from an Indigenous Ranger of the Girringun Nation about the management work that they are doing in their sea country.

**Coach departs Mungalla Station for accommodation (travel time approximately 2 hours)**

A stop will be made at Frosty Mango en route if you would like to purchase a refreshing treat from this café that is famous for its tropical ice cream flavours. Explore the display orchard to see what is in season.

**Check in to accommodation**

**Free evening**

Dinner on your own.

**Accommodation**

City Oasis Inn, 143 Wills St, Townsville QLD 4810, Australia, Phone: 07 4771 6048

Laundry facility - charged, laundry service, Restaurant, Swimming pool, Free Wi-Fi, Gymnasium, Air conditioning, BBQ facility.

**TUESDAY 23 MAY: TOWNSVILLE**

8:00 AM

**Group Breakfast** Continental items will be available starting at 7am for early risers, we have asked for your hot food items to be out at 8.00am for the group breakfast.

8:45 AM

**Depart on foot for Quest Townsville on Eyre (travel time approximately 10 minutes)**

Please wear suitable walking shoes today and bring a water bottle.



- 9:00 AM **Faculty-led class session**
- 10:30 AM **Depart by coach from Quest for JCU (travel time approximately 20 minutes)**  
Acknowledgement for traditional landowners of JCU campus. We acknowledge the Wulgurukaba and Bindal Peoples on whose country you are visiting, and we honor their elders, past, present, and emerging.
- James Cook University is a public university in North Queensland, Australia. The second oldest university in Queensland, JCU is a teaching and research institution. The university's main campuses are in the tropical cities of Cairns and Townsville, and one in the city state of Singapore.
- 11:00 AM **Arrive at James Cook University (JCU)**  
**Walking tour of campus with two local Student Ambassadors**  
Meeting location: Student Central building (Building 134).  
During the tour, the ambassadors will point out the Eddie Koiki Mabo Library (Building 18), so you know where to find the exhibition later in the day.
- 12:15 PM **Pizza lunch with JCU students and faculty at Canto**  
Located Ground Floor, Townsville Student Accommodation, Mount Stuart St, +61 7 4781 522
- 1:30 PM **James Cook University lectures**  
**Seminar room, Building 19**
- Distinguished Professor Joshua Cinner – Social Sciences**  
Professor Cinner's research explores how social, economic, and cultural factors influence the ways in which people use, perceive, and govern natural resources, with a particular emphasis on using applied social science to inform coral reef management. His background is in human geography, and he often works closely with ecologists to uncover complex linkages between social and ecological systems. He has worked on human dimensions of resource management in Australia, Jamaica, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Tanzania, Mauritius, Seychelles, Indonesia, Mozambique, and the USA. He has published more than 160 scientific articles, is an ISI "Highly Cited" researcher, a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia, and a Pew Fellow in Marine Conservation, and is recipient of the 2017 Elinor Ostrom Award for collective governance of the commons; the 2018 Mid-Career Award from the International Coral Reef Society; the 2020 Eureka Prize for Excellence in Interdisciplinary Research; and three prestigious fellowships from the Australian Research Council.
- And
- Dr Andrew Chin ~ Senior Research Fellow – Fisheries (TBC)**  
Since moving to James Cook University in 2008, Andrew's research has focused on coastal ecology and fisheries, particularly sharks and rays. He is especially interested in the life history and spatial ecology of coastal predators, inter-disciplinary fisheries, and conservation research, and has keen interests in coastal fisheries in SE Asia and the Pacific. Andrew is involved in research on shark fisheries in Papua New Guinea and works in Indigenous Knowledge and community based coastal and fisheries management, such as with the Yuku Baja Muliku Traditional Owners in Cape York. He is currently working on a project with commercial fishers to trial new gear to reduce the bycatch of sharks in gillnets.
- 3:00 PM **Visit the Eddie Koiki Mabo Library, including the permanent installation called the Mabo Interpretive Wall**  
**Building 18**  
On May 21, 2008, JCU launched its Reconciliation Statement and named the University Library on the Townsville Campus after Eddie Koiki Mabo (b. June 29, 1936 - d. January 21, 1992), a former JCU staff member and student. A Torres Strait Islander activist, Eddie Mabo spent many productive hours reading, studying, and researching law and land rights at the library. An exhibition of the artworks of Gail Mabo, his daughter, was held on the first anniversary of the naming of the Eddie Koiki Mabo Library. The library endeavours to hold an annual Indigenous art exhibition in commemoration from May 21st for three weeks to coincide with National Sorry Day (May 26), National Reconciliation Week (May 27 to June 3), and Mabo Day (June 3).
- 3:45 PM **Depart on coach to accommodation (travel time approximately 20 minutes)**  
Meet at the location you were dropped off by the coach.
- 4:05 PM **Free evening**  
Dinner on your own.

