Welcome to the second CTBCC Newsletter!

There has been a lot of activity within the Centre since the last newsletter. The newsletter also continues to evolve as we optimize its structure and improve communication between Centre members.

Key outcomes include finalization of the Centre structure, ongoing updates to the Centre WWW page, production of the most impressive shirts in the history of research centres (requests to Yvette.Williams@jcu.edu.au), and improved methods of keeping track of Centre members outputs and accomplishments.

The second newsletter introduces our new “Researcher of the Month” section, designed to highlight the interests and activities of key individuals within CTBCC. Thanks to Conrad for volunteering to be the first poster boy . . .

Keep the weekend of the 20th and 21st of November free in your diary - you won’t want to miss the CTBCC staff retreat in Paluma!

Director: Simon Robson

Service & Capability Themes:
- Biodiversity Futures: Darren Crayn
- Big Data: Jeremy Vanderwal
- Engagement: Simon Robson

Research Themes:
- Understanding Biodiversity: Darren Crayn
- Global Change Biology: Steve Williams
- Conservation & Ecological Management: Lin Schwarzkopf
Biodiversity Futures

CTBCC Member Bio - Conrad Hoskins

Conrad Hoskin completed his BSc at the University of Queensland (UQ), followed by Honours research on phylogenetics of microhylid frogs of the Wet Tropics. Conrad then travelled and worked widely for a few years before starting a PhD. For his PhD he studied frog hybrid zones in the Wet Tropics, in particular testing a process called reinforcement that can drive rapid adaptation and speciation. The results were very interesting and the primary paper was published in *Nature*. Although conducted through UQ, Conrad spent periods at UC Berkeley, where his supervisor (Prof. Craig Moritz) had moved early in the piece.

Following his PhD, Conrad was awarded ARC Australian PostDoctoral Fellowship (APD, now superseded by the DECRA). Conrad conducted this fellowship at the Australian National University (ANU) on speciation processes. While at ANU, Conrad won a Eureka Prize (2009) for his work on species discovery and speciation processes. He then spent another year working on a number of biodiversity projects with Prof. Scott Keogh at ANU. In 2011, Conrad simultaneously won an Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS) Fellowship and accepted a continuing lectureship position at JCU. These brought him to the Centre of Tropical Biodiversity & Climate Change (CTBCC). Conrad is currently finishing his ABRS fellowship and transitioning to his continuing lectureship.

Conrad is fundamentally interested in biodiversity: 1. what is out there, 2. how it forms, and 3. what its future is. These interests encompass a broad range of topics, including: speciation, adaptation, biological interactions, phylogenetics, taxonomy, biogeography, conservation, disease, and invasive species. Most of Conrad’s research has been conducted in Queensland, particularly the Wet Tropics and Cape York. But he’s also been involved in research in Cameroon, Borneo, South Africa, and California. Most of Conrad’s research has been on reptiles and frogs, but he secretly likes birds more (but thinks they are a pain to work on).

Conrad loves exploring remote places. He has discovered many new species and has so far described 23 new reptiles and frogs. The most recent round of discoveries was the ‘lost world’ at Cape Melville, which had extensive international media coverage last year. Conrad’s Cape Melville surveys found at least five new vertebrates; one of which, the Cape Melville Leaf-tailed Gecko (*Saltuarius eximius*), made the list of the top ten new species described globally last year.

Conrad has been with the CTBCC since 2011 and current projects include: phylogenomics, diversification and conservation of Australia’s frogs (a 400+ gene phylogeny for all Australian frogs, funded by the ARC); speciation in treefrog hybrid zones (funded by APSF); phylogenetics and taxonomy of eastern and northern Australian reptiles and frogs (funded by ABRS and JCU); invasion and potential impact of Asian House Geckos in natural habitats in Australia (funded by CTBCC); monitoring, disease and conservation of rainforest frogs (funded by NERP); and community conservation and monitoring (funded by the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund).
Engagement

Prizes

- Congratulation to Tina Myers, who was named ICT Educator of the Year at the iAwards 2014.
- Congratulations to Tobin Northfield for being selected to participate in the 2014 Theo Murphy High Flyers Think Tank entitled ‘Climate change challenges to health: risks and opportunities’, to be hosted in Brisbane on 23-25 July 2014.
- Congratulations also to Dr. Sandra Abell-Davis, who has received the Daniel McAlpine Medal for 2014, awarded by the International Mycological Association to the best young mycologist in Australasia.

Community Engagement

- Simon Robson will be heading to Cairns in July to chat with the Mayor about bat issues in the city.
- Simon is also meeting with the The Honourable Minister Dr James Masing, Minister of Land Development Sarawak, Malaysia to discuss JCU Malaysia research and teaching links.
- Simon also continues to provide the media with feedback on that most vexing question . . ‘Can insects predict the weather’. 
- Simon has also been having fun identifying ants for AQUIS that have been captured in shipments coming into Australia via Melbourne.

Publications

- Parsons, S.A. et al. (2014) Contrast ing patterns of litterfall seasonality and seasonal changes in litter decomposability in a tropical rainforest region, Biogeosciences Discussion. 11, 7901-7929.

Media & News

- Andrew Krockenberger and colleagues got some media attention for the published paper in Biology Letters, including at the ABC and SBS.
- James Cook University amassed impressive social impact metrics at The Conversation in May and June, with Bill Laurence, and Jon Brodie in the top 5 most popular authors.
- Andrew Krockenberger also lent his expertise to help dispel the myth that a mountain lion has been stalking the Bowen area – read about that here.
- Simon Robson was also interviewed on TV regarding the potential removal of bat colonies in Cairns (7 News).
- The CTBCC research was also featured in two articles in a recent issue of New Scientist, read those here and here.
- Scott Parsons features in a write up on his work on leaf litter in the Biotropica blog.
Prof. Himender Bharti (Punjabi University), Rudy Kohout (Queensland Museum), Prof. Yoshiaki Hashimoto (University of Hyogo), Dr Kalsum Yusah (University Malaysia Sabah) and Dr Tom Fayle (Czech Academy of Sciences) enjoying the new CTBCC logo at the Congress of the International Union for the Study of Social Insects, Cairns August 2014.

Happy participants of AntCourse2014, Maliau Basin, Sabah, organised by the California Academy of Science with support from the CTBCC. Fifty participants from 18 countries (including Australia, USA, UK, Switzerland, Spain & Senegal) spent two glorious weeks in the lowland rainforest of Borneo devoting themselves to all things anty. Next years course will be held in Portal, Arizona, USA, then back to equatorial Africa in 2016.
The 51st ATBC conference convened in Cairns from the 20th to the 24th of July 2014. The meeting brought together 572 scientists from 55 countries. The CTBCC was a sponsor, funded through FSE, at this event as well as funding travel and registration for PHD and ERC members. This meeting was a great opportunity to interact with national and international scientists and offered a fantastic array of symposium and talks in a diversity of topics.

At this event CTBCC banners and brochures were displayed at the James Cook University display booth which advertised the skills and capabilities of centre members, and eighteen members of the CTBCC gave oral presentations. Abstracts can be viewed at [http://www.atbc2014.org/program/conference-abstracts.php](http://www.atbc2014.org/program/conference-abstracts.php). In line with the CTBCC aim of providing a mentoring environment for PHD and ERC members, eight researchers were sponsored to attend and gave oral presentations as follows:

**Louise Barnett, PHD candidate**
Title: Going Feral: the colonisation of tropical environments by an invasive gecko

**Megan Higgie, ECR researcher**
Title: Frog-biting flies of Australian tropical rainforests: species diversity, frog hosts, and their acoustic interactions

**Conrad Hoskin, ECR researcher**
Title: The role of pre- and postzygotic isolation in generating speciation in a frog hybrid zone

**Stewart McDonald, PHD candidate**
Title: Peripheral isolates as a storehouse of adaptive diversity under climate change

**April Reside, ECR researcher**
Title: Planning for climate-change adaptation in the Australian Wet tropics

**Brett Scheffers, ECR researcher**
Title: Identifying hotspots of climate microrefugia under land-use change

**Nantida Sutummawong, PHD candidate**
Title: Bird diversity along an elevational gradient at Doi Inthanon National Park, Thailand

Brett Scheffers (CTBCC) received funding from the Centre to organize, in collaboration with Steve Williams (CTBCC) and Alice Hughes (Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Gardens, China), a workshop titled “Exploring the velocity of climate change: identifying future directions for assessing the impacts of climate change on species distributions and ecosystems” at the Daintree Rainforest Observatory in July 2014.

