

ARC Research Network, Discovering the past and present to shape the future: networking environmental sciences for understanding and managing Australian biodiversity (Environmental Futures Network)



# Welcome

**Environmental Futures Network Annual General Meeting**  
**31<sup>st</sup> January + 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2008**  
**Adelaide Oval, Gil Langley Room**



# Network priorities as formulated from the previous AGM break-out groups

1. Expand and further refine the ECR program
2. Improve intra-group communication and communication between the Working Groups and Network management
3. Confirm and Communicate Network Performance Measures
4. Consider the Nature of the Network post ARC funding
5. All WGPs to develop new grant opportunities from existing projects
6. Network to contribute to the consultation for the Development of the National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity
7. Develop a range of strategies to increase this Network's interaction with Resource Managers
8. Conduct a fourth round of Working Group funds allocation

# Activity in 2007

- An audit was due by mid-term of grant as per original ARC application. Objectives of the audit is to address priorities just discussed.
- A fourth call for WGP funding was suspended until the outcomes of the audit. It was considered that the fourth call of funding should address the gaps of the Network including objectives as listed in the ARC grant.
- Early 2007, the Network offered financial support for the preparation of CERF Project bids to the value of \$6,000 to CIs of active Working Group Projects. Large multidisciplinary grants such as these directly address the Network's area of interest and as such supported this opportunity. One application was received and subsequently approved.
- While the audit was being negotiated and to support ongoing interest in the Network, a special small WGP grant was called in December 2007, maximum value of \$10,000. Outcomes unknown as the closing date was yesterday, 31st January.
- The Network continued to fund ECR programs in 2007 with 2 new rounds.  
  
Round 4 – 9 applications funded, total value \$53,250  
Round 5 – 5 applications funded, total value \$22,645
- Large amount of expenditure in 2007 was toward funding existing WGP's into cycle 2

# Membership in 2007

## ■ Members In

### PhD Candidates x 8:

3 University of Adelaide ; 2 ANU; 1 University of Melbourne; 1 University of Monash; and 1 James Cook University

### Other x 14:

1 University of Queensland

1 University of Tasmania

1 WWF

3 CSIRO

1 Dept of Env. & Conservation

1 Dept of Env. & Water Resource

1 University of Melbourne

1 University of Adelaide

1 James Cook University

2 International

1 Royal Botanic Gardens

## ■ Members out

Southern Cross University as cash contributor

= loss of income \$15,000

# ECR Program in 2007

## Round 4

- David Haberlah, Research training \$750
- Sally Thompson, Systematics and biogeography of a *Oxyscelio* and related genera of parasitic wasps(Hymenoptera: Scelionidae), \$1500
- Alexandra Pavlova, Understanding recent evolutionary history of Australian Biota: “Phylogeography and coalescence Workshop”, \$15,000
- Christel Hassler, International lab visit \$1,500
- Anett Richter, International lab visit \$1,500
- Mitzy Pepper, Travel fund to museums \$ 1,500
- Cathie Page, Attend workshops in analytical techniques to identify drivers of disease and to investigate mechanisms of disease resistance in corals. \$1,500
- Elvira Ploczanska, Training workshop on bioclimatic modelling: assessing climate impacts on biodiversity, \$15,000
- Lachlan Farrington, National workshop on the systematics, ecology and management of *Caladenia* orchids, \$15,000

**Total \$53,250**

(red = workshops)

# ECR Program in 2007

## Round 5

- Tobias Uller, International workshop: Evolution of parental effects: conceptual issues and empirical patterns \$4,645
- Gillian Brown, National lab visit \$750
- Ian Moffat, Course in Introduction to ARC GIS, \$750
- Iona Flett, Attend workshop overseas, \$1500
- Michelle Guzick, National Postgraduate training workshop in Systematics, \$15,000

Total \$22,645

Presentation by Andy Austin on the success of this scheme

(red = workshop)

# Communication

## Re-vamped website

[www.adelaide.edu.au/efn](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/efn)  
in 2007

