

Industrial Placement Project Opportunities
with Pioneer Integrated Catchment Management Assoc. Inc. (PICMA)
Mackay, Queensland.

Outlined below is a list of potential projects. These are suggestions to generate interest. It is intended that an interested student will then contact me to further discuss project details, their interests, skills and requirements. I work with a wide range of groups and aspects of natural resource management and strongly encourage anyone interested in undertaking their Industrial Placement in the Mackay Whitsunday region to contact me. I know there are many other project opportunities available – it's just a matter of developing one to match the student's interests and skills.

All projects will require good written and verbal communication skills and the ability to work autonomously with limited supervision.

Unfortunately we cannot offer a financial allowance/payment however we will cover all costs required to complete the project e.g. printing, stationery, travel etc.

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1. Land for Wildlife Extension Officer

Tasks:

- Arrange and conduct property assessments in response to applications for registration.
- Database management i.e. enter information for new properties, generate reports of existing records and communicate with State Coordinator.
- Communication e.g. write newsletter/newspaper articles and respond to other media opportunities that may arise.
- Extension e.g. develop and conduct/coordinate workshops to support land managers.
- Support/monitor registered properties & properties working towards registration.
- Succession planning i.e. source and train new officer/volunteer to fulfill role upon completion of your placement.

Background:

Land for Wildlife is a voluntary, non-binding program which provides recognition, encouragement and support for land managers who provide habitat for native plants and animals on their properties. For more information, refer to the Greening Australia website.

Key skills required:

- Ability to identify vegetation species (at least knowledge of how to collect a sample and identify it using keys/reference materials).
- Interest in vegetation and wildlife and encouraging land managers to value and protect/improve wildlife habitat on their properties.

2. Volunteer Network Support Officer

Tasks:

- Recruit volunteers e.g. through media, networking and engagement opportunities.
- Develop an induction package/process.
- Review and further develop risk assessment processes.
- Develop a recognition/awards strategy.
- Develop a feedback process for volunteers.
- Consider capacity building opportunities.
- Submit funding applications to support the volunteer network.
- Develop a directory/mind map of local volunteer groups.
- Succession planning i.e. develop and implement processes that can be used by existing staff upon completion of your placement.

Background:

Integrated Catchment Management and Regional Natural Resource Management is largely based on voluntary community involvement. Our key volunteer programs include Healthy Waterways water quality testing and Community Nursery “Trees for Tomorrow”. Most of the above tasks could also be applied to the general ICM membership.

Key skills required:

- Strong organisational skills.
- Ability to communicate and cooperate with a wide range of people.

3. Communication Strategy Implementation Officer

Tasks:

- Review existing communication strategy and provide feedback/recommendations accordingly.
- Review and further develop display materials.
- Develop fact sheets on projects, programs and/or local NRM topics.
- Develop and facilitate workshops for training, problem solving and/or decision making.
- Write newsletter/newspaper articles and pursue other media opportunities.
- Develop signs for key on-ground work project sites.
- Develop other tools for communication, education and awareness raising e.g. contact lists, mind maps etc.

Key skills required:

- Strong writing skills including ability to convey key messages to the general public.

4. Landcare Officer

Tasks:

- Facilitate development of Landcare Groups through PICMA.
- Recruit interested members of the community.
- Guide them through the process of forming a Landcare Group.

- Develop their capacity to function successfully by providing technical and strategic support.

Key skills required:

- Leadership and facilitation skills.

5. Schools Education Officer

Tasks:

- Compile education kits about ICM and Waterwatch for local schools.
- Respond to enquiries from schools regarding NRM projects.
- Visit schools and conduct presentations/activities about ICM and Waterwatch.

Key skills required:

- Strong written and verbal communication skills including ability to target audiences of different ages and skill levels.

Note: Blue Card will be required.

6. Project proposals/applications & Award nominations

Tasks:

- Develop project proposals/funding applications to further develop existing projects/programs and/or establish new ones.
- Submit award nominations for existing projects/programs.

Background:

Projects could be developed for Green Corps, Healthy Waterways, Community Nursery, Landcare, Coastcare, Schools and other community based NRM groups.

Key skills required:

- Strong written communication skills.

7. Cultural History – Rowallan Park

Tasks:

- Record cultural history of Rowallan Park, a local Scouts Reserve with significant NRM values.
- Talk to manager of Rowallan Park and other key stakeholders and record information about the ‘Kanaka’ trails, associated cane farming and the Scouting history that followed.
- Encourage other local people to share their memories of Rowallan Park.
- Compile information to provide an interesting and informative interpretive tool.

8. Management Plan

Tasks:

- Prepare a management plan for a key local NRM site including a description of the site (natural and artificial assets, values and challenges) and recommendations for future management (i.e. weed control, fire management, rehabilitation, recreational facilities, communication strategy etc.).

Suggested sites:

- Melba House precinct (a local tourist attraction adjacent to a previous riparian revegetation project).

- Riverside Drive (a previous riparian revegetation project with significant recreational potential i.e. for fishing and picnics).
- Maraju-Yakapari Rd (a previous riparian revegetation project)

9. 3D catchment model

- Develop a 3D model of the Pioneer Catchment area.

10. Local weed directory

- Develop a directory of local weeds for volunteers to refer to on project sites.