This workshop brought together some of the most highly published researchers in the field of global change biology, from tropical regions in both the New and Old-world tropics, to discuss the deficits and future directions of global change science.

Participants included:

- Kaoru Kitajima (Univ. of Florida, USA), Carlos Garcia-Robledo (Smithsonian Institute, USA), Erin Kuprewics (Smithsonian Institute, USA), Bert Harris (Princeton University, USA), David Bickford (National University of Singapore, Singapore), Theodore Evans (National University of Singapore, Singapore), Ryan Chisholm (National University of Singapore, Singapore), Richard Corlett (Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Gardens, China), Alice Hughes (Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Gardens, China), Maurice Leponce (Royal Belgium Institute of Natural Sciences), Ary Hoffman (University of Melbourne), Tom Bridges (James Cook University), Steve Williams (CTBCC), Brett Scheffers (CTBCC), Lorena Falconi, and Nadiah Roslan (CTBCC).

The workshop helped bridge collaborations, streamline future research priorities and assess the feasibility for a data and knowledge hub on global change biology in SE Asia (and possibly globally). Participants are now working on a comprehensive review of biological research networks and an analysis on the evolution of range size.

Participants at the 'Exploring the Velocity of Climate Change' workshop, Daintree 2014
Big Data

Microclim - Global estimates of terrestrial microclimates

Mike Kearney and colleagues recently published a paper in Scientific Data detailing Microclim - gridded hourly estimates of typical microclimatic conditions (air temperature, wind speed, relative humidity, solar radiation, sky radiation and substrate temperatures from the surface to 1 m depth) at high resolution (~15 km) for the globe. The estimates include six shade levels and three generic substrates (soil, rock and sand) per pixel. These data are suitable for deriving biophysical estimates of the heat, water and activity budgets of terrestrial organisms.


Upcoming Conferences and Events

- Invitation to attend ‘The Strategic Researcher’ - aimed at increasing productivity and success in research careers. Register by emailing mel.lamprecht@jcu.edu.au. Free.

  - CAIRNS - Thursday, 4 December 2014 (1:30pm-4:00pm, Cairns Institute, Building D3.063) - registrations limited to 35 people.


- Annual Conference of the Society for Tropical Ecology 2015, 7th-10th April, 2015 in Zurich, Switzerland. Focusing on “Resilience of Tropical Ecosystems: Future challenges and opportunities.”


- CTBCC staff retreat, 20th to 21st November 2014 to be held in Paluma.

We are a dispersed group of people coming together as one research centre. As such, it is important that we get to know each other better and coordinate our activities - this is the primary aim of hosting a CTBCC members retreat. This will be a 2-day event starting at 11am on the first day and finishing after lunch on the second day so that travel can be included within reasonable hours. The location is the Paluma Education Centre. CTBCC will cover all travel, accommodation and food costs.

The event will include an introduction session so that we get to know each other and our research interests. Other sessions will include Centre planning and future activities, how to engage and communicate with members and post-graduate students, what CTBCC can do for you, allocating limited re-

The CTBCC has established a Twitter account, with newsfeed linked to our website which is managed by Yvette Williams. We have 83 followers and are following 220 people. We tweet daily and invite you to join us. Please send us recent publications and media releases and we are happy to showcase them. yvette.williams@jcu.edu.au

Phone: +61 7 4781 4345
E-mail: simon.robson@jcu.edu.au
http://research.jcu.edu.au/
CTBCC Finances

