**Year 11 Heron Island Science Excursion**

The above students are on the main jetty preparing for a snorkel trip in the harbour and to the wreck. The ship that is wrecked at Heron Island is Australia’s first Naval vessel; the Protector. Photo (Claire Grimes)

Each year a group of 30 year 11 students with 4 support staff participate in a senior biology, aquaculture and geography excursion to the Barrier Reef. They are guests of the University of QLD, Heron Island Research Station, which is situated 2 hours by boat off Gladstone (10 hours by bus north of Maclean).

While there, the students participate in many activities, such as: ocean snorkelling, plankton research and turtle conservation. PHD research students and National Parks personnel also present talks on topics such as the history of the island, coral reef ecology and the biology of tropical marine species.

The university gives the students unlimited access to their laboratories and research library. These resources are used to complete individual research booklets, conduct experiments and to observe plankton samples.

Each year the students and staff have been lucky to witness adult turtles coming to shore to lay their eggs and the mass hatching of green sea turtles. Seeing the hatchlings’ mad dash to the sea to avoid being eaten by seagulls, trevally and sharks is something to behold.

---

**Our Science Faculty at Maclean High School**

The Science faculty encompasses a wide range of subjects. In the junior years students can undertake Marine Studies as well as Agriculture as an elective. In the senior years subject choices include Earth & Environment Science, Biology, Physics, Chemistry,
Agriculture, Primary Industry and Aquaculture. Students continue to select their courses in large numbers with excellent results.