



MARINE **DISCOVERY** CENTRE

Hastings Point

SCHOOL PROGRAM 2025





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MARINE DISCOVERY CENTRE
Hastings Point





IT ALL STARTS HERE

Welcome to Tasman Holiday Parks - North Star's Marine Discovery Centre Hastings Point, one of Australia's largest, privately funded museums. Its primary focus is teaching people how they can play a role in protecting and safeguarding our precious marine environment for future generations.

The Centre helps people, young and old, to understand and care for the aquatic environment, its inhabitants, and vital ecosystems, and learn about the terminals, challenges of climate change, marine litter, plastic waste, pollutants and fishing.

Our team of passionate eco-guides believe that our engagement and relationship with nature is paramount to our wellbeing and to the wellbeing of our ocean-planet home.

Education is the key to unlocking a continued understanding of the many and complex issues that exist. We want to inspire our youth to consider their individual footprints and become empowered to take responsibility for protecting our oceans, beaches, rock pools, creeks, rivers, and our unique country, now and into the future.

Experience presentations and field studies in the unique and diverse ecosystems of Hastings Point. We cater to your needs and offer the opportunity to build your own camp program across a range of science based and team building sessions and activities.

Let us inspire your students by booking a private visit to the Marine Discovery Centre, for your school.





MARINE DISCOVERY CENTRE



MARINE DISCOVERY CENTRE
Hastings Point

Following a million-dollar refurbishment, the Centre has become a showcase of state-of-the-art light and sound technology, interactive digital terminals and world-class marine and coastal science displays. The interiors bring to life the wider oceanic realm, along with displays that relate specifically to Hastings Point and its local coastal ecosystems.

Three ecosystem 'bays' invite visitors to explore the vital major ecosystems at Hastings Point. Information and interactives in the bays provide students of all ages with fascinating insight into the nature of the ecosystem and its inhabitants. They also highlight the significance of human impacts on the fragile marine environment.

Fun interactives include matching bird or frog calls with their owners, matching relatable rocky shore creatures, question and reveal panels, as well as interesting facts, photos, drawings and specimens.

An impressive display of coral skeletons demonstrates the importance of coral reefs, as well as their vulnerability in this era of increasing anthropogenic activities.

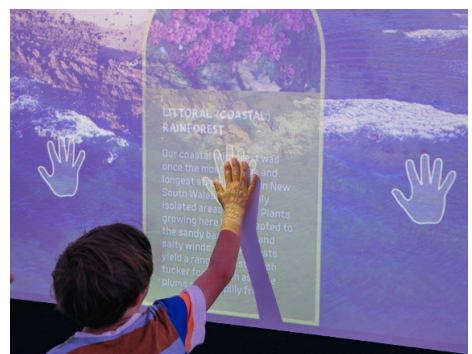
A large interactive touch screen cycles through striking aerial footage of Hastings Point. When students use the hand icon to touch the screen, it instantly converts to a stunning still photograph of that location. This large photograph has a series of hand icons at the bottom. By touching these additional icons, students can learn about the various connected ecosystems that comprise Hastings Point and the broader region including Wollumbin.

The Natural History section at the Centre contains preserved specimens from almost all major groupings (phyla) of marine life. Animal phyla in a large specimen wall cabinet is colour coded to identify species and provides an overall description of the features of that group of animals.

Do you know how to rebuild and restore dunescapes? Can you tell the difference between our native frog and bird calls? Can you classify our coastal critter cousins?

At the Marine Discovery Centre, we believe learning should be interactive, and most importantly, fun.

Book the Centre for an additional self-guided tour where you can use the bays as additional teaching tools, utilise our companion worksheets to assist in recording insights and observations or book one of our many presentations that can be held in this inspirational space. We love our Marine Discovery Centre. You and your students will too!





2 NIGHT CAMP PACKAGE



We've done the work so you don't have to. Each camp has a minimum requirement of two sessions in our Marine Discovery Centre with three sessions in the field, facilitated by our team with the option to add your choice of additional activity, field study, lecture or team building exercise. See page 8 for additional add ons. Additional charges apply.