Budget - 2012/2013 - Expenditure

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<td>Committee travel</td>
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2014 Expenditure

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Other Centre Funding

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<td>IUSSI (insect conference) sponsor</td>
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CTBCC - People

**Prof Simon Robson - Centre Director**
Email: simon.robson@jcu.edu.au
Phone: +61 7 4781 5466
As Director, Simon oversees and coordinates research activities for the Centre. He is interested in whole-organism approaches to the study of evolution, ecology, behaviour and diversity. He is currently using social insects to explore the organisation of complex behaviour, but he maintains an interest in a variety of tropical invertebrate and vertebrate systems (particularly bats!), and a variety of evolutionary, ecological and behavioural questions. Read More

**Assoc Prof Jeremy VanDerWal**
Email: jeremy.vanderwal@jcu.edu.au
Phone: +61 7 4781 5570
Jeremy and the spatial ecology group focuses on how ecological events shape observed spatial and temporal patterns in species distributions, abundances and/or richness. Utilizing theories and tools in ecology, bioinformatics, computer science, etc. in conjunction with high performance computing (HPC) facilities, we explore key questions about organisms and answer theoretical questions in ecology. Read More

**Prof Ross Alford**
Email: ross.alford@jcu.edu.au
Phone: +61 7 4781 4732
Professor Ross Alford is broadly interested in ecology, animal behaviour, conservation biology, and evolution. Most of his research is focused on the ecology, behaviour, and conservation biology of frogs and their larvae, although he and his postgraduate students and research associates also work on a variety of reptiles and on freshwater and marine invertebrates. Read More

Ross Andrewarth
Email: randrewarth@greeningaustralia.org.au
Phone: +61 7 4728 0702
Ross is the Greening Australia Manager for North Queensland. Their office is now based on JCU campus. www.greeningaustralia.org.au

**Prof Ian Atkinson**
Email: ian.atkinson@jcu.edu.au
Phone: +61 7 4781 4551
Ian Atkinson has a background in computational chemistry that led him to the world of Supercomputing. More recently he has been engaged in e-Research and grid computing service development. He has a long-standing interest in eResearch methods, tools, scientific data management and user interfaces for HPC tools. Read More

**Dr Lee Berger**
Email: lee.berger@jcu.edu.au
Phone: +61 7 4781 4036

Read More
Prof David Blair
Email: david.blair@jcu.edu.au
Phone: +61 7 4781 4322
David’s research has been influenced by two biological disciplines: parasitology and genetics. His PhD studies were on the life-cycles and biology of the parasites of farmed fish. This led him into the systematics of parasitic flatworms, a field which still fascinates him. David realised long ago that molecular techniques – especially the use of DNA sequences - had enormous potential for resolving problems in systematics. Read More

Michael Cermak
Email: zlmc@bigpond.com
Phone: +61 7 4042 1086
Michael Cermak is a professional zoologist and wildlife photographer. Living and working with animals in North Queensland for twenty five years has given Michael a unique opportunity to build up an impressive photo library. He has MSc degree in zoology from JCU, and uses his knowledge and experience in his current profession as a nature photographer. Michael has published widely in scientific and natural history publications in Australia as well as overseas and recently produced a series of six books on Australian wildlife with Steve Parish Publishing. Michael is a regular contributor to the Asian Geographic Magazine where he publishes material drawn from his many visits to the island of Borneo. Although wildlife photography is Michael’s strongest interest, he also photographs landscapes, flora and people. He lives in Cairns.

Prof Darren Crayn
Email: darren.crayn@jcu.edu.au
Phone: +61 7 4042 185
Darren Crayn and his group’s research is in the field of plant systematics and evolution and deals broadly with the questions: how many plant species are there in tropical Australia and the region, how are they related and how have they evolved? They use a range of traditional and cutting edge techniques, ranging from field surveys and herbarium taxonomy to scanning electron microscopy, DNA-barcoding and genomics. Read More

Dr Anastasia Dalziell
Email: anastasia.dalziell@gmail.com
Phone: +61 7 4781 3174
Anastasia’s academic background is in behavioural ecology. In particular, her research has used field-based observational and experimental techniques to investigate how animals communicate with each other, and why communication signals have evolved into particular designs. With a particular focus on birds, she has worked on vocal mimicry, the dawn chorus, song ‘duels’, the use of acoustic cues by nestlings, and dynamic movement signals (dance). Read More

Dave Edwards
Email: dave.edwards@jcu.edu.au
Phone: +61 7 4042 1835
Read More

Will Edwards
Email: will.edwards@jcu.edu.au
Phone: +61 7 423 21434
Read More
Bill Feeny - Under Construction

Tayor Field
Email: taylor.feild@jcu.edu.au
Phone: +61 7 478 14636
Read More

Simon Foale
Email: simon.foale@jcu.edu.au
Phone: +61 7 478 16785
Read More

Dr Megan Higie
Email: megan.higgie@jcu.edu.au
Phone: +61 7 4781 5734
Megan’s research is both field- and laboratory-based, covering the broad areas of evolution and ecology, with a focus on animal adaptation, natural and sexual selection, and speciation. In particular, she is interested in how new species arise, and how species interactions and selection on mate choice may contribute. Read More

Prof Joseph Holtum
Email: joseph.holtum@jcu.edu.au
Phone: +61 7 4781 4391
Joseph studies the ecophysiology of crassulacean acid metabolism (CAM), tropical epiphytes, seasonally dry tropical forests, the effects of increasing CO2 on tropical vegetation, and 'bush tucker' plants. Read More

Dr Conrad Hoskin
Email: conrad.hoskin@jcu.edu.au
Phone: +61 7 4781 6048
Conrad was appointed in 2011 as a Lecturer in the School of Marine & Tropical Biology. For the first 3 years he is on an Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS) Postdoctoral Fellowship resolving the diversity, systematics and taxonomy of several reptile and frog groups of eastern and northern Australia (Oedura geckos, Lampropholis skinks, microhylid frogs, and some Carlia skinks and Litoria frogs). Read More

Emeritus Prof Rhondda Jones
Email: rhondda.jones@jcu.edu.au
Phone: +61 7 4781 5457
Prof. Rhondda Jones was the first Professor of Zoology at James Cook University and was until her retirement Deputy Vice Chancellor. Her main research interests revolve around insect biology and insect ecology. She has served on numerous national scientific bodies covering many aspects of science and public policy. Read More

Prof Andrew Krockenberger
Email: andrew.krockenberger@jcu.edu.au
Phone: +61 7 4042 1234
Andrew has 20 years experience of research into the ecology and physiology of vertebrates in the lab and field, specialising in the physiology and ecology of marsupials. He has been working on the physiological mechanisms of impacts of changing climates on endemic vertebrates of Australia’s wet tropics, including rainforest ringtail possums and microhylid frogs, as well as the ecology of rainforest marsupial folivores. Read More
Dr Lori Lach
Email: lori.lach@jcu.edu.au
Phone: +61 7 423 21743
Lori is interested in how human-induced environmental changes affect interactions among species, particularly those between plants and insects. These relationships are fascinating because they drive many of the ecological processes in the world around us, and yet are often overlooked. Much of her research has investigated invasive social insects and how their interactions differ from native species, in particular, how they enter into new, or disrupt existing, mutualistic interactions with other insects or plants. Answering these questions not only advances our understanding of biological invasions and potential to mitigate their effects, but adds to our knowledge of community and trophic ecology and the ecology and evolution of mutualisms. Lori primarily uses field-based experimental approaches to answer questions that are relevant to conservation and restoration. Read More

Prof Bill Laurance
Email: bill.laurance@jcu.edu.au
Phone: +61 7 4042 1819
Bill is studying the impacts of intensive land-uses, such as habitat fragmentation, logging, hunting, and wildfires, on tropical ecosystems, and on global-change phenomena and conservation policy. He has worked extensively in the Amazon, Congo Basin, and Southeast Asia, as well as in tropical Australasia. In an effort to promote environmental conservation, he frequently engages with policy makers and the general public. Read More

