



# PUBLIC FORUM: Unravelling the Science Behind Climate-Proof Corals.

The Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) invites the public to attend a series of short presentations highlighting the science behind (human)- assisted evolution followed by an open panel discussion with international scientific experts. For corals, this field of research is spearheaded by pioneering researchers and event organisers Prof Madeleine van Oppen (AIMS/University of Melbourne), Dr Ruth Gates (Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology) and Dr Hollie Putnam (Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology). The public forum will explore the application of genetic direction to accelerate the evolution of climate change resilience in corals - one possible biological approach to preserve some of the stunning biodiversity present on the world's coral reefs today.

This free event is made possible through financial support from the Australian Institute of Marine Science in partnership with the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation and the University of Hawai'i.

**Date:** Wednesday, 24 February 2016  
**Time:** 5.00 (for a 5.30 pm start) – 6.30 pm, including Pre/Post Drinks & Nibbles  
**Venue:** Rydges Southbank Convention Centre, 23 Palmer Street, Townsville, QLD

For catering purposes, please register your interest: <http://ow.ly/XVosv>

Limited complimentary parking available on-site - first come, first serve.

For more information, please contact: **Catherine Naum, [c\\_naum@aims.gov.au](mailto:c_naum@aims.gov.au)/4753 4444**

Follow all the event details on social media using the hashtag #AECorals  
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## **HOST: Dr Janice Lough**

Janice Lough is a Senior Principal Research Scientist with the Australian Institute of Marine Science and Adjunct Professorial Research Fellow with the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, James Cook University. She is a climate scientist who has been publishing on issues related to climate change for over 30 years. Her research focusses on understanding the nature, causes and impacts of climate variability and change on tropical coral reefs. She also specialises in obtaining historical perspectives on coral reefs using the rich archive of proxy environmental and growth records contained in long-lived massive coral skeletons. With over 150 peer-reviewed publications, she regularly presents the results of her research to a range of audiences ranging from high school students to keynote presentations at national and international conferences.



## **PRESENTER: Dr Hollie Putnam**

Hollie is currently a National Science Foundation Ocean Sciences Fellow and School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology Young Investigator at the University of Hawaii at Manoa's Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology. Her work is focused on coral response to climate change. She studies epigenetic and symbiotic factors that may provide a buffer for corals against the rapid rate of environmental change. [www.hollieputnam.com](http://www.hollieputnam.com)



## **PRESENTER: Prof David Raftos**

David Raftos is a Professor of Marine Biology at Macquarie University. He is a Director and Board member of the Sydney Institute of Marine Science, and was a member of the Australian Research Council's Biological Sciences, Biotechnology, Environmental, Medical and Health Sciences panel from 2013 to 2015. Professor Raftos' ongoing research programs focus on the effects of environmental stress on marine animals, with particular emphasis on infectious disease, environmental contamination and climate change. In 2015, Professor Raftos won Australia's highest award in science, the Eureka Prize, for his work on environmental resilience in oysters.



## **PRESENTER: Dr Craig Cormick**

Dr Craig Cormick is an award-winning science communicator, specialising in public attitudes towards new technologies. He has previously worked for the Department of Innovation and Science and the CSIRO. He is widely published on drivers of public attitudes towards biotechnology and nanotechnology, and forms of public engagement. He was a member of the Inspiring Australia working group on Marine Science communication, is also the editor of the award-winning science book *Ned Kelly under the Microscope*.



## **PRESENTER: Prof Linda Blackall**

Linda L Blackall is a microbial ecologist who has studied many different complex microbial communities ranging from host associated through to free living in numerous environments. She uses methods that allow elucidation of massive microbial complexity and function in these diverse biomes. She is a Professor of BioSciences at Swinburne University of Technology in the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology.