coral news

12th International Coral Reef Symposium | Cairns Queensland Australia | **Tuesday 10 July 2012**

Let the Symposium **begin**

It's time to fight

The haunting sounds of the didgeridoo greeted more than 2,000 delegates from 80-plus countries at the opening of the 12th International Coral Reef Symposium at the Cairns Convention Centre.

Delegates packed the centre at the start of the five-day conference, which is held every four years.

Queensland's Governor, Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley, AC, hailed the conference has coming at a "critical" time for the future of coral reefs that were "profoundly at risk".

She congratulated organisers for raising more than $1 million in sponsorship, some of which has been spent in bringing more than 130 early-career researchers to the conference, plus select media representatives.

"Scientists cannot go it alone," she said.

Greater community understanding of the threat to marine ecology was now needed.

"We need to allow more stakeholders into your discussions and to take the fight to new levels.

"Fight is a blunt word, but it is the right one.

"It is difficult not to be concerned by the mismatch between advocacy for the need to change and resistance to it. The situation is disturbing and comes at a critical time for the world's reefs."

The opening ceremony was also addressed by Terry Hughes, chair of the conference, from the ARC Centre for Excellence for Coral Reef Studies at James Cook University, and Robert Richmond, president of the International Society for Reef Studies (ISRS) and Michael Trout MP and Seith Fourmile, local Aboriginal elder.

Above - left to right: Chris Cocklin (Deputy Senior Vice-Chancellor, JCU), Lt-Gen John Grey AC (Chancellor, JCU), Professor Robert Richmond (President, ISRS), Dr Jane Lubchenco (NOAA), Her Excellency Penelope Wensley (Governor of Queensland), Professor Terry Hughes (ICRS 2012 Convenor) and Sandra Harding (Vice-Chancellor, JCU).

Welcome from the **Governor of Queensland**

Queensland Governor, Her Excellency, Ms Penelope Wensley, AC, gave the Welcome Address at the Opening Ceremony on Sunday. What she didn't elaborate on was her list of incredible achievements, prompting us to give delegates a little insight here on this hard-working woman.

Prior to her appointment in July 2008 as the 25th Governor of Queensland, Ms Penelope Wensley enjoyed a rich and distinguished career in diplomacy, playing a significant role in the promotion of Australia's international relations and the development of Australian foreign policy across a diverse range of issues. These focused on peace and security, economic and social development, human rights and humanitarian concerns, the environment and sustainable development.

Born in Toowoomba in Queensland, Ms Wensley was educated at Penrith High School in New South Wales, the Rosa Bassett Grammar School in London, and the University of Queensland, from which she graduated in 1967 with a Bachelor of Arts with First Class Honours. She joined the Australian Foreign Service in 1968 - the only woman selected in an intake of 19 - and served as an officer of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade until 2008, representing Australia in a wide range of positions overseas, in Europe, Asia, Africa, the Americas and the Pacific and at the United Nations.

Achieving the rank of Head of Mission in 1986, Ms Wensley served successively as

Queensland Governor, Her Excellency, Ms Penelope Wensley, AC

Consul-General in Hong Kong, Ambassador for the Environment, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, High Commissioner to India, and Ambassador to Bhutan, Ambassador to France, Algeria, Morocco, Monaco and Mauritania. In every case, Ms Wensley was the first woman to be appointed to the position, representing Australia.

Within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Australia, Ms Wensley also held a range of senior policy positions, notably as head of the East Asia Branch, as head of the International Organisations and Legal Division, as head of the North Asia Division and as head of the Europe Division.

Ms Wensley has achieved international recognition for her contribution to the United Nations. She played a key role in the negotiation of a number of major international Treaties, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to combat Drought and Desertification. She also chaired or co-chaired a number of major United Nations conferences and processes, including the First United Nations Special Session on HIV/AIDS; the United Nations Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; the United Nations Budget and Finance Committee and the International Coral Reef Initiative.

> Governor Wensley played a key role in the negotiation of a number of major international Treaties, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change…

On 17 September, 1994, she was named The University of Queensland's first woman Alumnus of the Year for her achievements in the field of international relations, and was appointed an Honorary Fellow of The Women's College within the University. On 12 December the same year, she was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Philosophy by the University for her distinguished contributions to the Commonwealth of Australia. On 16 December, 2008, she was admitted to the honorary degree of Doctor of the University by Griffith University in recognition of her significant contributions to the international community, and her distinguished service to the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and to the community was recognised by the conferral of a further honorary award of Doctor of the University by QUT on 27 July, 2011.

Ms Wensley was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 2001 for her distinguished service to the development of Australia's international relations. On Australia Day 2011 she was appointed a Companion (AC) in the General Division of the Order of Australia.

Ms Wensley is married to veterinarian Stuart McCosker, and they have two adult daughters, both lawyers.

Freshly Brewed Coffee Available All Day

Ground Floor of the Cairns Convention Centre between Hall D and Plenary Hall 2. Please visit the café to enjoy freshly made Barister coffee during the day

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 **M658RA**

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

ICRS 2012 Program changes

Tuesday 10 July

Per Olsson – Oral presentation at 1000, Sebel Bluewater
Presentation to be given onsite by TBA.

Willem Renema – Oral presentation at 1130, MR3
Presentation to be given onsite by TBA.

Diane Wehner – Oral presentation at 1145, Sebel Kuranda
Withdrawn.

Anne Walton – Oral presentation at 1230, Sebel Bluewater
Presentation to be given onsite by TBA.

Halina Kobryn – Oral presentation at 1500, Sebel Mossman
Presentation to be given onsite by Lynnath Beckley.

Wen-Miin Tian – Oral presentation at 1530, Sebel Mossman
Presentation to be given onsite by TBA.

Yolande Bouchon-Navaro – Oral presentation at 1700, Hall A
Presentation to be given onsite by TBA.

Charlotte Dromard – Oral presentation at 1730, Hall A
Presentation to be given onsite by TBA.

Romeo Saldivar – Speed talk at 1750, Hall D
Presentation to be given onsite by Mariana Walther.

Jerry Garcia – Oral presentation at 1015, Hall B
Was cancelled, now going ahead.

Sumisha Velloth – Oral presentation at 1200, Sebel Mossman
Withdrawn.

Randall Kosaki – Oral presentation at 1245, MR5
Withdrawn.

David King – Oral presentation at 1500, Sebel Kuranda
Withdrawn.

Yusuf Fajariyanto – Oral presentation at 1745, Hall B
New presentation.

Let's be **bold**...

Bold science and action is required to save coral reefs for the millions of people who depend on them, said Dr Jane Lubchenco in the plenary address on the first day of the 12th International Coral Reef Symposium.

Dr Lubchenco, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator, said: "The world, its coral reefs and the millions of people who depend upon them need more bold action – action that is science- and ecosystem-based."

Such action needed to be embraced locally and nationally to "value tomorrow as well as today".

She said: "We need bold science – science that is use-inspired; cutting edge but relevant and focused on solutions."

Dr Lubchenco described coral reefs as a grocery store and pharmacy for millions of people across the millennia.

"The benefits are gone or are going," she said. "And this is having a profound influence on people."

She cited five key on which the science community and leaders should focus.

Jane Lubchenco

Firstly, it was important to understand that preserving coral reefs was about "protecting coastal communities" physically.

"Up to 90 per cent of the energy from wind-generated waves is absorbed by reef ecosystems," she said.

Preserving reefs also protected cultures, she said, citing the diverse communities of Papua New Guinea that would be threatened with the demise of reefs and related ecosystems.

Some 2.6 billion people around the world relied on seafood as their primary source of protein.

Dr Lubchenco said her fourth area of focus was to ensure that the marine ecosystem enhanced "thriving economies".

"It is difficult to put a precise dollar value on the many benefits provided by coral reef ecosystems," she said.

"By any estimate, they are globally and locally valuable. Tourism, reef fisheries and shoreline protection are particularly noteworthy."

She said a "deadly combination" of local and global threats put marine ecosystems "at risk".

This made her fifth and last key point even more poignant – that "preserving reefs is about our collective commitment to one another, to the rest of life on the planet and to our future".

Unless trends were reversed, some half of all reefs would experience "severe bleaching in most years".

Looking ahead 50 years, she predicted that up to 95 per cent of all reefs would experience bleaching on an annual basis.

"Scientists – you and I – have a particular responsibility to share our findings broadly, develop useful and useable decision-support tools and team up with local community and industry partners.

"Your knowledge and your passion are sorely needed."

So scary, I can't **believe it**

The threat to reefs in the Coral Triangle (CT) by 2050 is "so scary I don't want to believe it", leading Indonesian scientist Jamaluddin Jompa said in the afternoon plenary address yesterday.

"It will be the end of the Coral Triangle story if it ever comes true," predicted Professor Jompa, who is director of Coral Reef Research at Hasanuddin University in Makassar.

Some 90 per cent of regional reefs would be threatened by 2050, he said, citing findings in a new report, Reefs at Risk Revisited in the Coral Triangle, published by the World Resources Institute.

He described the CT – a region of six countries – as the "Amazon of the Sea", and said his own country of Indonesia was in the "bull's eye of its biodiversity".

The CT alliance embraces the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, the Philippines, Timor-Leste and Malaysia.

Delegates heard that 50 per cent of all tuna stocks existed within the CT, which also featured the "greatest mangrove forests in the world".

Some 85 per cent of reefs faced the integrated threat of climate change as well as local excesses, such as over-fishing and destructive fishing practices.

Some 5 per cent of the cT reefs faced global climate change threats, he said.

He expressed shock at the "major bleaching" that Indonesian reefs suffered in 2010.

"Many reefs suffered this for the first time in their history," he said.

"Indonesia has so many problems with its reefs, and now we have bleaching from Aceh to Raja Ampat.

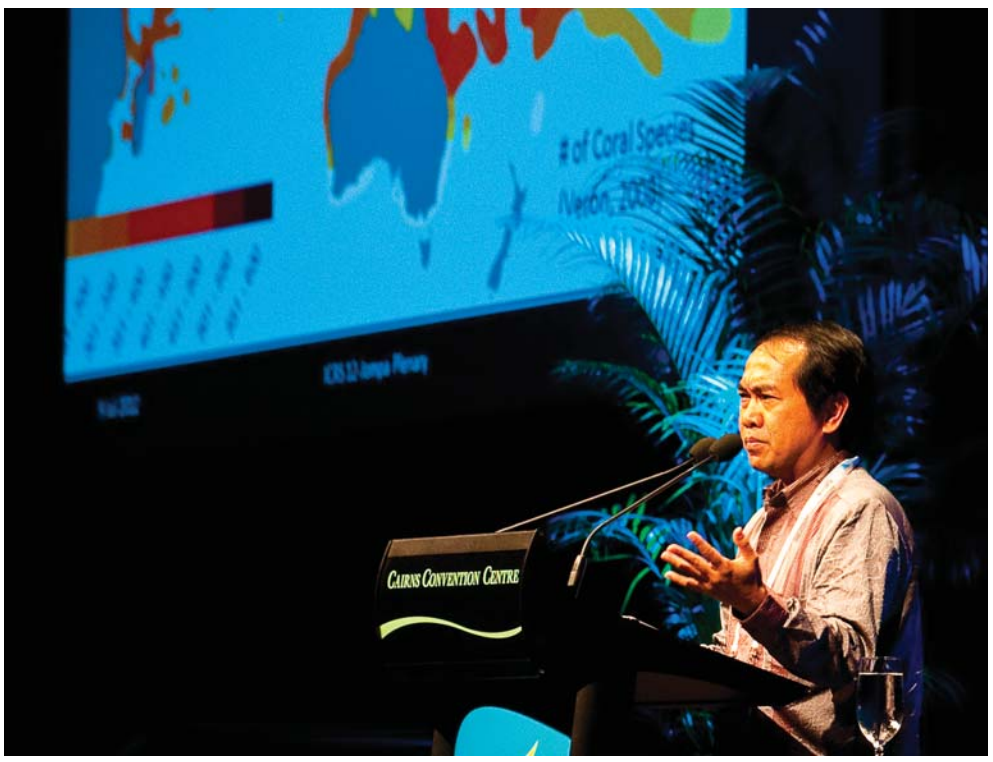
"A presidential advisor asked me how we could make the coral stronger, but it struck me that we should not be asking the coral to keep up with these ecological changes.

"The challenge for scientists is to come up with the solution for decision-makers."

Professor Jompa said "science must bring the knowledge, but management and policy makers bring the authority to act".

"Science needs to find the best solution but it is the people who need to be managed."

Professor Jompa complained that management in Indonesia had become "so complicated" and this required the science community to adjust its approach.



Jamaluddin Jompa

"Science is motivated by discovery," Professor Jompa said. "Management is concerned with the public. We cannot claim to be the same. Culturally, we have different motivators."

In order to enhance the marine ecosystems in Indonesia, Professor Jompa said the challenges of over-fishing and destructive fishing were the top priorities.