Dr Susan Laurance
Email: susan.laurance@jcu.edu.au
Phone: +61 7 4042 1237
Susan’s research interests include: Land use and climate change impacts on tropical forest communities; Habitat fragmentation and the transmission and prevalence of avian blood parasites; Functional traits of invasive species in tropical rainforests; Woody vines as ecosystem drivers of forest disturbance and their impacts on forest dynamics, composition and carbon storage and Tropical forest ecology and diversity. Read More

Dr Jon Luly
Email: jonathan.luly@jcu.edu.au
Phone: +61 7 478 14571
Read More

Dr Nadine Marshall
Email: nadine.marshall@csiro.au
Phone: +61 7 4753 8500
Nadine’s research interests centre on understanding how social and ecological systems are resilient to change and how strategies might be developed for sustainability. She works with primary industries and communities within Australia and the Middle East. These include: commercial fishing, marine-based tourism, traditional owners, cattle grazing, farming, shipping, ports, and coastal communities. Read More

Craig Moritz - Under construction

Dr Trina Myers
Email: trina.myers@jcu.edu.au
Phone: +61 7 478 16908
Trina Myers' research interests focus predominately on semantic technologies, sensor technologies, Natural Language Processing (NLP) and knowledge management. The emerging semantic technologies are a subset of Artificial Intelligence (AI) that enables the integration of knowledge, information and disparate data. Her dissertation articulated an eco-informatics use-case that applied semantic technologies in the marine biology domain to enable observational hypothesis-driven research through semantic inference over disparate marine and ecological datasets. Read More
Dr Tobin Northfield
Email: tobin.northfield@jcu.edu.au
Phone: +61 7 423 21616
Tobin is broadly interested in the evolutionary ecology of ecological communities, and his background is in entomology and statistics. He uses theoretical and empirical methods and tries to combine the two as often as possible. His empirical research generally focuses on insect communities, but he has also worked on other systems through collaboration. Read More

Emeritus Professor Richard Pearson
Email: richard.pearson@jcu.edu.au
Phone: +61 7 4781 4202
Richard’s research interests include: Community ecology, especially of stream and wetlands; river health and water quality monitoring; biodiversity; bird ecology. He is also the program leader for Catchment to Reef – a joint venture of the Reef and Rainforest Cooperature Research Centres. Research involvement in river heath monitoring tasks in collaboration with Griffith University and CSIRO. Read More

Dr Ben Phillips
Email: benjamin.phillips@unimelb.edu.au
Phone: +61 903 54861
Ben has moved on to Melbourne University (link1, link2) but maintains research links with the CTBCC. He works on numerous projects both within and outside the Centre ranging from evolution of life histories during range advance, through to estimating fire history from plant life-histories, and estimating the population size of tree kangaroos from their poop! He is currently engaged with the theory of range edges and whether we can use this theory to predict species range limits under climate change. Read More

Prof Bob Pressey
Email: bob.pressey@jcu.edu.au
Phone: +61 7 4781 6194
Bob’s group works on diverse issues relevant to conservation planning, ranging from theory and mathematical modelling to the social, economic and political aspects of implementing conservation action in the sea and on the ground. Read More

Dr Robert Puschendorf
Email: robert.puschendorf@plymouth.ac.uk
Phone: +44 1752 584658
Robert has recently moved on to Plymouth University (link) but also maintains CTBCC links. Robert’s research interests surround the ecological and evolutionary consequences of the mass extirpations of amphibians in tropical areas, which are linked to a disease known as chytridiomycosis. Recently he has focused on the importance of environmental conditions in the frequency and likelihood of frog disease outbreaks, and the impacts on populations across different environmental gradients. Read More

Dr April Reside
Email: april.residel1@jcu.edu.au
Phone: +61 7 4781 5351
April completed her PhD on “Assessing Climate Change Vulnerability: Novel methods for understanding potential impacts on Australian Tropical Savanna Birds” with the CTBCC and CSIRO in August 2011. During her PhD she was involved in a number of projects including bat ecology, the impact of climate change and soil water deficits in plants, and the impact of climate change on rainforest and wetland birds. Read More
Stephen Richards - Under construction

