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2007 Graduate Research Student Poster Competition

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## **FORWARD**

James Cook University believes that a cross disciplinary approach to higher degree by research education is highly desirable. We also consider mutual collaboration and support to be important for the mental health of research students.

One of the advantages of a small campus, such as Cairns, is the opportunity for research students to support each other. In order to facilitate cross disciplinary exchange, James Cook University provided the Cairns research students with the opportunity to present to a cross disciplinary audience through the conduct of a poster competition in December 2007.

The competition was a great success and attracted a great deal of interest enabling research students to get practice in presenting their research to a general audience, think about their research from different angles and make connections with research students from other schools or faculties for the purpose of collaboration.

This booklet contains the abstracts of the posters that were presented and is evidence of the strong postgraduate research culture on the Cairns campus.

I look forward to the Cairns research student poster competition being an annual event.

I would like to thank Professor Scott Bowman, rector of the Cairns campus very much for donating the first prize and for Professor Bruce Prideaux and Dr Deborah Graham for organising the event.

Helene Marsh

Dean, graduate research studies

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Inaugural 2007 Graduate Research Student Poster Competition was held to celebrate post graduate research at JCU Cairns and encourage students from a variety of disciplines to share ideas and research experiences. Sixteen high quality posters were entered representing a large number of science and social science disciplines.

The inaugural prize was awarded to Kylie Anderson. Our aim is to grow the competition and take it beyond the University into the wider community to showcase the excellent research being undertaken by JCU Postgraduate students. We believe that this not only enhances the standing of the University in the wider community but also may open previously unrecognised opportunities for students to find research partners in the wider community and later for employment opportunities.

Our special thanks to Professor Scott Bowman for sponsoring the competition and providing a magnificent prize and to our esteemed judging panel, Professor Helene Marsh, Professor Steve Turton and Professor Neil Anderson

Bruce Prideaux ~ Professor of Marketing and tourism Management

Deborah Graham ~ Associate Dean Graduate Research Studies