

Introduction to the Great Barrier Reef

On August 23rd, thirty lucky participants got to get wet with a diver in the Reef HQ Aquarium in Townsville, Australia. Located close to the Great Barrier Reef, Reef HQ is the largest coral reef aquarium in the world (2.5 million liters) and they offer videoconference programs where a diver and a camera operator will dive into the various parts of the aquarium to show the various animals and environments to participants.

Beyond its size, this aquarium is also unique "because it is open to the elements. This means the many thousand reef organisms that are housed there receive natural day and moonlight and experience rain and storm events like natural reefs do."



A resting Leopard shark

The participants are able to interact with the diver and ask questions or comment on what the diver is doing. A 'dry side presenter' is also part of the videoconference and their role is to elaborate on what participants are seeing.

It is difficult to fully capture the experience in print, so watch some the highlights of this videoconference on the RISE Vimeo Channel at www.vimeo.com/28410061.



Claire (the Reef HQ diver) 'cuddling' a 3 meter Tawny Nurse Shark

Highlights of this session were when: the diver gave a hug to a 3 meter long Tawny Nurse shark; a Leopard shark relaxing; and, a Humphead Marybeth (also known as a Humphead Wrasse or Napoleon fish, among other names) got up close and personal with the camera operator. For more information about Reef HQ and their innovative, captivating videoconferences, visit their website at www.reefhq.com.au.

Congratulations Three Hills! Teen Jeopardy Tournament Winners

This year's Teen Jeopardy tournament was as exciting as ever. All three qualifying rounds were close matches and all of the competitors did extremely well. The first round of the tournament was between Irricana and Vulcan, round two was Hanna versus Airdrie, and in game three Delia and Three Hills squared off. In all three rounds, it all came down to the Final Jeopardy question:



Lindsay Banting,
Teen Jeopardy Host

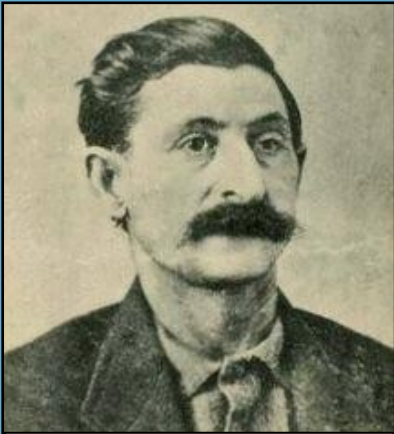
"This App is a puzzle game that was developed by Finland-based Rovio Mobile. In this game players use a slingshot to launch birds at pigs stationed on or within various structures, with the intent of destroying all of the pigs on the playfield. What is the name of the App described?"

Irricana and Vulcan were tied before the final question and both teams answered correctly, but it was Vulcan who came out victorious as they wagered the most points. Airdrie and Hanna were neck and neck and once again both teams responded with the right answer, however, Airdrie won a spot in the final Teen Jeopardy round by wagering more points. In round three, Three Hills' teens covered their heads in nervousness as they wagered almost all their points during the Final Jeopardy question, but their risk paid off as Three Hills moved into the Final Round. *Continued on reverse...*

Train Robbers of the Old West

On July 26th, the Graham Community Library hosted a group of summer day camp students, who attended the Train Robbers of the Old West presentation via videoconference.

Mike Irwin, from Durham Museum in Omaha, Nebraska <www.durhammuseum.org>, was able to draw the kids' attention immediately with a Wild Bunch train robbery movie clip from *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* (staring Paul Newman and Robert Redford). In this clip, as soon as the robbery occurs, an elite posse made up of Union Pacific and Pinkerton men leap from one of the train's freight cars and give chase to the gang. This led to a discussion about the consequences of that specific train robbery and how the reality differed from Hollywood's version. In reality, three members of the gang got cornered and only escaped by killing a sheriff. Then, using artefacts, Mike lead the audience in an exploration of the legend of Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.



Big Nose George Parrott

Image courtesy Carbon County Museum

Perhaps the highlight of the session was when Mike discussed the fate of Big Nose George Parrott, a Wyoming horse thief, cattle rustler and highwayman, who plied his trade between 1878 and 1880. Eventually captured, convicted and sentenced to hang, he escaped. Upon being recaptured, a lynch mob dragged him from the cell and hung him. After his death, his skin was tanned and made into a pair of shoes. These shoes are on permanent display at the Carbon County Museum in Rawlins, Wyoming.

With the help of another movie clip, the participants got to investigate a James Gang train robbery. One of the first train robberies where the train was stopped or derailed, Jesse James and his gang made off with about \$2,000, when they expected to find \$50,000 on board. Ironically, they left behind 2 million dollars in gold bullion.

To assist the students in developing critical thinking skills, Mike asked them to pretend they were investigators who had come across this train robbery after the gang made their escape. The children were asked to answer three questions: What would you ask the witnesses to the robbery? What clues would you look for from the crime scene? What physical evidence was there at the scene?

The event complemented the Graham rodeo and Wild West theme of the week. This presentation remained a popular topic with the children and resulted in some of them staying 'in character' for the rest of the day.

This videoconference program is available, free of charge, from the Durham Museum and can be tailored to adult audiences.

Submitted by Stefanie Schranz, Library Manager, Graham Community Library (Ralston)

Congratulations Three Hills! Teen Jeopardy Tournament Winners

The Final Round of Teen Jeopardy was a face-off between the three winning teams: Vulcan, Airdrie, and Three Hills. It came down to the Final Jeopardy question: Canada has been the hosting country for the Summer and Winter Olympics over the years. Name the three cities that hosted the summer and winter Olympics in Canada?. Airdrie guessed wrong losing all their points. Vulcan and Three Hills answered correctly, but Three Hills wagering almost all their points made them this year's Teen Jeopardy Tournament winner!

Submitted by Lindsay Banting, Summer Programme Coordinator, Marigold Library System