



Rainforest CRC

**Electronic Newsletter
December 2001, Issue No 2**

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE

FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

2nd Year Review — Stages 1 and 2

The Rainforest CRC was reviewed by two separate Federal Government appointed panels in September and November this year. The Stage 1 review looked at the scientific performance of the Centre and the Panel included Professor Andy Beattie of the Key Centre for Biodiversity & Bioresources, Macquarie University, Dr Keith Boardman, Official Visitor to the Rainforest CRC, Dr Gary Hartshorn of the Organisation for Tropical Studies, Durham, Dr Kathy MacKinnon, Global Environment Division, The World Bank, and Professor Helene Marsh, Environmental Science, James Cook University.

The report from the Stage 1 Panel praised the science of the Centre for its achievements and innovation and can be downloaded from the website. [Click to download Stage 1 Report](#)

Stage 2 of the Review was undertaken by Dr Graeme Kelleher, Chair, Dr Keith Boardman, Professor Henry Nix, Ms Caryl Treloar of the CRC Secretariat and Ms Lyn Johnson. This Review looked more at the way the Centre operates, collaboration between the partner organisations, management structures and finances. The report from this review has yet to be sent to the Board but verbal comments indicated that the Panel was very satisfied with the progress that the Centre has made.

Strategic Planning Workshop

A facilitated workshop was held on 18-19 September to look at the strategic directions for the CRC over the next four years. Participants included Board Members, the Executive Committee, Program leaders and a number of key stakeholders. This was a very exciting and challenging workshop that provided a number of new key directions that the Centre will be pursuing in the next few years.

[Click to download workshop report](#)

[Click to download workshop report attachment](#)

Indigenous Voices Conference

In September this year Dr Judy Atkinson, Program Leader of Program 7, left to take up a Chair at Southern Cross University. Judy returned in October to facilitate the Indigenous Voices Conference with participation from eight CRCs. This was a wonderful opportunity for Indigenous people and western scientists to meet and understand how they can work better to improve Indigenous capacity building and involvement in CRCs and also to understand Indigenous perspectives on science and education. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Judy and Marybeth Gundrum and all the participants in the workshop for making this such a joyful and successful Conference. I have no doubt it will be repeated in future years.

Australian Tropical Rainforest Institute

Gibsons Consulting produced a report for the Rainforest CRC, Wet Tropics Management Authority, James Cook University and the State Department looking at the feasibility of establishing an Australian Tropical Rainforest Institute on land next to the Cairns Campus of James Cook University. As a result of this report a draft proposal has been prepared by the partners and circulated widely for comment. This was released to coincide with the Federal election and positive responses were received by both sides of the Federal Government. In particular Senator Nick Minchin, then Minister for Industry, Science and Resources, and Senator Warren Entsch, met with the proponents in the rainforest CRC headquarters and strongly supported this initiative. Senator Minchin has asked the Chief Scientist, Dr Robin Batterham, to look at the proposal. It is expected that a workshop will be held early next year with invitations to many organisations being sent out for their participation.

New Chairman

Professor Ralph Slatyer sadly stood down from his role as Chairman of the CRC in September 2001 due to health problems. Professor Slatyer has been Chairman of the CRC since its inception in 1993 and has played an enormous role in building the CRC over the last eight years. He will be sorely missed by all of those involved in the CRC although we can be assured that he will be keeping in touch with the Centre in the future.

The Board moved swiftly to find a replacement Chairman of national stature and expertise and we are fortunate to have gained the services of Sir Sydney Schubert as our new Chairman. Sir Sydney is currently also Chairman of the Reef CRC and brings a wide range of expertise from working in Government, Industry and Academia. The Centre warmly welcomes Sir Sydney to the Rainforest CRC and looks forward to the benefits of his acumen and experience. A short biographical brief on Sir Sydney can be found below.

RAINFOREST CRC WELCOMES NEW CHAIRMAN SIR SYDNEY SCHUBERT

Educated at home and abroad

Born in Brisbane, Sir Sydney graduated in Arts and with Honours in Civil Engineering from the University of Queensland. He undertook Post-graduate studies in Business Administration at the Queensland Institute of Technology and in Highway and Traffic Engineering at Durham University in England. He was awarded the International Road Federation Scholarship for overseas study in 1958 and in 1972, the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship for Australia which led to extensive travel in the USA.

Over two decades of service to the State of Queensland

He began employment with the Queensland State Government in the Mains Road Department in 1945. He was appointed Coordinator General in 1976 and then made Permanent Head of the Premier's Department when this department was amalgamated with the Co-ordinator General's Department in 1982. In this new position, he was responsible for the administration of State affairs and inter-governmental relations, while also retaining responsibility for the State development and public works organisation attached to his previous position. When the Premier's Department also became responsible for economic development and the arts in 1987, the title of Coordinator General was changed to Director General.



Sir Sydney Schubert
Rainforest CRC Chairman

Sir Sydney was created Knight Bachelor in recognition of his distinguished service as an officer of the Crown in January 1985. He was also elected an Honorary Fellow of the Institution of Engineers, Australia in December 1987, and finally resigned from the Premier's Department in June 1988 after 43 years service.

Head of an international company in Australia

He then joined the Daikyo Group as Executive Director in July 1988 and in 1989 became the Chief Executive of group operations in Australia. Daikyo is a large tourist developer with offices on the Gold Coast, Brisbane, Cairns and Sydney with interests encompassing hotels, restaurants, property, project management and tourist and residential developments. He resigned from Daikyo in 2000.

Directorships and Affiliations

Sir Sydney has worked at the highest level in the public service, academia and industry, having Directed, Chaired and/or been affiliated with a diverse and impressive number of organisations throughout his career. He was a member of Queensland Institute of Technology Council, Griffith University Foundation Council, the University of Queensland Senate, and was the first Chancellor of Bond University. In industry, he has been Director of the Jupiter Group of Companies, Australian Provincial Newspapers Ltd, Coffey International Ltd and Christchurch Casinos Limited. Currently, he is also Chairman of the Reef CRC, the International Marine Projects Activities Centre, Christchurch Casino E-Commerce Pty Ltd, and is a member of the Institute for Molecular Bioscience Board of The University of Queensland.

COMMUNICATION NEWS

CHRISTMAS CARD

To receive our electronic Christmas card, visit the site below and press PRINT!

<http://www.rainforest-crc.jcu.edu.au/pub/DECO1NEWS/XmasCard.pdf>

NEW FINANCE OFFICER AT HEADQUARTERS

Mr Steve Cawte joined the Rainforest CRC Headquarters staff in September as Finance Officer. This is a new position, designed to take the pressure off our Business Manager, who up until this appointment has been responsible for all and every aspect of Centre finance.

Steve will develop accounting routines, administer stock and assets, produce quarterly financial reconciliations and reports, provide support to the financial management of the Canopy Crane Company and oversee the administration of external contracts, an area of increasing importance to the Centre.

RAINFOREST CRC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Rainforest CRC Annual Conference *Ecology, Conservation and Management of Biodiversity in Tropical Forested Regions* was held at the Radisson Plaza at the Pier in Cairns in mid November. The conference continues to grow in popularity with 134 registered delegates attending the meeting this year.

Professor Hugh Possingham from the University of Queensland delivered the keynote address *Decision Theory for Biodiversity Conservation*. The program ran five main themes including Biodiversity Patterns and Processes, Assessing Diversity, Conservation Planning, Participatory Approaches and Constraints in Forest Research, Conservation and Management, and Restoration and Rehabilitation. Twenty-nine presentations were made in a very full and interesting program. The abstracts from the conference may be viewed on the website under 'Past Events'

Winners of the student poster competition were Fr d ric Beaulieu, Natasha Witting and Stacey Kolkert who received \$500 each. Congratulations to you all.

Eighty people attended the conference dinner which was held at the Red Ochre Restaurant where the annual awards were handed out amongst much frivolity. A highlight of the evening was a stirring rendition of 'The Mite Anthem' by the entire Griffith University contingent under the direction of Acarist Author of the Anthem, Dr Heather Proctor. For those who missed this mitey event, the lyrics to the Anthem can be viewed at the following site:

<http://www.rainforest-crc.jcu.edu.au/pub/DEC01NEWS/Mites.pdf>

We would like to thank everyone who attended the conference, especially the presenters and session chairs and look forward to 2002 when we gather again.

