



## Clean-Up Australia Day 3 March 2023, Kalkie State School, Bundaberg

Today some schools held clean up events for Clean Up Australia Day. Elijah went and gave a presentation at Kalkie State School about coral, the reef and how we can all help take care of it. He also talked about the dangers of marine debris to ocean life. We were really impressed with the children's knowledge already and we are grateful for incredible teachers that help educate these amazing children who are the future. The volunteers who helped clean up at lunch time did not find much rubbish around the school. Keep up the great work as Reef Guardians!

*Elijah*



## Turtles in Trouble Clean-Up Event 5 March 2023, Hervey Bay

Breannah and Sharon helped facilitate a Clean Up Australia Day event with Turtles In Trouble Rescue Inc. and Port City Autos in Hervey Bay!

The team had a stall set up and did a fantastic job educating about coral reefs in the bay and how we can all make a difference, whether through citizen science or sustainability! Turtles In Trouble Rescue Inc. said they found litter ranging in size "from small to large and included recyclable goods, cans, bottles, shoes, clothing, fishing line, food wrappers, food packets, plastic containers, bottle tops, cigarette butts, polystyrene foam, tyre, lightbulb, gas cartridges, dog waste bags, micro-plastics, rope, illegal crab pot, an oven & much more".

*Sharon, Breannah*



## Heron Island Alumni Event 10-12 March 2023, Heron island

The Heron Island Research Station, the oldest and largest marine research station on the Great Barrier Reef, became the centre of attention in March as it hosted a behind the scenes event for UQ alumni. Alumni joined UQ's marine scientists in (swimming, snorkelling) and out of the water (reef walks) to learn about the challenges facing this iconic marvel of nature.

The event was organised by UQ Alumni and Advancement Team, UQ research station staff, and CoralWatch. Several CoralWatch ambassadors helped preparing the station, and conducted snorkel-, reefwalking and turtle tours. Elijah gave a fantastic presentation about his journey as ambassador and how you can help the reef and Diana gave a presentation about the 'Secret World of Corals', followed by a reefwalk.

### Hands-on Art Experience

People young and old joined in to get creative and contribute to making 1,000 coral polyps for the Living Together community art project. With no artistic skills required, the enthusiasm and enjoyment was palpable. And what better setting to make art than on a tropical island surrounded by the best of mother nature. Approximately 25 people joined in to cut and sculpt plastic water bottles. We then made "spirulina smoothies" inside each polyp, to coat the surface with a green pigment. This pigment fades through sun exposure, just as corals can bleach when exposed to UV rays. This was the first of many workshops to come, with the final outcome to be displayed at the SWELL Sculpture Festival (September) and Logan Art Gallery (December-January 2024).

### Visitors: 100 UQ Alumni

*David, Geoff, Kerry, Elijah, Susy, Nadine, Diana*

