

# The Environment Institute

Where ideas grow



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AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR  
EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY  
AND BIODIVERSITY (ACEBB)

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AUSTRALIAN CENTRE  
FOR ANCIENT DNA (ACAD)

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CENTRE FOR ENERGY  
TECHNOLOGY (CET)

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WATER RESEARCH  
CENTRE (WRC)

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LANDSCAPE FUTURES  
PROGRAM (LFP)

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MARINE BIOLOGY  
PROGRAM (MBP)

# WELCOME



The University of Adelaide is creating the Environment Institute, bringing together our highest performing research teams in economics, environmental science, engineering and policy to tackle the most pressing environmental issues.

Exceptional research and education are not new to the University of Adelaide – we've been doing it for over 150 years. The University has produced over 100 Rhodes Scholars, over 100 Fulbright Scholars and numbers five Nobel Prize winners among its alumni. Our new approach sees the aggregation of a multidisciplinary team for a common cause.

The Environment Institute will undertake great science, working closely with government and industry to translate this into practical solutions that address the most serious environmental issues facing Australia and the world. The dedicated team of scientists involved in this initiative are committed to making the Institute a place where ideas can grow and help society flourish.

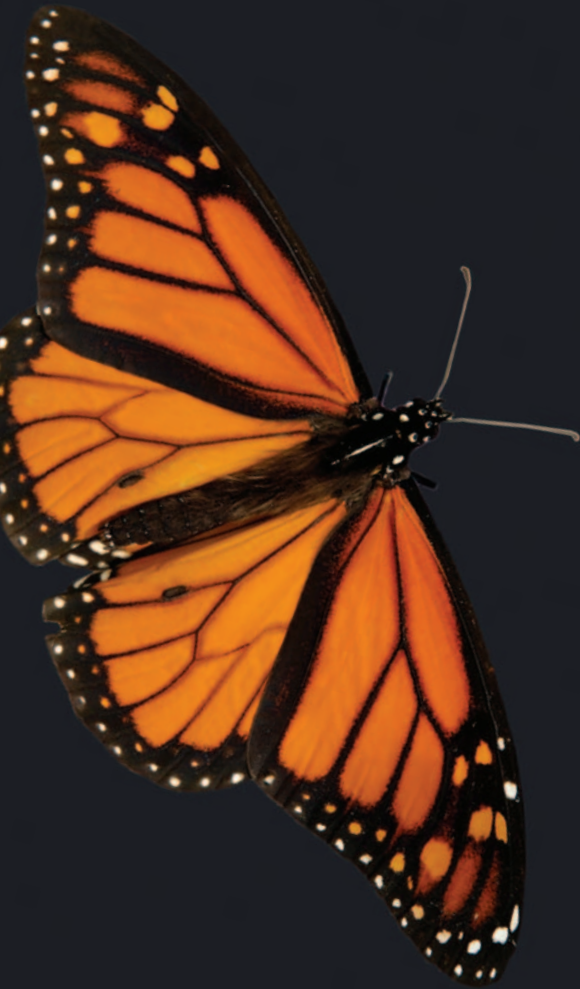
A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Mike Young".

Professor Mike Young,  
Director  
Environment Institute

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Building upon the success of the Research Institute for Climate Change and Sustainability (RISCCS) the Environment Institute is bringing together an impressive team of researchers who can identify the key impacts of climate change and develop tailor-made solutions to its challenges which are practical in the real world.

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Barry Brook".

Professor Barry Brook,  
Director of Climate Change Research  
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# THE ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE

Research undertaken within the Institute will deliver know-how and understanding that will underpin a step change improvement in the management of natural resources such as water, soil, land and native flora and fauna, particularly under changing climate and economic conditions.

The Institute brings together leading research groups at the University of Adelaide in the fields of science, engineering and economics relating to the management and use of natural resources and infrastructure.

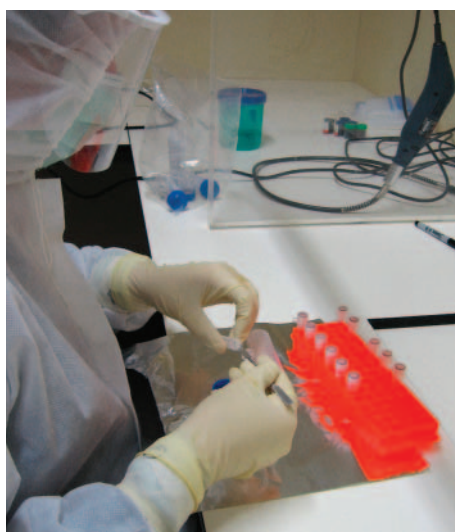
The Institute combines the research strengths of four centres and two programs.

