

## PhD Project:

### PhD Project- The conservation ecology of burrowing petrels following an island eradication

The largest multi-species vertebrate eradication to-date has recently been declared successful on Australia's World Heritage Macquarie Island. The island is home to several threatened seabird species that have historically been impacted by cats, rats and rabbits, which have now been eradicated. This project will utilise existing long-term datasets and collect new field data to track changes in the presence, distribution and abundance of burrow-nesting seabirds, to assess how this seabird community has responded to the eradication of feral vertebrates and their role in the broader ecosystem recovery after decades of feral animal impacts.

This research is part of a larger project aimed at the development of an optimal long-term monitoring strategy for key threatened species on the island and the island ecosystem as a whole. The student will investigate the conservation return on investment of the eradication and inform decision-making strategies around threatened species monitoring and conservation.

The student will be part of the Threatened Species Recovery Hub, National Environmental Science Programme <http://www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au/>. They will work in conjunction with Dr Justine Shaw, Prof. Hugh Possingham (Centre of Biodiversity and Conservation Science, The University of Queensland) and Dr Rachael Alderman (Dept. Primary Industry Parks Water & Environment, Tasmania).

#### Criteria:

Applicants for this project need to be eligible for an APA (commencing mid 2016).

They must be willing and able to undertake up to two field seasons of up to six months duration each on Macquarie Island, which requires passing a mandatory Australian Antarctic Division medical and psychological testing. <http://www.antarctica.gov.au/jobs/applying/medical-checklist>

They must be willing to be based in Brisbane and/or Hobart.

#### The applicant must possess:

- proven skills in managing large datasets
- well-developed quantitative skills, including experience working with spatial data.
- well-developed written skills.

- previous research experience, ideally working with wildlife monitoring or ecological programs

**The applicant must demonstrate:**

- ability to undertake independent field work and collect accurate and meaningful field data
- aptitude and responsibility to work in remote and physically challenging environments.
- capacity to live and work effectively in small teams.

Application should include a motivation letter and a short CV and sent to Justine Shaw, [j.shaw6@uq.edu.au](mailto:j.shaw6@uq.edu.au) . Applications close 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

