



Australian Government
Department of the Environment,
Water, Heritage and the Arts



Reef & Rainforest
RESEARCH CENTRE

Environmental Scholarships for North Queensland

On the 28th February 2008 Federal Environment Minister, Peter Garrett, announced ten scholarships for research projects into environmental challenges facing north Queensland

The students will receive funding of \$720,000 over three years under the Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility Graduate Scholarship Scheme – part of the \$100 million Commonwealth Environment Research Facilities (CERF) program.

To view the full 'Environmental Scholarships for North Queensland' media release please visit click [here](#).

1. Ecological and trophic relationships within Wet Tropics freshwater turtle communities and their sensitivity to climate change and habitat alteration

Student/Institution: Amanda O'Malley, JCU Townsville.

Supervisors: Ivan Lawler (JCU) Mark Hamann (JCU)

MTSRF Relevant Projects: **Project 1.4.1** Condition trends and projected futures of marine species of conservation concern

2. Impact and causes of sponge diseases in Torres Strait and the Great Barrier Reef

Student/Institution: Heidi Luter, JCU Townsville

Supervisors: Dr Nicole Webster (AIMS) Dr Rockey DeNys (JCU)

MTSRF Relevant Projects: **Project 1.3.2** Ecological role and potential economic value of sponges to the Torres Strait

3. Conservation of the northern bettong *B. tropica*, a rare and threatened endemic macropod species of the Wet Tropics: limits to current distribution and a mechanistic model for predicting effects of climate change

Student/Institution: Brooke Bateman, JCU Townsville

Supervisors: Chris Johnson (JCU) Steve Williams (JCU) Peter Latch (EPA)

MTSRF Relevant Projects: **Project 2.5ii.4** Impacts of climate change on biodiversity



4. Climate change and satellite oceanography of the Great Barrier Reef

Student/Institution: Ana Redondo Rodriguez, UQ Brisbane

Supervisors: Dr Scarla Weeks, UQ Prof Ove Hoegh Guldberg, UQ Dr Gene Feldman, NASA Ocean Colour Programme

MTSRF Relevant Projects: **Project 2.5i.2:** Early warning and assessment system for thermal stress on the Great Barrier Reef

5. Understanding interactive effects between pesticides and climate change on symbiont bearing and calcifying marine species

Student/Institution: Joost W. Van Dam, UQ Brisbane

Supervisors: Ass Prof Jochen Muller UQ Dr Andrew Negri AIMS Dr Sven Uthicke AIMS

MTSRF Relevant Project: **Project 3.71** Marine and estuarine indicators and thresholds of concern

6. Dynamics of flow and ecosystem health in dry tropics rivers

Student/Institution: Melanie Blanchette, JCU Townsville

Supervisors: Richard Pearson (JCU) Iain Gordon (CSIRO)

MTSRF Relevant Project: **Project 3.7.3** Freshwater indicators and thresholds of concern

7 Validating freshwater fish indicators and thresholds of concern in Wet Tropics streams

Student/Institution: Katie Leonard, JCU Townsville

Supervisors: Prof Angela Arthington (GU) Prof Richard Pearson (JCU) Dr Brad Pusey (GU)


MTSRF Relevant Project: **Project 3.7.3** Freshwater indicators and thresholds of concern


8. Valuation of Ecosystem Services Provided by Coastal Wetlands for Fisheries

Student/Institution: Penny Blackmore, JCU Cairns

Supervisors: Dr Steve Sutton (JCU) Dr James Butler (CSIRO) Dr Frederieke Kroon (CSIRO) Dr Stuart Whitten (CSIRO)

MTSRF Relevant Project: **Project 4.8.5** Incorporating stakeholders and their values, knowledge and aspirations in the care and development of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park





9. Applying indigenous ecological knowledge to the control of invasive fish: a feasibility study for the Wet Tropics

Student/Institution: Monica Gratani, JCU Cairns

Supervisors: Dr James Butler (CSIRO) Dr Frederieke Kroon (CSIRO)
Birgit Kuehn (Centre Sust Indig Comms) Dr Damien
Burrows (JCU) Mullanbarra Yidinji People

MTSRF Relevant Project: **Project 2.6.2** Identification and impact of invasive pests in
Wet Tropics rainforests

10. Biodiversity of dung beetles in the Wet Tropics biogeographic regions: assessing the impacts of climate change on an important functional group.

Student/Institution:
Marios Aristophanos, JCU Cairns

Supervisors:
Dr Steven Williams (JCU) Dr Richard ? (JCU)

MTSRF Relevant Project:
Project 2.5ii.4 Impacts of climate change on biodiversity

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