

ENST20002

Environmental Change Field Class

Field Work

July 11th to July 21st 2016



Semester dates and Tentative schedule

Parkville Campus teaching: all of semester 2.

Assessment Period: Final piece of assessment due 31st of October.

Quota Enrolment cut-off date: 1/5/2016

North Queensland field work starts on the 11th of July when we depart from Tullamarine airport

North Queensland field work ends on the 21st of July when we land back at Tullamarine.

Any questions regarding the subject should be directed to the subject co-ordinator: Dr Ian Thomas (i.thomas@unimelb.edu.au)

Welcome to the Environmental Field Class for 2016. I hope you are all excited and enthusiastic about our trip to North Queensland. You will see and learn about an amazing landscape which many of you will have read about in tourist brochures or visited in the company of your family. Others will have their first glimpse of the tropics, coral reefs and crocodiles! I have placed below an itinerary that may change a little as time progresses. I need to give you at a pre-trip meeting, pdf files of readings and essential data sheets that you will need to take on the trip. Details of that meeting will be posted later in semester one.

Here is a summary of our first day in FNQ.

Day 1.

Arrive at Cairns. I will take a taxi with three other drivers to pick up our vehicles from across the other side of town. After about one hour we will return and everyone will help pack the four wheel drive vehicles. In the intervening time, it would be good if you made sure that your water bottles are full and that you have some lunch and snacks ready for later in the day. You could bring food (without drinks) from Melbourne or buy some at the airport or at Kuranda where we will stop for an hour. All other meals on the trip, including lunches will be provided for you.

At some point we will find our accommodation (hopefully) at Lake Tinaroo on the Atherton Tablelands and crash out for the night.

Wear work clothes on the flight up. There will not be any time to change when we arrive. I will send another message soon about what sort of clothes and footwear you should bring for the rest of the trip.

Tentative Itinerary (subject to a little bit of tweaking depending on road conditions and land owner permissions)

11th July Depart Tullamarine early in the morning (6am). Pick up vehicles in Cairns. Drive to Lake Tinaroo via Barron Falls and Davies Creek. Examine waterfalls, granite land basalt landscapes.

12th July. Closely examine rainforest types, volcanic craters and other significant ecological features.

13th July Visit CSIRO Atherton for a tour of their Arboretum and research facility. Take a sediment core and get very dirty in Lynches Volcanic Crater.

14th July. More fabulous things to do!

15th July. Long drive up past Cape Tribulation, through the Daintree Rainforest to Ayton near Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Community on the Bloomfield River (Crocodile watch!).

16th July. Measure attributes of coastal rainforest. Swim in a mountain stream. Examine transitions from rainforest to savanna.

17th July. Visit historic Laura and the World Heritage Quinkan Aboriginal Rock Art Sites. Afternoon in Cooktown, the botanical gardens and a local sandy beach.

18th July. Walk through more pristine rainforest to Home Rule waterfall. Catch water bugs (non-infectious - lol) and swim in yet another beautiful rainforest stream.

19th July. Drive back through the Daintree National Park via Cowie Point beach. Examine mangrove plant communities and massive super-cyclone deposits. Try to avoid tourists.

20th July. If the weather is good we will go out to Fitzroy Island where we can look at coral reefs and think about sea level changes

and island biogeography.

21st July. Depart for cold and wet Melbourne.