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UPCOMING EVENTS

BRISBANE

NCCARF Seminar – ‘Enhancing adaptive capacity in coastal communities’

When: 17 Nov, 4–5pm followed by refreshments
Where: Griffith University South Bank QCA Theatre & Gallery, s05_2.04
Speaker: Professor Tim Smith, Director, Sustainability Research Centre, University of the Sunshine Coast
RSVP: 15 Nov to Kerry Fitzgerald on 5552 7326 or k.fitzgerald@griffith.edu.au

Thursday October 29, 2009

Appointment of Assistant Coordinator

Dr Samantha Capon has recently commenced as Assistant Coordinator of the Water Resources and Freshwater Biodiversity Network. Her role will include coordination of the Queensland node as well as assisting Brendan Edgar and Stuart Bunn with broader network coordination activities. Dr Capon has over 12 years experience in the research and management of aquatic ecosystems with specific expertise in riparian and wetland vegetation and the ecology of large dryland floodplains. Her contact details are:

Email: s.capon@griffith.edu.au
Ph: 04 0221 7899
02 6680 2093

2010 International Climate Change Adaptation Conference

Registrations are now open for the 2010 International Climate Change Adaptation Conference to be held from 29 June to 1 July at the Gold Coast Convention Centre, Queensland. Co-hosted by NCCARF and the CSIRO Adaptation Flagship, this conference will focus on climate impacts and adaptations. Delegate numbers are to be limited so please register soon to avoid disappointment.

Early bird registration costs $850 and can be completed online at:


The conference includes a Water Adaptation Theme to be convened by Kathy Jacobs (Arizona Water Institute) Bryson Bates (CSIRO Land and Water) and Stuart Bunn, Griffith University. Further information is available here:

More information:
http://www.nccarf.edu.au/node/198

SYDNEY

Conference and workshop – ‘Climate Change Adaptation Forum – Managing risk and building resilience’

When: 26–27 Nov
Where: The Star Room

More information:
http://www.dealersgroup.com.au/?doc9&event=54

ADELAIDE

NCCARF Water Network Research Scoping Workshop

When: 19 Nov
Where: Jervois Room, State Library, North Terrace

The South Australian node of the Water Resources and Freshwater Biodiversity Adaptation Research Network will be hosting a workshop to identify regional research priorities and initiate the preparation of a synthesis paper.

More information: ajansen@internode.on.net

MELBOURNE

Workshop on Systemic and Adaptive Water Governance

When: 14 Dec, 9am – 4pm
Where: Law School, University of Melbourne, Parkville

A workshop on Systemic and Adaptive Water Governance is being hosted by Uniwater (a joint initiative of The University of Melbourne and Monash University), the Centre for Resources, Energy and Environmental Law (CREEL) and the NCCARF Adaptation Research Network for Water Resources and Freshwater Biodiversity (Victorian node). The day will combine presentations from a small group of speakers on various aspects of water governance, to be followed /sessions#seventeen

The Water Network is also intending to hold a 1–2 day water focused workshop following the conference. Please email Sam Capon (s.capon@griffith.edu.au) with any suggestions for workshop sessions.

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Summer and top–up scholarship opportunities

The Water Network is looking to provide funding for up to 4 summer and 4 PhD top–up scholarships for projects relating to the research aims of the network.

Summer scholarships may be provided to outstanding students who have recently completed Honours or a final year of undergraduate study for projects to be completed over 12 weeks commencing late November 2009. Projects must fit within the scope of one of the four network themes (i.e. climate scenarios, water resources, freshwater biodiversity or governance) and be supervised by at least one network member. Successful candidates would be provided with a weekly stipend of $650 of which 50% would come from the Network’s central funds. Resident institutions are expected to match this commitment and regional nodes may also wish to allocate some of their node funding to worthwhile projects.

PhD Top–up scholarships of $5 000 a year for up to 3 years will be offered to exceptional students commencing projects in 2010 that fit within the scope of one of the four network themes (i.e. climate scenarios, water resources, freshwater biodiversity or governance). PhD candidates must be in receipt of an Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) or an equivalent scholarship and are to be supervised by at least one network member.

For further information, please contact Sam Capon (s.capon@griffith.edu.au).

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Progress on the National Adaptation Research Plan

Stuart Bunn and Brendan Edgar have been meeting with senior officials from the Department of Climate Change, and the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, regarding progress with the Water Resources and Freshwater Biodiversity, National Adaptation Research Plan (NARP).

Finalisation of the NARP has been complicated by the development of a new National Knowledge and
Research Strategy for Water under direction from the Council of Australian Governments (CoAG). We believe that much of what is needed in terms of research to address climate adaptation responses in water (as outlined in the NARP) is not dissimilar to what is required to address broader water reform issues that the national strategy is considering.

We have suggested that the NARP could usefully contribute to the development of the CoAG Strategy, and the network could also play a broader role in the CoAG Strategy process. We have also suggested that it would be useful to develop a focussed set of priority project areas from the NARP that also meet DEWHA priorities for water, from which research proposals could be sought. We have undertaken to provide a first draft of these in the next few weeks.

Our discussions to date have been very positive, and despite the delays it is likely to result in a better outcome for the network in the longer term.

Network Flyer

A flyer is now available for the Water Resources and Freshwater Biodiversity Adaptation Research Network. Copies can be downloaded from:

http://www.nccarf.edu.au/water/node/11

ACCWA Project Success

Congratulations to the team at the University of Western Australia who are part of a recently announced global, interdisciplinary project looking at water management in the face of climate change.

ACCWA (Approaching Climate Change for Water Resource Adaption) evaluates the social, economic and environmental effect of climate change on water resources in upper and middle income countries and impacts on global water governance. Through the development of new tools and interdisciplinary techniques, the project addresses the major issues that cut across natural, social and political science disciplines. This large, far–reaching project seeks to bridge the research gap between natural science, social science and policy in the area of water resource management. Focusing initially on high– and middle–income countries in developed and emerging economies, specifically including UK, Netherlands, Australia, China, Brazil and South Africa, the ACCWA project seeks to develop a greater understanding of the impact of climate change on populations living within catchment or drainage basins leading to the development of tools to enable climate change
adaptations to be realised.

The project is to be led by Leeds University and currently involves partners from York, Bristol, Sheffield, Nanjing, Zhejiang, Western Australia, Sydney and Illinois.

For more information please contact Professor Peter Davies at the University of Western Australia. (pdavies@cyllene.uwa.edu.au)

Invitation to contribute to NCCARF Public Seminar Series

If you would like to present a seminar as part of the NCCARF Public Seminar Series, or know of any visiting researchers that would like to participate, please let Sam Capon (s.capon@griﬃth.edu.au) know as soon as possible. There is also some NCCARF funding available to support seminar organisation (venue hire, travel etc.).

Information on the seminar series as well as videos and slides from previous seminars can be found at: http://www.nccarf.edu.au/node/195?q=nccarf-seminars

Recent Publications of Interest

JOURNAL ARTICLES

REPORTS

If you are aware of any recent publications that may be of interest to network members, please let me know so that I can include them in future newsletters. (s.capon@griﬃth.edu.au)

NCCARF Water Resources and Freshwater Biodiversity Adaptation Research Network.
General Enquiries: climate.water@griﬃth.edu.au