



ATSIMS News

Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders in Marine Science

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ALUMNI NEWS



Adam Napier (ATSIMS 2018)
Junior Aquarist, AIMS

Nearly 350 students from the north Queensland region representing 13 schools have participated in the ATSIMS program since its inception in 2013. This year we had 43 graduates, and are eager to build capacity to incorporate more students in the future. We will also build our Alumni network so we can follow-up with our graduates who are working in marine or related science/environmental fields to get a better understanding of how ATSIMS played a role in shaping their career trajectories...

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2022 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

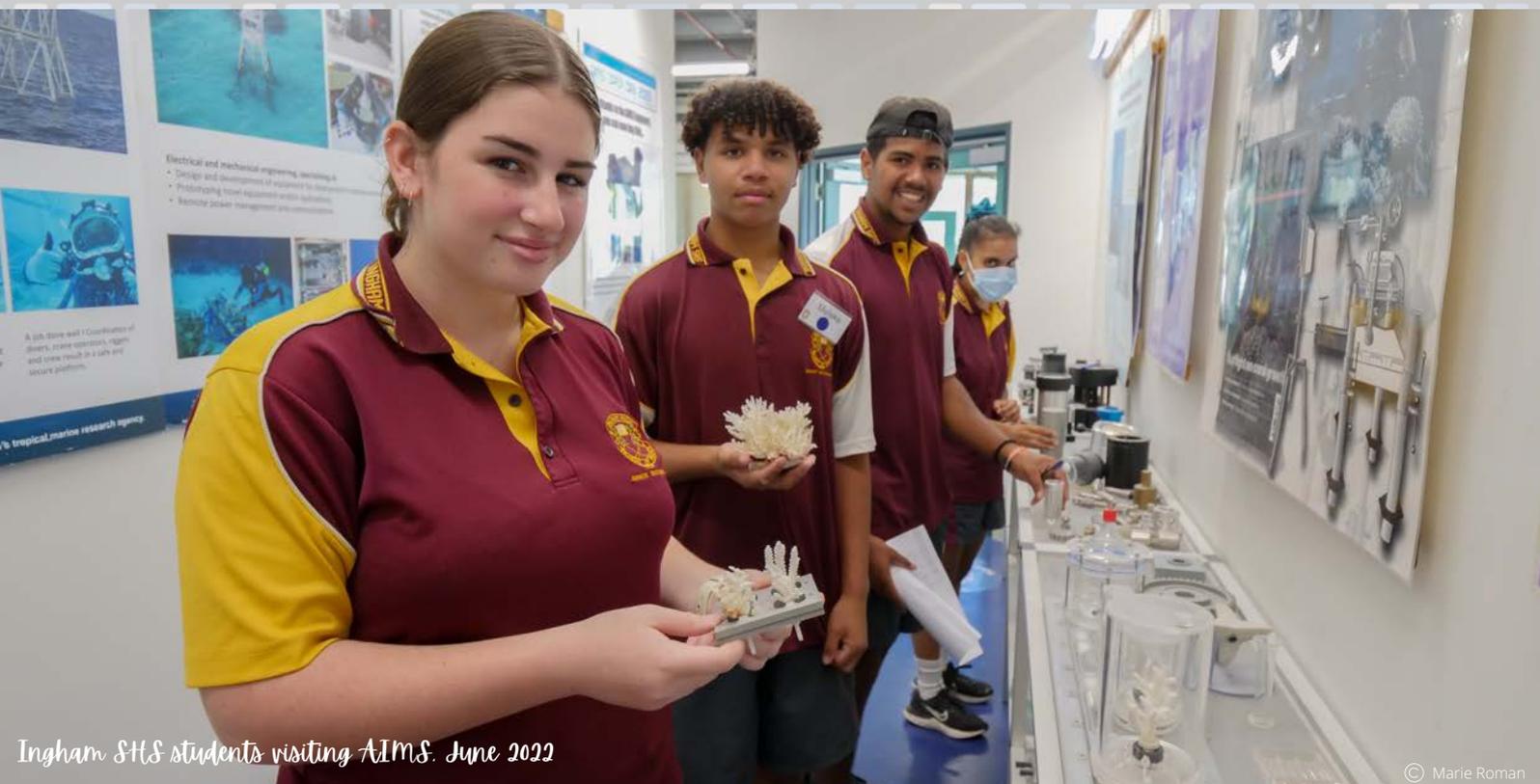
After a two-year hiatus, the College of Science and Engineering at James Cook University (JCU) in collaboration with our partners were thrilled to bring the ATSIMS program back in 2022. The program kicked off in May with visits to our partnering schools – Kirwan SHS, Heatley Secondary College (Townsville region), Ingham SHS, St Teresa’s College, Abergowrie (Ingham region) and Ayr SHS (Burdekin region) – to meet our 2022 ATSIMS scholars. During our visits we were fortunate to have [Girringun Aboriginal Rangers](#), [Gudjuda Land and Sea Rangers](#) and a mix of marine scientists to share about their roles in the marine field. We returned to classrooms in June to host a Virtual Reef Conference Day alongside Educators from [ReefHQ](#) and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) while the Aquarium is closed for [renovations](#). Students learned about Dangerous and Deadly marine creatures, gained life-size appreciation for sea turtle diversity, and mingled with other schools. Next, we explored the [Australian Institute of Marine Science](#) (AIMS) which showcased cutting edge research in the field of marine science, and the varied and crucial roles involved in supporting science at this level.

