



Congratulations

The RSB EMCR Conference was held this month bringing together postdocs and EMCRs across all Divisions of RSB. We were inspired by two fantastic plenary speakers, Emma Sherratt (University of Adelaide) and Kim Johnson (LaTrobe University), as well as incredible talks from EMCRs across the School. The day was a great success, and a reminder of the outstanding work our postdocs do at RSB.



Congratulations to the Best Presentation Prize winners **Robyn Shaw** (Peakall Group, E&E), **Sarah Shafik** (Djordjevic Group, PS) and **Tomás Fuenzalida** (Ball Group, E&E), the Audience Choice's Best Presentation **Damien Esquerre** (Keogh Group, E&E), and the "Best Tweeter" Prize **Vicki Thompson**. A warm thank you to our generous sponsors for supporting the event.



Congratulations **Emmeline Norris** (Cardillo Group, E&E) on winning both a University Medal and the RSB Director prize for her Honours thesis *Alternative conservation options for native mammals in the Australian Monsoonal Tropics*. This is quite an achievement.

There was a capacity turnout to the RSB 3MT competition with the audience treated to five extremely high calibre talks. The quality was a headache for the judges who had difficulty in awarding the prizes, and so in the end an additional 'Runner Up' prize was awarded. The \$100 runner up awards went to **Ivan Vinogradov** (Jennions Group, E&E) *Are you smarter than a fish?* and **Ryan O'Donnell** *Orchids and Fungi Across Space and Time*

The \$200 Winner Presentation award went to **Merryn Fraser** (Maier Group, BSB) *Fighting Malaria with Trojan Horses*

The \$50 People's choice award went to **Ryan O'Donnell** (Linde Group, E&E)

It was great to attend a vibrant 'in person' event again!



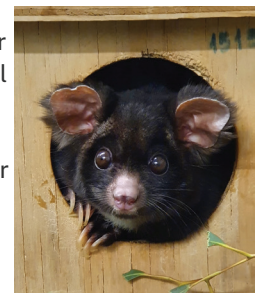
Photograph: Ryan and Merryn - owning their prizes (Ivan MIA with Covid)

Merryn Fraser (Maier Group, BSB) won the American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene's Molecular, Cellular and Immunoparasitology 3 Minute Thesis Competition. Merryn also submitted her PhD thesis *Plasmodium falciparum lipid metabolism as a target for malaria intervention strategies*.



News

The Federal Minister for Environment and Water, Hon Tanya Plibersek MP recently announced the uplisting of greater gliders from vulnerable to endangered. To coincide with this, the Minister visited RSB to meet some gliders who are helping Honours student, **Tina Gopalan** (Marsh Group, E&E), to better understand their diet. These nocturnal marsupials live high in the canopy of tall, old growth eucalypt forests, and it is rare to see them up close. Minister Plibersek helped to feed the gliders their dinner of eucalypt leaves. She was interested to learn more about our research at ANU to address some of the huge knowledge gaps that still exist for this beautiful animal.



Inaugural Chris Bryant AM Memorial Lecture

The inaugural Chris Bryant AM Memorial Lecture was held this month. This year's lecture was presented by Alexander Maier (BSB).

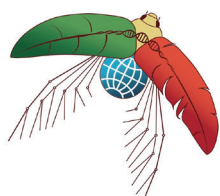


Photograph: (left to right) Sue Stocklmayer, former Director of the Centre for the Public Awareness of Science from 1998 to 2015, Anne Bryant, widow of Chris Bryant and Alex Maier

Group Leader recruitment

Recruitment of new Group Leaders in RSB commenced this month. RSB are recruiting Level B/C Group Leader positions to support priority areas and to improve diversity of our academic staff. We seek to appoint rising stars in the BSB (one position) and PS (two positions) Divisions, with at least two of the three identifying as women or gender-diverse. With advice from Group Leaders, we shortlisted ten (of 120) applicants. The candidates gave their seminars and interviews have been finalised. The calibre of applicants was outstanding and now consultations will take place and hard decisions to be made. Look out for announcements soon.

The Centre for Biodiversity Analysis turns 10!



Centre for Biodiversity Analysis

The Centre for Biodiversity Analysis (CBA) was established in 2012 as a collaborative initiative of ANU and CSIRO, with the University of Canberra joining in 2018. Thanks to the strong support and participation from these three partner institutions, the CBA is celebrating its 10th birthday in July 2022.

Over 70 research groups from across ANU, UC and CSIRO have engaged with the CBA via Ignition Grant, Synthesis Groups and Visiting Scientist funding programs (and many more through workshop, seminar, symposia and conference attendance). Targeted capacity building and support has led to over 20 co-supervised Honours, Masters and PhD students being facilitated through the Centre. Further funding initiated from CBA-funded projects has included SIEF-RI (including the Ecogenomics and Bioinformatics Laboratory), ARC Linkage, Discovery and LEIF, CSIRO FSP, ABRIS and Bioplatforms Australia. Notable progress has also been made in taking biodiversity science from the lab into the policy landscape with the CBA's Synthesis Groups and Knowledge Broker making significant connections with Federal, State and ACT governments.

