

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

Townsville North Queensland has achieved more in the past decade through its sustainability programs than any other city in the Oceania. Townsville was the only Queensland city chosen to be part of the \$94M Australian Government Solar Cities Program. This Program incorporates a range of initiatives that focus on increasing solar energy usage and cutting greenhouse gas emissions by more than 50,000 tonnes.

Townsville North Queensland offers a diverse range of opportunities for conference delegates to share their skills and their time to make a difference to the people, the wildlife and the landscape of this extraordinary place.

The region has long enjoyed a reputation for providing world leading science, research and education with key research and education facilities such as James Cook University, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Australian Institute of Marine Science.

The region's CSR experiences provide visitors an insight into the various initiatives in Townsville and across the wider region to learn how to be more responsible citizens and to give back to the Townsville North Queensland community and its precious environment.

Case Study

FOOD 2 FOOD CSR PROGRAM IN ACTION: TOWNSVILLE NORTH QUEENSLAND TOURISM AND EVENTS DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

February 2014

Locations: The Ville Resort-Casino (formerly Jupiters Townsville Hotel & Casino)

Delegates: 150 pax

At the 2014 Townsville North Queensland Tourism and Events Industry Development Conference, 70.2kgs of carbon dioxide was saved from being emitted into the atmosphere through the use of the Townsville North Queensland Food 2 Food Program.

Delegates were encouraged to place their food waste into specially marked bins provided during meal breaks. This food, combined with leftovers from the kitchen, was put through a Bio-Regen™ mobile unit and converted into a liquid bio-fertiliser. The 78kgs of food scraps processed converted into 234L of bio-fertiliser, which has gone back to local farms as a soil enhancer. The delegates were pleased they were able to contribute back to the community by attending the conference and the Food 2 Food program was a positive talking point throughout the event.

The technology working within the Bio-Regen™ unit is manufactured by a local company and was originally designed by a local inventor. It is now used all over the world as the most effective way to convert food waste into a valuable product.

The Bio-Regen™ System or Food 2 Food Program is available as one of 10 suggested CSR Programs that Townsville North Queensland has on offer for event organisers.



Caring for Country

Learn about the fragility of the environment and the cultural and spiritual significance of landscapes while helping restore and enhance resilience of ecosystems.

ABORIGINAL LAND AND HISTORY

Program Duration: Full day (including travel time)

Location: Mungalla Station, 12km from Ingham

Maximum Group Size: 44 pax (min. 15)

Meals: Lunch can be included upon request ('Kup Murri' traditional style underground cooking or famous country style barbeque lunch)

Participate in tours of Mungalla Station – a working cattle property, where you will learn about Nywaigi Aboriginal culture, pioneering history of the European settlers and the Captive Lives story (2-3 hours). Plant native trees and help to restore the health of the precious wetlands of the Nywaigi people (1 hour).



CYCLONE RECOVERY WORK

Program Duration: 3-4 hours

Location: Billabong Sanctuary,
17km south of Townsville

Maximum Group Size: 40 pax (min. 15)

The 25 acres of tropical bushlands of Billabong Sanctuary provide habitat for a wide range of native animals, birds and reptiles. Help this unique wildlife sanctuary and engage in site recovery activities such as repairing animal enclosures, landscaping, weed eradication or tree planting (1-2 hours). Be rewarded with a home cooked Queensland BBQ on the edge of the billabong and enjoy feeding saltwater crocodiles and cassowaries and cuddling a wombat.



After Cyclone Yasi at Billabong Sanctuary

Wildlife Conservation

Learn about local wildlife and its habitat and help in creating, restoring and protecting wildlife habitat.

CARING FOR WILDLIFE

Program Duration: Half day or full day (program duration can be tailored to your requirements)

Location: Various locations around Townsville

Maximum Group Size: 40 pax (min. 5)

Conservation Volunteers can tailor programs for delegates aimed at helping to create and restore habitat for wildlife. Such programs could involve conservation activities that focus on the wetland habitat of the Town Common, Northern Beaches coastal habitat or a Great Barrier Reef continental island – Magnetic Island. Focus activities could include marine debris clean ups (turtle habitat and rehabilitation), restoration of dunes (Northern Beaches) or bird counts (including brologas and sarus cranes on the Town Common or black throated finches at Oak Beach). Ranger Dan from Hands on Wildlife can be invited to the site to talk about wildlife habitat and how the conservation work contributes to maintaining habitats.



Green Turtle hatchingling courtesy of Tourism Queensland

MAGNETIC ISLAND HABITAT REJUVENATION

Program Duration: Half day (including travel time)

Location: Bungalow Bay Koala Village –
Butterfly Reserve

Maximum Group Size: 30 pax (min. 15)

Bungalow Bay Koala Village, a multi award-winning eco-tourism resort, works with Townsville City Council to keep the Magnetic Island ecosystem unharmed by the introduction of community settlement. Learn all about wildlife habitats and get up close with the unique Aussie animals of Magnetic Island (1.5 hours). Engage in a hands-on land management assessment in the adjacent Melaleuca and Pandanus forests where you can help with planting trees, weed removal, water course management and pruning (1.5 hours). The forests are home to wildlife such as koalas, bush stone-curlews and butterflies and delegate participation helps maintain and enhance the habitat of these endangered species.



Koala at Bungalow Bay by Melissa Van Der Haak

Citizen Science

Get involved in conservation sciences and learn how to be a more responsible citizen.

HEALTHY REEF HEALTHY FUTURE

Program Duration: 2 days

Location: Reef HQ Aquarium & Great Barrier Reef

Maximum Group Size: 20 pax (min. 10)

Day 1: Learn how to perform a Coral Reef Health Check. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's 'Rapid Monitoring Program' is the latest citizen science initiative that enables community members to participate in monitoring the health of the Great Barrier Reef. This program can be adopted by people without a scientific background. You will receive in-water training within the Coral Reef Exhibition (the world's largest living coral reef aquarium).

Day 2: Perform a Coral Reef Health Check. Put your learnings to practical use on a snorkelling adventure with Adrenalin Snorkel & Dive exploring the Great Barrier Reef whilst helping the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority monitor reef conditions and report on wildlife sightings. By collecting information on reef health, delegates make a valuable contribution to research needed for reef conservation work. Optional scuba diving can be organised upon request.



reefHQ
GREAT BARRIER REEF
AQUARIUM



WATER QUALITY SCIENCE

Program Duration: Half day or full day including safety induction (program duration can be tailored to your requirements)

Location: Various creeks or rivers in the Townsville North Queensland region

Maximum Group Size: 30 pax (min. 10)

Learn how to apply water quality science on a Catchment Tour and help Townsville Conservation Volunteers to care for the creeks on their Creekwatch Program. Learn from the experts how to apply conservation science and help with activities such as assessing water quality or monitoring macro-invertebrates and fish.



ECO-CATCHMENT EDUCATION TOURS

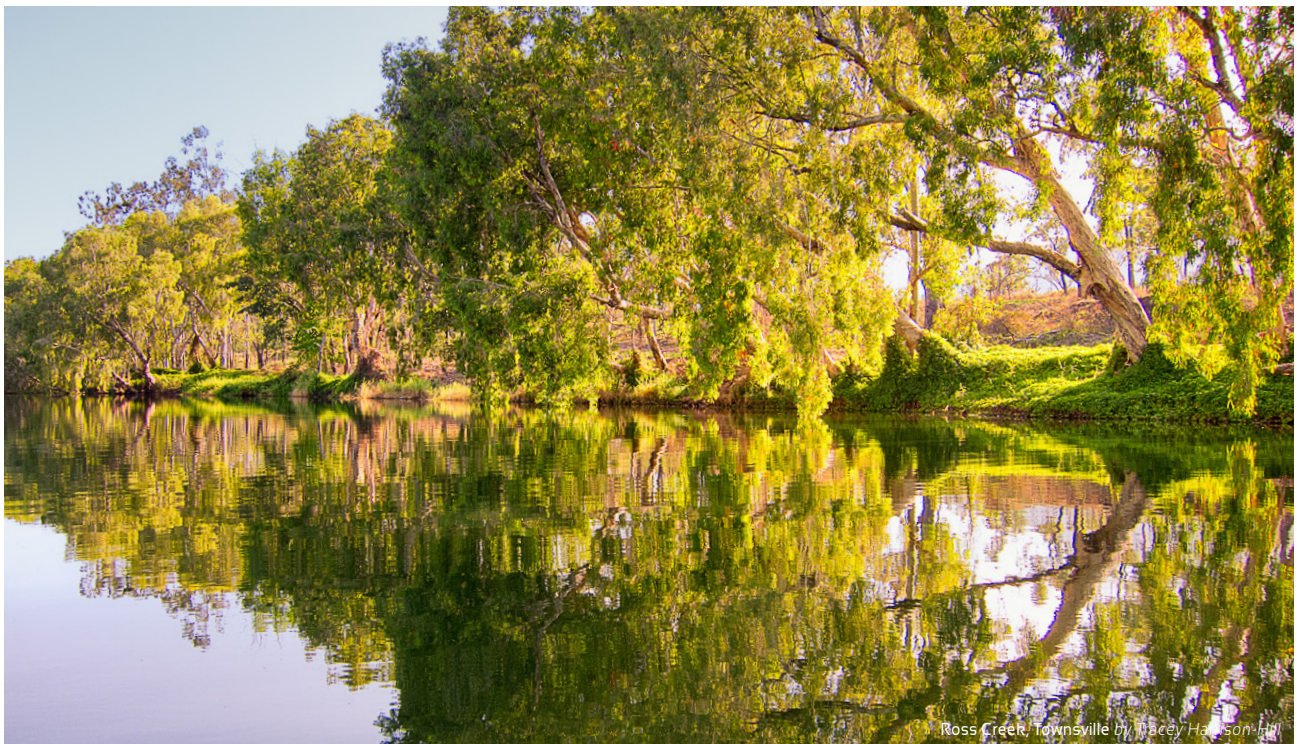
Program Duration: Flexible ranging from 2-3 hours to a full day depending on Learnscapes. Tours can be tailored to your requirements and interests.

