

CSIRO IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE

GREENHOUSE 2011

THE SCIENCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

GREENHOUSE 2011 Technical Tour WEDNESDAY 6 APRIL

Daintree Rainforest

Climate change and the future of Australia's wet tropics rainforests

(Australia's largest remaining area of tropical lowland rainforest – where the rainforest meets the reef)

Leaders: Professor Steve Turton
Professor Michael Bird
A/Professor Mike Liddell

James Cook University

Itinerary:

7.30am Pick up from Cairns Hotels

8.00am Depart Cairns

Travel along one of Australia's great scenic highways north from Cairns and Port Douglas before arriving at the Daintree River. You will then cross the Daintree River by vehicular ferry and continue on to the Daintree Discovery Centre for your first stop - morning tea.
(note approx 2 hours drive from Cairns to Daintree Discovery Centre)

10.00am Arrive Daintree Discovery Centre

The Daintree Discovery Centre is a multi-award winning rainforest interpretive centre that is sponsoring James Cook University research into Carbon Flux.
Mike Liddell, James Cook University will talk about the research project and recent results.

10.30am Guided Tour of Daintree Discovery Centre

The centre provides an opportunity to view the rainforest from the forest floor to the upper most reaches of the canopy via the Aerial Walkway & the 23m high Canopy Tower. This includes a discussion about Climate Change flux data from Mike Liddell.

12.00pm Lunch at Daintree Discovery Centre

12.30pm Depart Discovery Centre for Cape Tribulation

(note approx 40mins drive from Daintree Discovery Centre to Cape Tribulation)

Includes 20mins stop at Daintree Discovery Centre/QPWS Revegetation site

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- 1.30pm Arrive Daintree Rainforest Observatory (DRO) Cape Tribulation
This includes the Australian Canopy Crane, the only such facility in the southern hemisphere. Site safety briefing essential – Cassandra Nichols
- Site inspection, including a discussion about current research projects at the DRO and its role as an LTER site by Mike Liddell, Steve Turton and Cassandra Nichols.
- Mike Liddell will also talk about plans under the TERN program.
- Address by Steve Turton, JCU regarding the likely impacts of climate change on Australia's wet tropics rainforests; hydrology, ecosystems and biota
- 2.30pm Depart Cape Tribulation
Includes stop at Ice Creamery
(note approx 2.5 hours drive from Cape Tribulation to Cairns)
- 5.15pm Arrive Cairns
- 5.45pm Drop off at Cairns Hotels

Note: times are approx.

What to bring: you will need hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, water bottle.
Given the prospects of La Nina still with us in the new year, please will be advised to bring raincoats – ponchos are available for purchase at the Daintree Discovery Centre.

Interesting fact: During the 1998/99 La Nina, nearly 7 metres of rain was recorded at the Canopy Crane site!

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TOUR LEADERS



Professor Steve Turton is Discipline Leader for Environmental Science in the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences at James Cook University (JCU). Previously, Steve was the Executive Director of the JCU/CSIRO Tropical Landscapes Joint Venture, following from his role as Director of Research for the Rainforest Cooperative Research Centre. His research and teaching interests include climatology, rainforest ecology, urban and road ecology, adaptation of tourism and forestry sectors to climate change and natural resource management. Steve is committed to teaching and learning excellence and has supervised over 50 honours and graduate research students during his time at JCU. He is an Executive Councillor of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation, the world's largest scientific organisation devoted to the wise use of tropical forests.



Michael Bird trained as a geologist at the University of Sydney and the Australian National University, obtaining a PhD in isotope geochemistry in 1988. Following a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Western Ontario in Canada, he returned to Australia as research Fellow, Queen Elizabeth II Fellow and Fellow at the Research School of Earth Sciences, Australian National University. In 2000 he took up an Associate Professorship in Singapore and in 2004 moved to the Chair in Environmental Change at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. He returned again to Australia to take up a Federation Fellowship in the School of Earth and Environmental Science at James Cook University February 2009. He has research interests in the global carbon cycle on a range of timescales, and in understanding the trajectory of past and future environmental change in the tropics.



Cassandra Nichols is the Site Manager of the Daintree Rainforest Observatory, formerly known as the Australian Canopy Crane Research Station (ACCRS). Qualified with a Bachelor of Animal Science with Honours in Ecology, she first joined James Cook University in 2006 as the on site Research Officer for the ACCRS. Cassandra was appointed as manager of the field station in 2008 and has been strongly involved with the development of the site into the all encompassing Daintree Rainforest Observatory.

Her chief research role has involved collaborating on a 3 year project to help improve our understanding of the effects of climate change on the Daintree Rainforest. Cassandra also has the task of coordinating site staff, all visitors, volunteers, researchers and media trips to site and designing and leading projects for international university groups.