

Warra Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) Site

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The Warra LTER Site of 15 900 ha was designated in 1995 to encourage long-term ecological research and monitoring in wet forests in Tasmania. The site is supported by eight LTER site partners from Tasmanian and national research agencies. Continuing projects are listed at www.warra.com
DFRD provided Warra small-project grants to 2 researchers during 2008 - 09.

Major activities for 2008 - 09

- Collected spatial and historical information for catchments in Warra LTER to determine biophysical factors that have the greatest influence on water quality and yield
- Collated and reported water quality data for 15 water sampling sites
- Upgraded instruments at the Warra weirs to include remote telemetry
- Completed second 3-year sampling of emerging saproxylic beetles from Warra Log Decay Study. Beetles have been sorted, identified and databased in preparation for analysis.
- Completed annual surveys of ground beetles and birds in control plots at the SST, and completed first of the 10-year post-harvest treatments.
- Successful ARC Linkage Grant to use molecular methods to map dispersal of saproxylic beetles in the Southern Forests Experimental Forest Landscape (SFEFL) anchored at Warra. The grant will fund a post-doctoral researcher and a PhD student for three years

Dr Sandra Roberts of Forestry Tasmania with visiting University of Syracuse biogeochemist Assoc Prof Chris Johnson and doctoral student Ankit Balaria at a weir in Warra

- Successful inclusion of the Warra LTER in an expanded Ozflux network, allowing future establishment of a carbon flux tower in a mature / regrowth *E. obliqua* forest
- Analysis of initial sample of ground beetles collected from the Baseline Altitudinal Monitoring Transects
- Provided Warra Honours scholarship to Ian Riley (in collaboration with CRC for Forestry) to study carbon content of water in Warra streams
- Sampled lichen and bryophyte plots in retained aggregates of two Warra SST coupes, completed species identifications and prepared the dataset for final analyses

Projects commenced 2008 - 09 at the Warra LTER site

- Variation of volume, mass and carbon-content of coarse woody debris in tall wet *E. obliqua* forests in a chronosequence after fire disturbance or harvest. Project Leader - Eva Hilbig and Prof J Bauhus
Affiliation - Freiburg University, Germany
- Baseline sampling of bats in aggregated retention coupes and other silvicultural treatments at Warra. Project Leader - Dr Bradley Law, Forests NSW