#### **Accommodation**

City Oasis Inn, 143 Wills St, Townsville QLD 4810, Australia, Phone: 07 4771 6048



## WEDNESDAY 24 MAY: TOWNSVILLE

- 8:00 AM **Group Breakfast** Continental items will be available starting at 7am for early risers, we have asked for your hot food items to be out at 8.00am for the group breakfast.
- 8:30 AM **Depart on foot for the Quest Townsville on Eyre (travel time approximately 10 minutes)**
- 9:00 AM **Faculty-led class time**
- 10:00 AM **Brief break**
- 10:15 AM **Introduction to the “Eye on the Reef” Rapid Monitoring Program**  
The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority’s “Eye on the Reef 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 program 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. The Rapid Monitoring Program can easily be adopted by people who may not have a scientific background, and the data collected provides enough detail to be of scientific value for reef managers.
- 11:45 AM **Catered lunch at the Quest Townsville on Eyre**  
A light lunch (rolls/bagels and fresh fruit) will be provided for you by the Quest Townsville on Eyre in the conference room. Any dietary requests will be labelled.
- 12:30 PM **Coach departs Quest for Rowes Sustainability Centre (travel time approximately 15 minutes)**
- 12:45 PM **Townsville site visit to Rowes Bay Sustainability Centre**  
Tour of the beach and wetlands at Rowes Bay with Dylan Furnell, Townsville Sustainability Officer. This session will explore the connections between water, energy and nature and explore how these hidden connections manifest themselves in people’s everyday lives.
- 3:45 PM **Depart for accommodation by coach (travel time approximately 15 minutes)**
- 4:00 PM **Free evening**  
Dinner on your own.

### Accommodation

City Oasis Inn, 143 Wills St, Townsville QLD 4810, Australia, Phone: 07 4771 6048

## THURSDAY 25 MAY: TOWNSVILLE

- 6:00 AM **Enjoy your City Oasis Inn breakfast pack on your own**
- 6:50 AM **Coach departs accommodation for Breakwater Marina Fuel Wharf (travel time approximately 5 minutes)**  
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.  
  
Today’s activity takes place in the open ocean, and it is a long boat ride out to the reef. You may want to take motion sickness medication, following the dosage, timing directions, and contraindications carefully. Please note that even with the help of medication, there is no guarantee against seasickness. The excursion will be cancelled if weather conditions are unsafe.
- 7:00 AM **Great Barrier Reef Snorkel Day Trip #2**  
During this second visit to the reef, you will complete a Reef Health Assessment under supervision of experienced crew and marine experts, including two reef guides from the GBRMPA Education Team.  
  
What to bring:  
- Wear swimsuit under clothes  
- Towel  
- Hat  
- Sunscreen





- Sunglasses
- Water bottle
- Camera, if desired
- Any personal medications

A full-length wetsuit, mask, snorkel, and fins will be provided. All meals will be provided on board. Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided throughout the day, as well as tea, coffee, water, and cordial.

5:00 PM      **Free time**  
Dinner on your own.

#### Accommodation

City Oasis Inn, 143 Wills St, Townsville QLD 4810, Australia, Phone: 07 4771 6048

### FRIDAY 26 MAY: TOWNSVILLE

8:00 AM      **Group Breakfast** Continental items will be available starting at 7am for early risers, we have asked for your hot food items to be out at 8.00am for the group breakfast.

9:00 AM      **Depart by coach for Sugar Cane Farm (travel time approximately 1 hour)**

10:00 AM      **Sugar Cane Farm Visit**  
21 Baudino Road, Upper Houghton, Giru, Queensland 4809

Please wear closed-toe shoes and bring water and some snacks for the journey.  
Travel by coach south of Townsville to the Giru region to meet Sugar Cane Growers board member Russell Jordan and tour his farm and home. You will get the chance to see the operations of the sugar cane farm and hear first-hand from Russell during your visit.

12:00 PM      **Coach departs to return to Townsville**

1:00 PM      **Free afternoon**  
Lunch and dinner on your own.

#### Accommodation

City Oasis Inn, 143 Wills St, Townsville QLD 4810, Australia, Phone: 07 4771 6048

### SATURDAY 27 MAY: TOWNSVILLE TO BRISBANE

8:30 AM      **Group Breakfast** Continental items will be available starting at 7am for early risers, we have asked for your hot food items to be out at 8.30am for the group breakfast.

10:15 AM      **Check out of accommodation**  
Please load your luggage onto the coach.

10:30 AM      **Coach departs for Townsville Airport (travel time approximately 15 minutes)**  
McMillans coach

12:40 PM      **Qantas group flight QF 755 departs for Brisbane**

2:30 PM      **Qantas group flight QF 755 arrives in Brisbane**

2:45 PM      **Coach departs Brisbane Airport for accommodation (travel time approximately 25 minutes)**  
Murrays coach

3:15 PM      **Check in to accommodation**

4:00 PM      **Brisbane Faculty-led class time**  
Held in the Rainforest Room.

5:00 PM      **Free evening**  
Dinner on your own.



## Accommodation

Brisbane City YHA, 392 Upper Roma Street, Brisbane, Phone: 07 3236 1004

Free Wi-Fi, laundry facility - charged, Swimming pool, Air conditioning, Disabled access, Kitchen, Luggage storage.

## SUNDAY 28 MAY: BRISBANE

- 8:30 AM **Breakfast on your own**
- 9:45 AM **Depart on foot for GOMA (travel time approximately 15 minutes)**
- 10:00 AM **GOMA Queensland Art Gallery visit (optional)**  
Your faculty leader will take you to visit an exhibit at the Gallery of Modern Art featuring both innovative contemporary Aboriginal art alongside eight decades of Australian Aboriginal bark painting.
- 12:00 PM **Free afternoon**  
Lunch and dinner on your own.

## Accommodation

Brisbane City YHA, 392 Upper Roma Street, Brisbane, Phone: 07 3236 1004

## MONDAY 29 MAY: BRISBANE

- 8:00 AM **Brisbane City YHA group breakfast**  
Served in the Rainforest Room.
- For today, you will need to be in comfortable walking shoes, general smart and tidy attire for clothing, and to bring a passport and water bottle. And if you prefer, bring a packed lunch rather than buying out. As you will be going through a security check at parliament, please ensure you do not bring anything that would be considered dangerous.
- 9:00 AM **Faculty briefing for today's visits**  
Held in the Rainforest Room.
- 9:15 AM **Depart on foot to Queensland Parliament**  
Depart YHA, heading West turn right onto Roma Street, slight right onto George Street (near Brisbane Selina hotel), then continue for 2 kms until you reach the Parliament buildings.
- 9:45 AM **Parliament security check**  
What to do when you arrive: Please use the side entry to the Parliamentary Annexe in Alice Street. 'Parliamentary Annexe' is clearly marked on the side of the building. Proceed to the entry where security will ask to see your photo identification and screen your belongings, similar to screening at the airport. Sam will meet the group in the foyer just inside the entry. He will then take you to sign in on digital registers and provide you with adhesive name tags to wear inside Parliament House.
- 10:00 AM **Meeting with Office of Sam O'Connor MP**  
This morning you will be hosted by Sam O'Connor who is the Queensland Member for Bonney, Shadow Minister for Environment & the Great Barrier Reef, Shadow Minister for Science & Innovation, and Shadow Minister for Youth.
- 12:00 PM **Free time for lunch**  
There are a variety of food stores, cafes and restaurants near Alice Street, the Botanical gardens and George Street for you to grab something for lunch or get takeaway and enjoy the Botanical gardens.
- 1:30 PM **Meet at the corner of George and Alice Streets, Brisbane, Queensland to travel by coach to LGAQ**  
Look out for the Murrays Coach.



- 2:00 PM **Visit to the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ)**  
The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) is the peak body for local government in Queensland. It is a not-for-profit association set up solely to serve the state's 77 councils and their individual needs. The LGAQ has been advising, supporting, and representing local councils since 1896, enabling them to improve their operations and strengthen relationships with their communities. The Association does this by connecting councils to people and places that count; supporting their drive to innovate and improve service delivery through smart services and sustainable solutions; and delivering them the means to achieve community, professional and political excellence.
- LGAQ Representatives you will meet:
- Amanda Dryden – Manager, Planning Development and Environment (driving policy outcomes for the Reef)
  - Nicole Lessio – Intergovernmental Relations (working across all levels of government for Reef outcomes)
  - Megan Forrest – Project Manager – Advocacy in Action, Cleaner Road Runoff
  - Sam Dean – Campaign Planner (Campaigning for Reef Outcomes).
- 3:30 PM **Depart LGAQ by coach for Brisbane City YHA (travel time approximately 15 minutes)**
- 4:00 PM **Free evening**  
Dinner on your own.