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2022 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED...

Students got a real kick out of seeing live Crown of Thorns Starfish, their natural predator the Giant Triton Snail (which is being bred at the Institute), and learning about the impressive technology advancing their research in the Engineering Workshop and the Coral Core Archive. In June we hosted our scholars on Goolboddi (Orpheus Island) at JCU's [Orpheus Island Research Station](#) (OIRS) where students spent three nights living on the island amongst the Great Barrier Reef. During their trip, our scholars were welcomed by, and engaged with Manbarra Traditional Owners and were able to connect with one another and to Country. They learned about marine habitats and how researchers care for and survey them including participating in global citizen science programs [CoralWatch](#) and [Tangaroa Blue](#). Students also got a taste for filmmaking by creating short narrative films inspired by their participation in the ATIMS program – check them out on our [ATSIMS YouTube Channel](#). We finalised the 2022 program by regrouping for a day at JCU to explore the facilities on campus, giving students a glimpse of life as a student at JCU. After being welcomed by the Head of Marine Biology and Aquaculture [A/Prof Mia Hoogenboom](#) our students learned about sharks and rays and their spatial ecology in the lab of the Science Place with [Dr Andrew Chin](#). We toured and learned about the various support offered by the Indigenous Education and Research Centre (IERC), and were even welcomed by Deputy Vice Chancellor Indigenous Education and Strategy [Prof Martin Nakata](#) himself! We invited our partners and guests to join us for a celebratory lunch and awards presentation ceremony where our 2022 Scholars graduated, and special award winners were recognised for their efforts throughout the program. We are so grateful to have met and worked with so many wonderful students, teachers, and teaching staff along the way – you truly are the stars of ATIMS!

ALIA



Ingham SHS students visiting ATIMS. June 2022

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Kiwan SHS students on Orpheus Island, June 2022



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ALUMNI NEWS CONTINUED...

We recently caught up with 2018 ATSIMS graduate Adam Napier, who graduated from St. Teresa's College, Abergowrie in 2021 and is now working for AIMS in a traineeship position as an Aquaculture Assistant. Adam is a Junior Aquarist at AIMS providing support to the National Sea Simulator (SeaSim), a position which Adam says is a daily challenge as every day is different. Adam's favourite part of his job is *"...learning about all the different corals. There are so many, and there's so much diversity in SeaSim. One little tank represents an entire reef!"* Adam says that *"ATSIMS...was a giant eye opener and gave me the base of my marine knowledge."* After participating in ATSIMS Adam was encouraged to complete a Certificate II Aquaculture as one of his elective subjects by his teacher, Mrs (Belinda) Strong, *"She was a great teacher and always helped push me. She gave me a pathway to follow. It's because of her I have the career I have now."* When Adam was nearing completion of year 12, Mrs Strong again gave him a little nudge by sharing with Adam a job advertisement for AIMS she saw on Facebook, *"AIMS opportunities jumped out at me so many times, I thought, I might as well go for it!"* Adam began a 3-year contract working at AIMS in 2022 and is concurrently completing a Certificate III Aquaculture as part of his training.

