



#### Contact

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# MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Use

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## Summer Science: cadetships for University students

Whilst many University students use the summer university break to relax, three students from La Trobe University spent the time undertaking a 10 week Industry Cadetship Program at The Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre (MDFRC). Two of the student cadets were located in Wodonga while the third was based in the Mildura laboratory.

Over the summer, the three students each worked on a major project in the Centre that varied in focus and theme, including bird surveys and vegetation.

The focus of the program is for the students to gain valuable experience working with leading research staff at the Centre, conducting a research project, write a final report and present this at a seminar at the end of the 10 weeks.

Wodonga based cadets Mike Dunn and Adriana Galanakis said that the program allowed them to gain an insight into work life, especially in regards to working in a research centre.

“I think that doing this program while still at university gives us valuable insight into if this field of work is really for us. It also helps us to see how we will handle honours, since the research project we work on is basically a mini honours project” said Miss Galanakis.

Rosie Busuttil, Senior Administration Officer at The MDFRC, said that the program gives students a good introduction into the industry and allows them to experience the transfer from university into the workplace.

“The students get real world experience in an industry they want to break into, which is really beneficial for their personal and professional growth. The program has proved successful for both the Centre and students, with further engagement either through a progression to Honours program and future employment. From 35 past student cadets, over half have gained employment with the MDFRC.”

From the 35 student cadets, 14 have progressed to undertake Honours studies with a MDFRC Supervisor and 3 have progressed onto undertaking PhD studies with a MDFRC Supervisor.

The students in the program also benefit by being able to work on their own individual projects while also collaborating on some of the major projects at The MDFRC.



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“The students that go through the industry cadetship program are given the chance to collaborate on some of the larger projects we have at the Centre, as well as working on a project of their own, which are presented at the end of the 10 weeks during a seminar.”

These students’ projects have contributed to two of the large collaborative projects currently at the centre; Murray-Darling Basin Environmental Water Knowledge and Research project and the MDFRC-MDBA Collaborative project which is funded by Murray–Darling Basin Joint Governments.

“The students that undertake the program are also more likely to progress to undertaking their Honours of PhD studies with a MDFRC supervisor” said Ms. Busuttil.

The two Wodonga based students will be available to discuss their projects and experiences working in a research organisation.

The cadet program is available to La Trobe University undergraduate students who are completing their second or third year of university and are interested in pursuing a career in aquatic ecology. For more information please go to: <http://www.mdfrc.org.au/students/cadetship/>

**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.* The Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre is a Joint Venture between CSIRO and La Trobe University.**

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