



#### Contact

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Scholarships Awarded for Murray-Darling Basin Research

A collaboration supported by the Murray-Darling Basin Joint Governments, together with La Trobe University, CSIRO and The Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre is investing in the future of freshwater research in Australia by supporting postgraduate and honours students.

Postgraduate “top-up” scholarships were awarded to Lorena Nogueira to undertake research into the dispersal of fish larvae within the Murray-Darling Basin, and Manisha Shakya to undertake research into the nutritional quality of food items for fish.

Dr Daryl Nielsen, from MDFRC quoted “ Student support is an important component of the research undertaken within the MDFRC. The MDBA-MDFRC collaboration project has provided the opportunity for investment in postgraduate students, who are able to carry out high-quality research and make an important contribution to the development of the future aquatic research capability in Australia.”

Lorena Nogueira, PhD student based at Wodonga campus expressed “The scholarship will contribute substantially to development of my PhD project which is investigating the influence of flow velocities on the swimming behaviour of Australian fish larvae. This knowledge is fundamental to subsidy efficient management actions for the conservation of fish species in regulated rivers”.

Lorena’s supervisor, Dr Amina Price quotes “Receiving the scholarship has contributed to Lorena being able to answer some fundamental and important questions about how fish larvae move and the possible impact of large barriers such as dams and weirs on their movement”.

In addition four honours scholarships were awarded to Sheree Kidziak (Dispersal in freshwater macroinvertebrate species; Nissa Davis (The role of ephemeral waterholes in producing “boom” and “bust” cycles in fish assemblages in the Moonie River); James O’Dwyer (The impact of environmental stability on stress tolerances of *Coxiella strieta*); and, Kate Hill (The role of connectivity in maintaining genetic diversity of wetland flora populations in modified landscapes).

The Collaboration with the Joint Governments, administered by The Murray-Darling Basin Authority, will provide water resource managers with the knowledge on how best to manipulate water regimes to maintain ecosystem function and protect water-dependent ecosystems as the demand for water resources increases under climate change scenarios

Applications are now open for 2018-scholarship opportunities visit <http://www.mdfrc.org.au/education-programs/scholarships/>



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#### ***Further Information***

***The Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre (MDFRC) was established in 1986 and has become one of Australia's leading sources of scientific advice on freshwater ecological systems. The MDFRC has a vision of healthy and productive aquatic ecosystems in the Murray-Darling Basin. In targeting this vision, the overarching mission of the MDFRC is the generation, synthesis and communication of freshwater ecological science fundamental to protection and enhancement of the natural assets of the Murray-Darling Basin. The Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre is a Joint Venture between La Trobe University and CSIRO***

#### ***The Murray -Darling Basin Joint Governments are made up of;***

- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (Victoria)
- NSW Department of Primary Industries (New South Wales)
- Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (South Australia)
- Department of Natural Resources and Mines (Queensland)
- ACT Environment and Sustainable Development (Australian Capital Territory)
- Department of Agriculture & Water Resources