



Great Barrier Reef snorkeling / scuba diving trip 2019



December 2018

Dear parents/guardians

I'm writing to let you know about the 2019 snorkelling and scuba diving trip to the **Great Barrier Reef**, at the start of the Term 3 holidays. The trip has exciting links to senior biology and environmental science courses, it's a wonderful way to see this natural wonder of the world, and a great opportunity to escape the chilly south for a few days. For those students doing pre-tertiary subjects it's also a chance to have a well-earned and very important break before the sprint to the final examinations begins.

The success of the trip relies on getting signed permission and medical forms back AS SOON AS POSSIBLE to avoid untenable airfare increases. Please note, there is also a maximum number of 16 students for this trip.

Who can participate in this trip?

- Students who can swim at least 200m, and who can float/tread water for 10 minutes
- Students who would like to come and snorkel on the Great Barrier Reef
- Students who are already certified scuba divers
- Students who would like to learn to scuba dive before the trip

What is the basic outline of the trip including dates?

The trip is for five days/four nights, and involves 1 night in Cairns at the start of the trip, 2 nights on the Pro Dive Cairns dive boat, living and diving/snorkelling on the GBR for 3 full days, and 1 night in Cairns at the end of the trip. The basic itinerary is as follows:

Day 1:

- Leave Hobart on Saturday 28th September
- Check into hotel (Park Regis City Quays, Cairns)
- Visit Pro Dive Cairns to organise hire gear for snorkelers and scuba divers
- Group dinner in the hotel

Days 2 – 4:

- 6:30am collection by staff from Pro Dive Cairns
- 7:00am board the boat, ScubaPro from Cairns marina
- We then spend two nights/three days snorkeling and/or scuba diving on the Great Barrier Reef, living on the "live-aboard" dive vessel, Scuba Pro
- Day 4 return to Cairns around 3:30pm
- Return to hotel
- Group dinner in Cairns

Day 5:

- **Return to Hobart on Wednesday 2nd October**
- You will be required to collect your child/ward from the airport upon our return
- Specific flight details will be forwarded as soon as they are finalised

Costs

Based on the current costs of return flights, the trip should cost around \$2,200 per student (subject to change depending on the cost of flights). This is based on 16 students participating.

This includes:

- Return flights from Hobart to Cairns with Qantas
- The boat trip including all snorkel/dive gear hire (including a prescription mask if necessary)
- All meals while on the boat (the food is fantastic and it just never seems to end!!)
- 2 nights' accommodation in Cairns, one night before and one after the boat trip
- Reef taxes
- Dinner on the first night of the trip

How will you pay?

If you give your child/ward permission to participate, you will also commit to paying for the trip and on this basis we will buy flights and pay a deposit for the dive boat and accommodation in Cairns. You will be required to pay (in person at the College, or by invoice):

- An initial (non-refundable) deposit of **\$450** will be due by **Friday 1st March**.
- The balance can be paid in installments:
 - o \$500 on 1st April
 - o \$500 on 1st May
 - o \$400 on 1st June
 - o \$350 on 1st July

Other information

Meals

- All meals on the trip are included, **except for** dinner on Day 4 and breakfast on Day 5. Students should bring about \$30 to cover these meals, which we will have together as a group.

Equipment/luggage

- Space on the boat is limited. Each student will travel with **hand luggage only**.
- All students will need to bring their swimmers, a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, two towels, 1 warm jacket/jumper, light clothing, toiletries, and something to read. While staff will obviously not be responsible for electronic equipment, students may bring their telephone, camera, tablet or laptop if they wish.
- ALL snorkel and dive gear is supplied by Pro Dive Cairns, including a prescription mask if required. Students are welcome to bring their own mask/snorkel if they have one, but it is not necessary. Stinger suits and 'shortie' style wetsuits are also provided by PDC.

Parent and Student Responsibilities (please read carefully)

1. Students and parents will be required to complete an agreement form requiring appropriate behaviour at all times and acknowledging the right of the staff member to act in loco parentis and to send the student home in the case of serious misconduct.
2. Students will be expected to adhere to the policies of Elizabeth College while away, including the Drug and Alcohol Policy.
3. Students will be expected to behave in a courteous manner at all times.

4. Students will abide by the wishes of the accompanying staff members at all times.
5. If prior to the trip the behaviour of the student (including poor attendance) leads the Principal to believe the student continuing on the trip may be a risk to the safety and wellbeing of other students on the trip, that student will be required to forfeit their place on the trip.
6. Parents declare that their child is both physically and mentally fit enough to cope with the demands of interstate travel and they agree to declare any physical or mental health conditions when asked to do so by Elizabeth College.

If you would like your child/ward to participate, please sign and return the slip below **ASAP**. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on: 6235 6555 or at jason.hoare@education.tas.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Hoare'.

Dr Jason Hoare

Great Barrier Reef snorkelling and scuba diving trip, September 2019.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST AND DEPOSIT

Dear Dr Hoare,

I give permission for my child/ward to participate in the 2019 Great Barrier Reef trip, and I acknowledge and agree to the following (please tick the appropriate box):

	Yes	No
I certify that my child/ward is a strong swimmer, capable of swimming 200m and treading water/floating for 10 minutes		
I agree that the College may invoice me for the non-refundable deposit of \$450 which is due to be paid by 1 March 2019		
I agree to pay the balance of the trip as outlined in the information letter provided, and I agree that the College may invoice me for these amounts		
I understand that places are limited and that students will be allocated a place on the basis of the order in which deposits are received		
I understand that should my child/ward's attendance or behaviour is deemed not to be acceptable or appropriate in the lead-up to the trip, that the Principal will make the final determination about their participation in this trip		
I understand that there are various forms that will need to be completed prior to the trip and I agree to complete and return these in a timely manner		

My child/ward would like to participate in this trip as a **(please tick ONE option only)**:

- ☐ Certified diver (this means that they ALREADY have, or WILL HAVE a diving certification).
- ☐ Snorkeler only

Note that the College offers the PADI Open Water Diver certification as part of the Enrichment program. There is a separate cost for this course.

Parent/guardian's name and signature: _____

Parent/guardian's phone number: _____