



KAU-TILLIKO PHD SCHOLARSHIP

Kau-tilliko (Awabakal) — to assemble or collect together, of themselves.

SCHOLARSHIP CONDITIONS

SCHOLARSHIP INTENT

The Kau-tilliko PhD Scholarship is a donor funded scholarship established by Joss De luliis following the success of his own innovative land management techniques. The research will draw inspiration from an emerging network of people who see the need for regenerative agriculture and sustainable land management in Australia today, and believe that the knowledge and practices of Indigenous Australians will prove invaluable in that process. In the context of climate change, the engagement of Indigenous people and increasing the use of native species are both seen to be vital in the coming years.

Within that framework, the PhD will give specific focus to the potential for the products of pyrolysis, biochar and wood vinegar, to improve seed germination, plant health, soil quality (especially the carbon content) and crop yields. Opportunities will be explored to enhance microbial activity, build soil carbon, increase water and nutrient retention, improve pest resistance and generally build drought and climate resilience.

The PhD scholarship recipient will be supported by the Office of Indigenous Strategy and Leadership to enable connection to Indigenous students and communities with proper consideration and recognition for the sharing of Indigenous cultural knowledge.

SOME SUGGESTED AREAS OF INQUIRY MAY INCLUDE:

- How do agricultural and land management practices in Australia need to change to avoid dangerous climate change, eco-system degradation, and food insecurity?
- What can we learn from the knowledge and land management practices of Indigenous people?
- What added value might be created through appropriate application of pyrolysis and its products?
- What research and field trials need be done to develop innovative products and practices?
- How can this be turned into business opportunities for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people
- How do we manage knowledge and IP for mutual benefit and with mutual respect?

ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNDING ARRANGEMENT

This donor funded scholarship has been established and funded by Joss De luliis for up to a maximum of 3.5 years (full-time equivalent) for a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) candidate.

Kau-tilliko PhD Scholarship was inspired by participation in the University of Newcastle's Ikara-Flinders Ranges Challenge 2019 (to advance Indigenous education and health) and recognising some parallels between innovative pyrolysis technology and traditional Indigenous land management techniques, especially cool season burning.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to apply for this foundation scholarship, you will:

- Be an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander;
- Meet the [admissions criteria](#) for entry into a University of Newcastle PhD program;

- Not hold another University of Newcastle donor-funded or sponsored scholarship concurrently; and
- Submit a completed Expression of Interest form and required documentation no later than the application closing date.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

As part of your application, you will need to provide:

- A completed Kau-tilliko PhD Scholarship Expression of Interest form.
- Copies of your Higher Education qualification transcripts and completion certificates.
- Confirmation of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander status as outlined in the [Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander - Establishing Status within the University Policy](#).

Any applicant that does not submit the required documentation above by the application closing date will not be considered for selection

SELECTION

Selection is a competitive process and will be based on assessment of eligible expression of interest applications and the required documentation.

Selection will be made by a committee comprising the Dean of Graduate Research, the Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Strategy and Leadership, and two Assistant Deans Research Training from relevant faculties.

The preferred applicant will be invited to apply for admission.

CONDITIONS OF AWARD

If accepting this scholarship, you agree to the following conditions:

- Maintain satisfactory academic progress for the duration of the scholarship.
- Maintain full-time enrolment unless approval received by the donor and the Dean of Graduate Research to study part-time.
- Maintain on-campus enrolment unless approval received by the donor and the Dean of Graduate Research to study off-campus.
- If your circumstances change (eg, change of supervisor, change in program, change of research topic, leave of absence or withdrawal), your eligibility for scholarship may be affected.
- You agree to write a letter of thanks to the donor via email to Donor-Relations@newcastle.edu.au within 2 weeks of accepting your offer. You may also provide contact details and permission for them to contact you regarding the industry opportunities associated with this scholarship.
- The scholar approves the disclosure of their name, research topic, details of candidature progress and scholarships to the donor.
- Adhere to the [Higher Degree by Research Scholarship policy](#) for the living allowance (stipend) scholarship.
- Adhere to the [Research Training Program Scholarship policy](#) for the Research Training Program (RTP) Fee Offset tuition fee scholarship.
- Scholars are required to provide additional reports to Graduate Research or the donor as requested.

BENEFIT

- This scholarship provides a benefit of \$28,092 per annum (2020 rate) indexed annually up to a maximum of 3.5 years (full-time equivalent) for a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) candidate.
- The successful applicant must commence within four months of being awarded.

TERMINATION

The scholarship will terminate under the conditions set out in Section 21 of the [Higher Degree by Research Scholarship Policy](#) (Stipend) and Section 20 of the [Research Training Program Scholarship Policy](#) (Fee Offset). The grounds for termination of candidature are set out in Section 48 of the [Rules Governing Higher Degrees by Research](#).

When early termination of scholarship is required, the Office of Alumni and Philanthropy will be advised prior to termination occurring and will undertake the most appropriate action in consultation with the Donor/Sponsor and Graduate Research.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

As a scholarship recipient, if you are unable to meet the conditions of the scholarship due to illness, injury or other extenuating circumstances, you may apply for special consideration. Please apply by writing to Graduate Research graduate-research@newcastle.edu.au. Please provide appropriate documentary evidence to support your request.

A decision will be made in consultation with the Office of Alumni & Philanthropy.

VARIATIONS

The Dean of Graduate Research in consultation with the Director of Advancement, Office of Alumni and Philanthropy may vary any of the clauses of these conditions where it is satisfied that exceptional circumstances warrant such variation. In circumstances where a variation has occurred and applications have been received, then the scholarship must be re-advertised with the varied clause(s) included.

PRIVACY

If accepting a donor-funded scholarship, a summary of information provided with the application may be provided to an external donor and/or their representative. This is to inform the donor that the terms of the donation are met. You may be asked by Graduate Research if you give permission for any short articles or newsletter items to be published. You may have the option to provide a photo, quote and or short paragraph about yourself for this. When applying, please review the Declaration and Authority at the start of your application which includes links to the University of Newcastle [Privacy Management Plan](#), and [Web Privacy Statement](#).

Established: June 2020

Revised: