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AIMS@JCU Awards

The second round of the 2023 AIMS@JCU Pilot Research Awards, Science Communication Awards and Professional Development Awards have been announced, with 7 awards granted.

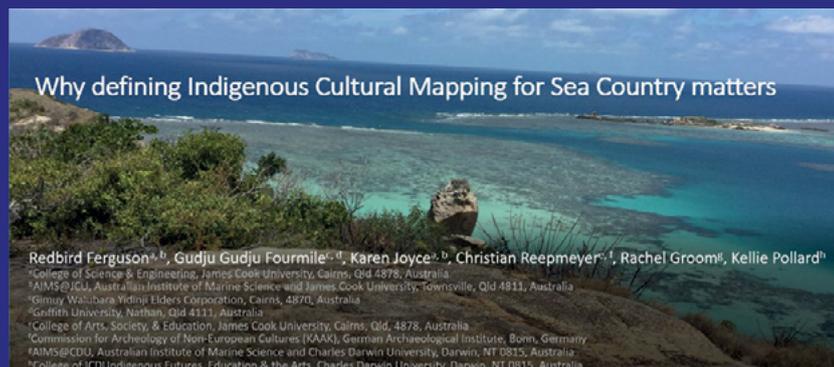
We would like to congratulate: Genevieve Dallmeyer-Drennen who received \$1,000 to support a pilot research project investigating the genotypic diversity of corals seeded to macroalgae dominated inshore reefs.

Science communication awards were granted to: Katrina Kaposi, Marko Terzin, Callaway Thatcher and Marie Thomas.

Professional Development Awards were granted to Marko Terzin and Marie Thomas.

Congratulations to all and we look forward to hearing all about your activities! Keep an eye on future newsletters for summaries of their work.

PTO for a 2022 Science Communication Award Report by Redbird Ferguson:



Why defining Indigenous Cultural Mapping for Sea Country matters

Redbird Ferguson^{a, b}, Gudju Gudju Fourmile^{c, d}, Karen Joyce^{e, f}, Christian Reepmeyer^{g, h}, Rachel Groomⁱ, Kellie Pollard^j

^aCollege of Science & Engineering, James Cook University, Cairns, Qld 4878, Australia

^bAIMS@JCU, Australian Institute of Marine Science and James Cook University, Townsville, Qld 4811, Australia

^cGimiy Wezuwari Weidjji Elders Corporation, Cairns, 4870, Australia

^dGriffith University, Nathan, Qld 4111, Australia

^eCollege of Arts, Society, & Education, James Cook University, Cairns, Qld, 4878, Australia

^fCommission for Archeology of Non-European Cultures (KAAK), German Archaeological Institute, Bonn, Germany

^gAIMS@CDU, Australian Institute of Marine Science and Charles Darwin University, Darwin, NT 0815, Australia

^hCollege of Indigenous Futures, Education & the Arts, Charles Darwin University, Darwin, NT 0815, Australia

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Photographs in this publication were submitted by AIMS@JCU members unless otherwise stated.

We are reducing our carbon footprint by limiting the number of printed copies available. Please let us know if you need a hard copy of this newsletter

About the AIMS@JCU Newsletter:

This newsletter is produced regularly and distributed by email to AIMS@JCU members, AIMS and JCU staff.

If you'd like to be added to our mailing list, or have a query regarding this newsletter, please contact:

Editor: Lauren Gregory

Email: aims@jcu.edu.au

2022 Science Communication Award Report

Redbird Ferguson

In August of 2022, I applied for and was successful in my application for an AIMS@JCU Science Communication Award to attend the AMSA 2022 Conference, Change and connections held in Cairns, 7-11 August 2022. The 5-day event was the first face-to-face AMSA conference since 2019, it was held at the Pullman Cairns International just a block back from the picturesque esplanade. I used the Science Communication Award to pay my registration costs for the conference. As a resident of Cairns, I was lucky enough to only have a short commute to and from my home in Smithfield near the JCU Nguma-bada campus to the Pullman each day. The conference was a significant moment for my research, it was the venue where Gudjugudju Fourmile and I publicly announced my collaboration with Gimuy Walubara Yidinji. Gudjugudju and I co-presented the first paper from my PhD research titled "Why defining Indigenous Cultural Mapping for Sea Country matters" in the "Integrating assessment and governance of the marine environment across dimensions" session. Our paper was selected as the Keynote paper for the session. We presented on the results of a scoping review of the literature using Indigenous Cultural Mapping (ICM) across marine, coastal, and island areas of Sea Country.

Presenting this first paper from my PhD allowed me to build networks with other researchers and Traditional Owners at the conference. By attending other seminar sessions, I got up-to-date insights into what leaders in their fields are bringing to their projects. I learned about how they are collaborating with Indigenous and Torres Strait Islanders communities throughout Australia and the Torres Strait Island. Getting to the range and breadth of research being conducted in Australia's Sea Country was inspiring and exciting. The Science Communication Award allowed me to present my research, build networks, and establish relationships with the large and diverse community of organisations, stakeholders, researchers, Traditional Owners, and other individuals working to understand and meet the challenges facing Australia's coastal and marine environments. I am continuing to build on this foundation, to extend my relationship with Gudjugudju and Gimuy Walubara Yidinji, to complete my field work, and to maintain the connections I made at the conference. I am looking forward to presenting more papers in the coming year ahead.

Contact: redbird.ferguson@my.jcu.edu.au

Corinne Allen

2023 Science Communication Award Report

Marine Lechene

I am very grateful for the AIMS@JCU Science Communication Award I received to attend in person the well renowned Australian Marine Science Association conference in the Gold Coast. This conference was an incredible networking and learning opportunity for me, especially because I was fortunate enough to attend the Indigenous Engagement Workshop, which was a highlight for me. The AIMS@JCU Award significantly contributed to the cost of conference registration and flight tickets.



My presentation titled “Spatial variation in the size structure of dominant morphotaxa on the Great Barrier Reef” provided an insight into one of my PhD chapters looking at the spatial variation of coral colony size in *Porites* massive, *Stylophora pistillata* and *Acropora tabular*, using 2D orthomosaics of reef. The novelty and aesthetic aspects of photogrammetry 2D and 3D outputs are always generating lots of interest, and this resulted in very engaging conversations with my peers. Addressing the need for coral demography through accurate measurements is essential to better understand reef trajectories and inform on where and how to implement active restoration actions. I am proud I could present at this conference a second time in my PhD, and I am looking forward to attending more of these events throughout the rest of my candidature.



Geoffrey Yau

Contact: marine.lechene@my.jcu.edu.au

2023 Seminar Day Summary

We are excited to announce the presentation winners from the 2023 AIMS@JCU Student Seminar Day which was held at the Townsville Yacht Club on Friday, 29th September. The quality of the seminars, 3MT speed talks, poster presentations and photographs was exceptional and was truly representative of the diverse range of student research being conducted at AIMS and JCU.

Congratulations to our winners:

Seminar talk winner (\$1,500):	Marko Terzin
Runner up seminar talk (\$1,200):	Sarah Lok Ting Kwong
People's Choice seminar winner (\$600):	Sarah Lok Ting Kwong
3MT Speed talk winner (\$1,000):	Taylor Whitman
Runner up 3MT speed talk (\$800):	Valerie Cornet
Poster winner (\$800):	Rachel Neil
Runner up poster (\$600):	Daniel Croul

Photography winners (\$100 each):

Research in Action:	Ingo Miller
Quantitative Marine Science:	Josephine Nielsen
Photomicrograph/Macro:	Josephine Nielsen
Research Subject:	Taylor Whitman
People's Choice:	Rachel Neil

Many thanks also to Sarah Lawless for giving the inaugural Postdoctoral Fellow presentation, and Marine Lechene who provided us with a glimpse into her virtual reef world! This day also provides an opportunity for our staff and alumni members to get involved. We'd like to specifically thank the session chairs (and AIMS@JCU alumni) for keeping the day on track: Alexandra Gulizia, Emma Marangon, Josephine Nielsen and Leanne Currey-Randall, and the session judges who provided great insights into what makes science communication effective: Inga Steindal (JCU), Jan Strugnell (JCU), Joanna Hurford (AIMS), Katharina Fabricius (AIMS), Libby Evans-Illidge (AIMS), Liz Tynan (JCU), Lyndon Llewellyn (AIMS), Mia Hoogenboom (JCU), Sarah Lawless (AIMS@JCU) and Tom Bridge (JCU). [Contact: aims@jcu.edu.au](mailto:aims@jcu.edu.au)

2023 Seminar Day Summary

continued



Seminar talk winner, Marko Terzin, presenting his 12 minute talk 'Reef Management Measures Project Down to Microbial Scales'



People's choice seminar talk winner, Sarah Lok Ting Kwong, presenting her 12 minute talk 'DNA methylation profiling of the Pacific crown-of-thorn seastar (*Acanthaster cf. solaris*) using Oxford Nanopore Technology'



Speed talk winner, Taylor Whitman, presenting her 3 minute talk 'Survival peaks for seeded *Acropora digitifera* corals living at maximum wave energy limits on Moore Reef'



AIMS@JCU Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr. Sarah Lawless, presenting 'Ocean interventions for socially desirable and just futures'



Some of the fabulous posters presented at this year's AIMS@JCU seminar day



Our AIMS@JCU family after another wonderful seminar day

Corinne Allen

AIMS@JCU 2023 Writing Retreat

Last week we enjoyed the annual Writing Retreat on Magnetic Island. This year, 10 Masters and PhD students benefited from this worthwhile event for AIMS@JCU student members. With mindfulness (with Sharn from Mindful Works), yoga (with AIMS' own Daniela Ceccarelli) and an informative writing and AI session (from JCU's Liz Tynen), all mixed around Pomodoro sessions of serious writing, this has been another successful AIMS@JCU undertaking. Obviously there was also plenty of yummy food to fuel the writing!



Upcoming AIMS@JCU events

AIMS@JCU Morning Tea:

AIMS@JCU will be hosting a Morning Tea at AIMS on Thursday 2nd Nov 2023. This will coincide with Professor David Silverman Lecture, Mixed Methods: Finding a place for Qualitative Research.

AIMS@JCU end of year gathering:

Barefoot Bowls, South Townsville Bowls Club @ 3pm on 17th November. RSVP to aims@jcu.edu.au by 10th November.

Contact: aims@jcu.edu.au

Research Director Report

Dr Cherie Motti

With the 2023 coral spawning season upon us, also known as the Christmas season, or by many students as the 'storm before the storm', I have been reflecting on my first year at the helm of AIMS@JCU. I am immensely proud to be playing a small part in the amazing research that is facilitated by the AIMS@JCU program, some of which was on show at the recent AIMS@JCU Seminar Day, held on the 29th September at the Townsville Yacht Club. It was a full and exciting program, with presentations topics ranging from MINTS to MAGS and MINIONS. If you don't follow, then I strongly encourage you to attend next year's AIMS@JCU Seminar Day! Thank you to Wulgurukaba Traditional Owner, Troy Johnson, for his inciteful and relevant welcome to country. It was also a pleasure to host AIMS@JCU Postdoctoral fellow Dr. Sarah Lawless who gave an inspirational talk on the need for co-designed governance to effect long-term improvement in reef health for a truly sustainable marine environment. I would especially like to recognise Madeleine Sjolund (AIMS@JCU Master student) and Beatriz Zachello (AIMS@JCU intern) who both stepped in with less than 24 hours' notice to backfill the seminar program.

Another regular feature on the AIMS@JCU calendar is the R-course run by AIMS@JCU staff member Dr Murray Logan. This course has proven so successful over the years that we are already fielding requests from members for the next one. This year we asked participants for some feedback to ensure we are delivering on the statistical needs of AIMS@JCU members. The response was overwhelming; shared below are some of their comments:

"Course-AMAZING!! Murray has a gift to share his knowledge and keep the course so interesting and interacting. I can't recommend him enough. I wish I met him during my undergraduate studies!"
Carine Lefevre - AIMS@JCU Staff member.

"The course was fantastic.....Murray's extensive knowledge and effective communication style make complex topics easy to understand, which is quite a rare find among statisticians. I am so impressed by the depth of his knowledge. There was not a single question he could not answer!"
Saskia Jurriaans - AIMS@JCU Staff member.

"Coming from essentially no statistics background.....my understanding of the processes behind choosing models, how to run different models, what to look for to encourage both successful modelling and problem solving of any issues increased ten-fold (or more, honestly)."
Alexandra Skeer - AIMS@JCU Student member.

"I learned so much and am already applying it to my research!"

Rachel Neil

Research Director Report (continued)

It was really helpful and Murray is a great teacher!” Rachel Neil - AIMS@JCU Student member.

On behalf of all AIMS@JCU members I would like to formally thank Murray for his continued contribution to the AIMS@JCU community. His passion for his discipline, and his insightful input and support of students is truly commendable. Although often in the background, as a quiet achiever he has been able to make real science impact through the education and upskilling of students and early career researchers. Thank you, Murray.

Often it is not until someone leaves that we understand the true value of their contribution. It is with a tinge of sadness that we say farewell and thank you to one of our stalwart supporters, AIMS@JCU staff member Dr Lyndon Llewellyn. Lyndon has been involved with AIMS@JCU since its inception, initially as a supervisor, then as a scientific advisor and more recently as a member of the AIMS@JCU Executive Committee and the AIMS and JCU Leadership Group. During this time, he has been instrumental in building and strengthening the alliance between AIMS and JCU and empowering early career researchers. His unwavering support will be greatly missed.

As marine scientists we all understand the importance of maintaining balance in ecosystems and AIMS@JCU is no exception. With Lyndon stepping down, I would like to take this opportunity to formally welcome Professor Sean Ulm to the AIMS@JCU Science Advisory Committee. Sean is the Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Indigenous and Environmental Histories and Futures and has worked with Libby over the past few years to elevate indigenous issues within the AIMS@JCU program. I’m really excited to see what’s next!

Madeleine, Beatriz, Murray and Lyndon, as well as all new members including Sean, each in their own way epitomise what it means to be part of the AIMS@JCU family. Other unsung heroes that have worked tirelessly in the background include the staff of the JCU GRS and of course the AIMS@JCU office, but ultimately, we are a success because of the efforts of you, the students, and your supervisors. I would like to wish each and every one of you a happy and safe Christmas, and I look forward to what 2024 brings.

Cherie Motti, AIMS@JCU Research Director (c.motti@aims.gov.au)

Geoffrey Yau