"These and other emerging pressures, such as bleaching, crown of thorns starfish, coral mining, sedimentation and pollution have degraded coral reefs and coastal ecosystems throughout the region in recent decades."

Local schools bring colours of the reef to delegates

Local school children from 41 schools around Cairns and North Queensland were inspired by the Great Barrier Reef when asked to decorate delegate name badges.

With more than 2000 drawings submitted for the Coral Reef Symposium every lanyard has been decorated with an artwork representing the coral reef.

Turn your artwork over to see your child's name and year at school handwritten on the back - a unique memento to enjoy during the symposium and to take home to share.

Participating schools were:

Bajool State School
Banana State School
Bauhinia State School
Biboohra State School
Biloela State School
Caravonica State School
Cardwell State School
Cawarral State School
Clermont State School
Cooktown State School
Cranbrook State School
Currajong State School
Dimbulah State School
Freshwater State School
Hermit Park State School
Holy Spirit School (Townsville)
Innisfail State School
Isabella State School
Kirwan State School
Kuranda District State College
Lakeland State School
Machans Beach State School
Magnetic Island State School
Malanda State School
Mareeba State School
Moresby State School
Mossman State School
Mount Molloy State School
Mundingburra State School
Mundoo State School
Oonoonba State School
Port Curtis Road State School
Tagai State College – Poruma Campus
Tagai State College – Thursday Island Primary Campus
Tannum Sands State School
The Willows State School
Townsville Central State School
Townsville Grammar School
Trinity Beach State School
Yorkeys Knob State School

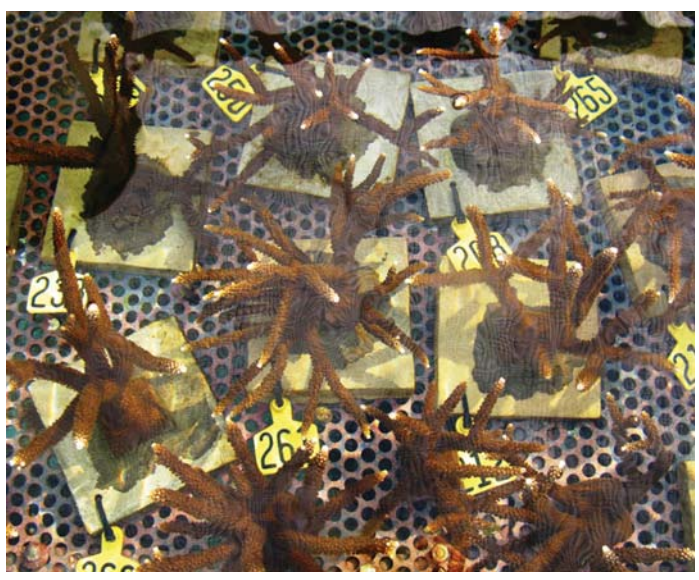
It's a growth **industry**

New techniques to grow coral are being explored by America's National Coral Reef Institute, one of the conference exhibitors.

It is growing coral in water tanks on land and in a 200sqm nursery just off the Florida coast.

"We see it as a demonstration project to discover the science of successfully growing coral and to show what is possible to those who have argued it is too much work and too expensive," says Dick Dodge, dean and professor at the Oceanographic Centre at Dania Beach in Florida.

Professor Dodge says the separate land and sea-nursery projects are designed to ensure there is a "buffer" against natural elements should either of the projects suffer a major natural event, "such as a hurricane".



On land, the institute has four tanks that each contain 50 corals, and it will soon ramp the operation to 12 tanks as part of an expanded outdoor nursery at Nova Southeastern University's Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Ecosystem Science, which opened in May.

Professor Dodge says many science colleagues see the work as "mundane and operational" but added: "The aim is to develop growth techniques and make them scientifically accurate.

"We don't see that as mundane at all."

The coral from the water tanks is currently growing at 2cm a month, almost twice the normal rate and scientists are trying to figure out the reason for this.

Work is being conducted with the assistance of $US15 million federal government funding and a further $US25 million from the Nova university.

Dr Dodge, who is also executive director of the National Coral Reef Institute, says he is aware of similar work being conducted in Israel and the Virgin Islands but the US initiative is the largest being undertaken.

A colony of staghorn coral – *Acropora cervicornis* – was transferred from water tanks to a reef off Florida's Broward County coast at the beginning of the year, replacing coral that had died of disease several years before.

