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 Page 1 of 1

# David's marathon effort

A JAMES Cook University professor has produced an earth science encyclopaedia on coral reefs in what is most likely the most comprehensive record of work carried out in the area since Charles Darwin first attempted to understand reef evolution.

Emeritus Professor David Hopley is the author of the Encyclopaedia of Modern Coral Reefs: Structure, Form and Process which covers a wide range of topics, including biological, chemical and physical processes, exploration and the history of geoscientific studies, and climate change and descriptions of the major reef areas.

Professor Hopley said the encyclopaedia, which weighs 4kg and took three years of full-time work to compile, condensed the large amount of work currently being carried out by earth scientists, with 154 contributors from 18 different nationalities.

Townsville institutions, including JCU, the Australian Institute of Marine Science, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Museum of Tropical Queensland

were major players, with 15 contributors.

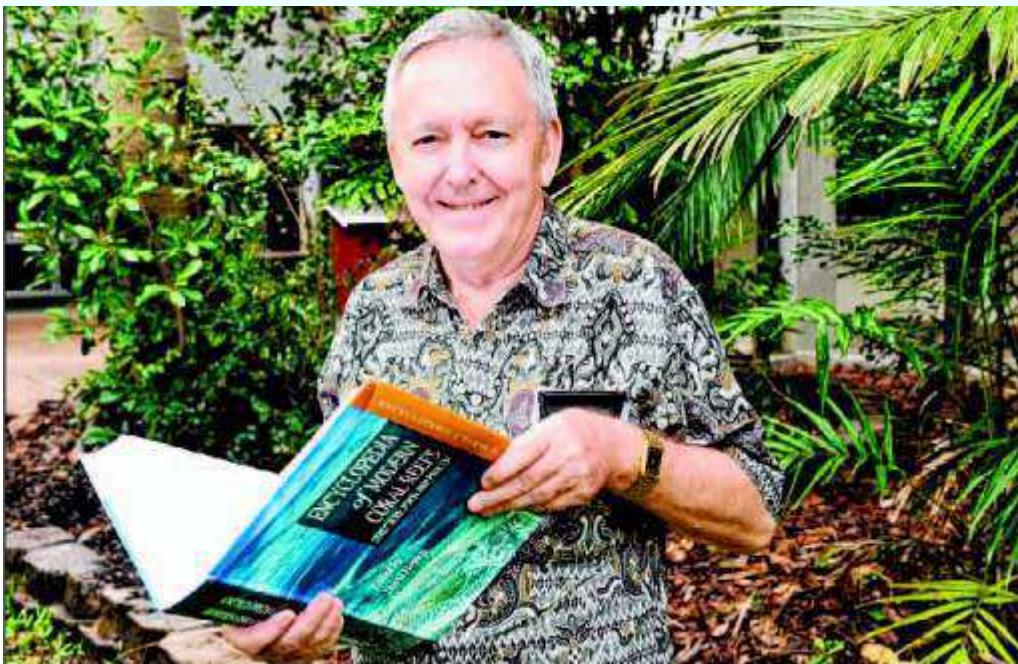
Leading authorities from many countries have contributed to the entries covering areas of geology, geography and ecology, providing comprehensive access to the most up-to-date research on the structure, form and processes operating on Quaternary coral reefs, especially over the past 10,000 years.

Professor Hopley said the encyclopaedia will be an important resource for future studies or work in the study of coral reefs.

"The encyclopaedia summarises all the ideas up to the present time, providing a comprehensive set of references for any further study," he said.

Professor Hopley said the encyclopaedia was expected to be used extensively by reef researchers, graduate students and reef managers.

"I imagine it will also be used in complementary disciplines such as ecology, where earth science helps explain some of the biology and ecology of coral reefs," he said.



JCU Emeritus Professor David Hopley has spent three years completing a definitive encyclopaedia on coral reefs

*Photo: CRAIG McDONALD J7845505*

Encyclopedia of Modern Coral Reefs

Structure, Form and Process

Hopley, D. (Ed.)

2011, XXIX, 1205 p. 612 illus., 438 illus. in color. In 2  
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