

### **Welcome Slide**

Welcome to the Moreton Bay Research Station Induction presentation. This presentation contains important information to assist in making your trip to Moreton Bay Research Station successful. We greatly appreciate you taking the time to listen.

### **Traditional Owners**

North Stradbroke Island, or Minjerribah, is just 40 km southeast of Brisbane and is the third largest sand island in the world. The region has a rich history, having been inhabited by the Traditional Owners, the Quandamooka peoples, for tens of thousands of years.

We acknowledge the Quandamooka peoples as traditional owners of Minjerribah. We acknowledge their past and continual sovereignty of this land and pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and future.

### **Cultural and historical significance**

When conducting your studies around Minjerribah we ask that you respect culturally sensitive areas, address any concerns that local community members may have regarding what you are doing, and respect all archaeological and historical sites.

If any Indigenous items or remains are discovered please do not remove or interfere with them. Instead, record their location and then contact Station management immediately, who will inform the appropriate cultural managers.

### **Station History**

Moreton Bay Research Station was first established in 1949 by the Queensland State Government and was managed by the Queensland Department of Harbours and Marine. Originally known as the “Dunwich Laboratory”, it was regularly used by staff and students from the CSIRO Fisheries Division and The University of Queensland until 1959. In 1961 the station was taken over by The University of Queensland and renamed the Dunwich Marine Station before being rebuilt as a purpose-designed teaching and research facility and opened as Moreton Bay Research Station in 2000.

### **Staff**

We have a team of specialist staff working in different areas around the station. If you have queries or require support during your visit, please don't hesitate to talk with any of our friendly staff. Office hours are Monday to Sunday 8:30am to 4:30pm. Late comers and day visitors should visit the reception on arrival to sign in.

### **Environment**

North Stradbroke Island is a fragile environment and it is important that we all work together to preserve it. As part of our commitment to the environment, we operate under an Environmental

Management System. This management system defines how the station and our visitors conduct themselves in order to limit the impact of our activities. The station's Environmental Management System is available on our website, and summaries are displayed around the research station. Please take the time to familiarise yourself with the main points of the environmental management system.

### **Zoning**

North Stradbroke Island is surrounded by a marine national park. The island includes substantial areas of national park, mining lease, township and council land. North Stradbroke and surrounding islands and waters are also subject to native title agreements with the Quandamooka peoples.

### **Permits**

Under Queensland Government regulations and UQ guidelines, all research activities conducted through the research station require a permit. These permits will need to be obtained and copies provided to MBRS staff prior to your arrival. The type of permit you need will vary depending on what organisms you are studying and where you wish to conduct your study. For example, if you wish to study fish within Moreton Bay, you will require the following permits: Animal Ethics, the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Queensland National Parks (including Marine Parks), and the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.

Please ensure that you know and understand the conditions of your permits and take weather proof copies of them into the field. Permits must also be reported on so please ensure you record all your collections for your mandatory annual or biannual reports.

For further assistance, please contact station staff or the relevant Government department.

### **Green Initiatives**

Being situated in such an important and unique natural environment, we have a number of green initiatives in place to reduce our impact. To assist with this, please switch off lights and air-conditioning when rooms are unoccupied. To conserve water, please be mindful of not leaving taps running and have short showers. To assist in waste management please follow the station's comprehensive recycling program, and note that the only thing we do not recycle is food scraps and food contaminated wrappers.

### **Wildlife of North Stradbroke Island**

While on the island, you will encounter a variety of interesting wildlife, such as kangaroos, koalas, and rainbow lorikeets. Events such as the nightly migration of flying foxes, as they leave their roosts in Dunwich, is a sight not to be missed. And for bird lovers, one of the most important high water roosts in Moreton Bay is right in front of the research station.

If you are exploring the marine environment, you may be fortunate enough to encounter some of our amazing marine megafauna, such as dugongs, manta rays, and loggerhead sea turtles. Additionally,

Point Lookout has the largest known population of Indopacific Bottlenosed dolphins in the world and nearby Amity Point is an important aggregation spot for the newly identified Australian Humpback dolphin.

### **Potentially Dangerous Creatures**

We encourage you to take every opportunity you can to observe the abundance of island wildlife, but ask that you always do so responsibly. Certain creatures such as blue bottle jellyfish, stingrays and stone fish can be dangerous and cause injury. It may surprise you to know that oysters are the most common cause of injury here at the station as they can cause cuts and infections. To avoid a run in with our somewhat less cuddly wildlife we ask that you wear closed shoes and gloves when in the field. If you don't have appropriate shoes or gloves please talk to the station staff, who will be happy to provide them. If in doubt about any wildlife you encounter, avoid interactions and seek advice from our knowledgeable staff.

