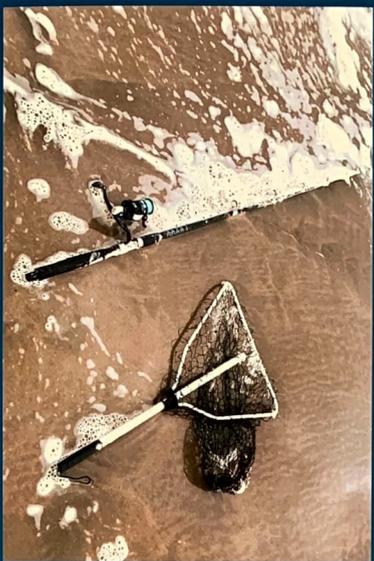
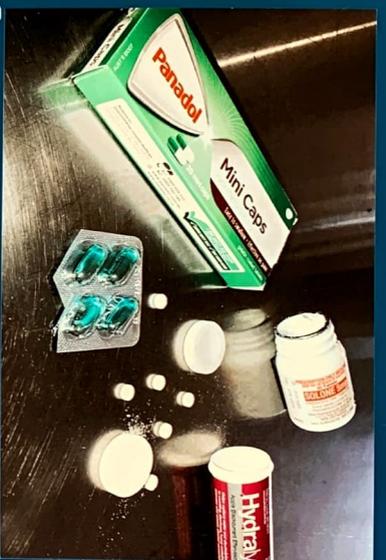


Coral reefs are a natural wonder of the world. Amazingly beautiful to look at! Yet providing an important purpose that humans rely on.



Coral reefs are a valuable ecosystem. A marine habitat to dazzling fish species. Humans are being shellfish (heh) eradicating this miraculous marine life.



Modern-day scientists are discovering ways to cure many deadly diseases using Coral reefs.



Bleaching...Coral Reef degradation- white reefs are ugly. Yet we wonder why our oceans are dying!



You will die of old age. I will die of climate change! "The Perfect Storm" is coming...



THE PERFECT STORM



Coral Reef adventure tourism (economy) VS Coral reef scientific studies (sustainability).



Our world is burning, sea levels are rising, icebergs melting, corals fading!



5.25 trillion pieces of plastic in the ocean. Stop! Think before you throw.



Title: The Perfect Storm

Topic: Coral Reef Degradation

Coral Reefs are a valuable Ecosystem. Amazingly beautiful to look at! Yet providing an important purpose that humans rely on. We take for granted how much we need Coral Reef environments. To put it into perspective there are 44 countries that do not have access to the ocean and yet we (Australians) are surrounded by it, "The Great Barrier Reef". The Great Barrier Reef is one of the world's seven natural wonders and it is a prized World Heritage area. It sprawls over 344,400 square meters and is so large it can be seen from space. (image 1). Modern-day scientists are finding ways to cure many of the deadliest diseases using Coral Reefs. They are using Corals to help treat cancer, arthritis, human bacterial infections, Alzheimer's disease, heart disease, viruses, and other diseases (image 2). Coral Reef adventure tourism (economy) Vs Coral Reef scientific studies (sustainability). There are two million tourists annually who visit the Great Barrier Reef. It produces \$5.4 billion a year to the Australian economy and employs approximately 69,000 people. In Australia more than seven research institutions and federal and state government agencies provide scientific information for the management of the reef (These include the CSIRO and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation) (image 3). Coral Reefs are home to the most dazzling fish species. Humans are being shellfish (selfish) eradicating this miraculous marine life. Overfishing can deplete key reef species and damage coral habitat. Rapid human population growth, increased demand, use of more efficient fishery technologies and inadequate management and enforcement have led to the depletion of key reef species and habitat in many locations (image 4). Bleaching...Coral Reef degradation- white reefs are ugly. Yet we wonder why our oceans are dying! Reef bleaching occurs when extreme water conditions cause corals to expel the internal microorganisms that give them their vibrant colours. Bleaching events are attributed to a number of factors, including pollution and extreme low tide, but the most common (and widespread) is the change in water temperature thanks to global warming. As the planet heats up, water temperatures tend to rise as well (image 5). Our world is burning, sea levels are rising, icebergs melting, corals fading! Climate change plays a big role in coral degradation. Scientists/researchers are grappling with how to preserve Australia's Great Barrier Reef and corals around the world-from the warming seas (image 6). 5.25 trillion pieces of plastic in the ocean. Stop! 'Think before you throw'. There are 5.25 trillion pieces of micro plastics floating in our oceans. Research has discovered that when plastics gets tangled in coral, it increases the corals risk of catching a disease, (These plastics cling to the coral, especially branching coral). Weather its grocery bags or water bottles or kid's toys, plastic is indestructible, yet our reef ecosystem is destructible! (image 7). You will die of old age. I will die of climate change! The Great Barrier Reef is at a critical tipping point and could disappear by 2050. What will determine its long-term survival? An Australian Government report recently downgraded the reefs future outlook from 'poor' to 'very poor' (image 8). "The Perfect Storm" is coming!

Entry: **Individual**

School: **Marist Regional College**

Entrants Name: **Oceania Eustace**

Title: **The Perfect Storm**

Section: **Photographic Essay**

Division: **Grade 7-~~8~~ Secondary
Junior**