Environmental Futures Network

You are here: [Environmental Futures Home](#) > [Funded Projects](#) > [Working Group Projects](#)

search EFN -  
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About Us

News and Events

Membership

Sponsors and Links

Funded Projects

Working Group Projects

Early Career Researcher Programs

Project: Coping with change: resilience of marine social-ecological systems

CI(s)/Institution: Terry Hughes, James Cook University, Coral Reef Centre of Excellence (First cycle funding AUD\$30,000)

Aim/background:

A group of people from natural and social sciences have formed the Marine Resilience Alliance in order to see if solutions to problems in marine conservation and management can be found in the nexus of these disciplines. The group, who gathered in Maine, are among the first to consider social-ecological resilience in marine ecosystems. The group that has met in far-flung locations such as Australia and Sweden and saw a potential problem and opportunity to focus their attention on the Gulf of Maine's coastal zone.

The term ecosystem "resilience" was coined in 1973 to identify the behavior of natural ecosystems and factors that contribute to their stability. It was quickly observed that many land and marine ecosystems "flip" into alternate (often undesirable) states. The science of resilience seeks to understand what contributes to the ability of ecosystems to resist change or, if changed, to recover to its previous more desirable state.

Escaping the Gilded Trap

To EFN Members,

October 2008 issue

### Early Career Researcher Scheme (ECRs)



#### NEW CALL FOR FUNDING

Call for Round 5 funding under the Early Career Researcher Scheme is now open. The ECR program aims to support 'activities' themed around the Network with the funding to be used during January-July of 2008. Activities supported under this scheme are: visits to research laboratories, attend training courses or workshops, and organising a training workshop.

**Eligibility:** under this scheme, an ECR is defined as someone who is enrolled for a research higher degree, or is less than 5 years post PhD, in this case a PhD was awarded in 2003 or later. Interested folk wishing to apply must be a member from any one of the Network's contributing institutions (**refer to conditions here**).

Application form is also attached or can be downloaded from our website:  
<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/efn/news/>

Closing date for applications is 30th November, 2007 in word format please, to [maria.lekis@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:maria.lekis@adelaide.edu.au). Announcement of successful applications is expected by mid December 2007.

### Notice of Annual General Meeting (AGM)

#### NEXT AGM

Please note our next AGM is planned for Thursday 31st, January & Friday 1st, February 2008, in Adelaide and attendance is open to all members of the Network. This two day meeting will encompass one full day of scientific presentations from CIs of Working Project Groups where stakeholders and end-users shall be invited to engage with Network members

## Introduction of an e-bulletin in 2007

# Participation

Bringing together expertise – WGP's measure of expertise engagement

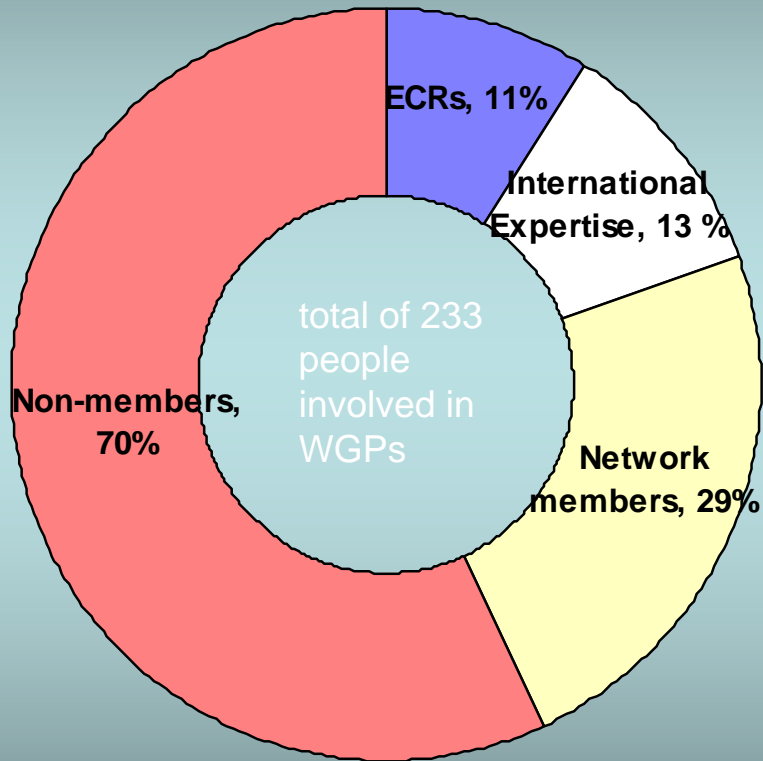


Chart indicating number of people coming together. Data tabulated from WGP Convenors' progress reports. Engagement based on 2006 activity.

