

Cashmere High School



Reef & Rainforest Trip 2017: Information for Students and Parents

The science department took a group of 20 Cashmere students to the tropical northern part of Queensland in July of this year. The trip was so successful that the faculty will be planning another trip in the school holidays in **July 2017**. The aim of the trip is for students to see that Science is crucial to our understanding and protection of the natural world, and experience first hand that Science is indeed "Fascinating and Fun!" It covers all of our core values at Cashmere High School:

- Excellence** Their experiences and deeper understanding of Science and its application to real situations will improve their ability to gain Excellence passes in NCEA, especially in Biology.
- Opportunity** This trip offers a unique opportunity to see first hand Science in action in an area not readily accessible to most. Meeting people using science in the tourism, research and conservation sectors opens their eyes to future career paths.
- Vibrancy** Students will immerse themselves in the sounds, scents and sights of these amazing tropical ecosystems.
- Citizenship** Students will have to demonstrate good citizenship at school to be eligible to go on the trip, and then be ambassadors for our school and country.

The trip will be for 10 days. Students will fly to Cairns on Saturday 8th July and return on Tuesday 18th July (dates subject to confirmation). The staff on the trip will be Jenna Wilson (Head of Chemistry) and Michael Jones (Biology teacher) with organisational help from David Paterson (Head of Science).

The **Great Barrier Reef** can be seen from outer space and is the world's biggest single structure made by living organisms. This reef supports a wide diversity of life and was selected as a World Heritage Site in 1981 and is a key indicator of the health of our oceans.

The **Daintree Rainforest** is a tropical rainforest on the north east coast of Queensland, north of Cairns. At around 1200 square kilometres the Daintree is the largest continuous area of tropical rainforest on the Australian continent, and at 130 million years old is a remnant of Gondwanaland, complete with ancient plants and animals.

Having access to local experts and scientists will enhance the experience and give a real insight into the wide diversity of flora and fauna in area. Students should be interested in conservation issues and wanting a unique insight into the tropical ecosystems of a coral reef and rain forest. Students should also be interested in studying Biology at a higher level.

Endorsement from a Science teacher or Head of Year will be required prior to acceptance on this trip.

Costs: In 2015 students paid \$3200 for the trip. Costs are dependent on the number of students, the exchange rate and on getting a good group deal with an airline, so a budget of \$3700 will be set for 2017. A parent fundraising group has been set up in the past.

Further Interest: If your child has expressed interest in the trip you are cordially invited to an information meeting which will be held in Cashmere library at **7pm on Thursday 29th October**. Information is also available via the Science Faculty Wiki space at: <http://chsreefandrainingforest.wikispaces.com/>

Applications forms need to be returned by **Friday 13th November 2015**. If at least 15 suitable applicants have been received the trip will run and participants will be notified. Confirmation will be by the deposit of \$200 into the school account for the trip.

David Paterson
Head of Science Faculty