

November 2008

Dear Parents

Re: Rowley Shoals Adventure

The Outdoor Education Department is conducting a trip of a lifetime to the Rowley Shoals located off the coast of Broome from 28 September to 4 October 2009. The trip will be based on board the amazing Odyssey Expeditions vessel and is for qualified divers and/or those who have an interest in the marine environment. It is open to students in Years 10 and 11, parents, and old scholars. Please note that Year 11 students' exams start the day after our return.

The Rowley Shoals provides an opportunity to experience a diverse array of diving environments including lagoons, canyons, sheer vertical walls, high speed drifts and snorkelling. Although the exploration will provide SCUBA diving opportunities, it is not necessary to be a diver. You can experience swimming pool-like conditions 300kms from the nearest land, and an uninterrupted night sky filled with an unimaginable number of glittering stars. The Shoals are a chain of coral atolls on the edge of one of the widest continental shelves in the world. The three atolls have shallow lagoons inhabited by corals and abundant marine life.

The coral atolls of the Rowley Shoals are famous for their almost untouched coral gardens, giant clams and other shellfish. Giant potato cod and maori wrasse wait to be hand fed and follow divers around, while morays, turtles, reef sharks, colourful reef fish, trevally, mackerel and tuna hover near by. An exceptional 233 species of coral and 688 species of fish inhabit the shoals.

Rowley Shoals are among the few reefs in the world affected by a high tidal range providing some great drift diving and snorkelling experiences. The dramatic five-metre tides pour massive volumes in and out of the coral framework and have created unearthly and enchanting coralscapes. The turquoise lagoons are filled with coral bommies brimming with exotic tropical fish and unbelievably colourful formations.

Please find attached information regarding the adventure. Enrolments will be accepted immediately, so please return your consent form as soon as possible. Please note that places are limited and enrolments will be accepted on a first-in basis.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the Outdoor Education Department on 9285 4100.

Yours sincerely

Anna Freedman
Head of Outdoor Education

Rowley Shoals Adventure

Proposed Itinerary

Monday 28 September: Depart Perth from Qantas Domestic Terminal. Arrive Broome and be welcomed aboard Odyssey Expeditions, before an overnight steam to the Rowley Shoals.

Tuesday 29 September – Saturday 3 October: On Charter with days spent diving and snorkelling the spectacular atolls with some fishing available. Depart the Rowley Shoals in the evening for Broome.

Sunday 4 October: Arrive in Broome mid-morning. Relax and tour Broome before flying back to Perth in the evening.

Food: All food will be provided. Please indicate any special requirements in the space provided on the consent form.

Accommodation: Onboard Odyssey Expedition a 24m Catamaran in shared cabins.

Equipment: Specialist diving equipment will be provided. A comprehensive Personal Equipment list will be provided to participants at a later stage.

Cost: The all-inclusive cost of the expedition will be \$3,895.00. This includes all specialist equipment, food, a dive master and flights. This price is guaranteed only for those who pay the deposit early in Term 1 taking advantage of the discount group airfare.

Group Airfare: The Outdoor Education Department has arranged a group booking for the return air travel to Broome. This gives participants the advantages of bulk purchasing. However, it also requires students to conform to the booking conditions listed below.

Please note: if you delay enrolling you may incur a higher cost due to airline ticket pricing.

Booking Conditions: Please note that you are required to pay a \$500.00 deposit. A \$50 cancellation fee is applicable on the airline ticket. These funds will secure the group airfare once the minimum number of enrolments is met. The remainder of the group airfare is fully refundable up until 72 hours prior to departure. Once the minimum number of enrolments is met, you will be requested to pay the remainder of the funds.

Please note: Individual tickets will be issued at the airport immediately prior to departure.

Travel Insurance: We encourage participants to consider taking out travel insurance (see attached) as cancellation fees are applicable, should your daughter be unable to travel.

Emergency Contact: Anna Freedman (040 201 4425)