SCIENCE IN THE PUB

For the Public Forum at this year's annual conference, the Centre invited the Australian Science Communicator's to stage a 'Science in the Pub' session, a style of event which has been successfully presented on at least 60 other occasions around Australia, exploring various science topics. The idea of Science in the Pub is to create a convivial atmosphere and use humour to open discussions on controversial topics.

The topic for the evening was: "World Heritage: Populate and Perish...?" and four panelists were asked to explore a sub-set of issues around the topic, creating a short poem each to highlight one or more of these issues. Our talented panelists were: Richard Pearson, Karen Benn, Jon Nott, and Mike Berwick.

Our compere for the evening was an interesting character called Professor Brian Roberts who some of you may know from the Division of Sustainable Ecosystems. All these people brought expertise, enthusiasm, and a wealth of experience to the topic. The poems can be downloaded from our web site at www.rainforest-crc.jcu.edu.au/

ABC Science helped sponsor the event and local Far Northern ABC Radio personalities Pat Morrish and Jason Hagen played host for the evening and recorded the proceedings. They tried valiantly to generate stronger participation from the audience, but even most of our conference participants were unusually shy. About 100 people participated on top of those attending our annual conference. The night finished off with a Pub Raffle. Thankyou to Partners who provided the Raffle prizes, WTMA, UQ, JCU, and QPWS. All in all, a successful experiment!

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Evaluating the feasibility of remote sensing for monitoring State of the Wet Tropics Environmental Indicators

A second report has been produced by the 1.2 team which details the feasibility of using remote sensing for monitoring State of the Wet Tropics Environmental Indicators. The report includes an evaluation of the capability and potential of commercially available remotely sensed data types and of the feasibility of satellite and airborne imaging techniques for monitoring environmental indicators. It recommends an optimal choice of remotely sensed data and processing methodology and suggests preliminary steps towards a framework for fully integrating remote sensing into monitoring programs in the Wet Tropics.

The report is available from Rainforest CRC Headquarters at a cost of \$25 (GST inclusive) plus postage. To order contact Tania.Batten@jcu.edu.au

Plants of the Wet Tropics - Rainforest to Heath - An Identification Guide

A new publication on identification of plants of the Wet Tropics, compiled by Associate Professor Betsy Jackes is about to be released and will be available early January. The book includes sections on bryophytes by Ms Andi Cairns and covers the Kuranda Range and Herberton-Stannary Hills in the Cairns area, and the Paluma Range and Hidden Valley areas of the Townsville region.

It will be in the Cairns University bookshop from December 3rd or can be ordered from JCU Bookshop in Townsville with a recommended retail price of \$42. It will eventually go to Walkers Bookshops and several other well-known distributors. Anyone wishing to contact the Author can do so on Betsy.Jackes@jcu.edu.au and a sneak preview of the book cover can be viewed at: <http://www.rainforest-crc.jcu.edu.au/pub/DEC01NEWS/Jackes.pdf>

RAINFOREST CRC MEMBERS MANUAL

A CD-ROM Disc will shortly be distributed to Centre participants entitled Rainforest CRC Members Manual. The disc contains a whole range of details and information about the Rainforest CRC which are pertinent to both new and existing members. It is envisaged that the CD will be updated annually, with a website version being constantly updated throughout the year as change occurs. Included in the Members Manual are:

- Introduction to the Rainforest CRC
- Structure of the Rainforest CRC
- Roles and Membership of Governing Board and Committees
- Roles of Key Personnel and Contact Details
- Rainforest CRC Research Portfolio
- Rainforest CRC Policies, Processes and Guidelines
- Electronic Templates
- Rainforest CRC Student Forms
- Bibliography of all Publications since 1993
- Downloadable Annual Report Chapters

The disc has been manufactured in a PC format. If you require a copy for a Mac computer, please contact the Publications Officer Jann.Okeefe@jcu.edu.au who will forward it to you.

EUREKA PRIZES 2002

The Australian Museum has announced the launch of the 2002 Australian Museum Eureka Prizes. This year there are 16 prizes on offer worth almost \$160,000 in total.

In particular there is a Eureka Prize of \$10,000 for the Promotion of Science, sponsored by the Department of Industry, Science and Resources as part of their National Innovation Awareness Strategy. The prize honours outstanding efforts to promote interest and enthusiasm about science to the general community - efforts that go beyond the scope and activities of the entrant's normal occupation.

