

Dept meeting 2nd February 2016

- Welcome to new MQRFs
- Department Strategic Plan
- dept organisation
- what's happening in 2016
- Risk assessment for practicals
- Research update
- L&T update
- HDR & MRes update
- admin processes
- Biology Garden

Welcome!

2 new MQRFs

- **Jonas Wolff** – material properties of spider webs
- **Alex Carthey** - how plant chemicals mediate novel plant-herbivore interactions



Department strategic plans

- align with university and faculty strategies
- defines vision & purpose
- identifies challenges and opportunities
- identifies strategic goals 2016-2018
- priorities & key actions for 2016
- implementation plan updated annually

Biological Sciences Strategic Plan

Vision

To be a truly integrative Department of Biological Sciences that achieves excellence in research, teaching and service to the scientific and broader community



Purpose

- Create and sustain a productive and collegial working environment that supports our staff, students and partners in achieving excellence in research, teaching and service
- Conduct research of high impact that contributes to the body of scientific knowledge and addresses significant challenges to the earth's biological systems
- Inspire and support the next generation of researchers and educators in biology and enhance understanding and appreciation of biology in the wider community
- Provide an inspiring student experience incorporating engagement, knowledge and skills to facilitate readiness for the workplace
- Create and sustain productive partnerships with researchers, industry, government, NGO's and the wider community to find creative approaches and solutions to biological issues

Strategic goals

1. To deliver excellence in teaching at a sustainable level

- Investigate sustainability of majors & units (2016)
- Revise Advanced Biology (2016)
- Revise & streamline MRes units (2016, 2017)
- Revise M Cons Biol units (2016, 2017)
- Modify B Med Sci, M Mar Sci dependent on staff appointments (2017, 2018)



Strategic goals

2. To sustain & increase our recognised research strengths (ecology, evolution, animal behaviour, conservation biology)

- Strategic research initiatives (implement program 2016)
- Diversify funding sources (2016-18)
- Strategic staff replacements (2016, 2017)
- Target high quality DECRA, MQRF candidates (2016-18)



Strategic goals

3. To support and enhance medical science related teaching programs and related research

- Strategic staff replacements (2 in 2016, 2017)
- Develop teaching collaborations with Faculty of Medical & Health Sciences (initial discussion 2016)



Strategic goals

4. To attract high quality HDR students

- Analyse HDR student numbers, develop & implement recruitment strategy with set targets (2016)
- Workshops for supervisors on student recruitment & opportunities (2016-2018)
- International ads (2016-2018)



Strategic goals

5. To increase our engagement with industry partners

- Facilitate industry partnerships through strategic dept funds & initiatives (2016-2018)
- Develop research & teaching partnerships with Taronga Zoo, Australian Museum, NSW OEH (2016-2018)
- Identify potential partners through BIOLUMNI (2016)



Strategic goals

6. To be the destination of choice for biology students

- Identify target schools and develop partnerships (2016)
- Develop & deliver school engagement program (2016-2018)



Department organisation

Executive Team

HoD – Michelle

Deputy HoDs – Grant, Melanie

Mariella, Andy, Sharyon

Research

- Melanie Bishop

L&T

- Michelle Power
- Drew Allen

HDR

- Adam Stow

Other committees

Advising, MRes, Prizes, Outreach, Glasshouse, Fieldwork, Diving, WHS, Postdocs/ECR

Admin Team

Sharyon O'Donnell – Exec Officer, Dept finances & approvals, exams, iLearn, handbook

Veronica Peralta – academic finance & travel

Lara Ainley – HDR finance & travel

Jennifer Rowland – HoD support, student advising, casual appointments, room bookings

Laura McMillan – HR

Hannah Woodrow Clark – Concur, ordering & purchases

Ray Duell - newsletter

What's happening in 2016

- 1st year co-ordinator
- school liaison appointment
- partnership with Taronga Zoo
- seminar program – Fleur Ponton & Dan Warren
- new appointments
- new workload model implementation
- teaching changes – *reminder re exam length, prac class duration, external pracs of <15 students (week of 15th Feb – make appointment)*

