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## **Austria à la Carte lecture recording, Side B, Lisa Chickering and Jeanne Porterfield Collection**

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WEBVTT

00:10:51.000 --> 00:10:57.000

there are believed to be more than 500 islands and cays along the Barrier Reef

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that had never seen the footprint of any Robinson Crusoe.

00:11:00.000 --> 00:11:06.000

It's a very beautiful section of the earth and a very inexpensive one to visit.

00:11:06.000 --> 00:11:10.000

Wild goats, as we mentioned a moment ago, are found here in considerable numbers.

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And as we come to the southernmost end of Brampton,

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we see that there are some stiff tides upon occasion,

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and you have to gauge the time when you will cross from one side of the island to the other.

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Returning to Brampton just before sunset, we go out onto the Barrier Reef for fossicking,

00:11:27.000 --> 00:11:31.000

and that's the word that they give when you're going out after coral.

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Now ladies and gentlemen, up until very recent years it was believed that coral was a plant.

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It is not a plant. It is an animal, and is a cousin of the jellyfish.

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Coral, the aggregation of limey skeletons of untold numbers of tiny sea animals, take a multitude of forms.

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They are found in all waters. Even as far north as the fjords of Norway.

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But the reef-building type only thrives in tropical shallows.

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During the daytime, the corals will retire to their stone houses.

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But at night, or with the rising tide, they will stretch out tentacles

00:12:11.000 --> 00:12:16.000

to poison and bring plankton to their mouths, which they feed upon.

00:12:16.000 --> 00:12:19.000

A two-hour journey from Brampton Island back to Mackay,

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and then in our plane to the far north, in Northern Queensland, to Cairns.

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At Cairns we will take a little boat, 16 miles to Green Island.

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And Green Island was discovered by Captain Cook in 1770.

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And more tourists have visited it than any other island or cay on the Barrier Reef.

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Each morning at 9:30 a boat heads for Green Island, getting there at 11,

00:12:46.000 --> 00:12:51.000

and leaving the island returning to Cairns at three in the afternoon.

00:12:51.000 --> 00:12:53.990

A magnificent sandy beach, and here you can get a



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