

Introducing the new Masters of Research cohort, 2015.

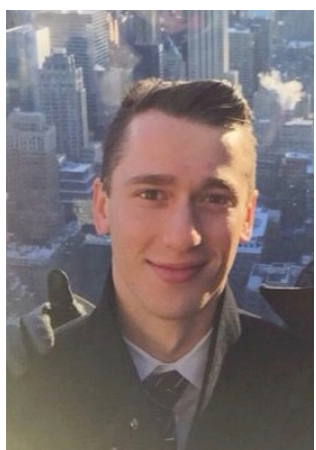


Ciaran Mathewson

I'm interested in Palaeo, mainly early life and its origins (Cambrian explosion, evolution of body plans and tiering, the rise of predation) and how we can use that to find out things nowadays. I studied a Bachelor of Science majoring in Palaeobiology, finishing in 2013. My best qualities are that I don't like being idle, something has to be going into my head, and I can be very meticulous, and actually enjoy following instructions. I'm most proud of the fieldwork I did as a research assistant for Glenn Brock in the Palaeo lab in 2014, picking Cambrian mollusc samples collected near Phosphate Hill mine in central QLD, and the work in the acid lab (mainly acetic acid) that followed. I hadn't done anything like it before (4WD bushbashing to find rocky outcrops in 40-degree heat). Something quirky about me is that I'm into anything snowsports related, I love mountain-biking (prefer the heat actually) and am always looking for a good pun - there'll never be a moment when I'm not thinking about turning what you're saying into one.

James Bickerstaff

I am interested in: arthropod taxonomy, systematics, phylogenetics, evolution and biodiversity. I studied: BSc in Biology at Macquarie University. My best qualities are: I'm obsessively neat and organised (a quality which should help me become a great taxonomist), I love learning new things no matter how broad the topic, I can quickly pick up new things, and I'm tall so I'm great at reaching high shelves. I am most proud of: academically; helping out in David Nipperess' lab and getting two storage lockers worth of sample organised into voucher sets in two months (only working on it for 3 hours per week). Also completing a degree and getting into masters (which I know isn't very unique in this room). A quirky thing about me that means I would be a great addition to your lab: I'm fantastic at brewing tea. I can make a perfect pot of tea every time whenever it's needed. I'm also good at mixing drinks as well, for after those long days in the lab. And I'm well read, I can talk about literature for hours.



Joel Berliner

I am interested in clinical neurology and neurophysiology, and due also to familial heritage, I'm keen to research neurodegenerative disorders such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and primary autonomic failure. I studied at the University of Sydney in 2012, completing a Bachelor of Medical Science. I am most proud of receiving a high distinction, a mark of 92, in cranial and cervical anatomy in my third year of Medical Science. My best qualities are an intrigue and quest for knowledge, plus a resourcefulness that I hope will see me flourish. A quirky thing about me that means I would be a great addition to your lab is that I have a keen sense of adventure and I trekked around the Annapurna Circuit in the Nepalese Himalayas, subsequently got air-rescued via helicopter due to illness and soared at altitudes of 8000 metres between mountain peaks. I am also a mean cook and you haven't lived until you have tried my chocolate brownies, however there is no guarantee of survival, especially since they are aptly named Heart Attack brownies.



Nicholas Powell

I am interested in genes, genes, genes! I'm constantly fascinated and bemused that so much variety is based on different combinations of A, T, C & G and I really want to know more about how changes on the molecular level can affect the phenotype of the organism. I studied a Bachelor of Advanced Science with a Major in Biology at Macquarie. My best qualities are that I am hardworking, patient and have a drive to find out new things. I also like trying to find the funny side in things rather than getting stressed. I am most proud of putting my head down and writing an essay in Human Genetics Theory. This essay was the first where the end product was something I was legitimately proud of. A quirky thing about me that means I would be a great addition to your lab is I can reach the high shelves (I'm pretty sure that's what got me a job in retail at high school).

**Pete David**

I am interested in basically everything to do with reefs (mostly coral reefs), I also have an interest in sharks and the Hawaiian monk seal. I studied Bachelor of Marine Science at mqu. My best qualities are I'm generally happy help out with anything marine related, I'm hard working and I'm always happy to learn something new. I am most proud of my final project as an undergrad (MAR303), which I got an excellent mark in and Josh and I are about to start the process of publishing it. A quirky thing about me that means I would be a great addition to your lab is I can cook a mean breaky when everyone is hungry, and if there is any job that requires going in the water I'll do it because who could say no to have a swim?

Sally DuPont

I am interested in marine animals (especially rays), and coral reefs. I studied Forensic Science at UWS but now I've decided that I'd like to work in the field of biology. I'm not quite sure what questions I want to research or what I want to do just yet, it all seems so interesting to me. My best quality is that once I set my mind on something I will be determined to see it through. I am most proud of taking the risk to come to Macquarie University and study biology - I wasn't sure what it would be like but I'm enjoying it so far. A quirky thing about me is that I'm from Switzerland and speak fluent French.

**Samuel O'Neill**

I am interested in animal behaviour, ecology, coral reefs, anemones, cephalopods, and symbiosis. I completed a B. Science majoring in Biology/Philosophy at Macquarie. I think my philosophy major and units in statistics and experimental design have made me pretty good at analyses, even of complex subjects. I am most proud of managing to get through university, improve on my grades every year and get into the Masters program despite some personal problems that pervaded my undergraduate studies. I don't dwell too much on pride, but I'm confident that when people get to know me for who I am and what I can do, rather than who I was and what I have done, that I can make a lot of friends and spend a happy life in the field that I love. A quirky thing about me: not many people seem to have done both philosophy and science, which seems to provide a lot of new things to talk about. I am interested in philosophy, photography, the skepticism movement (real skeptics not climate skeptics), and my coral fish tank at home.

**Victoria Richardson**

I am interested in population genetics, conservation biology, and predator/prey interactions; particularly to do with apex predators. I studied Bachelor of Biodiversity and Conservation. My best qualities are that I am enthusiastic, have a positive attitude, and work well under pressure. I am most proud of receiving membership to the Golden Key International Honour Society during the course of my undergraduate Bachelor degree which has opened up so many opportunities for the future. A quirky thing about me that means I would be a great addition to your lab is that even though I am allergic to their bites I am fascinated by ants, and secretly would like to have a degree in entomology (or relating to arthropods) just for fun to learn more about these insects.

Tim Maher

(blurb not provided yet)