Entries/nominations in the 2002 Eureka Prizes close on Friday 17 May 2002. Winners will be announced on Tuesday 13 August 2002.

Information and entry forms for all prizes are available from the Australian Museum's webpage at: <http://amonline.net.au/eureka>

RESEARCH AND RESEARCHERS

PROGRAM 1

Regional Natural Resources Management Plan

The Rainforest CRC is involved in a new partnership with the North Queensland Afforestation Association (NQAA) and the Natural Resources Management Board (Wet Tropics) (NRMB) on a project to develop the Wet Tropics Region Natural Resource Management Plan.

This project will build on the excellent work over recent years by the partners, NQAA and NRMB in natural resources management. It will also integrate with other planning programs including the FNQ2010 process, the regional vegetation management committee and the GBR Water Quality Action Plan among others.

The project was triggered by the need to meet the requirements of the new Commonwealth and State programs for resource management, especially the National Action Plan for Water Quality and Salinity and the National Heritage Trust Mark 2. Essential principles behind these programs are that planning will be conducted and implemented by regional bodies incorporating key stakeholders including local government, catchment committees, Landcare groups and industry. The regional resource management plans will be accredited by State and Commonwealth governments and provide a framework for investment and for coordinating management activities. To be accredited, plans will need to meet rigorous criteria relating to how they are prepared and as to the scientific information underpinning priorities, target setting and implementing resource management programs.

The project involves working closely with natural resource management bodies, planning agencies and the community in the Wet Tropics region. This will provide an excellent opportunity to engage the science and planning skills of the CRC with the community. Rainforest CRC scientists will be requested to provide important scientific input into the project on topics such as water quality and management, biodiversity targets and needs, rehabilitation, indigenous peoples involvement, information sources, monitoring requirements etc.

The Project leaders are Dr Sue Vize (NQAA), Brad Dorrington (NRMB) and from the Rainforest CRC, Professor Geoff McDonald (University of Queensland). The partners are in the process of appointing an environmental planner to be located in the Rainforest CRC offices at JCU Cairns to assist the team. The position is jointly funded.

NEW PROJECT 1.3

Integrating information for the Wet Tropics

A new project was initiated in Program 1 during the latter half of this year, under the leadership of Dr Daniel Walker from CSIRO.

Background

Improving access to natural resource information can help contribute to more integrated planning for natural resource management for conservation, primary industries such as agriculture and secondary industries such as tourism.

The Wet Tropics Information Integration project is a scoping study by CSIRO and the Rainforest CRC to gain an understanding of data availability, accessibility, management, integration and use for decision-making across key resource management sectors in the Wet Tropics.

Project Outcomes

Inventory of natural resource datasets.

Inventory of potential applications of this data across agencies.

These research products will be an information resource for users and providers of natural resource data in the region. They will be made available and updatable via a website.

RAINFOREST VISITORS SURVEY RESULTS

Researchers in the Rainforest CRC s Program 3 (Rainforest Visitation and Business) are currently examining patterns of rainforest tourism so that as to better understand the markets for rainforest tourism opportunities and products.

Over a four week period earlier this year, surveys were conducted with 1258 Far North Queensland tourists at key exit points from the region, including the Cairns airport and bus terminal and several locations in Cardwell. Tourists were asked about the nature of their rainforest visits, how satisfied they were with the available opportunities and their evaluations of, and likely responses to, the management of rainforest tourism.

A data summary report was released recently outlining the preliminary findings of the survey research. Some of the key findings include:

- 61% of the tourists surveyed went to at least one rainforest site while in the FNQ region,
- Overall, those factors associated with individual motives and opportunities to engage in activities were more important than factors associated with the management of the site, such as the number of other people and the presence of commercial tours,
- The most important factors for visitors when choosing a rainforest place to visit were the opportunity to experience the beauty of nature, the likely presence of wildlife, and opportunities to experience something new and different,
- The majority of visitors wanted basic walking tracks, toilets and signs about the rainforest, but could not specify the number of other people they would like to have at their ideal rainforest site, and
- Overall, visitors were satisfied with their visits to the rainforest of the FNQ region. Lower levels of satisfaction were expressed for the management of visitor impacts, the information available about the ecology of the rainforest, and the range of activities offered.

