



MARINE **DISCOVERY** CENTRE

Hastings Point



EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM





IT ALL STARTS HERE

Welcome to North Star's Marine Discovery Centre Hastings Point, one of Australia's largest, privately funded museums. Its primary focus is teaching people how they can play a role in protecting and safeguarding our precious marine environment for future generations.

Teaching preschoolers to understand why we, as humans, are responsible for protecting and caring for our oceans and waterways may sound a little complex.

It isn't, and by adding a splash of fun, exciting sensory experiences and a generous dose of creepy sea creatures, the Marine Discovery Centre team have the knowledge, experience and tools to inspire young minds.

From a very young age, kids are fascinated by the ocean. They love fossicking on beaches and rivers, collecting shells, searching through rock pools for hidden treasures and exploring the water's edge. Naturally inquisitive, they're eager to learn more about their favourite place and its inhabitants.

Imagine their pride in being able to identify so much more of what they find, touch and see next time they visit to the beach.

The Marine Discovery Centre aims to be the cornerstone of children's learning about our ocean planet and become environmentally conscious adults in the future. We can't wait to meet and inspire them!





MARINE DISCOVERY CENTRE



Following a recent million-dollar refurbishment, the Centre has become a showcase of state-of-the-art light and sound technology, interactive digital terminals and world-class marine and coastal science displays. The interiors bring to life the wider oceanic realm, along with displays that relate specifically to Hastings Point and its local coastal ecosystems.

Three ecosystem 'bays' invite visitors to explore the vital major ecosystems at Hastings Point. Information and interactives in the bays provide students of all ages with fascinating insight into the nature of the ecosystem and its inhabitants. They also highlight the significance of human impacts on the fragile marine environment.

Fun interactives include matching bird or frog calls with their owners, matching relatable rocky shore creatures, question and reveal panels, as well as interesting facts, photos, drawings and specimens.

An impressive display of coral skeletons demonstrates the importance of coral reefs, as well as their vulnerability in this era of increasing anthropogenic activities.

A large interactive touch screen cycles through striking aerial footage of Hastings Point. When students use the hand icon to touch the screen, it instantly converts to a stunning still photograph of that location. This large photograph has a series of hand icons at the bottom. By touching these additional icons, students can learn about the various connected ecosystems that comprise Hastings Point and the broader region including Wollumbin.

The Natural History section at the Centre contains preserved specimens from almost all major groupings (phyla) of marine life. Animal phyla in a large specimen wall cabinet is colour coded to identify species and provides an overall description of the features of that group of animals.

Do you know how to rebuild and restore dunescapes? Can you tell the difference between our native frog and bird calls? Can you classify our coastal critter cousins?

At the Marine Discovery Centre, we believe learning should be interactive, and most importantly, fun.

Book the Centre for an additional self-guided tour where you can use the bays as additional teaching tools, utilise our companion worksheets to assist in recording insights and observations or book one of our many presentations that can be held in this inspirational space. We love our Marine Discovery Centre. You and your children will too!





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DAY VISIT EXCURSION

Hastings Point is commonly referred to as the “Jewel of the Tweed” and for good reason! Surrounded by beautiful, pristine, and easily accessible coastal ecosystems, Hastings Point makes an ideal living classroom and mindfulness setting for people of all ages.

Our day visit excursion for early learning centres has been thoughtfully planned full of fun, exciting sensory experiences and a generous dose of cute sea creatures, the Marine Discovery Centre team have the knowledge, experience and tools to inspire young minds.

The pricing below is based on an off peak, mid-week, day visit excursion for a minimum of 30 students.

MARINE DISCOVERY CENTRE

Join one of our passionate Marine Discovery Centre eco-guides on a guided tour of our newly refurbished Marine Discovery Centre. Here you can immerse yourself in the wonders of the deep, and the shallows too!

