

AIMS@JCU Student awards celebrated



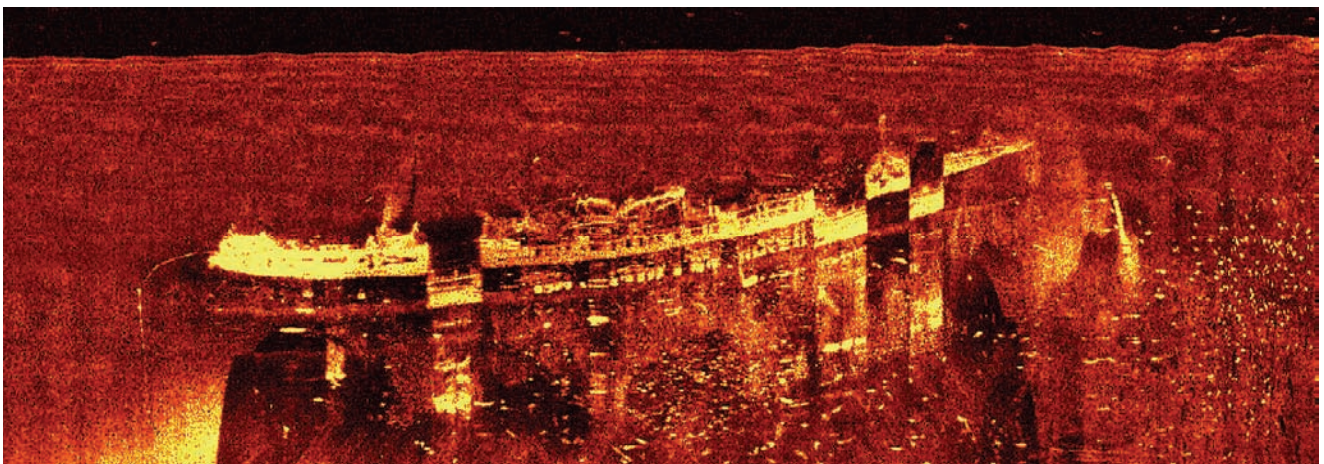
*AIMS@JCU Chairperson Rhondda Jones chats to some of the award recipients.
Photo: B. Dinsdale.*

Recipients of the 2007 round of AIMS@JCU PhD Scholarships, Travel Support and Honours Scholarships were presented with certificates by Chair Rhondda Jones and Executive Officer Brett Dinsdale recently.

The presentation, followed by an informal afternoon tea gave Board Members and students an opportunity to meet and socialise.

Polo shirts with an embroidered AIMS@JCU logo were also distributed to the students. It is hoped that these will be seen far and wide, with the Travel Support Scholarship students presenting at conferences throughout Australia, and one student presenting at a conference in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Project update - 'Yongala's Halo of Holes'



In collaboration with ATLAS Hydrographic, Cairns, the Yongala team has recorded sidescan images of the wreck of the Yongala and the halo of holes around it. This data shows a similar distribution of holes around the wreck to what was found more than two years ago, suggesting that the halo of holes is a semi-stable, long-term phenomenon. With a towed video camera, the team also found substantial benthic growth in some of the holes - further evidence that the holes are a semi-stable habitat.

The weather has not been cooperative in the past months, delaying further work on the feeding behaviour of the rays. Preparations are now underway for an experiment to tag rays and track the animals acoustically in the second half of this year.

Image submitted by Thomas Stieglitz.