

**MEDIA ALERT**

**7 October 2008**

**INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT ON TOWNSVILLE/AUSTRALIA  
FOR UNIQUE AND INSPIRING KIDS' ENVIRONMENT EVENT**

Over 300 very excited, environmentally-committed primary and secondary students and teachers from around Australia and from overseas will converge on Townsville, Queensland from Sunday, 19 to Tuesday, 21 October for the 2008 International Youth Coastal Conference.

The uniquely Australian eisteddfod-like education and environment event has one day of 'kids teaching kids' workshops with energetic presentations by students on their environment concerns about Australia's coasts and waterways, and another day of hands-on environment workshops on Magnetic Island to put into practice their knowledge of coastal resource management.

The international spotlight will be on the event as it will be the first pilot for a planned global kids' event and other educational efforts by the United Nations, which has endorsed the 'kids teaching kids' concept as 'inspiring'.

**AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS/PHOTO AND FOOTAGE OPPS PRIOR TO AND AT EVENT:**

- Years 5-11 students and teachers from around Australia and overseas including Airey's Inlet, Airlie Beach, Ayr, Bairnsdale, Cannonvale, Deeragun; Edmonton, Elizabeth, Foster, Ingham, Mackay, Mt Pleasant, Port Vincent, Richmond, Tannum Sands, Thuringowa, Townsville, Warrnambool, Williamstown, Wondai, Yeppoon and Tarakan – East Indonesia, Apia – Samoa; Auckland - New Zealand.
- Arron Wood, event MC and Kids Teaching Kids Founder, '07 Environmentalist of the Year and '08 Clean up the World Ambassador.
- Celebrities including Shae Brewster, Saturday Disney; Claire Hooper, Good News Week; Parrys Raines, WWF Youth Ambassador; Arcade Made Triple J Unearthed High School Band.

**WHEN/WHERE:** (full program at <http://www.onelifeoneworldourfuture.com/index.php?pageid=304>)

**Sunday, 19 October**

10-3pm Registration at Mercure Inn, Woolcock St where media can catch the excitement of kids registering and meeting organizers and each other

6:30pm to 8:30pm Welcome Function at Reef HQ & Cultural Centre, 2 - 68 Flinders St:

Students will be taking part in a Carnival at ReefHQ and the Cultural Centre

**Monday, 20 October** 9.30-4.20pm at the Ballroom, Jupiters Hotel, Sir Leslie Thiess Drive:

10am Launch and main stage addresses

11am International presentations by Indonesia, New Zealand, Samoa, Sweden, USA

12.30-4.20pm Australian and NZ School Presentations - 16 x 40 minute workshops

Catch the kids in presentations including song; dance; poems; drama; games; surveys; school-made TV programs, movies and a game show; interactive quizzes; and crafts.

**Tuesday, 21 October**, Magnetic Island Horseshoe Bay

Kids taking part in 9 hands-on environment projects such as revegetation activities, solar power and energy activities; and then activities related to mangroves, wetlands, dunes and beaches.

NB: Free transport for media to Magnetic Island (Ferries depart at 7:20am).

**Further information**, check out <http://www.onelifeoneworldourfuture.com/coastal/>

For press release and interviews contact Cathy Reade: 0413 575 934 Em: [creade@squirrel.com.au](mailto:creade@squirrel.com.au)

The conference is proudly supported by Australian Government - Caring for our Country; Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority; Reef Guardian Schools; Reef HQ Aquarium; Queensland Government; Townsville City Council; Landcare Australia; Bunnings Warehouse; James Cook University; Sony; Toshiba; Australian Maritime College; Yates; Burdekin Dry Tropics NRM; Origin; Victorian Abalone Divers Association; Telstra and Sunferries