For the offshore project, small branches of coral are attached to substrate with a nail and fast-setting glue. Any damage to the coral heals within a couple of weeks.

Senior research assistant Elizabeth Larson, who works on the offshore project exclusively, says the coral branches grow at around 1cm a week.

"One of our aims is to increase the genetic diversity of coral species in the Florida area," she says.

"Currently, we are looking after 20 different types of coral."

Elizabeth and 10 colleagues oversee 46 blocks of substrate on which 36 coral colonies are attached.

Around 1000 coral colonies have now been out-plated to reefs so far.

"We monitor their progress every quarter – and so far, they are all doing great," she says.

Save what remains, say **scientists**

With coral reefs in rapid decline, it is imperative every effort is made to save the rest, say the world's most top marine researchers.

In an unprecedented move, more than 2,500 of the world's top marine researchers have released A Consensus Statement on Climate Change and Coral Reefs.

It calls for a worldwide effort to overcome growing threats to coral ecosystems and to the livelihoods of millions of people who depend on them.

It urges measures to head off the escalating damage caused by rising sea temperatures, ocean acidification, over-fishing and pollution from the land.

Professor Terry Hughes, Convener of the Symposium and Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, said: "When it comes to coral reefs, prevention is better than cure.

"If we look after the Great Barrier Reef better than we do now, it will continue to support a vibrant tourism industry.

"Unfortunately, in Queensland, the rush to get as much fossil fuel out of the ground as quickly as possible before the transition to alternative sources of energy occurs, has pushed environmental concerns far into the background.

"Australia needs to improve governance of the Great Barrier Reef, particularly coastal development and runoff, to avoid it being inscribed by UNESCO on the List of World Heritage Sites in Danger.

"While there has been much progress in establishing marine reserves around the coastline of Australia, marine parks do not prevent pollution from the land, or lessen the impact of shipping and port developments, or reduce the emissions of greenhouse gasses," he said.

"There is a window of opportunity for the world to act on climate change – but it is closing rapidly."

The consensus statement suggests plenty of positive local actions that can also be taken, including:

- **Rebuild fish stocks to restore key ecosystem functions**
- **Reduce runoff and pollutants from the land**
- **Reduce destruction of mangrove, seagrass and coral reef habitats**
- **Protect key ecosystems by establishing marine protected areas**
- **Rebuild populations of large animals, such as dugongs and turtles**
- **Promote reef tourism and sustainable fishing rather than destructive industries**
- **Use aquaculture, without increasing pollution and runoff, to reduce pressure on wild**

