



Friday, 19 February, 2010

Caring for Reef Creatures – Beach Clean Up Community Event

A trip to the beach this weekend will make a world of difference to the animals that call the ocean home.

Volunteers and participants from three community organisations - Reef HQ Aquarium's "Adopt a Reef Creature" program, Reef HQ Aquarium and Sea Turtle Foundation are holding their first beach cleanup community event on Sunday (February 21).

Fred Nucifora, Director of Reef HQ Aquarium said this is an excellent initiative and praised the volunteer organisations for working together for a common cause.

"Marine debris is a serious threat to the marine creatures that call the Great Barrier Reef home," he said.

"At Reef HQ Aquarium's Turtle Hospital we have seen firsthand the repercussions of marine debris and its negative impacts on marine creatures causing restricted mobility, starvation, infections, amputation, drowning and smothering.

The "Adopt a Reef Creature" program highlights the little things that people can do at home, work, school or in their community to help protect marine creatures and the 100% tax deductible donation helps to feed and care for the adopted animal at Reef HQ Aquarium for one year.

Adopt a Reef Creature Project Officer, Laura Dunstan, said a little bit of effort can go a long way.

"By spending a morning cleaning up our beaches we can make a difference to our marine creatures and water ways, which will in the end contribute towards a brighter future for the Great Barrier Reef".

The Adopt Reef Creature beach cleanup event is on Sunday 21 February from 8am to 11am at Rowes Bay, Townsville.

ENDS

When: Sunday 21 February from 10am to 11am

Where: Rowes Bay, Townsville (Opposite Eclipse Street)

Interviews: Fred Nucifora (Reef HQ Aquarium, Director),
David Roe (Sea Turtle Foundation, Project Manager),
Laura Dunstan (Reef HQ Aquarium, Reef Guide)

Media Contact: Laura Dunstan, Ph: 07 47500 800 or E: marketing@reefhq.com.au