

# Update

October 2007



## COMMUNITY SHOWS SUPPORT FOR SIMS

Over the last few months SIMS has been rapidly moving forward to become an operational marine research institution working collaboratively with universities and government agencies. The continuing growth and success of the institute relies on many factors, one of the most important being the ongoing support, interest and enthusiasm of the Sydney community.

Recently a number of passionate locals have shown their support through donations to the institute, which has led to the creation of a community membership network. The SIMS Board and management would like to express their sincere thanks to Dr Peter Jones (FutureMaker), Mr Ian Hembry (Patron), Mr Barry Shaw (Patron), Prof. Frank Talbot (Patron) and Mr Peter Wargent (Patron) for their generous support.

To provide the facilities our scientists need to conduct their important work we must look beyond our University Members for further support and in the future we will be relying more and more on public and private funding. As carer for the Harbour, keeping a watch on its health and advising on its management as the city grows, SIMS needs your help.

Through our community network SIMS can offer different degrees of commitment and as we are a "Deductible Gift Recipient" all membership contributions are tax deductible. Under tax regulations, all donations must be used for research. If you are interested in becoming involved you can either complete the cut off at the end of this newsletter, email [info@sims.org.au](mailto:info@sims.org.au) or attend our "Spring Function" outlined later in this edition.

SIMS Community Membership degrees of commitment are:

**FutureMakers;** Help shape the history of the Sydney Institute of Marine Science. Through a single contribution of \$5,000 you will be placed on the limited list of 20 FutureMakers – those founder members who are helping jumpstart SIMS in its research. These founders automatically become lifelong Patrons (see next).

**Patron;** Contributions of \$1,000 per annum, with a commitment for three years, provides Patrons with a continuing involvement in exciting research at SIMS, meeting scientists, coming for lectures and family tours. Patrons attend the Annual Dinner to hear of the national and international progress of SIMS. Patrons elect a Council that recommends to the SIMS Board on the programs it wishes to support.

**Members;** Providing an annual family contribution of \$100, members are the lifeblood of SIMS. They and their children become involved in a long term learning process of our Sydney's waterways and its rich and strange marine life. Special open days for Members show what is going on in the research aquaria and laboratories, and what secrets of underwater life and change the 40 scientists associated with SIMS are discovering.

There is so much goodwill for SIMS that with the support we are already receiving, potential grants both from philanthropic organisations and government sources and with your help, we will continue to develop into a world class marine research institution.



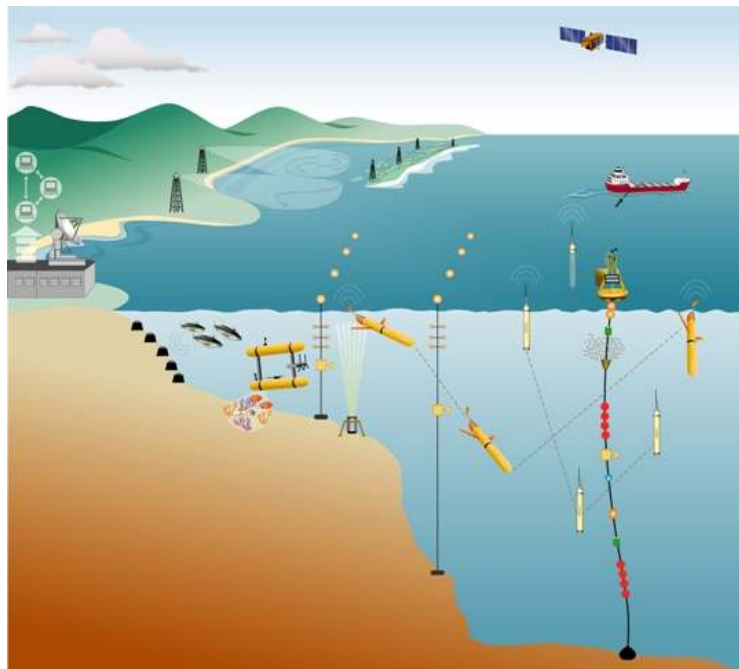
*Dr Peter Jones presents Prof Talbot (SIMS Chair) with his kind donation*

## SIMS JOINS NATIONAL RESEARCH COLLABORATION

### FOR AUSTRALIA'S OCEANS

SIMS, with the invaluable assistance of Gadens Lawyers, has recently signed off on a sub-contract with the national office of the Integrated Marine Observing System, operated by the University of Tasmania, and is now the NSW Operator for this national initiative. The Integrated Marine Observing System, or IMOS, is a nationwide collaborative program designed to observe the oceans around Australia, including the coastal & open oceans. IMOS will provide data to support research on many of the critical marine issues facing Australia, climate change and the sustainability of ecosystems. Along with SIMS another twenty-six institutions from around Australia will be involved with this facility, which is funded under the [National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy](#). The IMOS links several independent ocean observation projects involving technologies and observing instruments ranging from moored observing instruments to acoustic tracking devices, among others, into a collaborative research infrastructure covering a vast area of Australia's immense marine territory.