The full data summary report — Rainforest Visitor Profiles — will be available shortly on the Rainforest CRC web site or can be obtained by emailing; tourism.research@jcu.edu.au

INDIGENOUS NEWS

INDIGENOUS VOICES CONFERENCE ! 23-25 October Genazzano Centre ! Lake Tinaroo ! Atherton Tablelands

The Indigenous Voices: Ethical Research, Practical Outcomes conference was held from 22-25 October 2001 on the Atherton Tableland, North Queensland at the Genazzano Centre. The meeting was held to address a critical gap that had been identified in the way Commonwealth funded Cooperative Research Centres (CRCs) have been addressing the rights, responsibilities and needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in research. Ten CRCs contributed funding and resources to provide a forum for Indigenous voices to be privileged in a dialogue about Indigenist research ethics, theories and practices, and for discussions on ways of collaborating with non-Indigenous researchers within CRCs and elsewhere. Rainforest CRC also provided Conference Secretariat services for the meeting.

The CRC s who contributed financially and by sending participants were CRC for Tropical Savannas, Reef CRC, CRC for Coastal Zone, Estuary and Waterway Management, CRC for Aboriginal and Tropical Health, CRC for Sustainable Tourism, Marsupial CRC, CRC for Waste Management and Pollution Control, CRC for Australian Weed Management. A representative from CRC ERT also attended the conference.

The conference was successful in terms of participation by the CRCs involved, attendance by Indigenous research users and in building trust and respect between Indigenous research users and providers. A conference Executive Summary has been distributed to participants and the conference evaluation is currently being finalised. An identified outcome of the meeting is a book which will contribute to the essential reference materials Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers need to validate Indigenist research ethics, theories and practices for research with, by and for Indigenous peoples and communities.

Direct link to the Indigenous Voices Conference Photograph Gallery

<http://www.rainforest-crc.jcu.edu.au/pub/Events/IndigenousVoicesGallery/index.htm>

NEWS FROM THE CANOPY CRANE

YOUNG CASSOWARY FREQUENTS CRANE SITE

During the past few weeks, a young cassowary has been frequenting the forest around the crane and the compound. It is a truly delightful experience to see such a magnificent bird at any time but having one "on call" is very special. While cassowaries are impossible to sex by their external morphology, especially young individuals, our crane driver Dick refers to it as *him* - and so be it.

To make sure we do the right thing I consulted my friend Dr Dave Westcott (CSIRO), having worked with him on a relocation/telemetry project involving Cassowaries in the Gouldsbrough Valley area some 3 years ago and holding a very high opinion about Dave's knowledge and experience with the species. Dave suggested that this youngster was recently abandoned by his father and feels lonely. Because he has had no previous contact with humans, he feels relatively safe and enjoys our company. He may soon move on or may stay in the area, in which case there is a strong possibility that he will establish a firm relationship with people (us).

Dave's advice is - not to interfere with the bird in any way, i.e. we should not encourage him to come to us, nor should we chase him away or frighten him by loud voices, or by waving hands or sticks at him. It is OK to offer our hands (which he is likely to peck on it) or to have a quiet conversation with him. The risk of being attacked is minimal, because it is a young bird and they are usually quite inoffensive. It is safe to turn your back to him and one should not be alarmed by his rapid approach.

Having said that, we should be realistic about the fact that it is a large and powerful beast and its personality and behaviour may change in time. If he starts raising his body tall, fluffing up feathers and facing you side ways, then there is a reason for concern. Perhaps the most important thing is - DO NOT FEED him under any circumstances. It is also our duty to advise the crane users and visitors how to behave in the bird's presence and to strongly deter them from offering food of any kind to him. The cassowary's presence and potential danger have now been included in our "safety briefing" .

STUDENT NEWS

STUDENT SUMMIT

The Rainforest CRC hosted a two and a half a day workshop for registered students as a part of their ongoing commitment to increasing the capacity of students as professional researchers. 35 people were involved with the meeting including 13 students. The workshop was organised by a committee of Rainforest CRC students Ellen Weber, Leah Talbot, Karen Martin and Yvette Williams from James Cook University, Dave Temple-Smith from the University of Queensland and Cath Moran from Griffith University.

