



Research Staff

The Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre

Professor Nick Bond—Professor Nick Bond, newly appointed Director of The Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre. Previously a Principal Research Fellow with the Australian Rivers Institute at Griffith University and adjunct Senior Research Fellow with the University of Melbourne. Nick has more than 20 years' experience working on freshwater ecosystems. His primary research interests are in the effects of flow variability on stream biota and ecological processes, and integrating this knowledge into catchment management and water planning to achieve conservation and restoration outcomes. He has extensive experience working with quantitative and semi-quantitative methods in ecological modelling and risk assessment. He has extensive experience working on river management and environmental flow issues in Australia and internationally. He has authored or co-authored more than 50 peer-reviewed papers and numerous peer reviewed technical reports.



Dr Gavin Rees—Microbiologist based at MDFRC—Wodonga, Victoria. Gavin's main research interests are microbial ecology, carbon and nutrient processes, microbial community structures and river and floodplain ecology. Gavin is qualified with a Masters of Science and a Doctorate of Philosophy from the University of Waikato. He is the author of four book chapters, produced a variety of journal articles and scientific reports and has presented at numerous conferences. Gavin has been employed at the MDFRC for 18 years



Professor Ben Gawne - Project Leader – Murray-Darling Basin Environmental Water Knowledge & Research Project and Long Term Intervention Monitoring Project. Based at MDFRC—Wodonga, Victoria, Australia. Ben's research interests include lowland river ecology, particularly the influence of flow on ecological processes in wetlands and rivers. Ben is currently involved in a number of research areas some of which are examination of native fish habitat requirements in wetlands, impacts of drying and drought on aquatic ecosystems along the Murray River and development of intervention monitoring for the Commonwealth Environmental Waterholder. Ben has published a variety of journal articles and scientific reports and has a strong commitment to knowledge exchange. . Ben has been employed at the MDFRC for 19 years



Assoc Professor Paul Brown —Senior Research Scientist based at MDFRC-Mildura, Victoria, Australia. Paul's main research area of responsibility is ecological responses to flow manipulations. Paul's research topics of special interest include: fish population dynamics, pest fish biology and population control, recreational fisheries science and fish-habitat rehabilitation. Paul is qualified with a M.Phil. from University of Wales, at Bangor. Paul has written a variety of journal articles, books and book chapters and has presented at numerous conference. Paul has been employed at the MDFRC since the beginning of 2014.



Dr Darren Baldwin—Biogeochemist based at MDFRC—Wodonga, Victoria, Australia. Darren's main research interest is how natural and human perturbations shift the way energy and nutrients move through ecosystems. His research topics of special interest include aquatic biogeochemistry, aquatic and floodplain ecology, anaerobic sediment processes, sulfidic sediments, water quality monitoring and evaluation and biodiversity and ecosystem processes. Darren is qualified with a Bachelor of Science, Honours and PhD Metal Ion Recognition by Pentadentate Mixed Donor Macrocyclic Ligand from the James Cook University. He also has a Bachelor of Legal Studies from Macquarie University. Darren has written two books, produced a variety of journal articles and scientific reports and has presented at numerous conferences. Darren has been employed at the MDFRC for 23 years



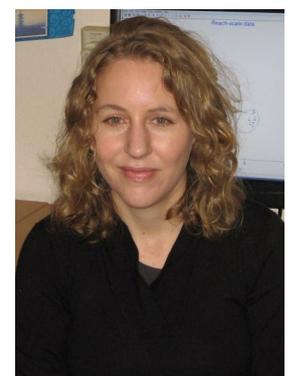
Dr Daryl Nielsen—Senior Research Scientist (Project Leader: MDRFC / MDBA Collaboration Project) based at MDFRC—Wodonga, Victoria. Daryl's main research area is in the ecology of microinvertebrates (rotifers and microcrustaceans) and aquatic plants. He has a special interest lowland river ecology, floodplain and wetland ecology, ecology of dormant seeds and eggs, invertebrate ecology and aquatic plant ecology. Daryl is qualified with a Bachelor of Science from La Trobe University, Melbourne and a PhD from Charles Sturt University. He has produced a variety of journal articles and scientific reports and has presented at numerous conferences. Daryl has been employed with the MDFRC for 27 years.



Dr Rick Stoffels—Senior Research Scientist based at MDFRC-Wodonga, Victoria. Rick's main research interests are fish biology, functional ecology of freshwater fish and models to support management of freshwater fishes. Rick is qualified with a Bachelor of Science (Mathematics) and a PhD (Zoology) from the University of Otago, New Zealand and a Bachelor of Science (Honours 1st class) in Environmental Management and Ecology, La Trobe University, Victoria. He has written a variety of journal articles and scientific reports and has presented at numerous conferences. Rick has been employed at the MDFRC for 9 years



Dr Amina Price —Aquatic Fish Ecologist based at MDFRC-Wodonga, Victoria. Amina's main research interests include; fish and shrimp ecology, recruitment ecology and flow-habitat-biota relationships in rivers and wetlands of the Murray-Darling Basin. Amina is qualified with a Bachelor of Applied Science Honours (First Class Honours) and Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Applied Science) from the University of Canberra. Amina has written a variety of journal articles and scientific reports and has presented at numerous conferences. Amina has been employed at the MDFRC for 11 years



Dr Jessica Wilson—Aquatic Ecologist at MDFRC-Wodonga, Wodonga, Victoria. Jessica’s main research topics of interest include: soil biochemistry and linking floodplain inundation patterns to soil condition. She has produced a variety of journal articles and scientific reports and has presented at numerous conferences. Jessica has been employed with the MDFRC for 11 years



Dr Michael Shackleton—Macroinvertebrate Biologist based at MDFRC-Wodonga, Victoria. Michael’s main research interest is molecular taxonomy, including Taxonomy of Caddisflies (Trichoptera), using molecular techniques to investigate taxonomic issues and developing a DNA barcode library for aquatic fauna. Michael is qualified with a BSc (Hons) Environmental management and Ecology, La Trobe University, Wodonga. He has produced a variety of journal articles and scientific reports and has presented at numerous conferences. Michael has been employed with the MDFRC for 5 years



Ms Cherie Campbell—Vegetation Ecologist based at MDFRC-Mildura, Victoria. Cherie’s main area of responsibility is to lead and manage the vegetation sub-program at the Mildura Laboratory to ensure research projects and outputs are consistent with the MDFRC Strategic and Scientific plan. She has a special interest in aquatic and floodplain vegetation ecology, effects of flow regime on vegetation communities, vegetation resilience and weed ecology. Cherie is qualified with a Bachelor of Botany/Environmental Science and a Masters of Environment from the University of Melbourne. She is the author of a variety of scientific reports and has presented at numerous conferences. Cherie has been employed with the MDFRC for 8 years



Mr Paul McInerney—Aquatic Ecologist based at MDFRC-Wodonga, Victoria. His main interests include the influence of riparian vegetation on the structure and function of upland stream biota and the ecology of invasive species. Paul also has a background in freshwater macroinvertebrate biology and is the project manager for the MDBA’s River Murray Biological Monitoring Program. Qualifications include a Bachelor of Science (Environmental Management and Ecology) with Honours La Trobe University, Bachelor of Science from Monash University. He is currently completing a PhD with La Trobe University investigating effects of invasive willows on stream ecosystem dynamics. He has produced a variety of journal articles and scientific reports and has presented at numerous conferences. Paul has been employed with the MDFRC for 9 years.



More Information

To find out more about our capabilities, including individual research staff, research outputs, current and recent projects please visit our website at www.mdfrc.org.au or email mdfrc@latrobe.edu.au

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