

Subject: MSI Newsletter - June 2024

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From: Marine Studies Institute

To: MSI Coordinator



Marine Studies Institute

June 2024 Newsletter



Recent Events

Marine Wildlife Conflicts Collaborative Research Workshop



MSI hosted the second Research Collaboration Workshop in April chaired by [Dr Christopher Pepin-Neff](#) (School of Social and Political Sciences).

The workshop brought together researchers from various departments to discuss their work on Marine Wildlife Conflicts in Australia, particularly human-shark interactions.

We had 14 people attend with three presenters from various departments including the School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Law and Engineering as well as guests from the Humane Society International.

We agreed to form a subcommittee to see how we can collaborate in the future.

We also have three new PhD students in human-shark interactions starting next semester, which creates a whole new world of possibilities.

We intend to hold more such workshops in the future, so watch this space!

Women at Sydney: Women in Coastal Fieldwork Panel



The Women at Sydney Network and MSI hosted a special panel event with over 40 attendees where researchers from three Australian universities discussed their lived experience of gender inequality while undertaking coastal fieldwork, as well as their collaborative research on the barriers facing women getting into the field.

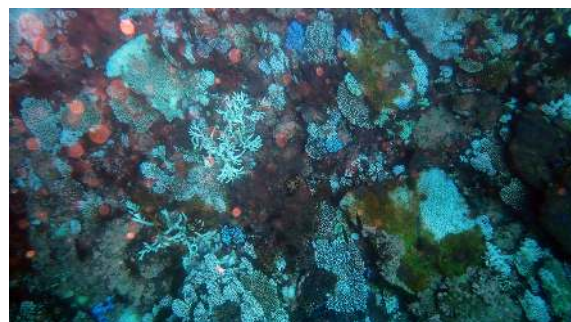
Prof [Maria Byrne](#) of the School of Life and Environmental Sciences chaired the event, and the other panellists included Prof [Ana Vila-Concejo](#) (School of Geosciences), A/Prof [Sarah Hamylton](#) (University of Wollongong), and A/Prof [Hannah Power](#), (University of Newcastle). Together, these researchers conducted an international survey about perceptions and experiences of gender inequality for those working in coastal sciences.

There was an engaging discussion about the major themes of their research including the barriers to fieldwork participation and challenges for women working in coastal field settings, such as working on boats or beaches, including discrimination and harassment. They also offered suggestions of

ways to foster enjoyable and supportive fieldwork cultures for all researchers.

Read more about [their research on the University's website](#), and
[Read their paper in the Journal of Coastal Futures](#).

Coral Reefs and Climate Change Fieldtrip 2024



Prof [Jody Webster](#) (School of Geosciences) led a group of four staff and 19 Masters students from the MARS5007 Coral Reefs and Climate Change unit to visit One Tree Island in April, in the southern Great Barrier Reef. They explored the diverse range of habitats that characterise the One Tree coral reef ecosystem, which unfortunately is in the midst of a mass bleaching event. You can read a blog post Jody penned about the trip [here](#).

Sapphire Dinner 2024



Prof [Will Figueira](#) (School of Life and Environmental Sciences), Dr [Shawna Foo](#) (School of Life and Environmental Sciences), Prof [Ana Vila-Concejo](#) (School of Geosciences), Prof [Jennifer Potts](#) (School of Life and Environmental Sciences), and Rebecca Bland (Development Associate) got all dolled up on 20 June for the [Sapphire Dinner](#) in the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

The dinner was hosted by the Sapphire Project Australia, who are dedicated to raising much-needed funds and awareness for organisations doing incredible work and who are making a difference in protecting and preserving our Australian Waters.

The signatories recognised the important work we are doing in the Great Barrier Reef and awarded a grant of \$100k to the [One Tree Island Research Station](#) to support research, education and infrastructure initiatives.

OFF TO THE MALDIVES



[Lachie Perris](#) and Prof [Ana Vila Concejo](#) (School of Geosciences) had an incredible field campaign in the Maldives in April. Deemed by some as the largest atoll experiment ever, the ARISE-2024 campaign focuses on the [natural adaptation of atoll islands to sea level rise and is part of a \\$5.5m project](#). The campaign included tens of hydrodynamic deployments and drifters measuring waves and currents, surveying and mapping using RTK and drones, and sediment studies.

