



About the exhibit:

- Our Great Barrier Reef exhibit is the 2nd largest at the aquarium, containing over 600,000 litres of water .
- All of the animals living here can be found in tropical coral reef systems just like the Great Barrier Reef, so the water is kept at a cosy **27°C**.



Who lives here?

This exhibit is home to **80 fish species**. The real Great Barrier Reef is home to over **1,500**, with many more marine species visiting during their **migrations**, including sharks, whales and rays.

Humphead Wrasse

- **Name:** Cooper & Mini
- **Age:** Approx. 10 & 5 years
- **Favourite Food:** Squid
- **Fun fact:** All humphead wrasse are born female, once they have matured, if there is a shortage of males, the female turns into a male! This is known as **sequential hermaphroditism**.



Queensland Grouper

- **Name:** Sampson
- **Age:** Approx. 10 years
- **Favourite Food:** Mackerel
- **Fun fact:** Sampson is the **largest** fish in our Great Barrier Reef exhibit. This particular species has been known to grow to the size of a cow!



Red Lionfish

- **Name:** Larry & Linda
- **Age:** Approx. 6 years
- **Favourite Food:** Small fish, e.g. sprat
- **Fun fact:** Lionfish wave their fins to corner prey and alert other lionfish to the presence of food so they can hunt together. **Cooperative hunting** like this can be more effective.



Guineafowl puffer

- **Name:** Shadow
- **Age:** Approx. 10 years
- **Favourite Food:** Crabs
- **Fun fact:** Pufferfish only 'puff' when they're stressed. They do this by sucking in **water** to make themselves appear larger and ex-



What is coral?

- Tiny animals known as **polyps** live together to form pieces of coral.
- Living within the polyps are **zooxanthellae** (algae), which provide food for the polyp, while the polyp provides a safe place for the algae to live—this is a **symbiotic** relationship.
- The polyp releases **calcium carbonate**, which creates the hard protective skeleton of corals.



How can we help coral?

- Using energy (e.g. driving, using electricity) releases carbon dioxide. This warms the ocean, causing corals to get stressed and lose their **zooxanthellae**. This is known as **coral bleaching** and reduces coral's survival.
- Simple things, like driving less and turning off the lights when we leave a room, all reduce the effects of climate change and stop the ocean warming.
- If we all work **together** and play our small part, **we can make a huge difference!**