Risk assessment for practicals (Rekha)

Research update

ARC grant review

- reminder that if you are putting in a DP or DECRA in 2016 to let Melanie Bishop know if you would like departmental feedback and if so, roughly when you might be ready to receive this – this will help with planning grant swapping etc
- If you are not putting a grant in, but happy to help with providing feedback please also let Melanie know

2016 Strategic research initiatives

- **Strategic research funding (competitive):**
 - 2 rounds per year (late Feb, July)
 - to cover activities such as hosting workshops, development of grant proposals, visits to collaborators, training in research methodologies etc
 - grants up to \$5000 each
- **Cash contributions for grants (competitive):**
 - 2 rounds per year (late Feb, July)
 - For schemes requiring department co-contribution

Can only hold one grant at a time

2016 Strategic research initiatives

- **Postdoc retreat:**
 - Overnight at Warrah

- **Departmental research retreat**
 - Sydney location

L&T 2016

- Handbook changes (units and programs info etc)
 - Faculty by mid March
 - Department collation by March 6
 - Unit information is required for program updates
 - Please look at your 2016 entries (all aspects) and let me know any email any changes (exact wording)
- Learning and teaching strategic framework
- Indigenous Strategy green paper
- Assessment policy review and development continues
- B Archeology offers Biology Major
 - After some folks for speed dating Feb 17 2.30pm

HDR update

- supplementary conference
- budgets

Master of Research (MRes)

Year 1 – 27 new applicants

Year 2 – 7 from year 1 (2015)

11 new direct entry (inc 1 exchange – Hamburg Uni)

Year 1 students – Bio induction 26 Feb

Year 2 students - Should have project underway

22 Feb - Central commencement program 22 Feb

23-24 Feb - Expt design workshop

14 Mar – introductory seminar

Year 2 project \$1600 – individual student accts being created

Admin processes

(Veronica, Sharyon, Laura)

Biology Garden (annexe) Working Bee

Wednesday 3rd February

1-2pm

Lunch provided

The annexe is located to the east of the biology courtyard, towards the chemical store, Mac Centre and F7B.

We'll be planting and mulching 160 native plants. At the southern end the plants will form a sandstone understory under the Eucalypts. In the centre and up the sides of the garden will be species more suitable for wet sclerophyll and rainforest areas.

Some of the new plants

Archirhodomyrtus beckleri (Rose Myrtle)
Backhousia anisata (Aniseed Myrtle)
Backhousia citriodora (Lemon Myrtle)
Billardiera scandens (Apple Berry)
Boronia denticulata (Brown Boronia)
Bulbine glauca (Rock Lily)
Callicoma serratifolia (Black Wattle)
Citrus australasica (Native Lime)
Cordyline stricta (Slender Palm Lily)
Darwinia taxifolia subsp. macrolaena
Daviesia corymbosa (Pea)
Dodonaea viscosa (Hopbush)
Doryanthes palmeri (Spear Lily)
Epacris longiflora (Fuschia Heath)

Gahnia sieberiana (Red-fruit Saw Sedge)
Grevillea sericea Mauve (Pink Spider Flower)
Hakea sericea (Needlebush)
Lepidozamia peroffskyana (Cycad)
Linospadix monostachys (Walking Stick Palm)
Lomatia myricoides (River Lomatia)
Macrozamia communis (Cycad)
Mentha saturoides (Native Mint)
Persoonia pinifolia (Pine-leaved Geebung)
Phebalium squamulosum (Scaly Phebalium)
Philothea myoporoides (Long-leaf Waxflower)
Podocarpus spinulosus (Spiny-leaf Podocarp)
Polyscias elegans (Celery Wood)
Tasmannia lanceolata (Pepperberry)