ACCOMMODATION

Two night accommodation for students in our Bunkhouse Dorms based on a minimum of 8 students per Bunkhouse. Availability for up to 11 students per Bunkhouse in individual bedding.

Two night accommodation for teachers in our Jubilee Lodge based on 2 staff per Jubilee twin share with own rooms.

CATERING

DAY ONE: Lunch, Afternoon Tea, Dinner and Dessert
DAY TWO: Breakfast, Morning Tea, Lunch, Afternoon Tea, Dinner and Dessert
DAY THREE: Breakfast, Morning Tea, Lunch

ROOM HIRE

Exclusive access to the Loft facility for all dining and private study sessions as required throughout your camp.

ORIENTATION

On your arrival to North Star one of our team will meet you off the bus, assist with your check in and guide you to our all-weather BBQ area for your orientation. Our team will familiarise you and your students with the Resort and run through all Resort and Camp rules to ensure a smooth and successful camp for all students and teachers.

MARINE DISCOVERY CENTRE

Join the team at our Marine Discovery Centre as we conduct a two-hour presentation where you can immerse yourself in the wonders of the deep, and the shallows too! This interesting and informative session can be catered to your requirements.

FIELD STUDY

It's time to take this into the field. The diverse ecosystems of Hastings Point offer many and varied field study opportunities. Choose from Wallum Heathland, Dunes, Mangroves, or Rocky Shore put this learning into practice.



1 NIGHT CAMP PACKAGE



Each camp has a minimum requirement of one session in our Marine Discovery Centre with two sessions in the field, facilitated by our team with the option to add your choice of additional activity, field study, lecture or team building exercise. See page 8 for additional add ons. Additional charges apply

ACCOMMODATION

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DAY VISIT EXCURSION



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MARINE DISCOVERY CENTRE

Join the team at our Marine Discovery Centre as we conduct a two-hour presentation where you can immerse yourself in the wonders of the deep, and the shallows too! This interesting and informative session can be catered to your requirements.

FIELD STUDY

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OPTIONAL ADD ONS

Morning and Afternoon Tea	Chefs choice of one of the following homemade treats: cake, muesli slice. muffin, donut, cookies, bliss balls, and a piece of fruit.
Lunch	Lunch at BBQ area will be a selection of assorted wraps or bread rolls served with a piece of fruit.



BUILD YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE FIELD STUDY



Hastings Point is an ideal living classroom and mindfulness setting due to the presence of four easily accessible coastal ecosystems: an unsurpassed intertidal rock platform, a healthy Mangrove wetland and tidal estuary as well as stretches of beaches and sand dune forests which extend back into a Wallum Heathland and freshwater Paperbark Tea Tree Wetlands. Learning adventures in these fascinating places can be perfectly complimented with presentations using microscopes in the Marine Discovery Centre at North Star Holiday Resort.

With easy access to these ecosystems, Hastings Point offers a great opportunity to explore and learn about their formation, characteristics, biodiversity and roles as well as their interconnectedness with the wider ecology or “big picture”.

Once you have covered the basics, you have the opportunity to build your ultimate camp with additional sessions at the Marine Discovery Centre, field studies, recreational and team building exercises. The choice is yours! If you have something specific in mind, please ask!

ICON KEY:



Base Package Option



Outdoor Education



Low Tide



Wellbeing



Duration



Enviro Care



High Tide



Team Building

INTRODUCTORY ECOLOGY WALK



2hr

General Ecology Walk to discover basic principles of ecology - the study of living spaces, living places – as we move from beaches and sand dunes to Mangroves and then to the headland and Rocky Shore .

A fantastic way to compare and contrast these places. Concepts explored include: abiotic and biotic features of each ecosystems and the relationship between them, keystone species, ecosystem engineers, food webs, roles and other relationships. A fantastic introduction to any camp.

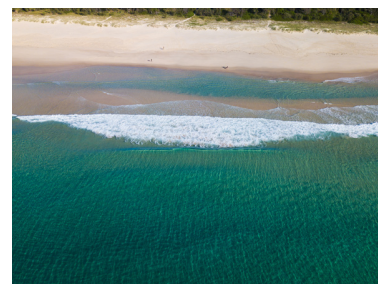


HUMAN IMPACT WALK



2hr

Hastings Point sits on a fragile edge as increasing human activity influences and shapes the ecosystems and their inhabitants. As we make our way over beaches and dune forests, mangroves and rocky shores we consider three vital questions: Why is the ecosystem important? What are the major human impacts? What are some potential solutions?