#### **Accommodation**

Brisbane City YHA, 392 Upper Roma Street, Brisbane, Phone: 07 3236 1004

### **TUESDAY 30 MAY: BRISBANE**

- 8:00 AM **Brisbane City YHA group breakfast**  
Meet in the Rainforest Room for this morning's speakers.
- 9:00 AM **David Bobberrmen, Chief Executive Officer, QISA Queensland Seafood Industry**  
QISA is the peak industry body representing the Queensland seafood industry. Their members include professional fishers, seafood processors, marketers, retailers, and other businesses associated with the seafood industry. In representing their members and the community at large, they work to promote the consumption of wild-caught Queensland seafood.  
Held in the Rainforest Room at the YHA Brisbane City.
- 10:00 AM **Brief break**
- 10:15 AM **Kerrie Foxwell-Norton, Professor of Journalism at Griffith University**  
**The Great Barrier Reef and Journalism (details TBC)**  
You will hear from Kerrie Foxwell-Norton, Journalism professor at Griffith University for an open conversation style session.  
Kerrie Foxwell-Norton lectures in Journalism, Media, and Communication. Her research interests focus upon environmental communication, with a special interest in coastal and marine communities and their environments. Kerrie has specific expertise in community-based research and engagement, exploring links between communication and community therein. She leads the 'Motivation' theme within the Griffith Climate Action Beacon, a strategic university wide research initiative. She is Co-Chair of the Environment, Science and Risk Working Group and a member of the Environmental Impact Committee for the International Association of Communication and Media Research. She is also the Co-Chair of the Queensland Chapter for the Australian Coastal Society and Associate Editor (Environment) for Queensland Review.
- 11:00 AM **Faculty lead class time in Rainforest room.**
- 11:45 AM **Lunch on your own**
- 1:15 PM **Depart on foot to QRC**  
Meet back at YHA no later than 1.15pm to walk the approximate 25 minutes to the Mineral Council offices Level 29, 12 Creek St. Brisbane.


If you are coming from the YHA (20-23 minutes to walk). Exit YHA, turn right onto Roma Street, Street, on the corner you walk about 1.2 kilometers (0.8 mile), left onto Adelaide Street, through the shopping district then turn right onto Edward will see 'Stock exchange bar; take your final left onto Charlotte Street (building is on the corner of Creek and Charlotte Street).



- 2:00 PM **Queensland Resources Council Q & A Session with Frances Hayter**  
Level 29, 12 Creek St. Brisbane  
QRC works to secure an environment conducive to the long-term sustainability of minerals and energy sectors in Queensland. In close collaboration with member companies, kindred organisations, regional partners and key stakeholders, the QRC works to achieve positive outcomes for QRC members. You will be hosted by Frances Hayter, Policy Director, Environment, Queensland Resources Council for a Q & A session.
- 3:20 PM **Depart on foot to Queensland Cane Growers Organization Ltd (QCGO)**  
Head southwest on Charlotte St toward Market St (2-minute walk).
- 3:30 PM **Queensland Cane Growers Organisation Ltd (QCGO) Office visit**  
Suite 701, Level 7/201 Charlotte St, Brisbane City QLD 4000, Australia  
Wayne Griffin, Marketing manager will host you for a site tour, and introduce members of the Executive team and the Environmental team. Cane Growers have been advancing and protecting the interests of cane farming families in Queensland since 1926 and are a not-for-profit public company providing a professional and cohesive voice for the members of 13 local grower companies, located in all the sugarcane regions of Queensland. Cane Growers members have large and small farms, are individuals, families, and corporate bodies. They draw on this diversity as they set priorities to achieve their vision of a secure and profitable future.
- 4:30 PM **Free time**  
Dinner on own.

Brisbane City YHA, 392 Upper Roma Street, Brisbane, Phone: 07 3236 1004

### WEDNESDAY 31 MAY: BRISBANE

- 8:00 AM **Free day to complete coursework**  
Breakfast and lunch on your own today.
- 4:30 PM **Program wrap-up and evaluations**  
Today's wrap-up session will be held in the Rainforest Room at Brisbane City YHA. As part of this session, you will complete the AUIP Program Evaluation through Survey Monkey, so please bring your phone with you.
- 
- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/376MWNN>
- 5:45 PM **Depart on foot for Tiger Eye (travel time approximately 5 minutes)**  
Cross the road to the Barracks Shopping Centre, Tiger Eye is shortly after you turn right down Caxton, located next to the Palace Cinemas.
- 6:00 PM **Farewell group dinner at Tiger Eye**  
You will be served your pre-ordered meal. Please bring your passport in case you need to show your ID.

#### Accommodation

Brisbane City YHA, 392 Upper Roma Street, Brisbane, Phone: 07 3236 1004

### THURSDAY 1 JUNE: DEPART FOR USA

- 8:30 AM **Group breakfast**
- 10:00 AM **Check out of accommodation**



Please make sure that you leave your room clean and tidy and that you do not leave anything behind.  
Please store your luggage at reception if you are departing on the group flight this evening.

10:15 AM

**Free day**

Lunch and dinner on your own.

Students with onward, independent travel plans may leave at any time today.

5:15 PM

**If on the group flight, collect and load your luggage onto the coach**

5:30 PM

**Coach departs for Brisbane Airport for group flight (travel time approximately 30 minutes)**

9:25 PM

**Qantas group flight QF 15 departs**

**We hope you enjoyed your study abroad program in Australia and wish you the best with your continued studies at UT!**