



# ATSIMS News

Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders in Marine Science

ATSIMS, a James Cook University (JCU) marine science education and outreach program, connects First Nations high school students to marine science and management learning opportunities led by industry leaders. ATSIMS engages Year 10 students by building connections between a number of organisations and knowledge systems. The ATSIMS team coordinate the delivery of field-based learning experiences, mini practicals, and workshops led by a range of local and regional experts. ATSIMS is supported by Traditional Owners and representatives, and Indigenous Land & Sea Ranger groups within the North Queensland region.

## ATSIMS ALUMNA



*Lilly-Lee Jordan, former Ingham SHS student & ATSIMS participant in 2014.*

*continued pg 4*

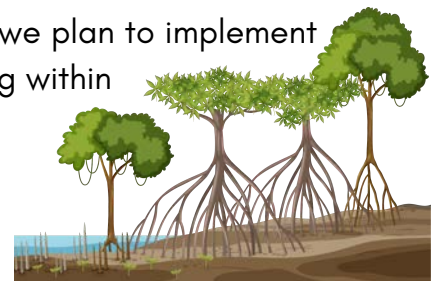
## EARTHWATCH AUSTRALIA

[Earthwatch Institute Australia](#) and [MangroveWatch](#) are teaming up with teachers from Great Barrier Reef schools in a 6-day expedition in the mangroves of Cairns!



ATSIMS Project Officer, Jess was based at Holloways Beach Environmental Education Centre for 6 days learning about engage students in **mangrove citizen science projects**.

Stay tuned for how we plan to implement mangrove monitoring within ATSIMS and across Orpheus Island!



# ATSIMS ALUMNI NETWORK

We consider you a part of our wider alumni family if you are:

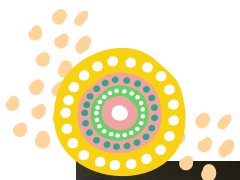
- A current or former ATSIMS participant who attended an ATSIMS graduation ceremony;
- A current or past school staff member who participated in any program modules;
- A program partner, volunteer, or offer sponsor support to ATSIMS.

As an active member of the **ATSIMS Alumni Network**, you can meet, learn from and mentor other ATSIMS participants in the Townsville and North Queensland region, so get in touch with us today!



## WADDA MOOLI | FACEBOOK ACCOUNT

**WANT TO SHARE YOUR ATSIMS JOURNEY AND BEYOND?  
OR BE A PART OF A GROUP OF LIKE-MINDED PEERS?**



Did you know that as a current or former ATSIMS participant, you are **one of over 350 across North Queensland and beyond?**

If this is you, jump online and join [Wadda Mooli](#), our Facebook Alumni Account today and stay connected as we evolve into an active community group together! You'll find posts sharing local and regional opportunities for **Training & Immersion**, various options for **Study Pathways**, and **Career Opportunities** – join us!



Researcher holding a baby turtle



© Ben Rennie

## JCU TURTLE HEALTH RESEARCH: CARAPLACE

If you like sea turtles and want to learn more about them and the work at the [JCU Turtle Health Research Centre: Caraplace](#), they have a spot just for you!

Whether you want to join them for a day to see what they do, or stay for a week, or even a full semester, they have a wide range of opportunities for you to get involved...

They'll teach you about the local turtles found in Queensland, share current research projects, and provide training for husbandry procedures where you will **interact with sea turtles and help with their daily care.**

If you're interested, why not give it a go and visit for the day!



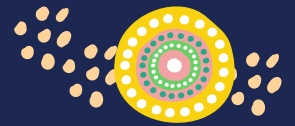
WANT TO GAIN HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE WITH SEA TURTLES?

WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS?

**BECOME A VOLUNTEER**



## ATSIMS ALUMNA CONTINUED...



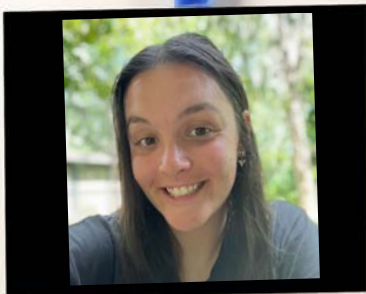
Lilly-Lee is a proud Woppaburra and Butchulla woman. She attended Ingham SHS and says that she was fortunate enough to participate in the ATSIMS program in 2014 where she continued her passion for studying biology. Lilly-Lee was awarded Indigenous School Captain in 2017 and her passion grew into supporting her fellow younger Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander brothers and sisters in their educational journey. After graduating, Lilly-Lee was accepted at JCU Townsville in the Bachelor of Primary Education program. During her studies she also worked at the NRL Cowboys House as a tutor where she was further inspired by her team to continue on her own career pathway. Towards the end of 2019 she was offered a position at Mungalla Silver Linings School, and then graduated with her Bachelors degree in March of 2023! We were so thrilled when Lilly-Lee reached out to the ATSIMS team on behalf of Mungalla Silver Linings School interested in joining the ATSIMS program – but this time as a teacher and with her own group of students!

*"The ATSIMS program was one I have always cherished and has given me the best memories from my high school experience. At the time, I was highly interested in studying Marine Biology and this experience provided me the skillset and understanding of what was required of me in this profession. I was able to meet so many new people, some of whom I still talk to today."*



*Lilly-Lee Jordan,*  
former Ingham SHS student  
& ATSIMS participant in 2014

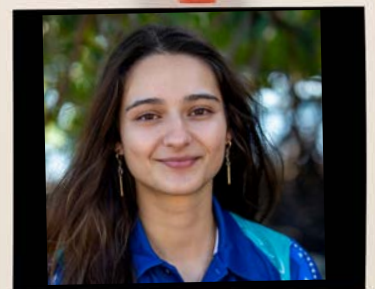
## MEET OUR 2023 ATSIMS AMBASSADORS



**Courtney Burns**



**Garrett Saylor**



**Laure Senor**

AMBASSADORS CONTINUED



Courtney Burns diving

**Courtney** is a proud Guanikurnai woman from Gippsland Victoria, currently in her third and final year of the Bachelor of Marine Science at JCU Townsville. She has an immense passion for diving and ocean health, but specifically sharks! She currently works as a Divemaster and Deckhand, Swimming Instructor, Junior Research Technician and as an Intern for the Physioshark team. Recently she joined the JCU Indigenous Student Ambassador program through the Indigenous Education & Research Centre (IERC) and cannot wait to share her passion and knowledge with young Indigenous peoples interested in Marine Science. Post completion of her undergraduate degree she hopes to continue her education and pursue a career in research - particularly in shark conservation, incorporating Indigenous knowledge into modern day science.

**Laure** is a proud Wiradjuri woman currently undertaking her second-year of Marine Biology at JCU. This is her second year working alongside the ATSIMS team in this role;

*"ATSIMS has provided me with more than just networking, [but also] a deeper understanding of ...Indigenous Culture, and ownership of Land & Sea Country here in North Queensland. Most importantly [participating in] ATSIMS has taught me the importance of being a mentor to educate our younger generation of scientists."*



Laure Senor snorkelling

Garrett Saylor on Orpheus Island



**Garrett** is a young Torres Strait Islander man, his cultural heritage connections are to Erub (Darney Island) on his fathers side, and Nyikina (Kimberly region) on his mothers side. He lived in Torres Strait until 2008 when he moved to Townsville. Garrett is currently undertaking a Diploma of Higher Education with plans to move into a Bachelor of Marine Science at JCU in the near future.



Allison Paley receiving a Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning



Jess Smit working with students at St Michael's Catholic School, Palm Island

## ATSIMS STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ATSIMS Coordinator Ally** has accepted a new role within the College of Science & Engineering at JCU as Lecturer, Science (International Program Coordinator). In her new role Ally will be working closely with Southwest University (SWU) in Chongqing, China to support the joint university venture. Ally will be teaching and coordinating into SWU's subjects in the Bachelor of Animal Science in China, as well as coordinating the student experience for SWU students studying at JCU Townsville.

Additionally Ally received a Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning for her role in the coordination of the subject Introductory Marine Science (MB1110) - a first year subject at JCU.

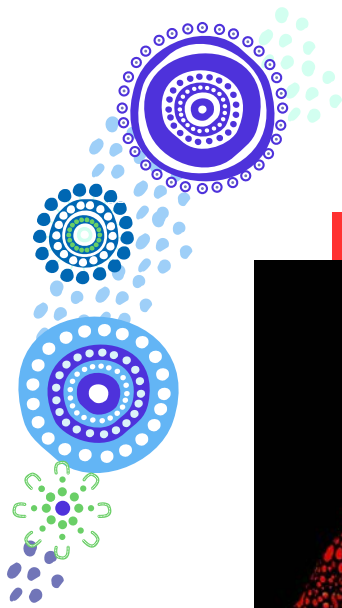
Ally will continue her role with ATSIMS sharing her time equally across these two important positions at JCU.

This year is definitely keeping **Jess, ATSIMS Project Officer**, busy...