If you had a student participate in ATSIMS and want to share their professional success story with us, please reach-out!



Ayr SHS students and Gudjuda Rangers celebrating graduation, July 2022

RECOGNISING STUDENT EXCELLENCE

The student film with the most YouTube views was awarded the **2022 'Orphies' Film Award**. This year's award went to the film – [Where's the Reef](#) which was a hilarious 'who done it' investigating 'reef murderers' like illegal fishing, and plastic debris. Students were awarded with certificates and merchandise from Orpheus Island Research Station.

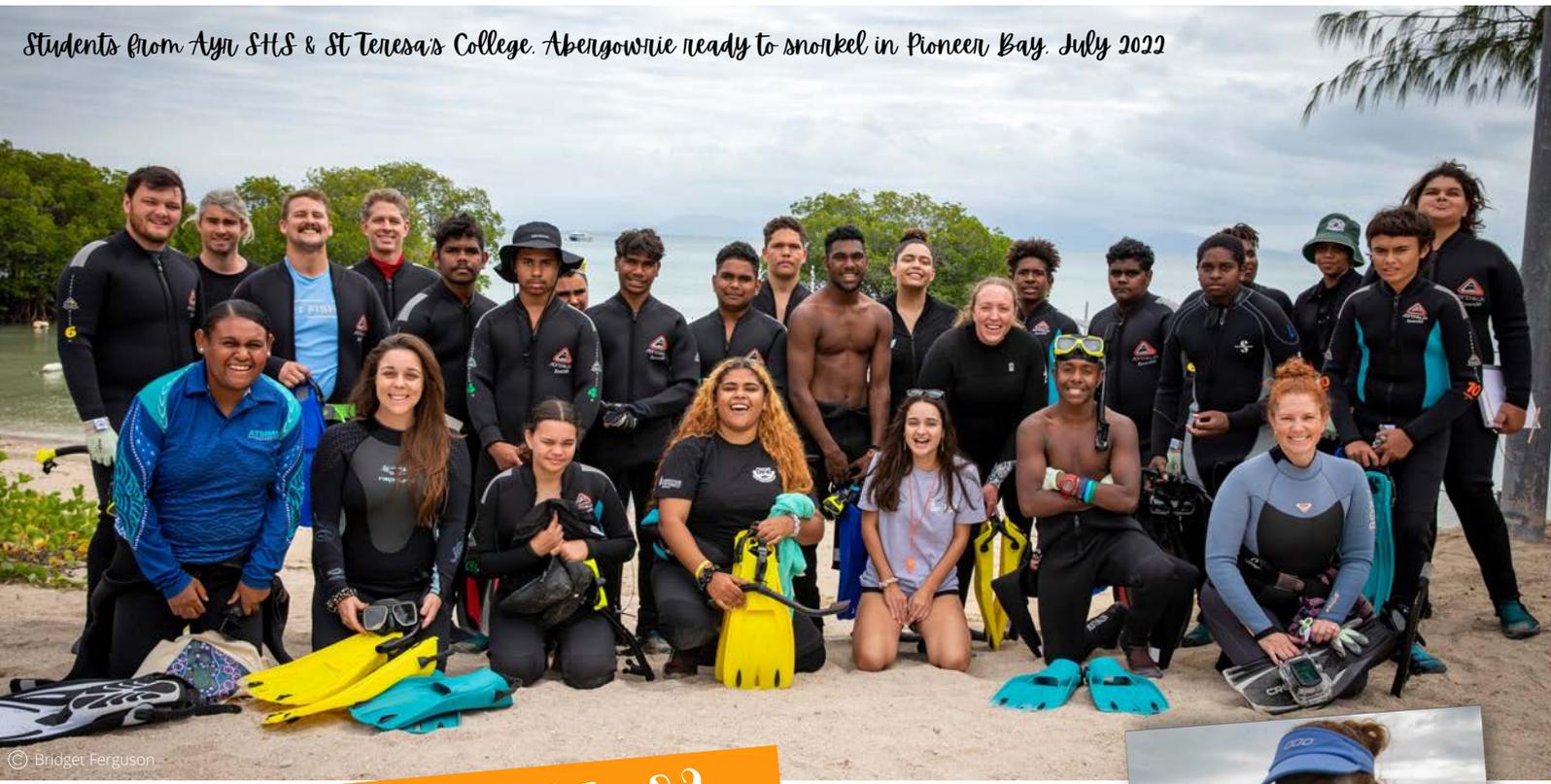
This year one student from each participating school was awarded a **Highly Commended Award** in recognition of their consistent participation throughout the program – whether it was asking questions of the scientists at AIMS, participating in classroom sessions, taking on leadership roles in filmmaking, hiking, and/or snorkelling, or generally shining through brightly. Our award winners were *Aaliyah Bulmer (Ingham SHS)*, *Bradley Cahill (Ayr SHS)*, *Meshack David (STC Abergowrie)*, *Jasmine Holden (Kirwan SHS)*, and *Majella-Rose Lui (Heatley SC)*. Each student received a portable Bluetooth speaker as a prize.