Location: Various Learnscapes in and around Townsville

Maximum Group Size: 40 pax (min. 5)

Transport Information: Transport to the Learnscapes can be organised upon request.

The City of Townsville's Integrated Sustainability Department, its collaborators and partners offer a range of holistic Sustainability Programs around Townsville and can connect you to global change and real sustainability in practice. Through participating in Eco-Catchment Education Tours (Advanced Ecotourism Certified with Ecotourism Australia) you may discover the hidden world of energy flows in Townsville's urban environment and follow the water cycle from catchment to coral reef, as well as the wonders of its biodiversity hotspots. You can get involved in a range of activities from useful tree planting to learning about urban 'blue, not green' sustainability, building and infrastructure. Opportunities exist for community based ecological water quality monitoring, aquatic flora and fauna sampling, innovative insight driven building and energy monitoring and measurement, and active thematic interpretation of the local wetlands, waterways, sustainable buildings, rainforests, savannahs and coral reefs. Through thematic interpretation, Ecological Learnscapes are introduced and the connections between the built environment and our surrounding natural habitats explained.



Ross Creek, Townsville by Macey Harrison-Hill

Leaving a Legacy

Make a contribution to the Townsville North Queensland community that will remain long after delegates have returned home.

FOOD 2 FOOD – TURN YOUR FOOD WASTE INTO FERTILISER

Minimum Rental Period: Two Days

Every piece of food we don't eat is energy wasted to the ecosystem and the economic process that sustains us. Food waste generates methane and other carbon related emissions irrespective of treatment processes. Reduce your ecological footprint by hiring a Bio-Regen™ mobile unit that will convert the food waste generated during your event into liquid biofertiliser. The Bio-Regen™ technology produces minimal off-gases (independently verified in Scotland) and converts all of the organic material into a soil enhancer, which means none of the final product is disposed of to landfill or elsewhere. The technology working through the Bio-Regen™ unit is manufactured by a local Townsville company and was originally designed by a local inventor. It is now used all over the world as the most effective way to convert food waste into a valuable product.



Image by Edward Shaw

HELPING HANDS

Program Duration: 1-2 hours

Location: Your Conference Venue

Maximum Group Size: 30 pax (min. 5)

Youth with a Mission (YWAM) Medical Ships – Australia is sending its medical ships into regional Papua New Guinea where YWAM helps thousands of people who would otherwise have no access to medical help or services. Engage in a team building exercise and help YWAM to pack medical kits for its patients in Papua New Guinea.



FUNDRAISING SPEECHES

Location: Your conference venue

Maximum Group Size: Unlimited

The Townsville North Queensland region offers a range of inspiring keynote speakers from local charities and organisations who can speak about their work at your conference lunch or dinner. By making a financial contribution to their work, you are making a contribution to the Townsville North Queensland community that will remain long after you return home. Exemplary speakers include staff from the Townsville Hospital Foundation, YWAM or James Cook University.