

New South Wales

The University of New England

DP0769961 Dr NR Andrew; A/Prof MA McGeoch

Approved Project Title **Ecology of insect herbivore assemblages: influence of climate, evolutionary history and plant traits**

2007 : \$90,000

2008 : \$88,000

2009 : \$78,000

Primary RFCD 2707 ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION

Administering Organisation The University of New England

Project Summary

The results from this project will be a key reference when assessing future impacts of human-induced impacts on natural communities. Our research will provide insights into the impacts of climate change on herbivorous insects associated with Acacia: the dominant plant genus in the major climatic zones of Australia. Results and conclusions from this research will aid land-holders, government agencies and other parties in determining how important Acacia-dominated ecosystems are in conserving insect biodiversity in a range of different habitats within regional and rural Australia. Our research will also aid in a better understanding of biocontrol agents of Australian Acacia pest species here and overseas.

DP0770460 Dr NM Argent; Prof R Jones; Dr MA Tonts; Prof JH Holmes

Approved Project Title **The Amenity Principle: The causes, incidence and landuse planning implications of amenity-led rural settlement in Australia.**

2007 : \$52,000

2008 : \$39,000

2009 : \$61,000

2010 : \$35,000

Primary RFCD 3704 HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Administering Organisation The University of New England

Project Summary

This project will produce an 'amenity index' - a composite measure of a community's relative attractiveness to in-migrants for a substantial portion of the nation's ecumene. This index will aid in the development of more targetted approaches to rural planning and place marketing. Through the multi-state and multi-region nature of the fieldwork, the project will also draw together a range of approaches used in managing the complex and often competing demands of amenity-inspired in-migration, thus making it a resource for innovative approaches to land use planning and management.

DP0770396 Dr C Brown

Approved Project Title **Evolution and development of a lateralised brain: A behavioural ecology perspective.**

2007 : \$130,000

2008 : \$110,000

2009 : \$120,000

2010 : \$120,000

2011 : \$120,000

Primary RFCD 3899 OTHER BEHAVIOURAL AND COGNITIVE SCIENCES

ARF Dr C Brown

Administering Organisation The University of New England

Project Summary

Little research on fish behavioural ecology is conducted in Australia despite our imperilled, unique aquatic ecosystems. Studies examining cerebral lateralisation using our native species as model organisms will help determine how animals classify and process information, providing a novel method of examining how native fishes respond to invasive predators and competitors. Increased understanding of lateralised cognitive function will shed light on its selective advantage as a fundamental aspect of brain function in all animals including humans. This multidisciplinary proposal will facilitate international collaborations, see the return of a home-grown scientist and ensure that Australia remains a world leader in scientific research.

Summary of Discovery Projects Proposals for Funding to Commence in 2007

DP0770805 Prof BJ Byrne; Prof RK Olson; Mr WL Coventry

Approved Project Title **Behaviour-genetic studies of literacy, language and attention.**

2007 : \$50,000

2008 : \$50,000

2009 : \$50,000

Primary RFCD 3801 PSYCHOLOGY

Administering Organisation The University of New England

Project Summary

The primary national benefit will be the unrivalled picture that emerges about how genetic factors interact with aspects of the family and educational environment to determine the course of a child's progress in literacy and language. Policy makers will be able to use the information to guide curriculum refinement, and to develop policies for the identification and instruction of children at developmental risk in these domains. The project will also strengthen Australia's position in the cutting-edge field of behavioural genetics through the postdoctoral support of a young scientist.

DP0771263 A/Prof H de Ferranti; A/Prof AI Tokita; Prof S Hosokawa

Approved Project Title **Music and modernity in Osaka during the interwar years**

2007 : \$117,750

2008 : \$86,020

2009 : \$98,740

Primary RFCD 4101 PERFORMING ARTS

Administering Organisation The University of New England

Project Summary

Japan continues to be among our paramount trading partners, and is Australia's proven ally in many contexts. Both Australia and Japan have sought to carve out distinctive musical identities while striving for acceptance according to international standards. Osaka in the interwar period was host to multiple musical subcultures, a situation that is relevant for Australia in its ongoing quest to become a culturally diverse society. Australia stands to benefit from a comparative perspective on the construction of national musical identity, the interplay between global and local musical cultures, the balance between modernity and tradition, and the emergence of hybrid cultural phenomena.

DP0770520 Prof BE Dollery

Approved Project Title **Alternative Models of Governance for Australian Local Government: Classification, Evaluation and Policy**

2007 : \$49,000

2008 : \$48,000

2009 : \$50,000

Primary RFCD 3704 HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Administering Organisation The University of New England

Project Summary

Local government plays a central role in the lives of almost all Australians by providing essential services subject to local democratic oversight. Its smooth running is thus critical to the national interest. However, many local authorities are in dire financial straits, with services curtailed, and vital infrastructure deteriorating. Various alternative models of local governance, often involving resource sharing and regional alliances, have been adopted as solutions to these problems. Unfortunately, almost no scholarly effort has been invested in this area. This project seeks overcome this neglect by identifying these models, evaluating their potential, and contributing to policy discussion and development.

Summary of Discovery Projects Proposals for Funding to Commence in 2007

DP0772693 A/Prof Y Du; Prof NE Dancer; Dr S Yan

Approved Project Title **Sharp transitions in partial differential equations and related problems**

2007 : \$85,000

2008 : \$80,000

2009 : \$75,000

Primary RFCD 2301 MATHEMATICS

Administering Organisation The University of New England

Project Summary

This research produces crucial mathematical methods and results for better understanding important nonlinear problems in applied sciences, such as ecology and material science. The mathematical theory itself is of significant value in nonlinear partial differential equations. The project strengthens Australian research in nonlinear science, a critical area of modern international research, and provides high level training for the next generation of Australian mathematicians.

DP0770554 Dr A Pender

Approved Project Title **A study of Australia's most popular internationally-known comedian, Barry Humphries**

2007 : \$63,512

2008 : \$21,178

2009 : \$44,001

Primary RFCD 4202 LITERATURE STUDIES

Administering Organisation The University of New England

Project Summary

This project will offer a fully researched biographical study of Barry Humphries in the context of Australian cultural history from the 1950s to the present. The study will illuminate Australian literature, theatre and cultural politics, and the way it intersects with both British and American cultural history and the development of global entertainment culture since the 1960s. It will fill a gap in the understanding of Humphries' life and his immense contribution to the Australian psyche and to the global export of Australian cultural products in the post-imperial era.

DP0770924 Dr AM Silvas

Approved Project Title **Basil of Caesarea and the nexus of Greek, Latin and Semitic cultures in late Antiquity**

2007 : \$55,307

2008 : \$56,307

2009 : \$58,307

2010 : \$53,307

2011 : \$53,307

Primary RFCD 4202 LITERATURE STUDIES

ARF Dr AM Silvas

Administering Organisation The University of New England

Project Summary

In a period of heightening religious and cultural tension in Australia, this project seeks to explore a moment when Western and Semitic cultures worked together very well, only to yield in the following two centuries to increasing alienation that prepared the ground for Islam. In terms of international scholarship the project tackles an outstanding lacuna in late 4th century history: the Syrian chapter in the dissemination of Basil of Caesarea's teaching on Christian monasticism. The collaboration with overseas scholars, and the high standard and solidity of projected outcome will confirm Australia's high reputation in ancient, Middle Eastern and Religious studies.