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# AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR ANCIENT DNA (ACAD)



**ACAD is one of the leading ancient DNA centres in the world, and the only one in the Southern Hemisphere. With an international reputation for highly-innovative research, ACAD is developing new platform technologies, and collaborative programs with international research leaders across multiple fields.**

Researchers in ACAD study evolution and environmental change through time using preserved genetic records in human, animal, plant and sedimentary material. The centre's key interests include molecular studies of population genetics, paleoenvironments, phylogeny, phylogeography, molecular clocks and the application of DNA sequences deposited through time.

On-going international projects include the extinctions of megafauna, impacts of climate change, genetic development of domestic species and human evolution. The centre also focuses on the genetic characteristics of extinct species such as mammoth, sabre-tooth cats, cave lions, New Zealand moa, ancient humans, neandertal and Flores homonids.

A recent focus has been the study of human evolution. ACAD is the ancient DNA research node for the 'Genographic Project' funded by the National Geographic Society and Waitt Family Foundation. This initiative aims to characterise a large suite of genetic markers from human populations around the world to map the evolution and migration of humankind.

ACAD's trans-disciplinary program actively seeks out and develops collaborations with research leaders in fields as disparate as mathematics, geology, paleontology, archaeology, biomedicine, environmental and conservation science, forensics and policing, genomics and bioinformatics.

## Membership

Number of researchers: 13

Number of postgraduate students: 8

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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## PROFESSOR ALAN COOPER

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### **Director, Australian Centre for Ancient DNA Federation Fellow**

One of the founding researchers in the field of ancient DNA, Prof. Cooper works between the fields of earth sciences, evolutionary genetics, archaeology and medical sciences. Key interests – ancient DNA, environmental genomics, forensics, extinctions, population genetics, climate change, conservation biology, human evolution, megafaunal ecosystems.

