

Science, Technology and Engineering

Research in Botany

Botany has never been a more important science, being intimately associated with environmental issues, the development of more productive, disease resistant food and energy crops, and the management of our forest resources. Postgraduate study in Botany at La Trobe allows you to participate in these exciting areas of research. Postgraduates are offered research opportunities based in our own laboratories, and with organisations including the CSIRO, the Victorian AgriBiosciences Centre (VABC) and the Department of Primary Industries (DPI).

Staff research areas



Dr Tony Gendall
Plant development and physiology
We study how plants response to abiotic stresses and how these effect plant development, using a combination of genetic and molecular approaches, with the long-term aim of developing varieties that are better suited to changing environmental conditions.



Dr Peter Green
Plant community ecology, plant-animal interactions, and biological invasions
We study how natural communities are assembled and maintained, the mechanisms by which alien organisms invade communities, and the impacts of invasive species on community structure and function.



Dr Susan Hoebee
Plant population genetics and ecology
We investigate genetic and ecological processes influencing the persistence of plant populations. Results from these studies impact on a range of areas such as conservation, revegetation and weed control.



Dr Philip Keane
Fungal diseases of crop plants and eucalypts
We are working on two projects; selection for resistance to pest and disease problems in cocoa in Sulawesi, Indonesia, and the biology and control of fungal leaf diseases of in Eucalyptus plantations in southern Australia.



Dr John Morgan
Vegetation science
We study the dynamics of native vegetation to understand the role of long-term drivers such as habitat loss, disturbance regimes and changing climates on native plant diversity.



Professor Roger Parish
Cell and molecular biology
Our research involves the genes regulating anther and seed coat development; cold and drought control of gene expression and hormone signal transduction pathways. Genetic technologies that improve crop-yield are being developed.



Dr Kim Plummer
Plant-pathogen interactions
We study the structure, function & interaction of fungal plant pathogens & their hosts to determine the means of the pathogenic interaction. The aim is to identify targets for sustainable and durable plant disease control.

Further Information

For further information about undertaking a research degree in botany or to discuss collaboration with our researchers, please contact:

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CRICOS Provider 00115M
Last updated: 11/08/2009