BUILD YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE FIELD STUDY



ROCKY SHORE



An abundant Rocky Shore offers a wonderful opportunity to encounter and learn about marine life without having to go out to sea or snorkel. The Hastings Point rocky shoreline is one of the most diverse and rich rocky platform ecosystems in the entire region.

For Senior Biology, Marine Science and Geography, this is an ideal site to conduct mandatory practicals such as calculating a Simpson's Diversity Index or student experiments which can be many and varied. Students have a wonderful opportunity to gain experiential learning on a wide range of concepts such as abiotic and biotic factors, key stone species, adaptations, food webs and ecological roles.



WALLUM HEATHLAND



The Wallum Heathland is a dry and fire prone ecology that develops on old tracts of sand found further inland from a time when the ocean was higher than it is today. This is a fascinating place to appreciate how plants adapt to the challenges of low water, nutrients and fire. It can be a hot excursion as there is little shade so sun protection and water is a must.

A trek in this ecosystem may also include an exploration of the low lying Tea Tree forests and swamps that surround the Wallum Heathland.



MANGROVES



Hastings Point has two small creek systems lined with Mangrove forests and sea grass beds. These quiet places are full of life both marine and terrestrial and are highly significant for the ecosystem services they provide.





BUILD YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE PRESENTATIONS



ROCKY SHORE



Components of an Ecosystem - In this presentation we explore the big picture as consider all the elements both abiotic and biotic that come together to form and sustain this beautiful place. The presentation touches upon ecosystem formation, relationship to other ecosystems, zonation, habitats, keystone species and biological relationships such as predator – prey, mutualism, commensalism and human impact.

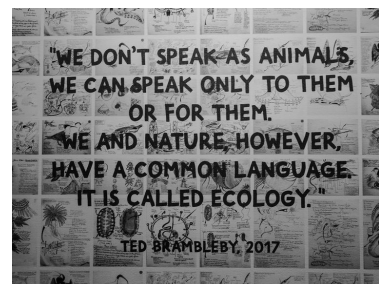
Food Web - This presentation follows the outline of a food web as it relates to biodiversity at The Rocky Shore. This includes the vital understanding of plankton and filter feeders which are feature of this ecosystem.



HUMAN IMPACT



Investigate the impact of human activity on the reduction of biodiversity and on the magnitude, duration and speed or ecosystem change.



SAND DUNES



This presentation looks at big picture connections with other ecosystems and then looks specifically at the interconnected components of this ecosystem. Important concepts covered in this presentation include; abiotic and biotic relationships, keystone species and ecosystem engineers, sand dune succession, important ecological roles, habitats and related fauna, adaptations, zonation and human impacts.

MANGROVES



Using a combination of local video, Powerpoint and the microscope we take a look at this very important ecosystem. The microscope can give a perspective on some of the plants adaptations as well as on tiny animals sampled from the sea grass beds.





BUILD YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE TEAM BUILDING + WELLBEING



WELLBEING



Experience a guided journey through mindfulness. Wild n Awake is about relaxing in the peace and vitality of nature where you'll enjoy quiet, reflective time. It's about gaining insight into ourselves as well as the precious ecosystems that we depend upon. It's about learning techniques that can be applied in the sometimes chaotic nature of everyday life.



BEACH GAMES & SAND CASTLES



Enjoy a session of fun beach games and sand castle building. Students will work in teams to collaborate and use their imagination to bring their vision to life. A great way to boost the fun and encourage team work within the group. All equipment is provided.



TRIVIA QUIZ



Our trivia quizzes for school groups are designed to encourage teamwork while providing a fun experience for the students. We can use two different dynamics of your choice in this activity. One in which teachers and students will work in groups developing the quiz questions to another group, following the themes and guidance provided by one of our guides, and another where the students can work together in teams answering the challenging questions that we develop.