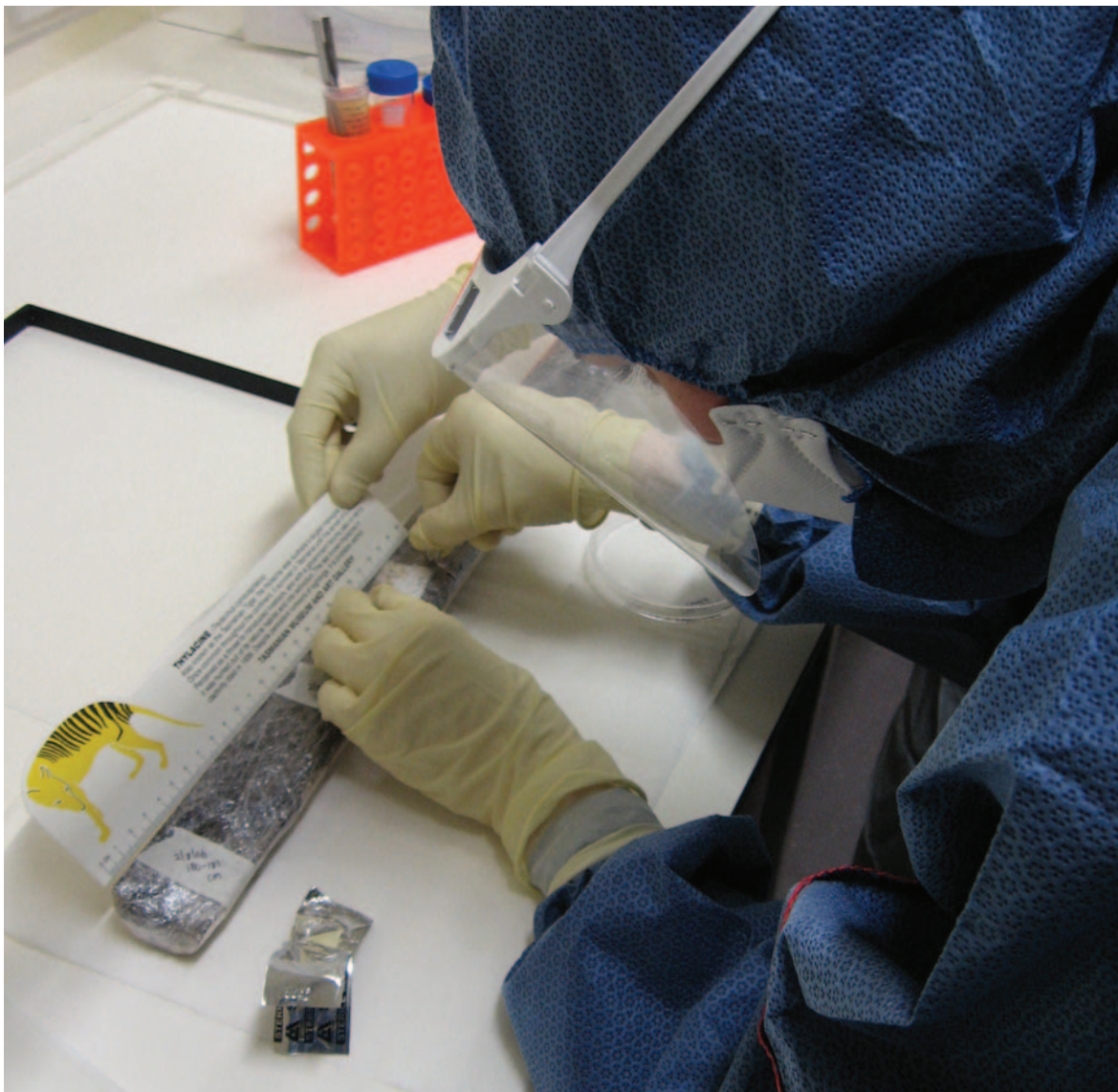


## DR JEREMY AUSTIN

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### **Deputy Director, Australian Centre for Ancient DNA**

Dr Austin has a long career working on the genetics of Australian biota and the impacts of climate change. Key interests – evolutionary and conservation biology, human and wildlife forensics, extinctions, Antarctic biology, Australian paleoecology, climate change.



# AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY (ACEBB)



**ACEBB is a nationally recognised centre of expertise in systematics and evolutionary biology.**

The Centre has a strong base of fundamental scientific capability that has been applied to many areas of conservation biology and management including:

- Organismal biology
- Natural history and trait evolution
- Molecular evolution and phylogeography
- Population genetics and molecular ecology
- Evolutionary and ecological genomics
- Biodiscovery and rapid screening (DNA barcoding)
- Identification of an organism's origin (e.g. timber) for conservation and forensics
- Bioinformatics and bioanalysis of genomic data for phylogenetic interpretation
- Genomic methodological development
- Integration of phylogenetic, paleobiotic and paleoclimatic information to develop macro-evolutionary understanding
- Global environmental change
- Human impacts on natural systems

- Feedbacks between different threatening processes and how these interact with risks posed by global warming.

The Centre is a leading research group within the University of Adelaide and also one of the largest. A unique strength of ACEBB is its strong collaborative relationship with the South Australian Museum, State Herbarium, and Bioknowledge in the Department for Environment and Heritage. This is seen as the "best practice" model in Australia.

ACEBB has a unique suite of research equipment and facilities, including the Evolutionary Biology Unit that can generate high throughput molecular genetic data and has access to quality plant, animal and insect collections.

## Membership

Number of researchers: 48

Number of postgraduate students: 43

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Professor Andy Lowe**

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## PROFESSOR ANDREW (ANDY) LOWE

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### **Director, Australian Centre for Evolutionary Biology and Biodiversity Chair in Plant Conservation Biology**

Prof. Lowe is the Chair of Plant Conservation Biology at the University of Adelaide and Head of Science with the State Herbarium and Bioknowledge for the South Australian Department for Environment and Heritage. Prof. Lowe leads a research team focused on a range of plant ecological and evolutionary genetics including how plants adapt to human influences, how they respond to climate change and the micro-evolutionary responses of native plants to weeds.



## PROFESSOR ANDREW (ANDY) AUSTIN

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### **Deputy Director, Australian Centre for Evolutionary Biology and Biodiversity**

Prof. Austin leads a research team on the biology, systematics and molecular phylogenetics of parasitic wasps, the evolution of host-parasitoid interactions, and the phylogeography and biodiversity of groundwater arthropods. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Invertebrate Systematics* and is on the editorial boards of *Systematic Entomology* and *Insect Systematics & Evolution*.



## PROFESSOR STEVE DONNELLAN

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### **Head, Evolutionary Biology Unit**

Prof. Donnellan holds a joint position with the South Australian Museum. His team undertakes research on the evolutionary history of the fauna of the Australo-papuan region, natural resource management, and wildlife forensics.



## PROFESSOR BARRY BROOK

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### **Foundation Sir Hubert Wilkins Chair of Climate Change**

Prof. Brook's position is funded by the Premier of South Australia. His area of expertise is climate change, global change biology and the synergies between different human impacts on Earth systems. His specific research topics include analytical and computer simulation modelling for risk assessment of climate change impacts, understanding the relevance of past extinctions to the present biodiversity crisis, tropical ecology and wildlife management.



## PROFESSOR BOB HILL

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### **Executive Dean, Faculty of Sciences**

Prof. Hill has had a profound impact on the study of botany in Australia. His botanical research has made significant contributions to the areas of palaeobotany, plant systematics, plant ecophysiology and the application of research from these areas to interpreting changes that have occurred to the Australian flora through evolutionary time.



## DR STEVE COOPER

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Dr Cooper studies the systematics, origins and evolution of Australian fauna (mainly invertebrates) using molecular phylogenetic and phylogeographic approaches. He aims to advance our understanding of the forces that have driven speciation of animals in the arid zone and southern Australia. He has a strong interest in the application of molecular genetic techniques (eg. microsatellite DNA) in the fields of ecology and conservation biology.

# WATER RESEARCH CENTRE



**The Water Research Centre brings together scientists, engineers and economists to address water management issues of national significance.**

Its areas of strength are:

- Freshwater Ecology
- Water Resources and Infrastructure Modelling
- Soil Hydrology and Catchment Processes
- Water Quality, Treatment and Reuse

## **Freshwater Ecology**

Our researchers have expertise to investigate and model the ecology and hydro-dynamics of large river and lake systems. They have led important studies into understanding the implications of changes to the hydrological patterns of the Lower River Murray and the internationally important Coorong estuary. They have many international collaborations including projects with the Chinese Academy of Science and participate in the Global Lakes Ecological Observatory Network (GLEON).

## **Water Resources and Infrastructure Modelling**

The Water Research Centre has an internationally recognised capability in modelling and optimisation of water resources and infrastructure in both urban and rural environments. The optimisation is multi-disciplinary and multi-objective considering economic, environmental, social and public health objectives within the broad context of sustainable water management. This technology has been used to save millions of dollars in infrastructure costs. It is also the basis of an environmental management tool for wetlands and salinity drains in the Upper South East. The research has led to a significant commercial success.

## **Soil Hydrology and Catchment Processes**

The Waite Campus of the University of Adelaide is world renowned for its soil research capability. This particular program investigates the nature and mobility of nutrients, carbon and elements from soils into streams and water storages. A particular focus will be on the development of methods to attenuate this movement to improve water quality.

## **Water Quality, Treatment and Reuse**

Our Water Quality, Treatment and Reuse area is led by Dr David Lewis. Researchers are carrying out ground-breaking research into water reuse and recycling for potable, commercial and industrial applications. They are also leading innovation in areas of sustainable technologies relating to water treatment, wastewater treatment and algal biodiesel production.

## **Membership**

Number of researchers: 18

Number of postgraduate students: 70

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**Assoc. Prof. Justin Brookes**

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#### ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR JUSTIN BROOKES

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**Director, Water Research Centre**

Assoc. Prof. Brookes researches the coupling between hydrodynamics, biology and water quality contaminants. He leads several inter-institutional projects examining degradation of chemical contaminants, carbon cycling in lakes and rivers and the ecology of the Coorong and Lower Lakes of the River Murray.



#### PROFESSOR GRAEME DANDY

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Prof. Dandy uses evolutionary algorithms to optimise the design and operations of water distribution systems, monitoring, modelling and optimising water quality, use of artificial neural networks techniques for forecasting, optimum selection of wastewater treatment trains, water resources planning and water reuse.



#### PROFESSOR ANGUS SIMPSON

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Prof. Simpson is an expert in the optimisation of planning, design, maintenance and operation of water distribution and application infrastructure. He is also involved in pipe management and assessment and field testing of large pipelines and water distribution systems using transient pressure waves for condition assessment.



#### PROFESSOR HOLGER MAIER

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Prof. Maier is a multi-award winning researcher, including a Tall Poppy Science Award in 2002. His interests are in sustainable infrastructure and natural resources management, optimisation, sensitivity, risk and uncertainty analysis, sustainability assessment and decision-making, optimal design and operations of water supply and irrigation system, rainfall-runoff modeling, water quality management in rivers and hydropower system management.



#### DR JOHN TIBBY

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Dr Tibby leads the Environmental Reconstruction and Monitoring Research Group. He and his research group are leading experts in the development and use of a diatom-based model for inferring past and present environmental conditions.



#### DR DAVID LEWIS

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Dr Lewis is a chemical engineer with industrial and commercial experience. He is involved with applied research providing engineering solutions for industry, in particular focussing on sustainable technologies for water and wastewater treatment and reuse, and production of biodiesel from algae using seawater and effluent from desalination works.



#### ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MARTIN LAMBERT

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**Head, School of Civil, Environmental and Mining Engineering**

Assoc. Prof. Lambert is a leading expert in water engineering. His research portfolio spans river hydraulics, flooding, rainfall, hydrology, pipe condition assessment, leak detection and distribution systems.



#### ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR DAVID CHITTLEBOROUGH

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Assoc. Prof. Chittleborough investigates the origin, properties and distribution of soils and their management. He is a leading expert in the properties of Australian soils.

# CENTRE FOR ENERGY TECHNOLOGY



**The Centre for Energy Technology (CET) will promote and foster research that will result in cleaner energy generation, storage, distribution and utilisation of energy.**

A strong team has been created from the four disciplines of Mechanical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Applied Mathematics. The centre aims to support Australia's transition from a high to low CO<sub>2</sub> emission society.

The Centre has leading expertise in technologies of practical and strategic interest to industry:

- Geothermal Energy: innovative power cycles, feasibility assessments, advanced cooling;
- Solar Thermal: boost to existing power stations, integration with other systems;
- Alternative Transport Fuels: second generation feed-stocks such as micro-algae;
- Wind Power: capacity for testing in the large-scale Wind Tunnel funded by the Premier's Science and Research fund, noise reduction;
- Waste Heat: recovery and energy efficiency;
- Clean Combustion: technologies, including biomass and waste fuels;
- Emissions Reductions: within the mining and minerals processing sector.

Among the CET's demonstrated strengths and successes working in partnership with industry are patented technologies including:

- The development of the award winning Gyrotherm Low NO<sub>x</sub> Kiln burner, installed by partner FCT-Combustion in some 30 kilns in Europe, USA and Australia. This burner typically reduces NO<sub>x</sub> emissions by 50%, while also increasing output by around 5% and improving product quality;
- The innovative and award winning combustor employed by FCT-Flames in the Olympic Relay Torches for the Sydney and Athens Games, the Athens Stadium flame, the Doha Asian Games and elsewhere;

- The state-of-the-art pre-filter technologies employed by Indigo Technologies to greatly enhance the removal of fine and ultra-fine particles from power stations;
- The development and optimisation of a novel retractable float for seaplanes in partnership with Tigerfish Aviation;
- The development of the first purpose designed (Silica gel) low energy adsorptive desalination demonstration plant.

The CET's most valuable asset is our experienced team of researchers and engineers who have been working with industry in developing new technologies and solutions. The completion of over 200 industrial projects in the past five years is the best demonstration of our extensive experience and expertise. Our track record speaks of our commitment to work closely with industry to achieve innovative and sustainable solutions.

## Membership

Number of researchers: 30

Number of postgraduate students: 34

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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## PROFESSOR GUS NATHAN

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### **Director, Centre for Energy Technology**

Prof. Nathan is a multiple award winning researcher in the more sustainable utilisation of energy.



## ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR FARID CHRISTO

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### **Research and Development Manager, Centre for Energy Technology**

Assoc. Prof. Christo has a wide ranging experience with industry spanning combustion, fluid dynamics and energy.



## ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR JIM DENIER

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### **Head, School of Mathematical Sciences**

Assoc. Prof. Denier's research focuses on the efficient use of energy through a fundamental understanding of the fluid mechanics involved in transition to turbulence.



## ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR BASSAM DALLY

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### **Deputy Head, School of Mechanical Engineering**

Assoc. Prof. Dally is an award winning researcher of turbulent reacting flows, heat transfer and advanced energy technology.



## ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR NESIMI ERTUGRUL

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Assoc. Prof. Ertugrul studies integrated electrical systems with particular reference to renewable energy.



## ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ERIC HU

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Assoc. Prof. Hu is an expert across many aspects of energy engineering, including thermal and solar technologies, power generation and desalination.



## DR PETER ASHMAN

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### **Acting Head, School of Chemical Engineering**

Assoc. Prof. Peter Ashman is experienced in a broad range of alternative fuels and renewable energy processes, with particular skills in the gasification of solid fuels and wastes, second generation biodiesel and geothermal power systems.



## ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR RICHARD KELSO

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Assoc. Prof. Kelso undertakes fundamental research into fluid mechanics, turbulence and aerodynamics, as well as consulting in industrial aerodynamics and combustion.



## DR ZEYAD ALWAHABI

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Dr Alwahabi develops laser diagnostic techniques for complex reacting systems.



## DR PETER KALT

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Dr Kalt has a broad interest and successful track-record in applying advanced laser-diagnostics to turbulent combustion, two-phase flows and other outcomes of optimising efficiency and reducing pollution in real-world energy systems. He is the inventor of novel optical and image-processing techniques.

# MARINE BIOLOGY PROGRAM

**The Marine Biology Program is Australia's leading scientific research group for temperate marine environments in Australia and has made major new discoveries through long-term, continental-scale studies.**

They undertake research on the ecology of fish, invertebrates and plants in estuaries and reef systems. The research of the Centre is focused on understanding the connectivity and ecology of marine environments, with research projects often spanning hundreds to thousands of kilometres of Australian coast. The researchers in this Centre are recognised for their ability and willingness to respond to national and international research priorities for management.

Two of the leading researchers in this Program, Sean Connell and Bronwyn Gillanders, edited the Marine Ecology textbook described by reviewers as a seminal volume in Australasian marine science.

## Membership

Number of researchers: 14

Number of postgraduate students: 17

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Associate Professor Corey Bradshaw**

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ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR COREY BRADSHAW

### Director, Marine Biology Program

Assoc. Prof. Bradshaw holds a joint appointment with the South Australian Research and Development Institute and is employed through Marine Innovation South Australia. He has a broad range of research interests including population dynamics, extinction theory, sustainable harvest, climate change impacts on biodiversity, invasive species and work on a variety of taxa from the Antarctic to the tropics.



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR SEAN CONNELL

Assoc. Prof. Connell researches human influences on marine producers, their consumers and synergies with climate. This effort is applied to subtidal habitat.



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR BRONWYN GILLANDERS

Assoc. Prof. Gillanders examines the ecology of temperate coasts that includes sheltered habitats (seagrasses, salt-marshes, mangroves) and exposed habitats (kelp forests & inhabitants). She also uses the chemical signatures in ear bones of fish to track their movements and has investigated the sustainability of the giant Australian cuttlefish and freshwater fishes of the Murray River.



# LANDSCAPE FUTURES PROGRAM

**The Landscape Futures Program at the University of Adelaide, led by Professor Wayne Meyer, has been established to respond to the growing need for integrated solutions to the management of natural resources.**

The Program aims to develop:

- New methods and models for landscape futures analysis that better inform managers and policy makers of conservation, repair and maintenance options for sustainable land use;
- Improved information systems to assess and monitor natural resource condition and provide a basis for projecting likely environmental condition into the future;
- The skills and knowledge for planning, implementing and monitoring for improved natural resource management.

More recently, Prof. Meyer has initiated the Landscape Science Cluster with researchers and agency staff within and outside the University and has coordinated a successful South Australian proposal to the NCRIS for the Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network initiative (\$7.75M). Wayne has been awarded \$1.2M from the Premiers' Science and Research Fund for research on how to facilitate robust environments, incomes and communities under a warmer drier climate.

## Membership

Number of researchers: 6

Number of postgraduate students: 12

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Professor Wayne Meyer**

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PROFESSOR WAYNE MEYER

### Director, Landscape Futures Program Chair of Natural Resource Science

Prof. Meyer has developed systems-wide research programs that explore the management options for improving agricultural productivity while conserving and restoring natural ecosystems ([www.landscapefutures.com.au](http://www.landscapefutures.com.au)).



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MEGAN LEWIS

### Head, Discipline of Soil and Land Systems

Assoc. Prof. Megan Lewis specialises in remote sensing for environmental applications to better understand landscape composition, spatial variation and change over time. She focuses on the use of hyperspectral imagery for vegetation and soil analysis, as well as broad scale image-based assessment and monitoring of land condition.



