

“Rainforest biodiversity in the Australian Wet Tropics: past, present and future” Synopsis



Inaugural Lecture

The **School of Marine and Tropical Biology**

Invites you to attend an inaugural lecture by



Professor Steve Williams

Wednesday, 24 March 2010
commencing at 5.30pm

The Kingstone and Savoy Rooms at the
Southbank Hotel and Convention Centre
Palmer Street, South Townsville

The Wet Tropics rainforests of North Queensland are home to an amazing diversity of animals and plants found nowhere else in the world. The region contains more biodiversity than any other region in Australia. I will discuss the general patterns of biodiversity in the region that I have been working on for my whole career and discuss what we have learnt about the processes that drive these patterns. While world heritage listing has protected the rainforests from most human impacts, any lines of evidence suggest that the biodiversity of the region is highly vulnerable to the predicted impacts of future global climate change. Climate change impacts are expected to be severe and many of the regionally-endemic species are predicted to decline or potentially go extinct. Some of these predicted impacts are already happening. Understanding the links between the climate and the ecological and biological attributes of species and ecological processes will lead to a better ability to incorporate consideration of the threat posed by climate change in assessing species' circumstances and identifying management actions for their protection.

Light refreshments will be served after the lecture

RSVP please by Thursday, 18 March 2010
to rosemarie.vasiljuk@jcu.edu.au or 07 - 4781 4345