ORIENTEERING



Our spin on traditional orienteering with a fun Amazing Race vibe. This team building activity is a great way to promote teamwork with a series of problem-solving tasks designed to encourage communication and collaboration. Orienteering is conducted outdoors, in nature, where the teams will get the chance to work together deciphering clues and overcoming the challenges involved in each task all while connecting with the natural environment.



LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

No matter the kind of itinerary your group is after, the Tweed region has something for everyone. Check out our recommended local attractions and activities.



TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY
& MARGARET OLLEY ART CENTRE | MURWILLUMBAH

Be amazed by the first-rate exhibitions in the large and modern facility surrounded by beautiful gardens with panoramic views of the Tweed. The prestigious Margaret Olley Art Centre is a must see with a vibrant program of historical and contemporary touring exhibitions.



TROPICAL FRUIT WORLD

Overlooking the Tweed Valley, our award-winning farm delivers a unique experience of lovers of fun, food, nature, health and well-being. You will find a commercial fruit farm which operates in harmony with the countryside, inspiring guests with our window into farming life and our love for the natural environment.



HPC HIGH-PERFORMANCE CENTRE

The Hyundai Surfing Australia High Performance Centre is an Olympic Training Centre supporting Australian athletes to become the world's best surfers and people. In addition to helping athletes realise their potential, we offer world-leading coaching programs for novice, intermediate and advanced surfers. Whatever your ability level, we're here to help you achieve your version of "better".



MINJUNGBAL ABORIGINAL CULTURAL CENTRE AND MUSEUM

The Minjungbal Aboriginal Cultural Centre at South Tweed Heads adjoins the beautiful Ukerebagh Nature Reserve. It is our mission to preserve and protect this area's significant cultural heritage while also providing a facility for those who want to learn about and explore the history and native coastal bushland environment.



MIST GALLERY

Mist Gallery was founded in 2020 as a response to the growing need to support and promote local and regional artists. It is situated in the idyllic coastal village of Cabarita Beach. The gallery hosts more than 50 artists and hosts regular exhibitions for established and emerging artists. Mist Gallery is owned and run by Helen Otway, a retired school teacher and principal and now artist, who offers art workshops for both adults and children.



M ARTS PRECINCT

Set in a classic Art Deco building and industrial warehouse in Murwillumbah, MArts Precinct is a vibrant place where artists and art lovers can come together over great coffee, food and art.

MArts Precinct is a unique destination offering visitors to the region a cultural and creative experience through micro art galleries, cinema, restaurants, events, cafe/bar, and creative retail and food outlets. Visitors can connect directly to one of our 28 artists, makers and creatives in their studio, experience them at work and purchase something unique straight from their galleries.



TWEED REGIONAL MUSEUM

The Tweed Regional Museum is dedicated to preserving and sharing the unique history and heritage of the Tweed.



MARINE DISCOVERY CENTRE
Hastings Point



EXAMPLE PROGRAM 2 NIGHT CAMP



The programs are tailored to the individual groups and can be modified based on your requirement. Below is a sample of a two-night base camp program.

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
10.00am	Arrival at North Star, BYO Morning Tea followed by site induction	BBQ Area
11.00am	Overview of camp and introduction to the ecosystems of Hastings Point	BBQ Area
12.00pm	Lunch	The Loft
1.00pm	Field Activity 1	Hastings Point
3.30pm	Afternoon Tea - takeaway to be picked up from Ripples Cafe	Hastings Point Headland
4.00pm	Walk back to North Star	
4.30pm	Marine Discovery Centre Session 1	Determined by activity
6.30pm	Dinner	The Loft
7.30pm	Build your own experience - add on OR teacher led activity	The Loft
TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
7.00am	Breakfast	Ripple Cafe
9.00am	Field Activity 2 - includes Morning Tea	Determined by activity
12.00pm	Lunch	The Loft
1.00pm	Marine Discovery Centre Session 2	Marine Discovery Centre
4.00pm	Build your own experience - add on. Takeaway Afternoon Tea	Determined by activity
6.00pm	Dinner	The Loft
7.30pm	Build your own experience - add on OR teacher led activity	The Loft
TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
7.00am	Breakfast	Ripple Cafe
9.00am	Field Activity 3 - includes Morning Tea	Determined by activity
12.00pm	Lunch	BBQ Area
1.00pm	Group to depart North Star	Reception



TASMAN HOLIDAY PARKS - NORTH STAR



Welcome to North Star, a multi-award-winning Resort on the spectacular Tweed Coast, just 30 minutes south of Gold Coast Airport and 30 minutes north of Byron Bay.

