



3 December 2020

Scholarship on offer to support research into waterway health in Central Queensland

Water is our most precious resource and in the Fitzroy Basin, one of Australia's most critical economic powerhouses, humans, ecosystems, industry, and agriculture all rely on it to survive and thrive.

To ensure research efforts and knowledge about waterway health are prioritised, local not-for-profit collective Fitzroy Partnership for River Health is again offering the HeART of the Basin Scholarship through CQUniversity to encourage students to concentrate their research efforts to better understand and manage our most critical resource.

Fitzroy Partnership for River Health Executive Officer Dr Leigh Stitz said by supporting scientific waterway research we can help drive positive change now and into the future.

"In 2021, Fitzroy Partnership for River Health will release its 10th Annual Report Card on ecosystem health of the eleven freshwater catchments and the Fitzroy River estuary in the Fitzroy Basin," Dr Stitz said.

"The \$2,000 HeART of the Basin Scholarship has supported three students and waterway research projects since 2015 aligning perfectly with our aim of creating a more complete picture of river health for the Fitzroy Basin."

"The Scholarship was named after our inaugural Fitzroy Partnership for River Health Science Panel Chair, Emeritus Professor Barry Hart who himself has contributed substantially to waterway research in Australia."

"The scholarship is open to CQUniversity research students studying Honours, Masters by Research or PhD to progress their learnings in a research topic related to improving waterway health in the Fitzroy Basin.

"Previously funded scholarship research has included the development of a toolbox for fish health assessment, off-stream stock watering research to protect riparian areas and improve water quality and the study of microplastics in water in the Rockhampton and Livingstone water supplies."

Applications are now open and close on 29 January 2021. More information and application forms are available at <https://riverhealth.org.au/scholarships/>

The Fitzroy Partnership for River Health includes members from government, agriculture, resources, industry, research and community and has released nine waterway health report cards since it was formed.

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