

Deeply moved by it all

G'DAY, how ya goin? We the Yanks of Miami University would like to extend our sincerest thanks.

As a group of 16 graduate students from across the Americas, we have spent the past 10 days exploring your World Heritage sites around Townsville.

Upon our first briefing at Reef HQ, it was hard to fathom a bommie the size of a car or house, but it was humbling to experience the feeling of insignificance its physical grandeur could bring.

From reef to rainforest and Mungalla to Magnetic, our settings were very different, but the people remained warm, welcoming and passionate about the preservation of their country.

Coming from a country with one of the largest carbon footprints, and where climate change

is not universally accepted, it is refreshing and inspiring to not only see but be a part of your consolidated efforts. Thank you for allowing us to contribute to these projects over the last few days.

Your Aussie hospitality has allowed us experiences that will forever change us. Our videos and pictures from the Great Barrier Reef will reach classrooms, zoos and aquaria across the US.

A piece of our hearts will always remain planted with our trees in Mungalla Station as part of their wetlands recovery project.

Our research skills have been enhanced through survey dives and algae removal with Eye on the Reef and Reef Ecologic.

With two trips to the Reef and sightings of wild platypus and koa-

las we feel so fortunate to be conservation ambassadors, taking the lessons of the green and gold and applying them to the red, white and blue.

So, from the farmers to the tra-

ditional land owners and from the dive operators to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and all of their affiliates, thank you for being inspiring example for us all.

Good on ya, mates.

**THE YANKS OF MIAMI
UNIVERSITY.**



LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE: The Yanks loved what we had to offer.

Picture: BRENDAN RADKE