### **Fire**

If an alarm sounds, the muster point is on the grassy area across the road by the waterfront. The group leader will perform a head count to ensure everyone is safe and accounted for.

Fire extinguishers and the alarm system are clearly marked with red and white signs and smoke detectors are fitted in all rooms. If you are staying in the house or cabin please call 000 or break the glass alarm outside reception.

### **First Aid and Emergencies**

If during your stay you have a medical issue, please see the station staff who are all first aid trained. First aid kits are also located in all of the laboratories, and oxygen and defibrillation kits can be found in Reception. Additionally, mobile first aid kits can be borrowed and taken offsite while conducting field work.

The Marie Rose Clinic is the local ambulance and emergency department and is located next to the Station. Clinic hours are from 8:30am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday. A 24 hour emergency button is available outside these hours; pressing the button alerts the medical staff to your presence at the medical centre. In emergencies in which the injured or ill person cannot be moved, an ambulance can be arranged directly via 000 for a landline, or 112 for a mobile phone or via UQ Security on 3365 3333.

### **Security**

Both your personal security and the security of your belongings are very important to us. To minimise any potential risk, all rooms have been fitted with digital locks. At night, please ensure all doors are locked and gates are closed. For afterhours emergencies please don't hesitate to call the relevant emergency services via 000 or UQ security on 3365 3333. For personal or group safety concerns, duress buttons are located on the station near the upstairs library, outside the kitchen and in the VIP House at the top of the staircase.

### **Community**

As we are located in the middle of an idyllic island village, we aim to ensure that we are respectful and provide minimum disruption to the surrounding residents. As such, we ask you to please keep noise to a minimum after 10pm, and when walking through the community at night. It is important to also be courteous to fellow station guests and staff. Please respect each other's privacy and try to prevent the doors in the station from slamming at night. Moreton Bay Research Station has a strict no alcohol policy for all education groups, however if arranged prior to arrival special permission may be obtained for research, conference and workshop groups. If driving UQ vehicles, please remember that you are representing The University of Queensland and we ask that you drive responsibly and courteously.

### **Island Activities**

North Stradbroke Island supports a variety of diverse habitats on which to focus research and educational programs. Habitats include rocky shores, mangrove forests, mud and sand flats, wallum scrub, fresh water lakes, sclerophyll forests, sand dunes, wetlands, coral reefs and seagrass beds.

There are many natural places to explore on the island, including Point Lookout, Brown and Blue Lakes, Eighteen Mile Swamp and countless beaches. Talk to station staff about all the activities you can do if you find yourself with some spare time to explore.

### **Housekeeping**

Shortly after arriving on the research station, you'll be shown to your accommodation. Please note that there is no need to bring sleeping bags and bedding on your trip. You will be provided with a pillow, a doona, and linen to make up the beds. We do recommend you bring your own towel, however we can provide towels on request for a small charge.

Our check out time is 10am on the day of departure. However, if you are not leaving the island until later in the day, we can arrange storage for bags and other personal gear. For further information, please consult the 'checking out check list' located on the back of the door in your room.

### **Smoking**

Smoking, including the use of electronic cigarettes, vapour pens or other devices is not permitted on any UQ campus. This policy includes staff, students, visitors, contractors and volunteers. If you wish to smoke, please do so in the suggested smoking area on Flinders Ave.

### **Library access**

With the on-site library, you'll have everything you need to get the most out of your education and research activities. You will have complete access to the online University of Queensland library system and books and other items can be signed out using your UQ staff or student cards, while temporary cards can be arranged if required. Group checkouts for class sets of books can also be arranged with

station staff. If there are books or other resources you require that aren't currently in the library, please leave details with staff and we will endeavour to purchase it for our library.

### **Boating and Diving**

Moreton Bay and its surrounds provide a rich backdrop for all of your activities. Situated where tropical and temperate ocean currents meet, there is an amazing diversity of marine life and habitats that can be accessed from MBRS. To assist you to explore Moreton Bay, we have a small fleet of vessels available. Prior to your arrival to the research station, you must contact the UQ Boating and Diving Officer on campus to register yourself as a skipper. Once at MBRS, the friendly staff will undertake a boat induction with you and guide you in completing your daily boating and diving forms, which will need to be lodged prior to your departure.

