

LIZARD ISLAND RESEARCH STATION

The Lizard Island Research Station is a world-leading supplier of on-reef facilities for coral reef research and education. Located on the northern Great Barrier Reef (270 km north of Cairns, Queensland), the Research Station is owned and operated by the Australian Museum and is supported by the Lizard Island Reef Research Foundation and the Coral Reef and Marine Science Foundation.

At the Lizard Island Research Station, about 60 research projects are carried out each year by professional scientists and postgraduate research students from Australia and overseas. This work has resulted in many hundreds of scientific publications. The knowledge contained in these publications is available to reef managers worldwide, who use it to develop plans for conservation of coral reefs.

Coral reefs are extraordinary places with a diversity of plants and animals equaled only by rainforests. By 1992, 10% of the world's coral reefs had already been damaged beyond repair and a further 60% were considered to be under threat. Destructive fishing practices, poor coastal management and global warming have each contributed to this environmental damage. The massive climate-related coral bleaching event of 1998 pushed the estimate of destroyed reefs to 27% of the world's total.



The Research Station's operating expenses (including staff salaries) are covered by fees charged to visiting researchers and educational groups, and by an annual contribution from the Australian Museum Trust. Funding for all capital expenditure must be raised externally.

Past President of Rotary eClub One, Chris Joscelyne, has donated six new desktop computers, a laptop computer, data back-up storage hardware, a wireless link and software for use at the Lizard Island Research Station.

Additionally, Chris is aiding fundraising efforts to supply other essential equipment for use by coral reef researchers.

The Board of Rotary eClub One has endorsed this project as a Community Service activity.