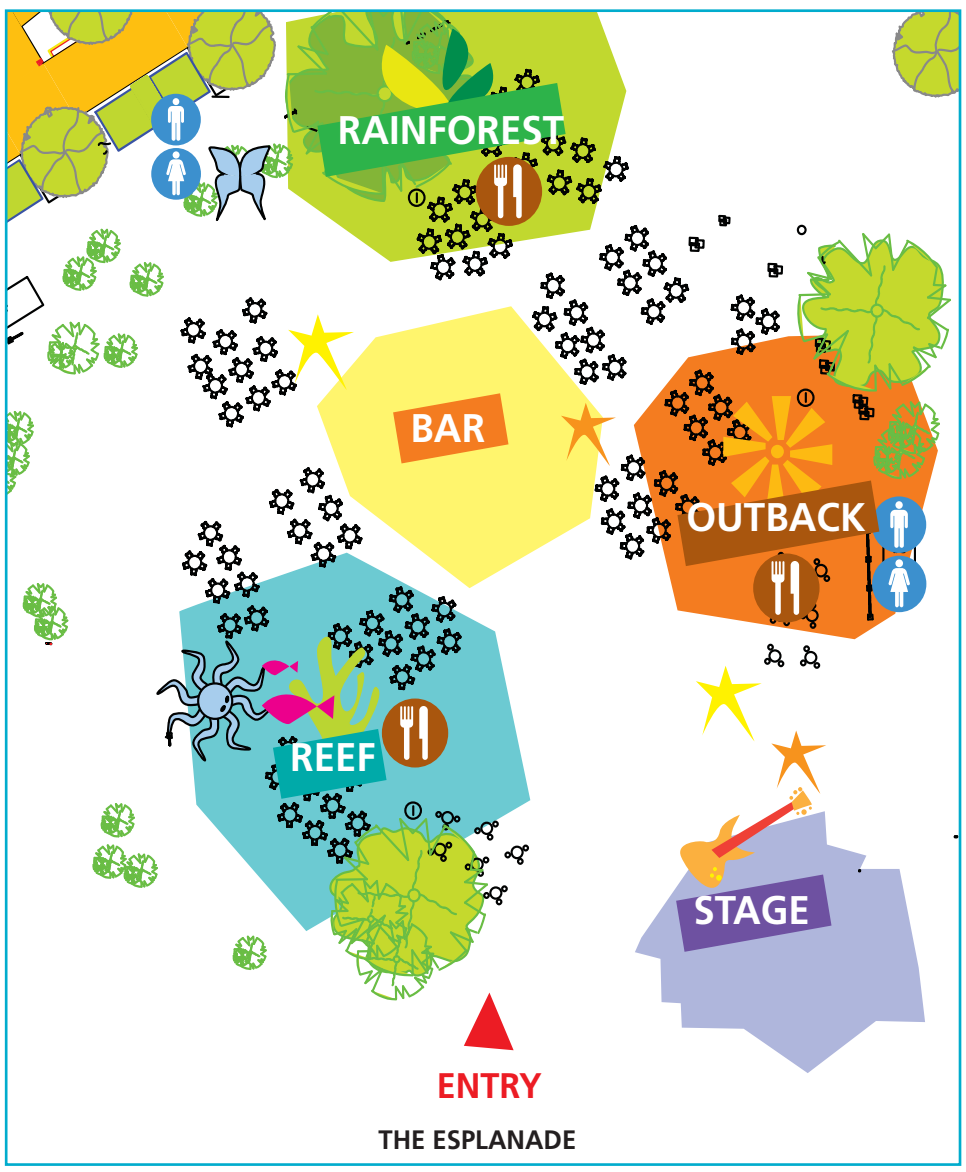
ICRS2012 **Banquet**

Thursday 12 July 2012
1830-2300
Fogarty Park, Cairns City Centre
Additional Tickets $150.00
available from Registration Desk

ENTERTAINMENT

Over 35 performers will entertain you over the course of the evening, featuring:

- **Tropical vibe reggae band**
- **Hip 2 Soul and their popular 6–piece ensemble**
- **Performance by Torres Strait Islanders**
- **Female dance warriors**
- **Australian whip crackers**
- **Life saving nippers**
- **Costumed fairies, butterflies, sea horses and jellyfish**
- **Spectacular fire show**



MENU

OUTBACK

- Kangaroo satays, macadamia nut sauce
- Lamb kebabs, grilled damper, bush tomato mayonnaise
- Mini Burgers – beef with cheese, pickles and mustard: lentil pattie, tomato relish, salad greens

RAINFOREST

- Salt and pepper crocodile – sweet lemon myrtle chilli sauce
- Cold smoked barramundi – green papaya salad
- Singapore Noodles with chicken and shrimp
- San chow spring rolls
- Seasonal fruit, selected mini cakes and pastries
- Tablelands 'Gallo' cheese platters
- Coffee and tea station

REEF

- Fresh cooked prawns
- Oysters
- Yellow fish curry and jasmine rice
- Spice calamari skewers – wild lime and ginger sauce
- Sugar cane prawn sticks
- Barramundi and Prawn spring rolls

BEVERAGES

- Wine: sparkling, white and red
- Beer: full strength and light
- Soft drink, juices and bottled water

InDepth introduces the Ultimate iPhone Case

This Rugged Case is guaranteed to protect your iPhone against water, dust, sand and impact while maintaining your phones functionality.

Compatible with all models of iPhone3 & iPhone 4/4s the case comes complete with a slimline attachable belt clip and quickly fits to your iPhone within seconds.

Designed to meet the needs of iPhone users worldwide who work or play within natures harsh ele ments and hazardous environments...making it perfect for Tradies, Miners, Boaties, Adventurers and the like while providing total protection from hard knocks, drops & scratches.

Accessories available include a highly visible floating lanyard which easily attaches to the base of the case keeping your case afloat when in and around water...be it at the beach, on the boat or around the pool.