### **Laboratory store access**

The station has a well-stocked lab store for your laboratory and field equipment needs. Access is available 24 hours a day. When checking items in and out of the store, please use the "Scientific Record Form" located by the lab store entrance. If any items break or need repairing, please place them on the trolley located in the lab store and notify our Scientific Staff. Items that are damaged, or borrowed and not returned, may incur a charge.

### **General lab guidelines**

As we are a University research station, you must follow University Occupational Health and Safety policies in the laboratories. MBRS has a wide range of personal protective equipment available; please speak with the Scientific Officer for any of your personal protective equipment needs. Please do not store food or drinks in lab fridges, nor apply cosmetics or contact lenses while in the lab.

### **Wet lab guidelines**

The aquaria system at the station provides another great opportunity to interact with wild animals and plants from the comfort of the laboratory. The wet lab allows you to hold organisms on the station for experimental purposes. If you would like to use this area, please ensure nothing is placed in the aquarium without prior approval as it is a recirculating system and this may lead to contamination.

Please also ensure that no chemicals are used in the wet lab, as all of the drains on the floor lead directly out to Moreton Bay, and take care to leave the wet lab clean and tidy.

All organisms that are brought into the lab for observation must be returned to the field at end of your stay to the same location from which they were collected. Long term housing and feeding of animals can be arranged with station staff prior to departure.

### **Laboratory waste disposal**

The station's Environmental Management System outlines the multiple waste streams required for laboratory work, several of which you will likely be dealing with while on the station. Clinical waste

includes gloves, syringes and packaging. These items can be disposed of in the large yellow bins found under the laboratory benches. Sharps are considered to be anything that can make a hole in a plastic bag and are to be disposed of in the yellow bins found on the bench tops. General waste, which includes such items as paper towels, can be disposed of in the large labelled bins located under the benches in labs. Finally, all dissection waste must be double-bagged, labelled with a name, date, ethics number, and “animal waste”. They are then to be placed either in the freezer, or as arranged with station staff.

If you need any further guidance, please speak to our friendly Scientific Staff.

### **Chemicals**

Chemicals are an intrinsic part of science, however it is important that they are handled and stored safely, particularly in our beautiful island environment. Any chemicals brought to the station must be logged in the chemical register on arrival and checked out on your departure. Once logged, they must be stored in the appropriate, secure chemical cabinet. No chemicals or chemical waste is to be put down the drains or in rubbish bins and chemical waste containers are available on request. If a chemical spill occurs, spill kits are found in all of the dry labs. Please make sure you inform station staff of any spills.

### **OHS Guidelines**

It is important to be aware that all visitors must abide by occupational health and safety guidelines. OHS guidelines have been created to assure the greatest level of safety for our visitors. All workers and supervisors of students in the workplace are required to manage the risk of all exposed hazards for your relevant activities. This risk management is to be registered within your parent organisation’s safety management system prior to coming to the Island. Evidence of risk management may be requested by Station staff.

Bringing other people, including children, on site requires prior approval and is subject to terms and conditions, contact the station for more information.

### **Catering**

With all the activities you’ll be doing, there is no doubt you’ll work up an appetite! Make sure to introduce yourself to the friendly catering staff and inform them of any special dietary requirements that you might have. Note that some food items (such as peanut butter) may not be available during your stay if any guests present at the time have severe allergy restrictions. We want everyone to have a happy, healthy stay on the station!

While the caterer will certainly spoil you, we still need you to do your part. Please ensure that the dining room is kept clean and tidy. It is the responsibility of each guest to clean up after themselves to allow the kitchen and dining room space to be enjoyed by all.

If self-catering please label and store food in appropriate areas and remove all food at the end of your stay.

MBRS is predominantly a dry station however alcohol can be served with catered meals in the station dining room. All visitors are subject to compliance with the MBRS Consumption of Alcohol Guidelines.

### **Communication**

No doubt many of you will be keen to keep in touch with the mainland while visiting us. Although reception on the island can be temperamental, we have found Telstra and Optus to be fairly reliable providers. Internet access is readily available on the station through the eduroam or UQVisitor signals. Please speak to staff if you have any trouble connecting.

### **Feedback**

That concludes our induction presentation. We are constantly striving to improve and value your feedback which can be provided online via our visitor feedback form. We look forward to seeing you on the research station soon and remember, please contact us if you have any questions.

Thank you and enjoy your stay!