Dr Richard Rowe - Under construction

**Prof Lin Schwarzkopf**
Email: lin.schwarzkopf@jcu.edu.au
Phone: +61 7 478 15467
Interests include: Evolutionary ecology of vertebrates (especially reptiles & amphibians); effects of vegetation manipulations and control on vertebrate fauna; control of invading fauna (cane toads). Lin is involved in multiple projects: including ‘Understanding and exploiting signalling ecology to control cane toads’ and ‘Self-cleaning mechanisms of geckos’. [Read More]

**Prof Marcus Sheaves**
Email: marcus.sheaves@jcu.edu.au
Phone: +61 7 478 14144
Marcus has been researching the ecology of tropical estuaries, coastal wetlands and mangrove systems since the early 1990s. He has published widely in areas on interest with 59 peer reviewed publications since 2006. Marcus leads a number of substantial research projects within Australia and across the Asia-Pacific region. He has extensive collaborations with research and management organisations both within Australia and internationally. [Read More]

**Dr Lee Skerratt**
Email: lee.skerratt@jcu.edu.au
Phone: +61 7 478 16065
Lee’s recent work has demonstrated that the spread of the amphibian chytrid fungus has caused the global decline and extinction of frogs (Skerratt et al. 2007) which was recently acknowledged by the World Organisation for Animal Health when they made it a notifiable disease. He has shown that sarcoptic mange is an important disease in common wombats, Vombatus ursinus, that may cause the extinction of small isolated wombat populations (Skerratt 2005). He has identified pathogens that may be contributing to the decline of 10 of the 15 species of sea ducks in North America (Skerratt et al. 2005). In addition to contributing to our understanding of the impact and control of wildlife diseases impacting biodiversity he has worked on those impacting human health and domestic animals such as avian influenza, Australian bat lyssavirus and Hendra virus. [Read More]

**Dr Ian Watson**
Email: ian.watson@csiro.au
Phone: +61 7 4753 8606
Program Leader of CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems' (CSE) Rangeland, Savannas and Tropical Landscapes research, Ian manages a team of scientists who focus on the sustainable management of arid and semi-arid rangelands and tropical savannas of Australia. [Read More]

**Dr Justin Welbergen** - Adjunct
Email: j.welbergen@uws.edu.au
Phone: +61 02 4570 1496
An Adjunct Senior Research Fellow, Justin’s research focuses on evolutionary ecology and climate change biology. At the CTBCC he examines the impacts of extreme events on biodiversity, using Wet Tropics' vertebrates and Australian flying-foxes as model systems. [Read More]

**Prof Stephen Williams**
Email: stephen.williams@jcu.edu.au
Phone: +61 7 4781 5580
Steve has a very active field program covering the whole of the Wet Tropics region in North Queensland. The research has recently expanded to include tropical savanna woodlands and forests and the rainforests of Cape York and mid-east Queensland. [Read More]
Dr Yvette Williams – Centre manager
Email: yvette.williams@jcu.edu.au
Phone: +61 7 4781 5552
Yvette is currently the Centres manager. In this role, she coordinates centre activities. Read More

Dr Mark Ziembicki
Email: mark.ziembicki@jcu.edu.au
Phone: +61 7 4781 5780
I received my PhD from the University of Adelaide in 2010. My thesis focussed on understanding the ecology, movements and conservation requirements of nomadic birds using the Australian Bustard as a model species. I have 15 years experience working on ecological and conservation-based research projects in Australia and further afield including studies of the *Vini* lorikeets of French Polynesia, waterbird & shorebird ecology, biodiversity surveys and documenting Indigenous knowledge of biodiversity in northern Australia and Papua New Guinea. My current postdoctoral research aims to design and implement a survey and monitoring program for a suite of focal wildlife species in the YUS Conservation Area in Papua New Guinea, and to model the status and distribution of these taxa in relation to environmental variables and threatening processes in the region.


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