At this fun and engaging session, children have the chance to get up close and personal (via the microscope) with some of our Hastings Point rocky shore marine creatures and participate in a Q&A session.

After the presentation, you are welcome to spend some more time exploring the Centre’s showcase of state-of-the-art light and sound technology, interactive digital terminals and marine and coastal science displays.

FIELD STUDY

Following the presentation the children will enjoy a short walk through Hastings Point’s unique ecosystems, just across the road from North Star. On this little trek, we can visit a tea tree billabong and paperbark forest, investigate the sand dune forest looking for life and animal tracks and then venture down to the beach where we can see what has been washed up and learn some basic facts about our beautiful beaches and dunes.

If the weather is not favourable for outdoor activities, or if it is your preference to keep it all indoors, our team can also run educational crafty sessions and exciting sensory activities.

Get in touch with us today at marine@northstar.com.au and book a private visit to the Marine Discovery Centre for your little ones. We can’t wait to meet and inspire them!

OPTIONAL ADD ONS

Morning and Afternoon Tea \$5.00pp	Chefs choice of one of the following homemade treats: cake, muesli slice, muffin, donut, cookies, bliss balls, a tub of yoghurt and a piece of fruit.
Lunch \$11.50pp	Lunch at BBQ area will be a selection of assorted wraps or bread rolls served with a piece of fruit.

**DAY VISIT
EXCURSION
ONLY
\$21.50* PER
STUDENT**

*Base starting rate



TESTIMONIALS



"We had a FABULOUS time on the excursion. The kids said it was the best excursion EVER. We hope to back next holidays. Rhett was brilliant".

- Tracey, Capturing Kids Minds, Banora Point

"I have known Rhett for many years and have been lucky enough to have him as a guide and teacher for excursions to Hastings Point and the Marine Centre at North Star.

Rhett is so highly knowledgeable and was able to answer all the students' questions, stimulating their curiosity and wonder about the world around them. He quickly built a rapport with students and had them engaged and focused the whole day. It really was such a pleasure to work with Rhett.

Our excursion this year was a highlight for our students. It was a fabulous day and our students have a much deeper understanding of our local environment. I cannot recommend Rhett highly enough".

- Belinda Carlisle, Teacher at Sathya Sai Primary School

"Our College has been extremely fortunate to have shared in Rhett's incredible biological knowledge of both the local ecology surrounding Hastings Point and the interactions amongst globally connected ecosystems. Rhett not only has a unique knowledge and skill set, but exhibits highly effective communication and social interaction with school staff and students. After 10 years of Biology camps led by Rhett, I can honestly say that each and every student (and staff member) has left in awe and admiration of Rhett Brambleby, and we look forward to many more years working together".

- Ben Wittkopp, Carmel College

"I would whole-heartedly recommend Rhett Brambleby and his crew to anyone considering an excursion in connection to any of the junior ecology topics or senior studies involved in the environment. You will not be disappointed".

- Hamish Inksetter, Lindisfarne





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TERMS & CONDITIONS

All Marine Discovery Centre camps and excursions will be treated as tentative until the applicable deposit is received. North Star Holiday Resort, incorporating Ripples Licensed Café (hereafter "The Resort") reserves the right to cancel tentative bookings without notice following expiry of the deposit due date.

DEPOSIT:

25% of the current value of the reservation is required within 2 weeks of booking to secure the reservation.

BALANCE:

Due 21 days prior to your arrival. This is based on the number of guests currently indicated on your booking.

REMINDER:

A reminder email will be sent 30 days prior to your arrival, to remind you that your balance & final room information will soon be needed.

FINAL ADJUSTMENTS:

Any additional charges will then be calculated and are due immediately. All monies must be paid in full prior to your stay.

CATERING

All dietary requirements and student waiver/medical forms must be returned to groups@northstar.com.au 14 days prior to your arrival.

CONTACT US

marinediscovery.com.au | marine@northstar.com.au | 02 6676 1234

