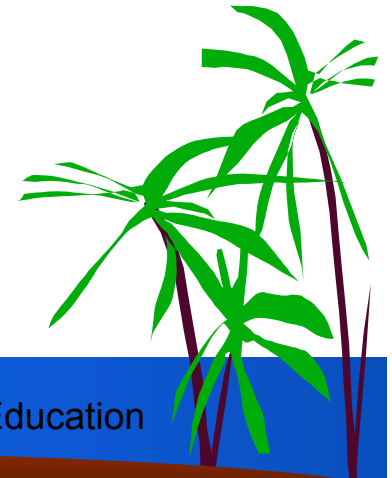
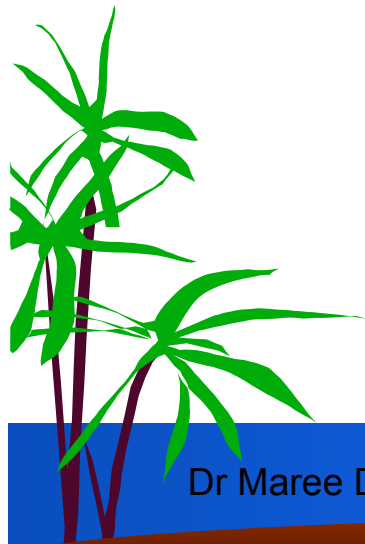


*'Easing the pathway for ECR's
with quality research as the
outcome' - links to policy and
practical implications.*



Dr Maree DinanThompson, Dr Ruth Hickey & Juanita Sellwood

School of Education

- This paper is expected to be published in a proposed special edition

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**Title: EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND
REFORM: UNLIKELY COMPANIONS OR
MAKING A DIFFERENCE?**



Dr Maree DinanThompson, Dr Ruth Hickey & Juanita Sellwood

School of Education

Introduction

- Messages of quality and accessibility (QRF)
- How these messages are perceived at the policy, practical and personal levels
- How we attempt to define ourselves as researchers and our evolving responses to “quality research”



Messages at the policy level

- **What is Quality Research?** DEST 2005
- Measurability NHRMC 2005
- Outputs ARC 2005
- Impact
- Commercial value
- International links & recognition



Messages at the policy level

- **What is an ECR?**
- 5 or 8 years
- Beginning Researcher or Early Career
- “Best and brightest, most promising and talented” (ARC, 2003)
- Published output
- Increasing focus on ECR’ s (under representation (e.g., ARC))

The logo for James Cook University (JCU), consisting of the letters 'JCU' in a bold, black, sans-serif font, positioned above a stylized sun with rays.

Practical strategies

Five universities were compared to identify the strategies used to promote ECR activity.

- Similarities
- All provide specific funding schemes
- All grants focus on modest cost but high quality research
- Support to enhance research capacity



Practical strategies

Five universities were compared to identify the strategies used to promote ECR activity.

- Differences
- Two have specific mentoring strategies
- One had equity grant category
- One has ECR award for teaching
- One has Research cooperative clusters



Personal messages

Ruth No-longer Early Career Researcher

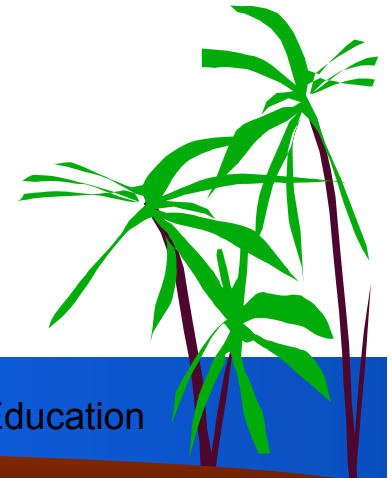
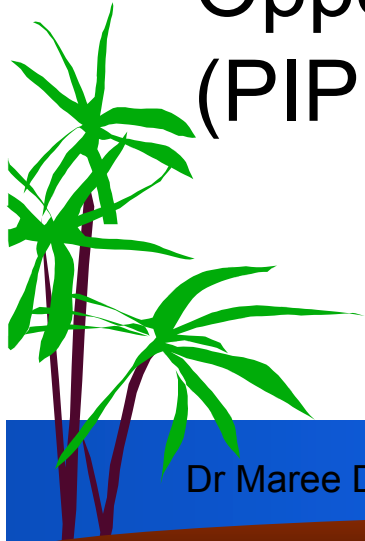
- Accidental involvement
- Follow my interests or
- Follow the money through tender as teams of researchers
- Interrupted progress
- Administration load (Prof Exp)



Personal messages

Juanita Beginning Researcher

- Importance of identity as “researcher” then lecturer
- Collaborative Project: Kickstart
- Opportunity for ECR research training (PIP)



Personal messages

- **Maree Mid-point Researcher**
- Seen as lecturer
- Individual to team research
- Research is linked to professional practice
- Informal mentoring
- Currently shaped by institution, state, national, funding programs



Promoters & Inhibitors

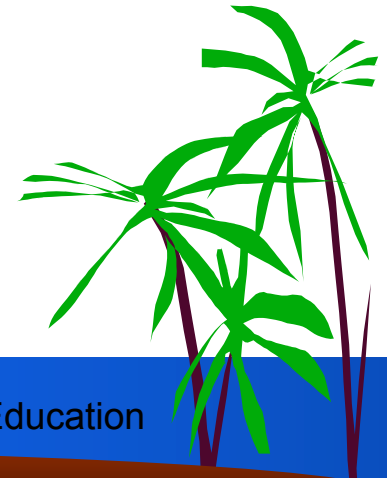
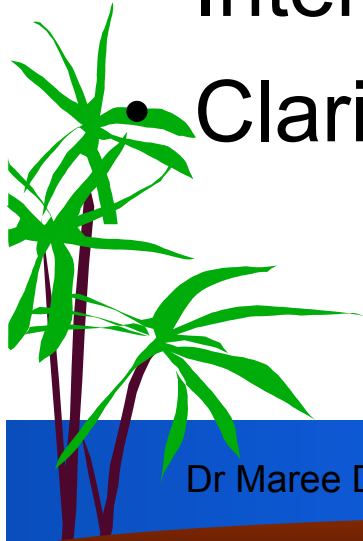
Bazeley, et
al 1996

- **Promoters** of a research profile are motivation, networking, and published output
- **Inhibitors** are teaching, administration and insufficient funding & resources, family, post-thesis burnout, lack of track record, lack of collegial contact



Issues

- Commercialisation (textbooks don't count)
- Linking ECRs within a team
- Measurability and impact of education research
- International recognition
- Clarity



Enabling ECRs to produce quality research

- Be strategic from the beginning
- Research training as ECRs
- Grant writing training as ECRs
- Shaped by national, state & uni priorities
- Work in cooperative teams
- Change identity to “researcher/lecturer”