Surrounded by National parkland, North Star spreads over 10 hectares of manicured, sub-tropical gardens with palms, pools and playgrounds, nestled between a pristine beach and crystal clear tidal estuary.

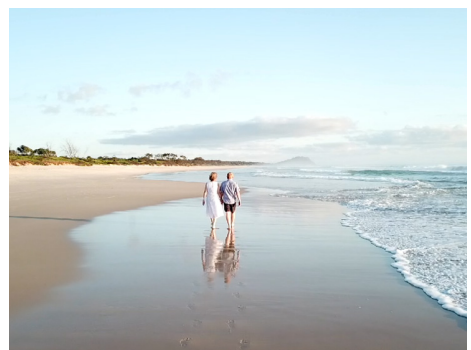
North Star has once again proven their dedication to sustainable business practices, successfully passing Ecotourism Australia's internationally recognised audit program held in March 2021.

Eco-Tourism designs and delivers certification programs for tourism products and destinations to assure travellers that certified accommodation providers have a strong commitment to sustainability and quality. North Star achieved its status with more than 50 environmental or sustainable initiatives and is one of only two holiday parks in NSW to achieve Eco Tourism certification

Auditor Linda Cash was particularly impressed with North Star's new Marine Discovery Centre, saying it was an outstanding example of education and interpretation supporting an ecotourism product that benefits guests, the local community and broader tourism community.

"The resources and information about the local area is state of the art, including information on the impacts of climate change," said Ms Cash.

"The team at North Star are to be congratulated for their efforts in sustainability and the continuous improvement program they have in place to ensure any developments take the environmental impacts of their product into consideration. They are also implementing improvements on existing products to reduce their carbon footprint and have implemented measuring and calculating emissions to determine their environmental impact and committed substantial investment to reduce waste and landfill."



ACCOMMODATION

North Star offers a range of cabin style accommodation to comfortably accommodate any size group with staff cabins, Jubilee Lodges conveniently located opposite the student Bunkhouses. For larger groups, the Holiday Lodges offer additional lodgings.

BUNKHOUSE

Sleeps 11 people

Two bedrooms, with a Queen bed and four bunks in one room and six bunks in the other. Two bathrooms and two separate showers. The bunkhouse has air-conditioning, a stove, fridge and microwave.



HOLIDAY LODGE

Sleeps 4 people

Two bedroom lodge, with a queen size bed in the main bedroom and single bed and set of bunks in the second bedroom. This air-conditioned lodge has a TV and DVD player and a small patio.



JUBILEE LODGE

Sleeps 5 people

Two bedroom lodge with a king size bed in the main bedroom and two sets of single bunks in the second bedroom. Bathroom has a spacious shower and separate toilet. The air-conditioned lodge has a fully equipped kitchen and open plan lounge area and BBQ with outdoor setting on the patio.



GET TOGETHER

North Star offers a range of venues to suit your every need can be hired for private access.

THE FUNCTION ROOM

152sqm

This private, fully air conditioned venue can seat 80-100 people in comfort. Room hire includes use of all AV equipment & connection to WiFi. Equipment comprises electronic screen with high definition projector, HDMI or VGA connection for your own device, bluetooth connectivity, blu-ray player with USB, set top box, cue monitor, multiple microphones and full surround sound. There is also a lectern and welcome A-Frame board for your use.



THE LOFT

105sqm

The Loft is situated on the first floor behind our reception building. This recently refurbished space is air conditioned and is the perfect choice for smaller, casual functions. Use of AV equipment is included and features a high definition projector with Dolby 5.1 surround sound. Portable microphone subject to availability. Disabled ramp access available. Max 80 persons.





CATERING



Our fantastic team at our on-site Ripples Licensed Café have prepared a range of delicious menus and options to suit all group and school camp needs with all dietary requirements catered for.*

Groups up to 40 pax will enjoy dining in Cafe Atrium. Groups over this size will enjoy a dedicated dining space in the Loft. All lunches on the last day of your camp will be served in our all weather BBQ area.

*Special dietary requirements: gluten, lactose,dairy free or Halal will incur additional charges of \$2 per student, per meal.

MENUS	OUTLINE
Breakfast	Plated hot breakfast. Selection of scrambled eggs, bacon, hash brown, grilled tomato, served with toast and juice. Cereal, yoghurt and condiments also available.
Morning and Afternoon Tea	Chefs choice of one of the following homemade treats: cake, muesli slice, muffin, donut, cookies, bliss balls, and a piece of fruit.
Lunch	Chefs choice of burger and chips, fish and chips, chicken schnitzel and slaw wrap or pizza. Last day or Day Visit lunch at BBQ area will be a selection of assorted wraps or bread rolls with ham or chicken, salad and aioli served with a piece of fruit.
Dinner	<p>Chefs choice of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roast chicken or beef served with pumpkin, potato and seasonal vegetables • Bolognese, carbonara or vegetarian pasta served with garlic bread and a side salad • Mild chicken curry and steamed jasmine rice • Battered fish and chips served with a side salad • Mild chilli con carne served with rice <p>All meals served with one of the following desserts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fruit crumble • Sticky date pudding • Mississippi mud cake • Chocolate Mousse • Sorbet and seasonal fruit (vegan option)

All meals are included in the base overnight package. Menu offerings subject to change without notice.



TESTIMONIALS



"Thanks to your team for making our senior students biology trip such a great experience, they had an awesome time learning new information and the hands on activities were enjoyed by all. We can't wait to visit again, keep up the amazing work that you do."

- Kimberley College

"The camp, from all accounts, was excellent. The boys had a great time and came back with a lot of great information. The staff spoke highly of the program and the facilities and you guys as facilitators."

- Villanova College

"Our students had a really valuable learning experience at North Star MDC collecting field data, learning about the different habitats, abiotic and biotic factors as well as adaptations and lifecycles. The accommodation and food were great as well."

- Lockyer District State School

"I would whole-heartedly recommend Rhett Brambleby and his crew to anyone considering an excursion in connection to any of the junior ecology topics or senior studies involved in the environment. You will not be disappointed".

- Lindisfarne Anglican College

"The students and I had a great day! We particularly enjoyed the presentation in the Marine Centre with Rhett - very informative and great to be able to touch and feel some of the creatures! Rhett was also amazing with his sharing of knowledge and experience out at the rock pools and in the sand dunes ecosystems. He enabled the students to be able to collect a good amount of data and observations from both sites. We had a lot to fit in on one day, but were able to get through most of it and students definitely benefitted from the experience. Thank you North Star MDC and Rhett, we will be back again. "

- Gold Coast Christian College





MARINE DISCOVERY CENTRE
Hastings Point

TERMS & CONDITIONS

All Marine Discovery Centre camps and excursions will be treated as tentative until the applicable deposit is received. Tasman Holiday Parks - North Star, incorporating Ripples Licensed Café reserves the right to cancel tentative bookings without notice following expiry of the deposit due date.

DEPOSIT:

25% of the current value of the reservation is required within 2 weeks of booking to secure the reservation.

BALANCE:

Due 21 days prior to your arrival. In the event that you have not provided final numbers for the accommodation held, this is based on the number of guests currently indicated on your booking.

REMINDER:

A reminder email will be sent 30 days prior to your arrival, to remind you that your balance & final room information will soon be needed.

FINAL ADJUSTMENTS:

A final room allocation list and all dietary requirements are required no later than 14 days prior to arrival, or as specified by your Group Coordinator. Any additional charges will then be calculated and are due immediately. All monies must be paid in full prior to your stay.

CATERING

All dietary requirements and student waiver/medical forms must be returned to northstar 14 days prior to your arrival.

CHECK IN TIME

Check in time is as per your booking correspondence. Please note accommodation may not be ready on your arrival. Keys will be distributed to teachers as soon as they are available.

CHECK OUT TIME

Check out time for both accommodation and sites is strictly 10am NSW time. All keys must be returned to Reception by this time.