Figures for 2007 activity not yet received.

## by affiliation (>2):

Australian National University*	27
Australian Museum	7
Charles Darwin University*	4
CSIRO various departments*	21
Flinders University	3
James Cook University	5
La Trobe University	3
Macquarie University	2
Monash University*	16
SA Museum*	5
University of Adelaide*	18
University of Canberra*	4
University of Melbourne	21
University of New England	5
University of Queensland	5
University of Western Australia	2
University of Tasmania*	10
University of Wollongong*	4
Victoria University, NZ	2
Western Australian Museum	2
University of Maine	3
Government departments (various)	7

\* cash contributing institution

# Addressing Network Objectives

Objectives as per original ARC grant	Funded WGs to date
1. Impact of Homo sapiens on the Australian continent	Recent human impact on Australian ecosystems (Gell)
	Plant exploitation and domestication east of the Wallace Line: Movement, manipulation and management of plant biodiversity (Denham)
	Habitat reconstruction and restoration: securing biodiversity assets in the face of climate change (Paton)
	Human-land interactions of Australia's earliest inhabitants: adaptation and impact (Bowler)
2. Fire history since separation from Gondwana super continent	Habitat reconstruction and restoration: securing biodiversity assets in the face of climate change (Paton)
3. Identification of 'hotspots' for key taxonomic groups	Evolution of short-range endemic taxa associated with troglobitic and groundwater ecosystems (Austin) and a bit of Role of Melanesia in the diversification of the Australian terrestrial biota (Donnellan)
4. Dynamics of extinction	-
5. Diversification of extant lineage of biota	Role of Melanesia in the diversification of the Australian terrestrial biota (Donnellan) and Evolution of short-range endemic taxa associated with troglobitic and groundwater ecosystems (Austin)

# continued

<b>Objectives as per original ARC grant</b>	<b>Funded WGsPs to date</b>
<b>6. Impact of climate change on distribution of species</b>	<b>Coping with change: Resilience of marine social-ecological systems (Hughes)</b>
	<b>Multidisciplinary approaches to key Australian biodiversity challenges of 2010 and beyond (Faith)</b>
	<b>Land-Ocean correlation of long Quaternary records from the southern hemisphere on orbital and sub-orbital timescales (Kershaw)</b>
	<b>An ecological history of Australia's temperate marine environments: Accounting for the shifting baseline syndrome (Connell)</b>
	<b>Integrating historical, ecological, molecular and geographic data to reconcile Australian Biotic Radiations - Using eucalypts and song birds as a case study (Bowman)</b>
	<b>Evolutionary history of the Australian biota (Byrne)</b>

# Overall Budget as at 2007

Network start date 15/10/04 : end date 14/10/09

- Expected income \$1,867,125 over 5 years (ARC + cash contributions)
- Commitment expenditure \$1,493,950 year to date (over 5 years). This includes funding existing WGP's over their lifespan, all rounds of ECRs to date, and projected operational costs.
- Balance of funding remaining, approx. \$373,175 until the Network end date in 2009

