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E-news: Education Bilateral Cooperation

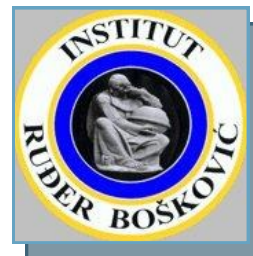
Macquarie University Visit

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) from Macquarie University in Sydney Professor Sakkie Pretorius, visited Croatia in mid October as a guest of Professor Sandi Orlic from the Rudjer Boskovic Institute. He also met in the margins of the visit with the President of Croatia and with the Minister of Science, Education and Sport.

Ambassador Cox hosted a networking event for Professor Pretorius to meet with some key Croatian academics and representatives from various government bodies, including office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Science, Education and Sport, Ministry of Agriculture and others.



Photo: Professor Milos Judas
University of Zagreb,
Professor Sakkie Pretorius,
H.E. Susan Cox



Successful co-operation: Croatian scientist in Australia

My name is Dr Ljiljana Iveša and I am a Research Associate at the Centre for Marine Research within the Rudjer Bošković Institute (Rovinj, Croatia). I am a marine biologist with detailed understanding of the ecology of algae, seagrass and grazing invertebrates. I have used this understanding to determine how urbanisation and climatic change cause ecological impacts.

In 2007, I was invited by Prof's Gee Chapman and Tony Underwood (FAA) to work as a Visiting Academic Fellow at The Centre for Research on Ecological Impacts of Coastal Cities (University of Sydney). Here I spent six months investigating the ecological impacts of urbanization and climatic change. I joined a large project working investigating how building seawalls reduces intertidal biodiversity (funded by ARC Linkage and Sydney Aquarium Conservation Foundation grants). Through this I worked with this field's world leading ecologists, engineers and managers.

To help them I used field experiments to show that observed ecological impacts were caused by different building materials (sandstone or concrete) that altered the ability of key grazing limpets to recruit and compete for food. This work was published in Marine Ecology Progress Series (Top 16% in Marine and Freshwater Biology Journals) in 2010 (http://www.int-res.com/articles/meps_oa/m407p055.pdf). This helped the team to develop pioneering techniques to re-engineer seawalls that helped them to reduce the ecological impacts of the seawalls. (www.abc.net.au/catalyst/stories/2936248.htm; www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-26034196).

I would like to continue this research at the Centre in Rovinj by collaborating with Prof's Chapman and Underwood (University of Sydney) and Dr Browne (University of New South Wales). This is important because over 45% of the Mediterranean shoreline (Italy, France and Spain) has been replaced by artificial shorelines, but no work has examined the percentage of the artificial shoreline along the eastern part of the Adriatic Sea neither their ecological impacts. Thus, there is an urgent need to use the Australian model to identify and mitigate such impacts by developing collaborations between scientists and managers in Croatia and Australia.

(article written by Dr Ljiljana Iveša)



The Australian Research Council (ARC)

The ARC is a statutory agency within the Australian Government. Its mission is to deliver policy and programs that advance Australian research and innovation globally and benefit the community.

In seeking to achieve its mission, the ARC provides advice to the Government on research matters, manages the National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP), and administers Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA).

The ARC plays a significant role in supporting international collaboration, by maintaining a strong presence within the international research community and providing funding opportunities that bring together Australian and international researchers and organisations.

The ARC's overarching aim in supporting international research collaboration is to maximise Australia's contribution to and benefits from international research collaborations, partnerships, developments and policy.

Read more: [here](#)

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