

EVOLUTION & ECOLOGY RESEARCH CENTRE

OVERVIEW 2007-2010

The Evolution & Ecology Research Centre (E&ERC) was formally established in September 2007, and this overview covers operations between 2007 and 2010.

Summary

- The E&ERC comprised 26 members in 2008, of whom 17 were continuing members of staff and nine were research fellows or associates. Members came from four schools, BEES, BABS, MATHS and MEDS.
- The E&ERC appointed Drs Russell Bonduriansky, Angela Moles and Tracey Rogers in 2007/8 as part of a VC's Strategic Priority Initiative. We advertised in late 2008 to make a fourth appointment as Dr Moles won a QEII fellowship commencing in 2009.
- The Graduate Program in Evolution & Ecology has been successfully established, with streamlined reporting, a strong focus on quality research supervision and enhancing the postgraduate experience. This included encouraging the Masters of Philosophy as an alternative to honours.
- PhD Enrolments have grown strongly from 26 in 2007 to 42 in 2008, exceeding our projected growth in the Centre proposal. Seven PhD and one Masters students completed in 2008.
- Grant success in NCGP grants in 2008 was \$1.93M, exceeding the target of \$1.6M by 20 percent. Further success in applications submitted in 2008 has the 2009 NCGP success at \$2.8M already, exceeding our target for 2009 by 47 percent.
- Five Centre members won their first ARC grants since joining UNSW.
- Angela Moles, Mark Tanaka and Mark Brown won ARC QEII fellowships. With two other QEII's and an ARF, we have one of the strongest groups of mid-career fellows in Australia.
- Non-NCGP funding (\$834K) in 2008 is almost double our goal.
- With 94 and 69 publications in 2007 and 2008, the E&ERC exceeded our goals by 96 percent and 30 percent respectively.
- Centre members won several major awards in 2007/8, including three *Young Tall Poppy* awards (Johnston, Taylor, Moles) and a *L'Oreal For Women in Science* award (Moles).
- The Centre finished 2008 with a small deficit in operating funds (-\$970.05) and a surplus of \$98,603.68 in SPF01 funds which carry forward to 2009&10.
- In 2009, Centre members held five QEII, one ARF, one APD and one Future (Biro) Fellowships. In 2009, the Centre won one new ARF, one APF, and one further Future Fellow to start in 2010.

- The E&ERC was involved in the appointment of three new members of academic staff, who will be part of BEES and the E&ERC from early 2010. Dr Terry Ord (Harvard) was appointed as Lecturer in Evolution, and Dr Matthew Taylor (UNSW, already a centre member) and Dr Adriana Verges (Edith Cowan University) were appointed lecturers in Applied Marine Ecology and Conservation.
- The Graduate Program in Evolution & Ecology expanded and was established as one of the top graduate programs at UNSW with its focus on quality research supervision and an enhanced postgraduate experience.
- PhD Enrolments have grown strongly from 26 in 2007 and 42 in 2008, to 46 in 2009 exceeding our projected growth in the Centre proposal. Ten PhD and two Masters students completed in 2009.
- In 2009, Centre members held \$3.2 million in NCGP funding. Nine discovery, two linkage, one NH&MRC and two Future Fellowships commenced in 2009 to a total value of \$6.9 million over the life of the grants.
- Centre members won a further three discovery, two linkage and two LEIF grants to commence in 2010, valued at \$2.56 million over the lifetime of the grants.
- Non-NCGP funding exceeded \$2.0 million over the lifetime of the grants, more than double our target at establishment.
- With 105 publications in 2009, the E&ERC exceeded our publishing goals by 40%.
- Centre members won several major awards in 2009 including a Fenner Medal (Brooks) and Young Tall Poppy Award (Warton).
- The Centre finished 2009 with no remaining operating (OP001) funds and a surplus of \$97,633.63 in SPF01 funds which carry forward to 2010.