We also recognised one Scholar with our prestigious **Top Honours Award** - *Seth Clemments (Ingham SHS)* for demonstrating excellence in his commitment, continued enthusiasm and genuine connection throughout the ATSIMS 2022 Program. Mr Boori (Monty) Pryor presented Seth with his award voucher for a day trip to the reef with [Adrenalin Dive](#) including a Discover Scuba Dive!



Seth Clemments, Ingham SHS receiving his award

Students from Ayr SHS & St Teresa's College, Abergowrie ready to snorkel in Pioneer Bay, July 2022



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WHO'S WHO IN ATSIMS?

Welcome from ATSIMS Coordinator - Dr Allison Paley

It's wonderful to be involved in the ATSIMS program again! When ATSIMS Founder Dr Joe Pollock first developed the program in 2013, I was fortunate enough to be involved and have been excited to see it grow over the years. With the creation of two new ATSIMS staff positions at JCU, the program has a clear direction for comprehensive integration within our College and into the future. I come from a long history of marine science education, research, and lecturing, as well as having been an employee of JCU for over 15 years. I have been deeply involved in the curriculum development for Orpheus Island Research Stations' **Classroom on the Reef** marine science educational program and look forward to continuing to build ATSIMS's curriculum. Although originally from near Washington D.C., I've lived in Australia for nearly 20 years and am a proud Australian citizen and mother to two young Indigenous-Australian-American boys, who are truly my proudest achievement. I'm grateful for the opportunity to help strengthen the ATSIMS program and deliver opportunities for Indigenous students in our community through marine science engagement.



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ATSIMS Project Officer - Jessica Smit

Jess began her position with ATSIMS at JCU in April of this year after more than eight years classroom experience in primary education, first at St. Michaels' Catholic School on Palm Island from 2014-2018, and then as a founding staff member at St. Benedict's Catholic School. More recently Jess has spent time working on the re-development and renewal of the 'Pedagogy of a Difference' project through Townsville Catholic Education as a part of the Indigenous Education Services Team... *continued pg 5*

ATSIMS Project Officer Jess Smit on Orpheus visiting the clam garden. June 2022



A Graduate of the **Stronger Smarter Institute** Leadership Program, she's also currently undertaking a Masters of Educational Leadership specialising in Indigenous Education. Jess is deeply devoted to facilitating engaging learning experiences and opportunities within the local community that support Indigenous knowledges and ways of working.

ATSIMS Ambassadors

Our 2022 ATSIMS Ambassadors **Taleatha Pell**, who completed a Masters in Marine Biology (JCU) in 2021, and **Laure Senior** a first-year Marine Biology and Zoology and Ecology student (JCU), provided support in delivering the program by visiting classrooms, accompanying us to AIMS and Orpheus Island.

ATSIMS Mentors

ATSIMS Mentors are traditionally ATSIMS Alumni who return to join the program and help guide another cohort of students through their program modules. Our 2022 ATSIMS Mentors, and Alumna included **Tarhlym Connor** (Thuringowa SHS 2019), and **Kaitlyn Torrens** (William Ross SHS 2017).

Special Mentions

There are a number of other volunteers and talented individuals who help deliver the ATSIMS program and we would like to make a special mention to **Jess Courtney** (Weir State School 2015, ATSIMS Alumna 2013) who has returned annually to participate in and support the program on the trip to Orpheus Island. In addition, our filmmakers **Chloe Ireland**, **Misha Maas-Robb** and photographer **Bridget Ferguson** whom all helped to create the beautiful imagery and videos we so proudly share with you: [ATSIMS 2022 Experience](#).

Carolyn with Mumma Cath on Orpheus in June 2022



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OUR GRATITUDE AND WELL WISHES

We would be remiss without taking the time and space to acknowledge the great contribution of long-time ATSIMS Coordinator Carolyn Luder, who has recently finished her role with ATSIMS to pursue her business, [Little Sprouts](#), in a greater capacity. Carolyn has led the ATSIMS program, alongside ATSIMS Founder, Dr Joe Pollock, since 2015 after starting with ATSIMS in 2014. *"Carolyn has been absolutely instrumental to the success of the ATSIMS program. Her passion, enthusiasm, and professionalism - not to mention her kind, compassionate, and caring nature - have helped our program, our partners, and our students to thrive,"* Dr Pollock remarked. Under Carolyn's leadership ATSIMS has grown to partner with 13 schools and supports up to 60 students participating in the program annually. In 2016 Carolyn graciously accepted the Queensland Government's Reconciliation Award (Education) on behalf of ATSIMS and JCU. Carolyn has worked tirelessly to secure on-going and additional funding sources, including establishing partnerships like the recent addition of our association with the Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF). During her time in the program Carolyn had the incredible support of her family and loved ones who often were at her side volunteering their time: Carolyn's partner Adrian helped instruct and guide students in the classroom and on the reef, while her Mother Cath shared her culinary skills by handling all aspects of catering the trips to Orpheus Island. Carolyn has had a clear impact on many participants over the past 9 years, as ATSIMS Alumna Jess Courtney relayed, *"...connecting with Carolyn through ATSIMS has had an immeasurable impact on my life as a student and now in adulthood as colleagues and friends. She has left an important impression on the program that will carry on in its legacy."* We wish Carolyn the best of luck in her new venture and are indebted to her commitment to the development of the ATSIMS program, and in ensuring its forward trajectory for years to come!



MOVING FORWARD – "ATSIMS 2.0"

With Ally and Jess leading the helm from our headquarters at JCU we are looking forward to continuing to develop the ATSIMS program and are already looking ahead to our 2023 program. Moving forward we will be spending time reviewing the success of the ATSIMS program which we plan to share in our upcoming Annual Report later in October 2022. We are eager to increase school participation in the program including the possibility of annual participation, instead of bi-annual, and the inclusion of new schools. We are developing ideas for how we can have greater incorporation of local Rangers by introducing a new module focusing on the roles of Rangers and the Country they care for. We are also in discussion to increase the time our scholars engage with JCU with the inclusion of the discipline of Aquaculture in addition to Marine Science. We would also like to welcome our newest partner, the [Great Barrier Reef Foundation's](#) Traditional Owners Partnership team who have generously agreed to fund the ATSIMS program with a \$100,000 contribution to be spent over the next two years! We look forward to working with the GBRF as we increase our capacity and community connections.

Have you connected with us on our socials? We are now on Instagram (@atsims_jcu) and are increasing our activity on Linked In as well as Facebook. Also, stay tuned – our new website (hosted through JCU) will be launching in the next few weeks!

Have any thoughts on what you would like to see included in the ATSIMS program? Don't hesitate to get in contact, we love hearing from our partners and participants.

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