To recognise and celebrate the Centre's 10 years, past and current grant recipients have been invited to share their projects at a special 10th Anniversary Science Symposium in October.

PhDs submitted

Gigi Wong (Millar Group, PS) *TRUEE; a bioinformatic pipeline to define the functional microRNA targetome of plants*

Aditya Yadav (Broer Group, BSB) *Expression studies and pharmacology of neutral amino acid transporter B0AT1 (SLC6A19) - A potential target to treat metabolic diseases*

Rowarne Leith (von Caemmerer Group, PS) *Redesigning phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase for improved catalysis in C4 photosynthesis*

PhDs awarded

Suha Naser (Lanfear Group, E&E) *Systematic bias in phylogenetic inference: Implications, Assessment and Reduction*

Tanuka Sen (Verma Group, BSB) *Study of the functional role of hypothetical proteins in the virulence of *Shigella flexneri* serotype 1c.*

Aaron Smith (Pogson Group, PS) *From cradle to grave: The influence of mRNA metabolism on plant stress responses*

Cameron Turner (Magrath Group, E&E) *Using Information from Others: The Evolution and Cognition of Animal-to-Animal Information Use.*

Cameron has also been offered a cross-disciplinary postdoctoral position, on the evolution of intelligence and culture, at Princeton University. The perfect project for Cameron's interests!

Grants awarded

Three Holsworth applications from RSB have been successful in Round 1, with a total of 5 applications submitted. **Sadia Ayyub** (Linde Group, E&E) \$5400, **Ying Luo** (Keogh Group, E&E) \$5400 and **Oliver Stuart** (Mikheyev Group, E&E) \$2500.

In the media

Claire Taylor and **Cassandra Taylor** (both Langmore Group, E&E) were interviewed about cuckoos on the ABC Radio National programme 'What the Duck?', and **Ying Luo** (Keogh Group, E&E) spoke on the "Mining Animals" episode talking about her research into leaf miner, recording available [here](#).

Papers

Arifin AR, Phillips RD, Weinstein AM & Linde CC. Cryptostylis species (*Orchidaceae*) from a broad geographic and habitat range associate with a phylogenetically narrow lineage of *Tulasnellaceae* fungi. *Fungal Biology*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.funbio.2022.06.001>

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Ashman LG, Hartley D, Jin M, Rowell DM, Teasdale L et al. Rhytiphora: a phylogenetic and morphological study of Australia's largest longhorn beetle genus (*Coleoptera: Cerambycidae*). *Invertebrate Systematics*. <https://doi.org/10.1071/IS21071>

Baldassarre L, Ying H, Reitzel AM et al. Microbiota mediated plasticity promotes thermal adaptation in the sea anemone *Nematostella vectensis*. *Nature Communications*. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-022-31350-z>

Coast O, Posch BC, Rognoni BG et al. Wheat photosystem II heat tolerance: Evidence for genotype-by-environment interactions. *Plant Journal*. <http://doi.org/10.1111/tpj.15894>

Cranston PS, Krosch MN & Tang H. Verifying Australian *Nilotanypus* Kieffer (Chironomidae) in a global perspective: molecular phylogenetic analysis, new species and emended generic diagnoses. *CHIRONOMUS Journal of Chironomidae Research*. <https://doi.org/10.5324/cjcr.v0i35.4832>

Dong N, Prentice C, Wright I et al. Global controls of leaf nitrogen from an optimality perspective. *Journal of Ecology*.

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Maleszka R. Clinical epigenetics on the Baltic Coast. *Epigenomes*. <https://doi.org/10.3390/epigenomes6030019>.

Rahimi F, Abadi ATB & Kamali N. Immediate countermeasures against the monkeypox outbreak. *International Journal of Surgery*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijssu.2022.106733>.

Rahimi F & Abadi ATB. COVID-19 and science diplomacy. *International Journal of Surgery*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijssu.2022.106743>.

Rek P & Magrath RD. Reality and illusion: the assessment of angular separation of multi-modal signallers in a duetting bird. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*. <http://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2022.0680>

Sun X, Fang X, Wang D et al. Transcriptome Analysis of Fusarium–Tomato Interaction Based on an Updated Genome Annotation of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *lycopersici* Identifies Novel Effector Candidates That Suppress or Induce Cell Death in *Nicotiana benthamiana*. *Journal of Fungi* <https://doi.org/10.3390/jof8070672>

Wild S, Alarcon-Nieto G, Chimento CM & Aplin LM. Manipulating actions: a selective two-option device for cognitive experiments in wild animals. *Journal of Animal Ecology*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2656.13756>