

MEDIA RELEASE

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New bushfire research heats up

Students from all over Australia and New Zealand will have the chance to investigate key issues for fire and land management agencies as part of the Bushfire CRC's latest postgraduate scholarship program.

The Bushfire CRC is currently calling for outstanding postgraduate students to take part in a dynamic, multidisciplinary national research program, and is offering access to full scholarships of \$28,000 per annum and top up scholarships of \$10,000 per annum.

As the Bushfire CRC funding extension moves forward, three new research programs have been identified as priorities for investigation through to 2013. 'Understanding Risk', 'Communicating Risk', and 'Managing the Threat' were developed as the wider themes for exploration, and within each area are specific projects for study including (but not limited to) incident management for extreme events, human behaviour under stress, risk assessment techniques, and the environmental impacts of prescribed and wild fire.

"As we saw on Black Saturday, bushfires have the potential to inflict an astonishing amount of social, economic and environmental damage," said Gary Morgan, Bushfire CRC, CEO. "With that in mind, we are encouraging students from a range of backgrounds and locations to apply for these scholarships. This program will give students a chance to contribute to national research focused on delivering outcomes for ecological sustainability and safer communities."

The scholarships are a core component of the Bushfire CRC's multidisciplinary Education and Training Program, which aims to develop the next generation of national bushfire researchers. Students have access to leading researchers, and for each of the research projects there must be direct collaboration with an "end user" in the fire industry, such as a fire authority or land management agency.

Applications are invited from students interested in undertaking Masters (by research) or PhD studies with backgrounds in science, psychology, social science, botany, ecology, geography, IT, economics, engineering and health sciences.

The scholarships are available for study at a range of universities, including University of Western Australia, University of Melbourne, Australian National University, Charles Darwin University, La Trobe University, RMIT University, University of Sydney, University of South Australia, University of Canterbury (NZ) and Deakin University. Students can also be based at Bushfire CRC partner agencies, such as fire authorities.

Interested students are encouraged to visit the Education page of www.bushfirecrc.com and click on 'Scholarship opportunities'.

Media: for further information contact:

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