

## **Exciting Opportunities in Antarctic Research for two PhD students to work on Assessing the risks of oil pollution to Antarctic marine invertebrates.**

We are encouraging applications from outstanding potential PhD candidates including students who have recently completed research Masters or high level Honours degrees, to work on a large multidisciplinary research project including field work in Antarctica over the next three years.

**Project Title:** **Ecological risks from oil products used in Antarctica: characterising hydrocarbon behaviour and assessing toxicity on sensitive early life stages of Antarctic marine invertebrates.**

**Research Team:** **Associate Professor Peter Harrison** (Director of Marine Studies, Southern Cross University, Lismore), **Associate Professor Simon George** (Organic Geochemist, Macquarie University, Sydney), **Dr Catherine King** (Ecotoxicologist, Australian Antarctic Division, Hobart), **Dr Alison Lane** (Environmental Analyst, Maritime New Zealand).

**Project Funding:** Australian Antarctic Science (AAS) Project 3054 approved for 3 years until 2011, with very substantial funding for research and logistical support from the Australian Antarctic Division (Australian Government Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts) – total of **\$286,311** for Year 1. This funding will cover all research, operating and travel costs associated with the project. Applicants will need to apply for scholarship funding from external sources or by application to Southern Cross University or Macquarie University.

The aim of this multidisciplinary research project is to assess the ecological risks to Antarctic marine biota of hydrocarbon contaminants associated with the use of fuels in Antarctic waters.

The project provides outstanding research opportunities for two excellent PhD researchers. One PhD candidate will focus on determining the toxicity of the water-accommodated fraction (WAF) of fuels commonly used in Antarctic station and shipping operations on the sensitive early life stages of common Antarctic marine invertebrates using innovative ecotoxicological techniques (Supervisors: A/Professor Peter Harrison, Dr Catherine King and Dr Alison Lane). The other PhD candidate will focus on determining the behaviour of the chemical components of these fuels in seawater at low temperatures, and will examine the influence of physical and chemical properties unique to the Antarctic environment on the bioavailability and potential toxicity of fuels and fuel components (Supervisors: A/Professor Simon George and Dr Catherine King).

Both PhD projects will involve fieldwork in Antarctica and research in laboratories at the AAD and partner Universities, and the successful candidates will be strongly supported by the highly experienced research team, their Universities and the AAD.

For further information and discussion about the projects, applicants are encouraged to contact the primary PhD supervisors:

A/Professor Peter Harrison: email: [peter.harrison@scu.edu.au](mailto:peter.harrison@scu.edu.au), telephone: +61-2-6620-3774.

A/Professor Simon George: email: [Simon.George@mq.edu.au](mailto:Simon.George@mq.edu.au), telephone: +61-2-9850-4424.

Dr Catherine King: email: [cath.king@aad.gov.au](mailto:cath.king@aad.gov.au), telephone: +61-3-6232-3515.

Dr Alison Lane: email: [Alison.Lane@orc.govt.nz](mailto:Alison.Lane@orc.govt.nz), telephone: +64-4-4941278

Scholarship Opportunities at Macquarie University:

We encourage outstanding applicants who have completed qualifications equivalent to Australian First Class Honours to apply for full-time scholarships. Further Information on equivalence and currently available scholarships can be obtained from the Higher Degree Research Office (ph: +61 2 9850 9782, e-mail: [hdschol@vc.mq.edu.au](mailto:hdschol@vc.mq.edu.au)), [www.research.mq.edu.au/students/scholarships](http://www.research.mq.edu.au/students/scholarships).

Schemes currently available include:

\*MQRES scholarships are available year round for domestic and International students. Include an APA-equivalent stipend (see below), allowances for relocation and thesis costs, international tuition fees and overseas health cover for a maximum of 3.5 years tenure.

\*Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) scheme for domestic students. Includes a stipend currently AU\$20,007 p.a. tax exempt (2008) and allowances for relocation and thesis costs, for a maximum of 3.0 years tenure (and a possible 6 month extension).

\*Endeavour International Postgraduate Scholarship (E-IPRS) for international students. The University provides an APA equivalent stipend.

Applications for candidature/scholarship should be forwarded to:

The Higher Degree Research Office  
Building C5C, Level 3 East  
Macquarie University NSW 2109  
AUSTRALIA