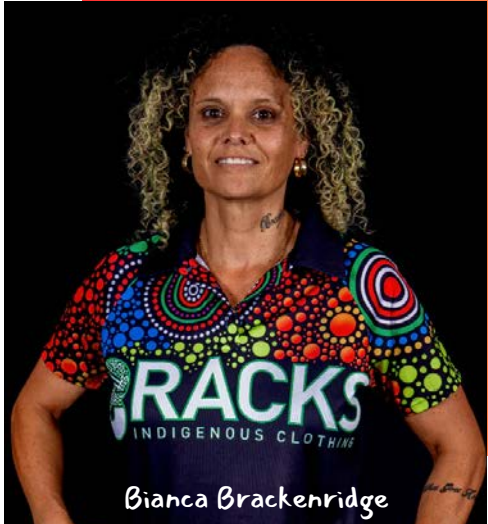
In addition to her role with ATSIMS, Jess recently began a part-time position at St Michael's Catholic School on Palm Island as the Learning and Teaching Advisor. In this new role Jess will use a community of practice model to assist in developing, enacting and reviewing processes that improve student learning outcomes.

Jess is also currently enrolled in a Master's degree in Educational Leadership; Indigenous Educational Leadership through Australian Catholic University.

Although Jess is busy operating in this other role and study, she remains committed to ATSIMS and has been excited to start her second year with the program. Please send her an email or leave a voicemail if you cannot reach her the first time!



## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Bianca Brackenridge

“Through the murri grapevine, BRACKS Indigenous Clothing has reached many buyers without the need for advertising...”

BRACKS Indigenous Clothing uniquely celebrates three cultures - **Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and South Sea Islander.**

### HAVE YOU SEEN SOME DEADLY DESIGNS GETTING ABOUT TOWN?

If you have, you’re probably checking out some of the merchandise that owner, **Bianca Brackenridge** has created through her business [BRACKS Indigenous Clothing](#). We are excited to have Bianca and her team on board to create our program shirts for ATSIMS 2023!

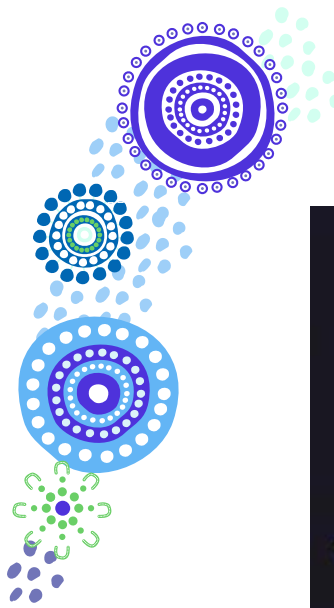
We found inspiration in a totem of the Traditional Owners of Goolboddi (Orpheus Island), the Manbarra people - sting rays! We worked closely with Bianca to include images of rays on our 2023 ATSIMS shirt. We think they turned out great and hope all our participants and partners enjoy them!



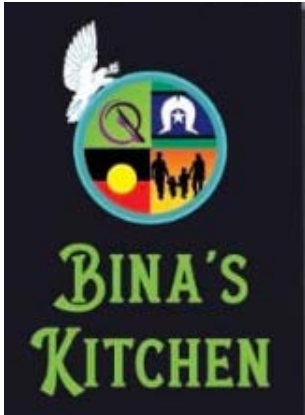
Dot art incorporates rainbow colours for inclusivity

Coral images represent the uniting structure of coral reefs and highlights their role as the ecosystem engineers of tropical coral reefs.

Manta rays represent a totem of the Manbarra People, Traditional Owners of Goolboddi (Orpheus Island)



# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Evelyn and husband Gibson at Orpheus Island

If you haven't yet dropped in to meet **Evelyn Billy**, owner of [Bina's Kitchen](#), to try some of her delicious traditional **Torres Strait Islander** food...

- COCONUT CRAYFISH,
- BANANA LEAF DAMPER,
- CHICKEN CURRY,
- SOP - SOP

... then you are missing out!

**"Our cuisine is basically Torres Strait infused with Malaysian and also has a touch of Melanesian and Polynesian influence because of our ancestral background."**

We are thrilled to have Evelyn and the team onboard this year catering for our school camp to Orpheus Island Research Station, and we have so enjoyed having our bellies filled with her delicious cooking!

## COMMUNITY SHOUTOUT



# Thank you!

Shoutout to **Plaza Meats, Parkside** for supporting our school camp to Orpheus Island Research Station by donating ALL meat to feed our mob! We are so grateful! Please help us support this generous local business.





## LET'S GET SOCIAL!

Is there something you would like to see on our [website](#) or featured in the next newsletter that might not be there yet?

Get in touch with us today - We're on a number of social media outlets simply click the logos and start connecting!



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# OUR SPONSORING PARTNERSHIPS

Click the logos below to be taken to the websites of our partners. If your organisation would like to talk to us about sponsoring the program - please get in touch!



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Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority



Reef Guardian School  
An initiative of the Reef Authority



Australian Government  
Department of Education



Reef Ecologic  
For a better planet



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE

