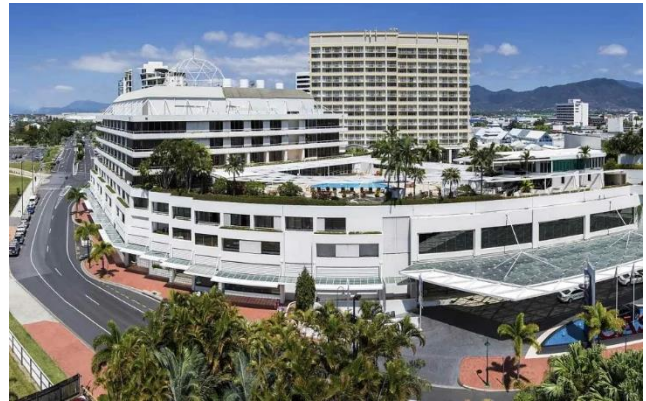


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Pullman Reef Hotel, Cairns – venue for the Sixth FRDC Australasian Scientific Conference on Aquatic Animal Health & Biosecurity

From the Coordination Program Leader

Hello. There have been a few changes since the last edition of *Health Highlights* (v20, issue 1, April 2020). The previous Fisheries Research Development Corporation (FRDC) Aquatic Animal Health and Biosecurity Subprogram (AAHBS) ended in June 2020 and with lockdowns and other restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, it took a while commencing the next FRDC AAHBS. In May 2022, the *FRDC Aquatic Animal Health and Biosecurity Coordination Program* (AAHBCP) commenced, with a couple of other changes including:

- The departure of Jo Slater as Coordinator. Jo undertook this role for 19 years and on behalf of current and previous committee members I would like to thank Jo for her tireless, enthusiastic and outstanding contribution. Thanks Jo!
- The structure of the AAHBCP has changed slightly – the Steering Committee (STC) and Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) have been merged into one Committee (current membership is at the end of this newsletter). The call to fill a vacancy on the Committee appears further in this newsletter.
- The AAHBCP’s role has evolved to support implementation of the FRDC R&D Plan 2020-

2025 and is principally focussed on identifying and highlighting RD&E investment priorities for aquatic animal health and biosecurity, managing FRDC-funded research projects for aquatic animal health and biosecurity and facilitating extension of R&D outputs and outcomes. Managing training and capacity building is also one of the roles of the AAHBCP.

Similar to the previous Subprogram the AAHBCP will meet three time per year (two face-to-face meetings and one videoconference) and planning is underway to have invite up to 2 sector representatives to each meeting, as observers to present on industry needs.

I’m looking forward to catching up with as many of you as possible in Cairns.

Cheers,
Nick

AAHBCP Meetings

The AAHBCP had its first meeting in July 2022, a videoconference in November 2022 and met at FRDC Headquarters in Canberra in March 2023. Items for discussion at these meetings included:

- Establishing the Terms of Reference
- Establishing of the Mode of Operation
- Committee membership
- Review of R&D full applications

- Planning for the Sixth FRDC Australasian Scientific Conference on Aquatic Animal Health and Biosecurity
- Updates from FRDC

The next AAHBCP meeting is scheduled for 3 July 2023 in Cairns.

Sixth FRDC Australasian Scientific Conference on Aquatic Animal Health & Biosecurity

The **Sixth FRDC Australasian Scientific Conference on Aquatic Animal Health & Biosecurity** will be held on Gimuy-Walubara Yidinji and Yirrganydji Country in Cairns Queensland, Australia (<http://www.pullmanhotels.com/gb/hotel-2901-pullman-reef-hotel-casino/index.shtml>) – gateway to the Great Barrier Reef and Daintree rainforest.

The conference provides a forum for presentation of research, diagnostic, epidemiology, management, and policy issues encompassing all areas of aquatic animal health and biosecurity. We anticipate that the Sixth FRDC Australasian Scientific Conference on Aquatic Animal Health & Biosecurity will attract participants from not only Australia, but also New Zealand, SE Asia and beyond.

We are pleased to announce that there will be four conference keynote speakers:

- **Dr Saraya Tavornpanich**, Department of Aquatic Animal Health and Welfare, Norwegian Veterinary Institute.
- **Dr Kevin Christison**, Aquaculture Innovation and Technology Development, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, South Africa.
- **Dr Mark Crane (retired)**, CSIRO Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness Fish Diseases Laboratory.
- **Dr Steve Percival**, Aquaculture Development and Veterinary Services.

For all Conference details please visit:

<https://events.csiro.au/Events/2023/April/5/6th-FRDC-Aust-Sci-Conference-on-Aquatic-Animal-Health-Biosecurity>

AAHBCP Committee Vacancy

FRDC AAHBCP Committee membership - Call for applications

The FRDC Aquatic Animal Health and Biosecurity Coordination Program (AAHBCP) has one vacancy on its Committee for members from the aquaculture and/or fishery sectors, government or research community with expertise in aquatic animal health and biosecurity.

The FRDC AAHBCP is inviting expressions of interest from suitably qualified persons who are willing and able to fill these vacancies. Information about the FRDC AAHBCP can be viewed on the FRDC Website (<https://www.frdc.com.au/aquatic-animal-health-biosecurity>).

AAHBCP Committee members are selected based on the following criteria:

- Expert knowledge of one or more major aquatic animal industry sectors/stakeholder groups and how they operate
- A broad understanding of the aquatic animal health and biosecurity issues confronting Australia's fisheries and aquaculture industries, particularly with respect to infectious diseases
- A capability and enthusiasm to commit the time required to progress AAHBCP business in a timely and professional manner, specifically to:
 - Critically and objectively review research proposals, milestone reports, and draft final reports relating to research projects within the AAHBCP portfolio, when required
 - Assist Principal Investigators with project delivery through project stewardship and participating in project Steering Committees, if required.
 - Participate in AAHBCP face-to-face meetings (normally two per year in March and October) and teleconferences (July and on an as-needs basis)
 - Bring to the attention of the AAHBCP, emerging aquatic animal health and biosecurity issues that could have a significant impact on Australia's aquatic animal sector
 - Bring to the attention of the AAHBCP, aquatic animal health and biosecurity innovations that could have a significant benefit to Australia's aquatic animal sector

- Participate in an annual review of the AAHBCP RD&E Plan

NOTE: All travel expenses (ground travel, economy air travel, accommodation, meals) associated with face-to-face meetings are paid, or reimbursed, by the AAHBCP. Time on Committee business is considered “in-kind” and is not billable.

Any queries regarding AAHBCP Committee membership can be directed to Nick Moody, FRDC AAHBCP Leader (nick.moody@csiro.au) and interested individuals should forward an application, addressing each of the selection criteria and with their current résumé, to Nick and Jacqui (jacqui.morris@csiro.au) by **23 June 2023**.

Aquatic outbreak resources now available: *Outbreak!*

Vets, fish farm workers, fisheries staff and scientists could gain valuable insights into aquatic animal disease events thanks to a new book and online courses from Agriculture Victoria.

Agriculture Victoria Principal Veterinary Officer Dr Tracey Bradley has specialised in aquatic animal health for over 16 years and co-authored the resources.

“These resources provide another tool for investigating and responding to emergency biosecurity events and continue to strengthen Victoria’s biosecurity capability,” Dr Bradley said.

“In what’s believed to be an Australian-first, our book brings together the 10 essential steps for investigating aquatic disease events in the wild or on-farm and includes easy-to-understand case studies.

“Readers will discover how to define a case, collect and analyse data and describe an outbreak over both time and place – information which will help to determine the cause, relevant controls and, ideally, how to prevent future events.”

Recently recognised with an Australian Government Biosecurity Commendation Certificate for her efforts supporting the farmed abalone industry to manage a viral disease of abalone, Dr Bradley drew on her experience to develop the resources.

“Even with the best biosecurity practices things can move quickly when disease hits, so it’s essential to

investigate as soon as you notice something is wrong,” Dr Bradley said.

Complementary e-learning modules provide clear information on how to submit the best sample possible to help reach a diagnosis.

The resources were co-authored by Agriculture Victoria Senior Veterinary Officer Epidemiology Dr Nicole McLaughlin and developed with the assistance of the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation.

The outbreak investigation guidelines book and e-learning modules are available free on the Agriculture Victoria website via <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/fish-outbreak>.

Contact: Dr Tracey Bradley



Announcements

AAHBCP Website

Our website is located on the FRDC site and can be accessed directly under: <https://www.frdc.com.au/aquatic-animal-health-biosecurity>

There you can view this issue and all previous issues of Health Highlights - in addition to finding other information about the FRDC Aquatic Animal Health & Biosecurity Subprogram and related issues.

FRDC Final Reports are searchable at:

<https://www.frdc.com.au/project-search>

FRDC News is available at:

<https://www.frdc.com.au/newsletters>

Please contact FRDC directly (Email address: frdc@frdc.com.au) if you have any problems with their website.

Newsletter submissions

The Aquatic Animal Health & Biosecurity Subprogram welcomes contributions to *Health Highlights* on all aquatic animal health & biosecurity R&D news and events – both within and outside the FRDC. We aim to assist with the widespread exchange of information by including any of the following in each annual edition: project updates, milestone reports, final reports, research papers, project communication and extension outputs, info sheets, and letters to the editor. Announcements of conferences, workshops, meetings, job vacancies etc. are also welcome.

Mailing list

Health Highlights is distributed biannually to stakeholders via email as well as being posted on the FRDC website at:

<http://www.frdc.com.au/en/partners/national-priorities-and-subprograms/aquatic-health-and-biosecurity>

To change contact details or to ensure inclusion on the *Health Highlights* mailing list, please contact Jacqui:

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All reasonable care has been taken by the editor and contributors in preparing components of this newsletter that represent, or that, could be construed to represent, advice. Neither the FRDC, the Aquatic Animal Health & Biosecurity Coordination Program nor any of its officers or contributors accepts any liability resulting from the interpretation or use of information set out in this document. Information contained within this document is subject to change without notice.

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