The NSW-IMOS Node, of which SIMS is now the Operator, focuses on the coastal and shelf processes driven by the Eastern Australian Current (EAC). The oceans off eastern Australia and in particular in the region of New South Wales have a complex circulation structure. The Tasman Sea has the world's fastest increase in water temperature of any regional sea. Three facilities of the national IMOS project will be operated through SIMS, these are:



*IMOS comprises of various monitoring systems linked to form a collaborative network*

#### **Australian Acoustic Tagging and Monitoring System (AATAMS) Facility**

Acoustic monitoring is a powerful tool for observing tagged marine animals with networks or cross shelf arrays (curtains) of receivers, allowing animals to be monitored over scales of 100s of metres to 100s of kilometres. An array or network consists of a series of Acoustic Receivers that can be left on the sea floor for up to 7 years with the ability to upload data as often as needed.

#### **Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) Facility**

An Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) called Sirius capable of undertaking high resolution survey work. This experimental free diving vehicle is a modified version of a mid-size robotic vehicle called Seabed built at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. The submersible is equipped with numerous instruments and sensors which enable it to provide information and high resolution images of the sea floor. The vehicle is controlled by an on-board computing platform which is used for sampling sensor information and running the vehicle's low level control algorithms.

#### **Australian National Mooring Network Sub-Facility**

The Australian National Mooring Network will comprise of a series of national reference stations and regional moorings designed to monitor particular oceanographic phenomena in Australian coastal ocean waters. At each coastal national reference station a mooring will be deployed with sensors to measure water temperature, quality and currents at varying depths. All reference stations will transmit a reduced data set via satellite for real time monitoring. The regional moorings will monitor the interaction between boundary currents and shelf water masses and their consequent impact upon ocean productivity and ecosystem distribution. There will be one national mooring and four regional moorings deployed off the NSW coast.

For further information on this exciting collaborative initiative visit the [IMOS](#) web page.

## SPRING FUNCTION AT SIMS

SIMS Friends and their guests are invited to hear of recent progress as you enjoy gazing out over the beautiful Chowder Bay on a balmy spring evening. Refreshments — sundowners and nibbles will be served. Room size means that numbers will have to be limited and to defray expenses we will need to charge \$20 per person.

**When:** Friday 26th October 2007

For details of the event and to obtain your invitation please contact Paul Hallam, phone 02 9969 2664 or email [paul.hallam@simms.org.au](mailto:paul.hallam@simms.org.au), or Robyn Stutchbury, phone: 02 9427 6747 or email: [rstutch@bigpond.net.au](mailto:rstutch@bigpond.net.au).

Hope to see you there.

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### PART TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

#### MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNITY CO-ORDINATOR

We are currently looking to appoint an enthusiastic co-ordinator to support our Fundraising Committee. Your responsibilities will include a variety of clerical and office tasks, assisting with the co-ordination of events, functions and meetings, liaising with members and the general public, maintaining databases, answering phones and responding to queries.

Ideally you will be a great communicator who is well organised and has excellent computer skills. You enjoy working as part of a small team and pride yourself on attention to detail. A love for the marine environment as well as previous experience in a fundraising, marketing of communications background is advantageous.

This is a part-time position not casual where we will require that you work 3 1/4 hours per day, four days a week. Remuneration for the successful applicant will be \$20 per hour plus 9% superannuation. The position could be well suited to those with children at school or energetic retirees. Your own transport would be advantageous as public transport to the Chowder Bay area is intermittent.

For further information about this exciting opportunity or a copy of the position description go to our website [www.sims.org.au](http://www.sims.org.au) or email [info@simms.org.au](mailto:info@simms.org.au)



Cut here and return to: Sydney Institute of Marine Science, Building 22 Chowder Bay Rd, Mosman NSW 2088, or fax (02) 9969 8664



### PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN AUSTRALIA'S SCIENTIFIC HISTORY AND BECOME ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN SIMS TODAY!

Name:

Address:

Suburb:

State:

Postcode:

Email:

Phone: ( )

Fax: ( )

Preferred method of contact:  Email  Mail  Fax  No Correspondence Please

I wish to become a supporter of SIMS as a:

- FutureMaker (\$5,000)  Patron (\$1,000 p.a. 3 year commitment)  
 Member (\$100.00 p.a.)  One off Donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_

- I have enclosed a cheque/money order (made payable to Sydney Institute of Marine Science)  
 I have made a electronic transfer to: Westpac Mosman

BSB N<sup>o</sup>: 032-097

Acc N<sup>o</sup>: 253640

Please use your name for the transaction reference

*\*Donations over \$2 are tax deductible\**