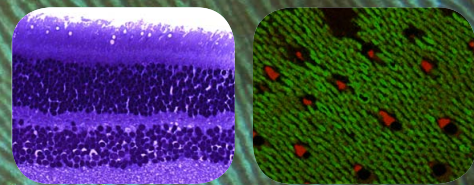


# NEWSLETTER



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## NEWS

### CONGRATULATIONS

**Penny Olsen**, a long-standing Visiting Fellow in Evolution, Ecology and Genetics has been awarded an Order of Australia "for service to the conservation sciences as an author and researcher, and through the study and documentation of Australian bird species and their history".

**Chris Fulton**, EEG, has been awarded the 2011 Yulgilbar Fellowship at Lizard Island (worth \$11K) to support his research on climatic forcing of seaweed patch dynamics on the Great Barrier Reef, and **Sandra Binning** (PhD student, EEG) has won the 2011 Ian Potter Doctoral Fellowship at Lizard Island (\$16K) to fund her research on the phenotypic plasticity of swimming in reef fish.

2010 Honours students, **Rosalind Attenborough**, **Tom Bennett**, **Kai Xun Chan**, **Alvin Pratama** and **Helen Rickards** were awarded University Medals at the December graduation ceremony.

A number of papers from RSB staff and students have featured in the media over the summer. These include: a paper from **Stefan Bröer** (BSB) and colleagues on a [gene linking kidney function and obsessive compulsive disorder](#); a paper from **Wiebke Ebeling**, **Ricardo Natali** and **Jan Hemmi**, EEG on [trichromatic vision in marsupials](#); **Britta Winterberg**, PS, and colleagues, for her recent

paper in *Science* on [pathogenic fungi of maize](#), and a paper from **Naomi Langmore** and colleagues, EEG, for their work on the [mimicry by cuckoo chicks of the chicks of their hosts](#).

**WELCOME & NEW APPOINTMENTS**  
 Welcome to the 2011 Honours cohort, who start this week.

**Dr Marconi Barbosa** from NICTA is working with **Andrew James** and **Ted Maddess** on methods for understanding visual processing. Marconi's background is in physics, but he has been working in areas related to Machine Learning and classifier models.

Professors **Marty Leonard** and **Andy Horn** are on sabbatical from the Department of Biology, Dalhousie University, Canada. They will be based with **Rob Magrath**, EEG, until August 2011. They have both worked on vertebrate bioacoustics and conservation biology. Marty is currently Chair of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, and Andy is the American editor of *Bioacoustics*.

The Zeil lab has had a big influx of visitors. **Dr. Wolfgang Stürzl**, University of Bielefeld and **Elmar Mair**, Technical University Munich, are visiting the lab to develop high-resolution 3D models of natural environments. **Prof. Willi Ribi**, University of Liechtenstein has joined **Ajay Narendra** and

**Jochen** as a Visiting Fellow to work on the functional anatomy of ocelli in honeybees and ants, and **Katherine Gill**, a Masters Student from Melbourne University will join the lab as an Intern to work on ant vision and navigation. **Piyankarie Jayatilaka** has started her PhD on *Vision, Navigation & Foraging Careers* in Jack Jumper Ants, working with **Ajay**, **Jochen** and **Jan Hemmi**.

**Lipotek**, an ANU spin-off company that had its origins in work done in JCSMR and BaMBi, is establishing a small lab in the Robertson building (room 216/218, formerly occupied by the Arkell lab). The staff to be based here are **Ines Atmosukarto** (CEO), **Neil White** (General Manager), **Katharine Gosling**, **Jason Price**, **Torsten Juelich**, **David Mann**, and **Jenni Milward**.

**Brett Lidbury**, a 'Medical Advances Without Animals' Fellow and Associate Professor in Alternatives to Animals in Research, will be based in the Robertson Building until the end of this year when he will transfer to JCSMR.

**Alexander Schmidt-Lebuhn**, has joined the Crisp lab and will lecture in the Australian Plant Diversity course.

**Will Feeney** has arrived from JCU to start a PhD with **Naomi Langmore**, EEG, investigating co-evolutionary interactions between cuckoos and fairy-wrens.

### FAREWELL

**Lindsay Popple**, an ARC research associate with the Crisp lab, EEG, is leaving on February 24 to take up an environmental consulting job in Brisbane.

**Matt Phillips**, a postdoc with the Bromham lab, EEG, left in November to take up a position in Brisbane.

**Eric Yip**, PhD student with the Rowell lab, EEG, completed his work on spiders and returned to Cornell University.

### STUDENT THESES AND AWARDS

**Sam Reid**, Zeil lab, EEG, has submitted his PhD thesis on "Life in the dark: Vision and navigation in a nocturnal bull ant."

**David Stephenson**, Allison lab, BSB, has submitted his PhD thesis entitled "Microbial ecology of *Lactobacillus* strains in the chicken gastrointestinal tract: identification of persistent strains for use as live vectors".

**Simon Cobbold**, Kirk lab, BSB, has submitted his PhD thesis "Amino acid transport in the malaria parasite, *Plasmodium falciparum*". Simon will be commencing a postdoc at Princeton in April/May.

**Deborah Segal**, Honours 2010, co-supervised by **Adrienne Nicrota** and **Gemma Hoyle**, PS, won the best inaugural talk at the Ecological Society of Australia meeting in December for her talk on alpine seed ecology.

### GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

**Thomas Lenné**, from **Marilyn Ball's** lab, PS, and **Taavi Hunt** (RMIT) "Localisation of trehalose in oriented DOPC bilayers by neutron diffraction", Access to Major Research Facilities Program ANSTO grant. This project seeks to understand fundamental cryo-protective mechanisms whereby sugars protect against deleterious membrane phase transitions. \$8K.

### SPECIAL JOURNAL ISSUE

**John Evans** and **Suzanne von Caemmerer**, PS, have edited a Focus issue on Enhancing Photosynthesis in the January [Plant Physiology Journal](#).

## NOTICES

The 'Coopers and Cladistics' discussion group on systematics and evolution has run continuously since the mid 1980s. For the last three years, it has been organised by **Richard Carter**, who has just left to take up a postdoctoral position in

Zurich. Now, the founder of the group, **Peter Cranston**, [pscranston@gmail.com](mailto:pscranston@gmail.com), has returned to take up the reins. All are welcome to join - send an email to Pete if you want to be added to the mailing list.

This newsletter is distributed fortnightly by email and hard-copy, and is archived at <http://biology.anu.edu.au/Newsletter>. Please contact [Sharyn Wragg](#) to submit material for future issues.

Editing: **Kiaran Kirk** and **Sharyn Wragg**. Design & layout: **Sharyn Wragg**. Banner image: **Wiebke Ebeling**, wallaby choroid. Inset: **Wallaby retina**, dunnart retina.

- Al Nadaf S., Waters, P.D., Koina, E., Deakin, J.E., Jordan, K.S. and Graves, J.A. Activity map of the tammar X chromosome shows that marsupial X inactivation is incomplete and escape is stochastic *Genome Biology*.
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