The meeting followed on from the Annual Conference, running from Friday 16 to Sunday 18 November. The program was focussed on Aboriginal belonging to country, communicating with traditional owners and understanding issues related to working and carrying out research in the rainforest. The students had the opportunity to network, shared information and participated in a field trip conducted by Syb Bresolin, Traditional Custodian from the Duguburra Yidinji clan. On the final day of the meeting an independent facilitator was brought in to discuss ways in which Rainforest CRC can assist students with increasing their skills across a range of concerns. The Student Summit committee will present the outcomes of the session to the CRC who will use the information to plan future training needs.

RESEARCH SUPPORT SCHEME ROUND 6

The following students were successful in Round 6 of the Rainforest CRC Research Support Scheme.

Alex ANDERSON - Honours, Zoology, JCU

The impacts of Pleistocene rainforest fluctuations on population structure and genetic diversity in Wet Tropics vertebrates

Ian CURTIS - PhD, TESAG, JCU

Valuing and financing ecosystem services in a green economy.

Simon FEARN - MSc, Zoology, JCU

The biology and behavioural ecology of a top Wet Tropics predator; the scrub python *Morelia amethistina*.

Peter GRIMBACHER - PhD, Environmental Science, GU

What can Coleopteran tropic guilds tell us about the restoration of tropical rainforests?

Melinda LAIDLAW - PhD, Botany, UQ

The determinants of small-scale vegetation patterns in Australian sub-tropical rainforest.

Matthew PYE - PhD, Botany, JCU

Plant Evolution across the Black Mountain Corridor

Romina RADER - MSc, Zoology, JCU

Vertical distribution of rodents and their interaction with canopy resources.

Luke SHOO - PhD, Environmental Science, GU

Altitudinal gradients in rarity of Myobatrachid frogs

Natasha WITTING, PhD, Environmental Science, GU

Small mammals as determinants of community dynamics in rainforest fragments and restoration plantings

STUDENT REPORTING AND ALUMNI

With the end of 2001 looming, a number of Rainforest CRC students will no doubt be finishing up their degrees and moving on, either into the workforce or on to further study. The CRC Program now requires that the Centre keep records of the future directions and/or employment of Rainforest CRC students once they have completed their study. For this purpose, we are compiling a Student Alumni mailing list which will include details of student destinations, once they come to hand. The list will be updated annually as information is collated for each Annual Report.

If you are finishing this year, please forward your details, and a forwarding address for future contact to Kerry.Moore@jcu.edu.au

Recipients of funding under the Research Support Scheme Round 5 are reminded that they are required to submit a progress either at the end of the funding period (end February 2002) or when they finish their degree, whichever is the soonest.

Reports should be forwarded to Kerry.Moore@jcu.edu.au

AUSTRALIAN BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES STUDY (ABRS) BURSARIES FOR STUDENT TRAVEL

ABRS offers financial support to postgraduate students in Australian institutions to travel to a national or international conference relevant to both the student's research program in systematics or taxonomy and the Aim and Objectives of the ABRS. A maximum of \$1,000 is available for an international conference and \$500 for travel within Australia. Up to \$10,000 is available each year for these awards.

Eligibility

1. ABRS Bursaries are open to permanent residents of Australia.
2. The student must be currently enrolled in a PhD or Masters degree (including a research component) in the field of Systematics or Taxonomy.
3. The conference must be relevant to Systematics or Taxonomy.
4. The student must show that a poster or oral paper presentation has been accepted by the organisers of the conference.
5. The student must demonstrate the benefits of the travel to their research and to the Aim and Objectives of ABRS (see Attachment A).
6. Preference may be given to applicants who receive matching funding from their home institution or other source.

Selection Criteria

The selection criteria used to assess applicants are:

- the merit of the student;
- relevance of the postgraduate research to ABRS Aim and Objectives; and
- relevance of proposed conference to student's research.

Selection Process

Applications are considered by the ABRS Advisory Committee twice a year, based on the Selection Criteria listed above.

How to Apply

To obtain a Year 2002 application form contact:

Ms Liz Visher, Business Manager, Australian Biological Resources Study
GPO BOX 787, CANBERRA ACT 2601
PH. (02) 6250 9554 FAX (02) 6250 9555 Email: liz.visher@ea.gov.au

Or download the form from the ABRS Website: <http://www.anbg.gov.au/abrs>

Applicants should ensure that completed forms are lodged with ABRS by 10 March 2001 or 10 September 2001.

CRC TO SHOWCASE PhD STUDENTS AT CONFERENCE 2002

The CRC Association is delighted to acknowledge CSIRO as the CRC PhD Student sponsor for the CRCA Conference 2002

The Opportunity

In recognition of the value placed on postgraduate students educated within the operating environment of a CRC, the CRC Association is keen to showcase the achievements of outstanding early career research scientists and engineers who contribute substantially to the CRC Program. Rainforest CRC students are encouraged to apply, and they, or their supervisors, should contact Kerry.Moore@jcu.edu.au in the first instance regarding any application.

Through the support of the CSIRO, the CRC Association invites application from eligible postgraduate students to participate in a prestigious event. Up to eight students will be selected to attend the 2002 CRC Association Conference in Sydney with their travel, accommodation and conference registration paid. This will provide the opportunity to gain a broader perspective of the CRC Program and collaborative research in other CRCs.

Of those selected to attend, four will be invited to present at the special plenary conference session on Tuesday May 22nd in the first morning of the Conference. The presenter of the best presentation will receive \$2,000 from the CRC Association for other professional development travel; this will be presented at lunch at the Conference on the same day.

The Conference

The conference of the CRC Association is the yearly gathering across CRCs of CRC Chairs, Board Members, Directors, key CRC staff, as well as influential people from business, government, universities and the media. The 2002 Conference will be held in at the Convention & Exhibition Centre at Darling Harbour in Sydney 21st to 23rd May 2002 and have the theme of "CRC Outcomes - People, Ideas, Enterprise".

Selection and Evaluation

The thrust of the selection will be based on the ability to communicate effectively about a research achievement to a non specialist audience. It is becoming increasingly important to be able to talk about the value of science — its possibilities and limitations — in every day language in order to engage the interest of the wider public and raise public awareness about the contribution that science makes to our lives.

An independent judging panel comprising senior researchers and science communicators will select up to eight students to attend the Conference and from this then highlight four to present. **Selection to attend** will be based on the written ability to communicate in plain English. **For those selected to present**, each will have 10 minutes to give an illustrated talk based on their written applications.

Selection criteria

- Interest in attending the CRCA Conference in Perth.
- Likely impact of the research achievement
- Ability to present the research to a non-specialist audience in a succinct, interesting and informative way
- Likely media impact of the presentation
- Research must be cleared for presentation by your research supervisor(s) and CRC CEO

Eligibility:

To be eligible to apply, you must be, or have been, a PhD student in a CRC, have submitted your thesis or been awarded your degree during 2001 or intend to submit in 2002/2003.

By COB Friday 15th February 2002, applicants must provide:

- a brief summary of why you are interested in coming to the CRCA Conference in Sydney (**no more than 100 words**)
- a project title and a media headline
- a project summary in plain English of **no more than 60 words** — persuade us we should read on
- a project description in plain English in **no more than 400 words** — this together with the project summary is critical in assessing the ability to present research to a non specialist audience
- evidence of peer review (eg list publications, conference proceedings, internal CRC reviews)
- a list of any collaborators who should be acknowledged
- written endorsement by your research supervisor(s) and your CRC CEO to show they agree to the submission of this application
- contact details of applicant, supervisor(s) and CRC CEO (name, address, phone, fax, email)

Late applications will not be accepted. Applications are welcome by email, s- mail, fax.

Ensure your application reaches:

Dr A Campbell, Executive Manager, CRC Association

RSISE Building, cnr North & Daley Roads, Australian National University CANBERRA ACT 0200

Phone: (02) 6125 8835:

Fax: (02) 6125 8836:

Email: crca@crca.asn.au

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL RAINFOREST CRC INFORMATION

Rainforest CRC Research Portfolio

<http://www.rainforest-crc.jcu.edu.au/pub/MEMMAN1/MemMan/Research.pdf>

Rainforest CRC Events Calendar 2002

<http://www.rainforest-crc.jcu.edu.au/pub/DEC01NEWS/calendar.pdf>

Rainforest CRC Members Contact List

<http://www.rainforest-crc.jcu.edu.au/pub/MEMMAN1/Members.htm>