

off the fence.

Island Life

6 x 60'

EPISODIC BREAKDOWN

1. Macquarie Island

Macquarie Island is a tiny fragment of land between Tasmania and Antarctica in the Southern Ocean. Each spring, thousands of sea birds and mammals converge on the island to breed, and this seasonal explosion of life makes Macquarie a mecca for biologists. Creative technology has meant those scientists are gaining fascinating insight into the mysterious ocean-going lives of the island's seasonal visitors.

2. Lizard Island

Rising from the blue waters of the Great Barrier Reef, Lizard Island is the perfect spot from which to explore this coral wonderland for tourist and scientist alike. For nearly three decades, the waters around Lizard have been attracting the world's top marine biologists and the island has become home to one of the most important reef research stations in the world.

3. Torres Strait Islands

Each year as the monsoon rains sweeps across Australia's ruggedly beautiful Torres Strait islands, the battle begins to prevent potentially fatal exotic diseases carried by migrating birds, animals and insects, reaching the mainland. Prepared for the worst, quarantine officers and scientists keep the islands and surrounding waters under tight surveillance.

4. Kangaroo Island

In a grand experiment, animals threatened on the Australian mainland were released onto an island, which had been isolated for 8,000 years. The outcomes have been far-reaching and, in some cases, catastrophic. It seems that the wildlife we choose to save has as much to do with politics, economics, and sentimentality as it does with science.

5. Christmas Island

The extraordinary Christmas Island spectacle of 120 million migrating red crabs is facing a terrible threat. Super-colonies of an island invader, the yellow crazy ant, are spreading across the Indian Ocean island, wiping out huge numbers of red crabs in their path.

6. Barrow Island

Barrow Island is home to Australia's second biggest oil mining operation, sharing precious territory with an A-Class Conservation Reserve. But how do populations of some of Australia's rare marsupials, and oilmen, live side by side?