

2018 International Day of the Tropics

*Sprinting the Tropics*

29 June 2018

James Cook University

(Supported by the Global Tropics Future Project  
and the State of the Tropics Project)

## Event Summary



## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE TROPICS

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The International Day of the Tropics was endorsed by the United Nations in 2016 and is celebrated annually on 29 June. It commemorates the date when in 2014, the inaugural State of the Tropics report (an initiative led by James Cook University in collaboration with eleven institutions) was launched.

## SPRINTING THE TROPICS

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In 2018, the Day of the Tropics was celebrated with a special event at James Cook University for Young Scholars of the Global Tropics Future Project. *Sprinting the Tropics* was a design sprint where students were placed in mixed school groups to address a tropical challenge.

Students were inspired by guest speakers to consider their place in the tropics. They innovated solutions to our plastic pollution problem by using the design thinking process (understand, define, ideate, solve and present).

The students' solutions were judged according to technical innovation, creativity, design, usefulness and presentation.

## SCHOOLS REPRESENTED

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Bwgcolman Community School	Mundingburra State School
Cranbrook State School	Rasmussen State School
Currajong State School	Richmond Hill State School
East Ayr State School	The Willows State School
Heatley State School	Thuringowa State High School
Hermit Park State School	Townsville State High School
Home Hill State High School	Weir State School
Ingham State School	Wulguru State School
Kelso State School	

(94 students)



## VIDEO

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Celebration of the day was captured in the following video.

<https://youtu.be/V0XXQ-Ilk5A>

## FEEDBACK

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### I enjoyed today's International Day of the Tropics Design Sprint.

Strongly agree = 63%, Agree = 33%, Neither (agree/disagree) = 2%, Disagree = 2%

#### Why?

- Because coming to JCU and working with the global tropics community is always a thinking experience.
- It was fun to explore JCU with its animals and staff, also meeting new friends and doing new work with them.
- Because I get to come to a university for the first time.

### What was the best aspect of the International Day of the Tropics event?

- Coming to James Cook University
- The designing part was fun and collaborative
- That we could create something that might be real in the future.

#### Other comments:

- I really liked today and I think it should be a tradition for every year.
- We should do this sort of thing more often.
- Thanks for having me. Global Tropics Future Young Scholars program is the best.
- I look forward to having another Global Tropics Future program later on this year.
- I wish I was already in JCU with all of my new friends and activities.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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