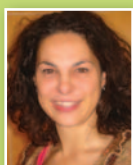
DR BERTRAM OSTENDORF

Dr Ostendorf specialises in geographic information systems, spatial simulation modelling and spatial decision support. His research relates to understanding the causes of biophysical and management-related spatial heterogeneity within landscapes and how to use this knowledge to increase both economic production and the integrity of the environment.



DR KEN CLARKE

Dr Clarke is a postdoctoral researcher developing satellite image-based tools to monitor soil erosion risk in southern Australian agricultural lands.



DR DAVINA WHITE

Dr White is a postdoctoral researcher developing new approaches for mapping and monitoring of mound spring wetland vegetation using hyperspectral imagery.



MR GREG LYLE

Mr Lyle is a research officer with a background in economics and environmental sciences with long-term experience in precision agriculture, spatial modelling and satellite image analysis.

# CONNECTING TO INDUSTRY



**Industry collaborations with universities are a major source of new innovations. For example, 58% of private sector Australian-invented US patents cite publicly funded university research.**

For an individual business, commercial benefits can be obtained from cooperating with universities on research, but the pathway for cooperation needs to match the needs of the business and the skill-set of researchers.

By working with the Environment Institute, you will be put in contact with researchers who will best meet your needs, both in terms of expertise and ability to deliver to your timeframes.

## Co-investment

There are many ways to leverage your investment in research within a University. The University itself will co-invest, through funding honours and PhD students and subsidising the costs of the participation of researchers in projects funded through government programs. The costs for industry partners can range from less than \$2,000 to \$25,000 pa.

The Federal Government provides funding through the Australian Research Council (ARC) for PhD students and post-doctoral fellows. The ARC has a program specially

designed for building partnerships with industry called the ARC Linkage Program.

Some industry groups collect levies for research and development which are matched by the Federal Government and available through industry research and development corporations.

The Federal Government funds commercialisation of research through a variety of funding programs under AusIndustry. Usually they require matching funds from industry partners.

Currently, there is a tax concession for investment in R&D by industry. This will change to a tax credit in 2010/11. Visit [www.ausindustry.gov.au](http://www.ausindustry.gov.au) for more information.

## Contact

The first step is to find out who is interested in your industry and has the capability to provide you with valuable expertise. The Environment Institute has a Business Development Advisor whose role is to act as a broker between you and staff within the University.

**Dr Paul Dalby**

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# KEEP IN TOUCH

The Environment Institute wants to connect our scientists to the world. We organise numerous forums to bring our researchers closer to policy makers, industry, other researchers and the community.

## **Dunstan Environment Dialogues**

A joint venture between the Environment Institute and the Don Dunstan Foundation. These are a series of public forums to stimulate ideas on how to manage our environmental resources that will also be available in video online.

## **Climate Futures**

A forum that addresses the impacts of climate change and explores leading edge developments to enable society to live with anticipated future changes. This is open for anyone to attend.

## **Water Wednesday Forums**

These forums offer the community a chance to hear from leading scientists, government officials and industry leaders on the major water issues facing Australia.

## **Environment Institute Seminar Series**

Showcases the excellent science being undertaken across the new Institute. These seminars are designed for an academic audience but are open for anyone to attend.

We take communicating with our audience very seriously and many of the talks presented at these forums are also available for download as audio and/or video files from our website [www.adelaide.edu.au/environment](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/environment)

Keep an eye on our website, because we are adding new material and organising new events all the time. Or connect with us through a variety of Social Media.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

If you use an RSS reader, the RSS feed for our presentations is [feed.theenvironmentinstitute.com](http://feed.theenvironmentinstitute.com)

Or visit our blog at [blog.theenvironmentinstitute.com](http://blog.theenvironmentinstitute.com)

On twitter at [twitter.com/environmentinst](http://twitter.com/environmentinst)

Our scientists write blogs and think pieces that go out to leading thinkers and decision makers all over the world.

**Barry Brook's** climate change blog  
[www.bravenewclimate.com](http://www.bravenewclimate.com)

**Corey Bradshaw's** conservation science blog  
[www.conservationbytes.com](http://www.conservationbytes.com)

**Mike Young's** Water droplet  
[www.myoung.net.au/water](http://www.myoung.net.au/water)



## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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