

Subject: [Test] MSI Newsletter - August 2025

Date: Tuesday, 5 August 2025 at 3:34:05 pm Australian Eastern Standard Time

From: Marine Studies Institute

To: MSI Coordinator



Marine Studies Institute

August 2025 Newsletter



Welcome to this edition of the MSI Newsletter!

In this edition you can read all about:

- [1. Message from the MSI Directors](#)
 - [2. One Tree Island Research Station celebrates 50 years](#)
 - [3. MSI visits the University of San Diego](#)
 - [4. Marine Careers Panel Event](#)
 - [5. Science Meets Parliament](#)
 - [6. Palawan State of the Environment](#)
 - [7. Award for Dr Mitch Gibbs](#)
 - [8. Tropical Cyclone Alfred Making Waves](#)
 - [9. Spotlight: Dr Kevin Davies](#)
 - [10. Volunteer Support Available for Your Project!](#)
 - [11. MSI Current Students](#)
 - [12. MSI Alumni](#)
 - [13. How Can We Help You?](#)
 - [14. #Coast2Cast Podcast](#)
-

1. Message from the MSI Directors

MSI 5-year Review

As part of our ongoing growth, the Marine Science Institute is preparing for its upcoming strategic review. This review is a key milestone, as we work toward reclassification from a Level 2 to a Level 3 Centre—a change that would reflect our expanding impact, interdisciplinary research strengths, and strategic importance within the University and beyond.

The process involves a detailed evaluation of our activities, achievements, and future plans—and **your input is essential**. In the coming weeks, we will be circulating a **short survey to all MSI members**. This will help us capture the full scope and significance of our collective work and shape MSI's future. We would greatly appreciate your prompt response, as your insights will directly inform our review submission and help us make the most of the next five years. Thank you for being part of our community, and for your continued contributions to marine science at the University of Sydney.

We appreciate your cooperation!

Sincerely,

Professor Ana Vila Concejo and A. Professor Eleanor Bruce.



New Funding Opportunities

The Faculty of Science has recently launched their new research and strategy website! Please check it out here:

- [Cultivating Impact Funding Scheme](#)
- [Collaborative Leadership scheme](#)

Please pay special attention to the new funding opportunities; the deadline is the 19th of August, and make sure that you check the training opportunities!

Recent Events

2. OTIRS celebrates 50 years

The Marine Science Institute hosted a public event, *Tales from the Reef: 50 Years on One Tree Island*, to mark five decades of transformative research, conservation, and education at the University of Sydney's One Tree Island Research Station.

Held in the Susan Wakil Health Building, the evening drew a full lecture theatre of alumni, students, researchers, and members of the public. Attendees heard captivating stories and cutting-edge research highlights from across the decades, exploring themes of reef resilience, climate change, and sustainability.

Speakers included:

Professor Will Figueira, Director of the One Tree Island Research Station

Professor Maria Byrne, Marine Biology

Professor Jody Webster, Marine Geoscience

Ruby Holmes & Heinrich Breuer, Station Managers

Kate Whitton & Matt Clements, Postgraduate Researchers

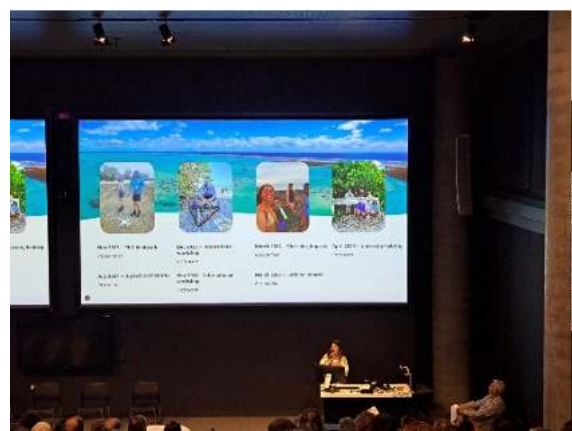
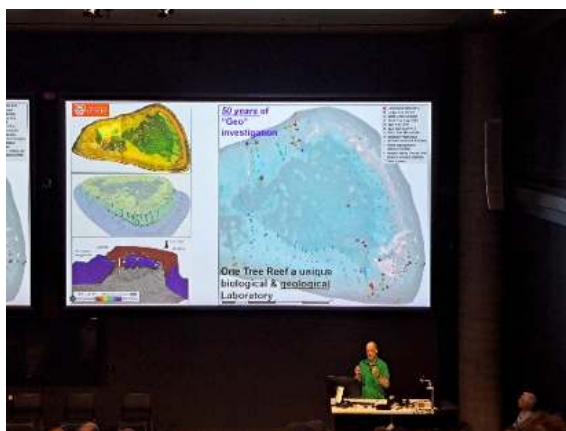
The event concluded with a lively Q&A session and a chance to connect over

refreshments.

 Missed the event?

Watch the full recording [here](#)

 Read more: [Celebrating 50 Years of Marine Discovery at One Tree Island](#)



3. MSI visits the University of San Diego

A/Prof Eleanor Bruce, Prof Maria Byrne, Prof Will Figueira, A/Prof Maria Seton, Dr Shawna Foo, A/Prof Ziggy Marzinelli and A/Prof Andrew Merchant represented the University of Sydney as part of a delegation visit to the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD).

As strategic partners, UCSD and USYD share an existing Memorandum of Understanding focused on student mobility and research collaboration. The visit included a series of productive meetings with academic and professional staff across the biological and earth sciences – all set against the stunning beachfront backdrop of the Scripps campus.

The delegation provided an opportunity to highlight the breadth and impact of marine science research and teaching at USYD, while exploring exciting new avenues for collaborative research and student exchange.



4. Marine Careers Panel Event



MSI held a Marine Careers panel session In February with the USYD Careers

Team.

The panel discussion participants were from industry, government and research and included Elizabeth Ross (USyd Careers, Science), Dr Alex Jones (Department of Climate Change, Energy and the Environment and recent Geosciences PhD graduate), Michael Rosenthal (Rhelm Consulting, 2017 Masters coursework graduate), Dr Anneke van den Brink (MSI) and Eleanor Bruce.

Around 30 marine postgraduate coursework and undergraduate students engaged with the panellists who provided useful insights on connecting with prospective employers and career support opportunities offered within the university.

We also welcomed the new cohort of Marine Science and Management students.

5. Science Meets Parliament



Professor Jody Webster attended the annual [Science Meets Parliament](#) event in Canberra, where scientists from across Australia gather to learn about policy-making, the role of science in government, and effective advocacy. He described the experience as eye-opening, particularly the advice on clearly articulating the value of research to the electorate. This event highlights the critical importance of science communication and advocacy in shaping informed, evidence-based public policy.

Jody also had the opportunity to meet a parliamentarian in their chambers and witness a lively Question Time session, which included an MP being

ejected. Representing [ANZIC IODP](#), Jody did his best to advocate for the importance of Geosciences in universities. Overall, he found the event to be a valuable and insightful experience.

6. Palawan State of the Environment



In March, Dr Billy Haworth, Jamie Simpson, and Professor Elaine Baker travelled to Palawan, Philippines, to launch two landmark environmental reports at a major event and exhibition attended by over 100 representatives from local government, NGOs, universities, and both the Australian and Philippine governments.

The 2024 Palawan State of the Marine Environment Report

This comprehensive report supports the sustainable management of marine resources and coastal livelihoods in Palawan, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Crucially, the report is grounded in the expertise of local scientists, ensuring its relevance and utility for the region.

 [Read the USyd news article](#)

 [Download the full report](#)

The Nearshore Marine Benthic Features of Palawan Municipalities Report and Dashboard

This report delivers satellite-derived bathymetry and benthic habitat maps that provide essential baseline data for understanding and managing Palawan's coastal ecosystems in the face of climate change.

 [Access the publication here](#)

7. Award for Dr Mitch Gibbs



We're proud to share that **Dr Mitch Gibbs** has been awarded one of two **2025 Australian Academy of Science Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scientist Awards**. Mitch was recognised for his work on "*Global collaborations between First Nations people for habitat restoration*" – a powerful and timely project that highlights the importance of Indigenous leadership in environmental stewardship.

This is a significant achievement and a testament to Mitch's impactful research and advocacy

 [Read more here](#)

8. Tropical Cyclone Alfred Making Waves

In early March, **Tropical Cyclone Alfred** brought 7m waves to One Tree Island, drawing significant media attention. **Dr Ana Paula da Silva** was interviewed by SBS in Portuguese and by the *Australian Financial Review*, where she discussed the cyclone's coastal impacts and implications for tourism ([read](#)

[more here](#)). She also appeared on 7News, speaking about erosion in Northern NSW and SE Queensland, beach recovery potential, and public safety concerns.

Lachie Perris spoke with the ABC about the cyclone's impact on the University of Sydney's research station. The highest wave heights since monitoring began in 2022 were recorded. Despite the intensity, the buoys held, and the team returned later to assess reef damage—especially in light of the 2024 bleaching event, which may have weakened coral structures.



9. Spotlight: **Dr Kevin Davies**



Dr Kevin Davies
School of Geosciences
University of Sydney

Dr Kevin Davies is a geospatial scientist whose work bridges cutting-edge technology and real-world impact. Kevin's research combines satellite remote sensing, geospatial analysis, and GIS to tackle pressing geographical challenges. His projects have included satellite-based land use mapping and

geospatial data collection aimed at improving livelihoods and natural resource management in the Pacific Islands. He has also investigated the use of CubeSats for environmental and landscape monitoring as part of the University of Sydney's Centre for CubeSats, UAVs and their Applications ([CUAVA](#)).

In addition to his research, Kevin is also the Coordinator of the Marine Science and Management Master's Program, supporting and mentoring the next generation of marine scientists.

What advice would you give to early career marine scientists?

Marine Science is such a diverse discipline, so it helps to understand what aspect of Marine Science you are most interested in and focus building your skills in that area. Look out for opportunities that help add to your experience such as volunteering with a community group, helping a researcher with their fieldwork, or getting involved in a citizen science project. Think also about learning a transferable skill such as GIS to broaden your possible career options.

How do you see your area of research contributing to the most pressing environmental issues?

A particular focus of my research is the use of satellite remote sensing for mapping and monitoring changes to coastal ecosystems such as mangroves, saltmarsh and seagrass. These ecosystems are important long-term stores of carbon and provide other important services such as nursery habitats for marine life and protecting coastlines from erosion. By using the latest in satellite sensor technology, my research contributes to better management and monitoring of these important coastal ecosystems.

10. Volunteers Support Available for Your Project!

The University of Sydney Underwater Explorers Club has reached out to MSI expressing interest in collaborating with researchers across the Institute.

The club is eager to get involved in marine-related research, outreach, education, or conservation initiatives. If you are planning a project or ongoing work that could benefit from **volunteer support**, we would love to hear from you. Reach out to us at sydney.msi@sydney.edu.au, and we will connect you with the club's president to explore how they can support your work!

11. MSI Current Students

Do you study anything marine related at Sydney University?
If so, please join us on the MSI [Canvas site](#) for information, opportunities and events. From this site you can also visit the [geo student portal](#) and the [School of Life and environmental sciences student portal](#) for details of unit options and job, research and fieldwork opportunities.

12. MSI Alumni

Did you do marine studies at Sydney University?
If so, we would love to add you to our list of MSI Alumni. We want to find out what weird and wonderful things you are doing and where your studies take you. You may also have the opportunity to share your experience and advice with our current students.
If you would like to be added to our MSI alumni database, please reply to this email and let us know.

13. How Can We Help You?

Are you a marine researcher? if so, we would love to hear from you about how we can help support and promote your research to the MSI community.
If you have any feedback or ideas on how we can work together, please reply to this email and let us know.

14. #Coast2Cast Podcast



In early 2021, Ana Vila-Concejo (University of Sydney) and Giovanni Coco (University of Auckland), decided to interview coastal scientists, engineers and oceanographers from around the world about research and non-research topics. The idea was that, as COVID madness continued, students and scientists around the world could still "meet" coastal scientists and hear directly from them. This podcast has grown into a successful global marine outreach.

Listen to #Coast2Cast in [Spotify](#), via [PodBean](#) or directly from the [Coast and Ocean Collective](#).



[Listen to the podcast](#)



Marine Studies Institute

Email: sydney.msi@sydney.edu.au

Phone: 02 8627 0450

School of Geosciences | Faculty of Science

Rm 308, Madsen Building F09 | The University of Sydney |

NSW | 2006



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY



Copyright © 2021 Marine Studies Institute, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

sydney.msi@sydney.edu.au

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

This email was sent to sydney.msi@sydney.edu.au

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Marine Studies Institute · Room 308, Madsen Building, Eastern Avenue · Sydney, Nsw 2000 · Australia