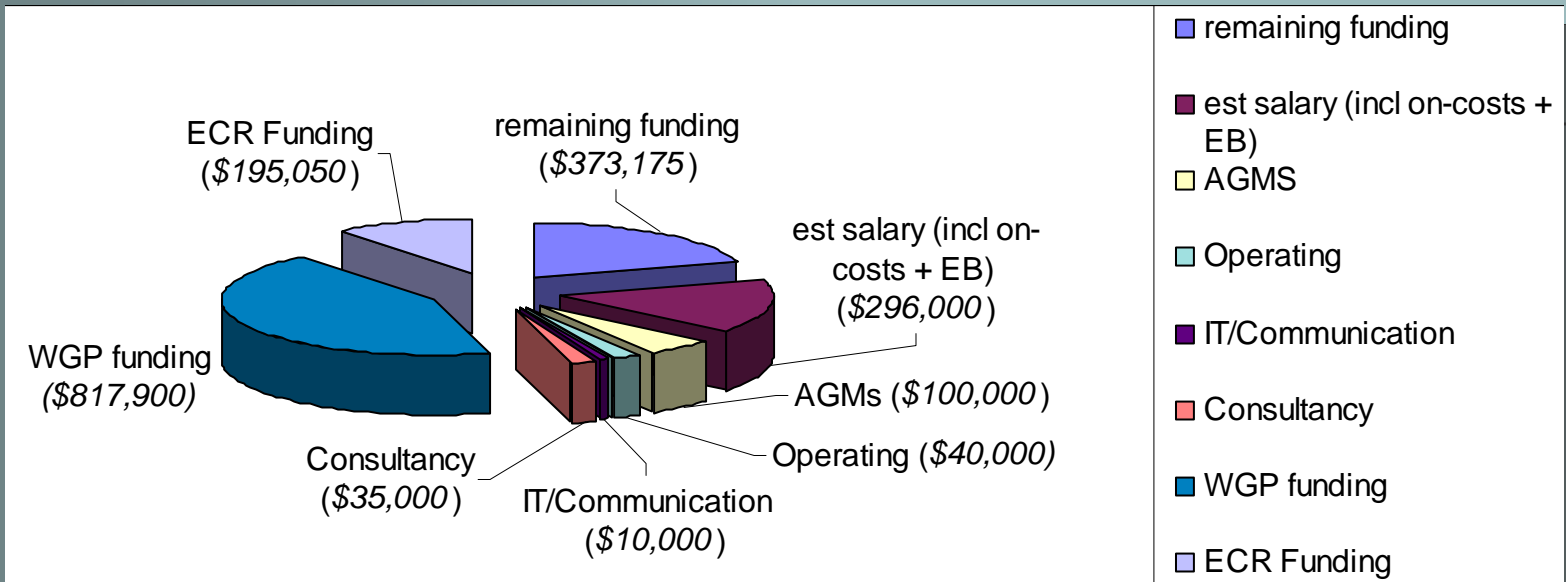


Chart of committed expenses over 5 years, as at December 2007

# Scientific Audit currently underway

Address by Paul Dalby

# Addressing the remaining funding ~ \$370,000



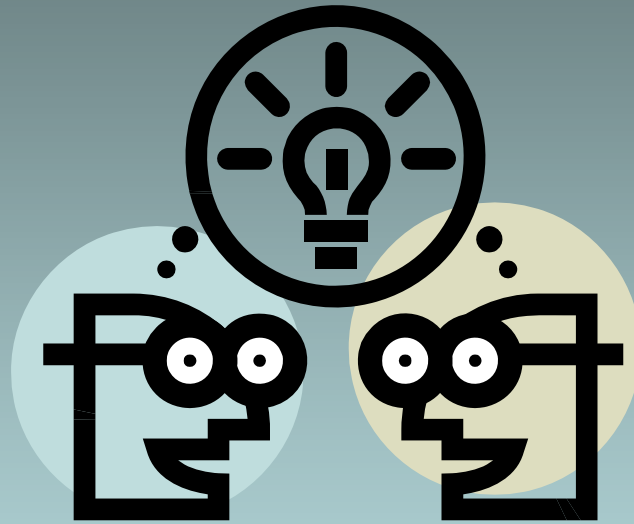
*IDEAS*

1. Working Group Projects (~170k remaining for funding)
2. ECR (~25k remaining for funding)
3. Post ARC funding ?
4. Time to reassess?
5. Do we want a wrap up meeting at the end of 2009?

# Indicators of Success

- ✓ Research Grants
- ✓ Key Publications
- ? Increase Network for future Benefit -  
(difficult to measure)

# END presentation



Comments ?