

# Australia Awards Scholarships News

Cairns  
Singapore  
Townsville

JCU Australia Awards Scholarships Newsletter May 2015



## Welcome to James Cook University

### *Winter in the tropics*

*It's 25 degrees Celsius and the sky is clear blue. We've brought out the jackets and scarves to add to our shorts and thongs and we only go swimming in the middle of the day.*

*Our first semester is almost at an end and students are preparing for exams. JCU's Exam Plan Week is a week-long event on both the Townsville and Cairns campuses that assists students plan for exams and manage stress. It is a combination of information giving such as exam tips & exam procedures, workshops and stress-free activities. Stress-less activities are being run throughout the week and include Free Lunch Friday, Yoga on the Grass, 3 minute massages and Bungee on the Green.*

*We wish all our students good luck with their exams over the coming weeks.*



*New Students Aggie Peter (Fiji), Nancy Waffi (PNG), Naomi Asing (PNG) at Billabong Sanctuary*

## New Intake – New Friends

30 new Australia Awards Scholarship students from eight countries commenced their studies at JCU in February 2015 with the vast majority undertaking postgraduate studies in Public Health and Science.

The four-week full-time Introductory Academic Program included intensive academic and cultural orientation but also made time for social outings to Billabong Sanctuary (Australian wildlife sanctuary), Reef HQ Aquarium and the Cultural Centre to learn about Australia's Indigenous culture.

Attending the IAP full-time for four weeks paved the way for the awardees to get to know one another and form lifelong friendships. Many have since been joined by their families from home and are progressing well into their studies at JCU.





Introductory Academic Program, January 2015

## AAS at JCU: Facts and Figures

James Cook University has been supporting students under Australia Award Scholarships (and its previous equivalents) since the mid-1990's. There are currently 138 awardees representing 34 countries studying at JCU with 80% on the Townsville campus and 20% on the Cairns campus. The largest cohort comes from Papua New Guinea making up 28.5% of the AAS student population followed by the awardees from Indonesia representing 21% of the student cohort.

15% of the AAS Awardees are completing an undergraduate program, 55% postgraduate programs and 30% higher degree research programs (Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy).

The JCU 2014 Australia Awards Scholarship Annual Report shows that 92% of the student group have achieved satisfactory academic progress during the same year.

## Hungry at JCU? We have you covered...



Eating on-campus has come a long way. These days a range of options have opened up providing students with a smorgasbord of delights.

The JCU Refectory is still the main student eating hub providing hot and cold meals such as sandwiches, salads, fish and chips, burgers and a juice and smoothie bar. Add to this barista-style coffee bar and the dining experience is complete. The JCU Student Association also runs The Club where patrons can order food off the menu while enjoying a beverage and sit outdoors in the garden area.

The Green Plate Café serves salads, light lunches and coffee. Their outdoor deck is popular with students and staff and is a great spot from which to watch birds and other wildlife.

There are three privately operated food outlets on campus. Located on the ground floor of the JCU Library, Juliette's is the go-to for an ice cream or coffee fix. The café also serves cakes and other sweet and savoury delights.

Miss Sushi is a popular lunch destination for many students who want to have lunch on the go. The handy packaged 'sushi rolls' are

affordable and provide a substantial meal for students during the day. An assortment of hot foods such as spring rolls, fried rice, curry puffs and a range of sweet treats are also on offer.

Jamaica Blue Café is located in the Clinical Practices building serving café style meals and great coffee. It is located next to the Woolworths supermarket which is also a quick and easy place for students to buy ready-made meals and other food items.

## JCU expands into Townsville's CBD

James Cook University is expanding its presence in Townsville, celebrating the opening of its innovative, multi-use campus in the heart of the city.

The nearly 1000 square metre Townsville City Campus is a three storey, teaching, engagement and student services centre located in the City Arcade development.

[Read the full story online](#)



## Managing time for success

For Christian Maikel Eman, the day that he arrived in Townsville almost a year and a half ago seems like yesterday. Coming from the bustling city of Jakarta with its 9.6 million inhabitants, Christian has appreciated living in the smaller city of Townsville (pop 200,000) with its easy to access parks, pools, health care, childcare and more importantly the hospitality of its residents.

Christian works for the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries and is completing a Master of Science in Aquaculture. His studies at JCU include two small projects that give him hands on experience in dealing with real life situations in the aquaculture industry. His studies in hatchery and production techniques will enable him to apply this knowledge to his work in Indonesia.

In the past three semesters, Christian has learned to manage his time more carefully having been required to submit multiple assignments within a short period of time. Initially he faced challenges relating to the English language but has overcome these by accessing services at JCU. As he approaches his study completion, Christian



Christian Eman at Marine and Aquaculture Research Facilities Unit

feels that his confidence in the English language has improved dramatically.

Outside of his studies, Christian has been involved with sports (football and volleyball). He has also been an active member of the JCU Indonesian Student Association and with activities under the Aitkenvale Uniting Church undertaking community services such as assisting the elderly with day-to-day chores and providing musical entertainment to people with disabilities.

For him, some of the best things about studying at JCU include easy to access library resources, excellent teaching and learning facilities, easy access to computers and the high level of service delivery by the International Student Support team.

His advice to future students is simply to "study hard, learn everything that can be learned, do assignments promptly, manage your time properly, seek help and enjoy your time here making as many friends as possible!"

## Life after JCU

### Donald Tahani

DipMLT, (FSM), BMLSc(Hons), (JCU), MAIMS, (Australia).

I completed the Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science Honours at James Cook University in 2009.

Since then I have been working at the Solomon Islands National Medical Laboratory Department, as a Supervising Scientist, performing middle management work in our department and have been actively engaged in providing key technical advises and directions in the operation and administration of our organization. My work has also presented me with great experience and opportunities to work with our local and international stakeholders and partners, such as Solomon Islands Red Cross Society, World Health Organization and Australian Red Cross Society, in a variety of programs and projects.

Just recently, I have been given the responsibility, as a Medical Laboratory Manager, to manage and coordinate all technical and administrative operations of our Clinical Laboratory Department, looking after around 30 full time staff members. I can proudly say



that JCU have played a significant role and effectively prepared me for such challenges.

My time at JCU and in Townsville gave me increased self-confidence and the ability to make many informed and important decisions that affect my work and my life. Living in multicultural Australia gave me a renewed appreciation of the beauty of diverse cultures. It also strengthened my love of sports!

I miss the easy lifestyle and environment of Townsville and miss the fun I had with all my friends in and outside of JCU. I look forward to coming back soon to pursue PhD studies in the field of clinical microbiology.



## Upcoming Events

JCU will be attending the Australia Award Scholarship events in

### PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Friday 05 – Thursday 11 June

Crowne Plaza Hotel - Port Moresby;  
Madang Lodge – Madang;  
Lae International Hotel – Lae;  
Wabag Secondary School – Wabag,

### VIETNAM

24 July - Ho Chi Minh City

26 July - Hanoi

### INDONESIA

28 July - Jakarta

30 July - Bali

JCU staff look forward to meeting with your friends or colleagues at these events.

## Taking it to the top

The canopy is the business end of the rainforest, and the 47-metre canopy crane at James Cook University's Daintree Rainforest Observatory (DRO) takes researchers right to the top.

Working from a gondola suspended from the crane's 57-metre arm, scientists can work in and above the rainforest canopy of a hectare of rainforest, as well as accessing data about forest function via a network of 500 sensors that measure microclimates, tree growth and sap flow.

While the crane has been operating since the late 1990s, the Commonwealth Government's Education Innovation Fund provided \$9.37M to acquire the formerly leased site and add facilities that make it a globally significant field centre for rainforest research.

The DRO was officially opened by the Federal Member for Leichhardt, the Hon Warren Entsch, and JCU Vice Chancellor Professor Sandra Harding.

"This is one of the very few sites in the world where students and researchers can get access all the way through a rainforest, from soil to atmosphere," Professor Andrew Krockenberger, JCU's Dean of Research said.

The Observatory is connected to international networks of research stations, including the International Long Term Ecological Research Network, and the Royal Society's South-East Asia Rainforest Research program.

"Long-term research here has an important part to play in understanding global ecosystems and developing solutions to current and future environmental and community problems," Professor Krockenberger said.

As part of the new development we are also providing more information and facilities that will help teachers around the world bring rainforest studies to their classes.

Professor Robyn McGuiggan, Deputy Vice Chancellor and Head of JCU's Cairns campus, said the new facility would attract more research and attention to the already world-famous rainforests of the Wet Tropics.

"Thanks to the support of the Department of Education, we are now able to accommodate



up to 46 researchers and students in shared accommodation close to research sites.

"We believe it will contribute to the ongoing growth of nature-based tourism in the Daintree by attracting researchers, students, and media attention from around the world. Research and teaching laboratories onsite will enable JCU to teach rainforest science in one of the world's most spectacular lowland rainforest research locations."

## Student Profiles

Have you seen JCU's Youtube channel? We've recently added seven new student profiles including students from Germany, PNG, Vietnam, Peru, Indonesia, Norway and Japan. As a JCU agent you are able to use these videos on your websites. To receive a copy email us at [iscmarketing@jcu.edu.au](mailto:iscmarketing@jcu.edu.au)



Celina Burkholz (Germany)



Nguyen Pham (Vietnam)



Leynard Natividad (Peru)



Jane Giat (Indonesia)

For more information about the AAS program at JCU, please visit our website: [www.jcu.edu.au/international/aas](http://www.jcu.edu.au/international/aas)

## Facebook and Instagram

Students can find exciting information current to the Cairns or Townsville campus on the James Cook International social media profiles:

[www.facebook.com/james.cook.university.international](https://www.facebook.com/james.cook.university.international)

[instagram.com/james\\_cook\\_international](https://www.instagram.com/james_cook_international)

## JCUConnect

Did you know that James Cook International has a blog that allows students to share their experiences and tips? Students interested in studying at JCU can read stories written by current students on [jcuconnect.com](http://jcuconnect.com).