Seminar from Dr Arthur Webb



We had the pleasure of having Dr [Arthur Webb](#) a coastal scientist and adaptation specialist from the United Nations Development Program visit the School of Geosciences in May to present a seminar on his recent work on Sea Level Rise Impacts & Adaptation in the Central Pacific Atolls.

His talk explored the issues surrounding the impact of climate change on atolls and drew on regional examples from the South Pacific. He also discussed the [2022 L-TAP](#) (Long-Term Adaptation Plan) developed by the Government of Tuvalu.

It was a fascinating and engaging seminar!

Immersion experience with the Gamay Rangers





Heavy rain could not dampen what was a fantastic immersion experience with the Gamay Rangers in June. Thanks to Uncle Rob and the Gamay Rangers team for generously sharing their time and knowledge with us. Over 20 of us participated in the day, which was great to see. In the morning we collectively fished with an 80m-long net, catching several fish, including whiting. In the afternoon, the rain worsened, so rather than our planned headland walk, we explored the La Perouse Museum and heard from Uncle Rob about his experiences of La Perouse and the community-driven work of the Gamay Rangers.

Graduation of Uncle Rob Cooley



[The University recognised Uncle Rob Cooley](#) with an Honorary Fellowship in May for his substantial contributions to Australian country and community, and his enduring collaboration with the University's Indigenous researchers to better understand marine and coastal management practices. Uncle Rob gave an inspiring address at a ceremony presided over by Pro-Chancellor Dr Barry Catchlove AM.

Uncle Rob Cooley is a saltwater man with connections to Gamay-Botany Bay and the NSW South Coast. Currently, Uncle Rob is Senior Ranger and Leader of the Gamay Rangers, a group of Indigenous Rangers who undertake natural and cultural resource management activities on cultural areas within Gamay and on conservation land owned by the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Visit from Marrickville High School



In April Dr [Tommy Fellowes](#) and Dr [Ana Paula Da Silva](#) (School of Geosciences) hosted an Earth and Environmental Science class from Marrickville High School. The students were introduced to the fun of a wave tank exercise to learn about the effect of water movement on sediment. The students used Lego to construct coastal infrastructure that was then exposed to marine and coastal processes in an interactive way, which was a huge hit with the students.

SPOTLIGHT



Prof Joshua Cinner

School of Geosciences

Professor of Geography

ARC Australian Laureate Fellow

Prof Joshua Cinner is a quantitative social scientist who studies human-environment interactions on tropical coasts. His passion is sustainability-focused interdisciplinary research at the intersection of social science and ecology. He frequently collaborates with ecologists on topics such as: defining the conditions that lead to sustainability; locating and learning from conservation ‘bright spots’; and examining how coastal societies and ecosystems respond to global environmental change. He has worked in Australia, Chile, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Madagascar, Mexico, Mozambique, Papua New Guinea, Seychelles, Tanzania, and USA. He leads the Social-Ecological Research Frontiers working group- a team of 40 social scientists, ecologists, engineers, environmental scientists, and statisticians. He has received numerous awards and recognition, including the Pew Marine Fellowship, the Elinor Ostrom award for collective governance of the commons, the Eureka prize for Excellence in Interdisciplinary Research, the Mid-Career award from the International Coral Reef Society, and four ARC fellowships. He is a “Highly Cited Researcher” (Clairvate Analytics 2021, 2018), a Fellow of the Academy of Social Science in Australia, and a 2023 ARC Australian Laureate Fellow. He also leads the Thriving Oceans Research Hub.

What advice would you give to early career marine scientists?

I am a huge fan of interdisciplinarity, but it can be very hard and uncomfortable. I suggest that ECRs continually go outside of your comfort zone. Attend seminars that don't seem to have anything to do with what you focus on. Listen to podcasts on economics or whatever. By doing so you will begin to understand how other fields are tackling similar problems and get inspiration that will breathe new life into your own field.

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

Environmental issues are critically linked to social issues- many causes of environmental degradation are inherently social by nature, so social science can play a critical role in crafting solutions to environmental problems- in my field, fisheries, you can't make fisheries sustainable by telling the fish what to do- they aren't going to listen to you. It is people you have to manage and doing so requires understanding human behaviour and how it can be changed. At the same time, it is only by working hand-in-hand with ecologists that we understand where biological limits are and can help avoid them. For this reason, I have spent much of my career linking social science and ecology to promote sustainability and resilience.

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.

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.

#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



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