

**Student Group – travelling to Australia from USA. 2013**

*Student Group with 40 students from US schools, who visit Australia as part of their summer vacation. The program is about cultural exploration & adventure.*

**BLOG dated 23 July 2013.** Day three on the boat began with most of the group awakening at 5:45am to watch the sunrise over some of the islands. We then set off for an intense sail, during which we reached speeds of 14 knots, and spotted some humpback whales jumping out of the water in the distance. It was incredible!



We anchored at Hook Island and had a great snorkel, during which some of us spotted a turtle (which we named “Matilda”)! We swam with the turtle, watched her come up from the bottom to breathe at the surface, and were even able to snap photos with her. It was certainly a highlight for those of us lucky enough to see her!



The coral and fish were equally impressive: bright corals in a variety of shapes and sizes, and fish that ranged from tiny silver specks to larger florescent rainbows.



*Langford Reef, see corals in the water. Hook Island in the distance.*



*Parrot Fish, named because of their colours.*

Somehow we still had energy after all these water activities, and the group broke out into a full-blown dance party on the deck. We had salsa lessons and made nearby boats jealous of our smooth dance moves and festive spirit.

Our final day on the boat was graced by the most glorious weather, and again, the group woke up early to catch the sunrise from the deck. We had our final snorkel of the trip, and observed some of the most vibrant corals we had seen (and here we thought it just couldn't get any better!). We also had fun on a nearby beach, taking group photos, and drawing in the sand.



We had a final dinner with the crew that evening in Airlie Beach, where the kids broke out in yet another dance party!  
.....Ansley