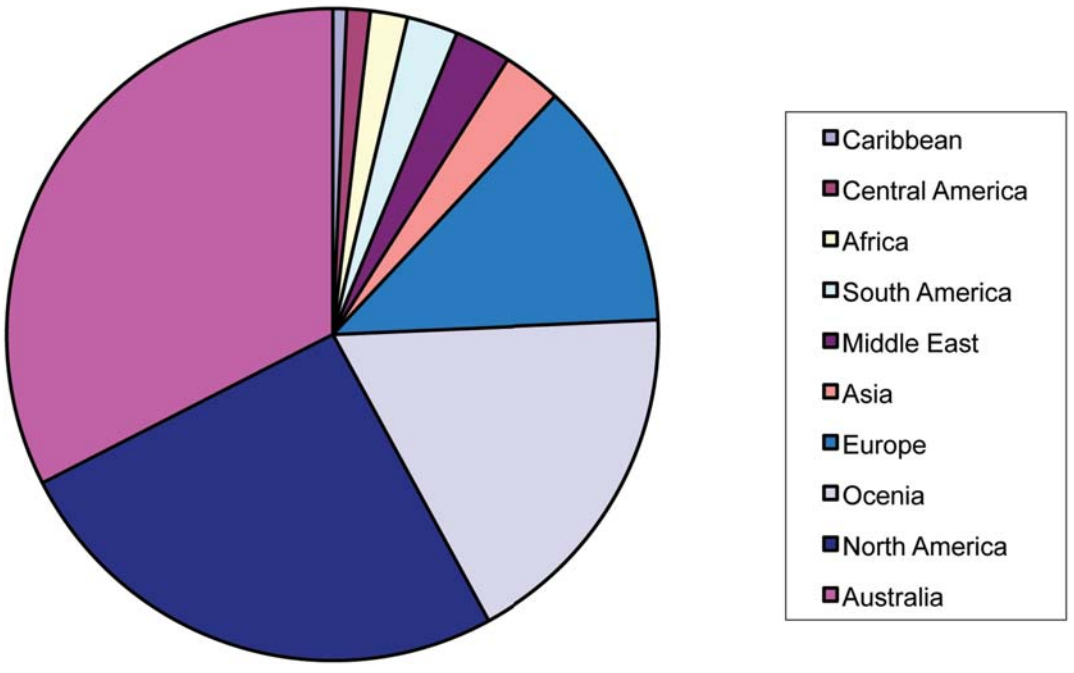
This truly is a go anywhere - do anything iPhone case.

Check out the full details of the Ultimate iPhone Case and Accessories online at www.indepthcases.com

Rugged protection against Water, Dust, Sand and Impact

Who are we?

No of countries represented = 80
No of delegates = over 2000
No of early career researchers = 120
No of graduate students = 600
No of symposium themes = 22
No of mini-symposia = 72
No of posters = 200
No of oral presentations = 1300
No of exhibitors = 21



Reef Documentary for Sale

DVD copies of the BBC Digital Dimensions co-production of the Great Barrier Reef documentary series are available for purchase for $25 (PAL and NTSC formats) from the Australian Coral Reef Society exhibition booth number 16."

The Great Barrier Reef

3 x 1hr series

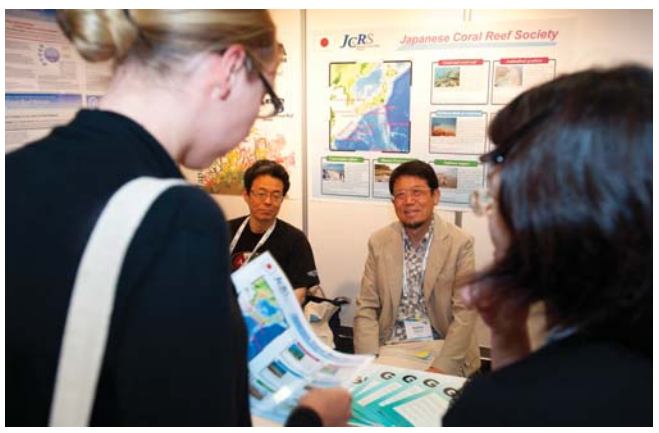
International version - narrated by Don Halbert (not the Channel 9 version)

A Digital Dimensions/ BBC/ Discovery Co-production

PAL an NTSC DVDs are available for $25 (includes all 3 episodes) at the Australian Coral Reef Society stand....

... and you get a free copy of Wild Tasmania (while stocks last) - a 45m conservation management film from Digital Dimensions on the plight of Wedgetailed Eagles and old growth forests.

Pictures at an **Exhibition**



Posters on Parade