Astrolabe Community Trust Masters Scholarships

The Astrolabe Community Trust (Trust) was established and funded by the insurer of the container ship that ran aground on Astrolabe Reef (Otaiti). The Trust has been granted consent to abandon the remains of the MV Rena on Otaiti (Regional Council consent RC67891).

Under the conditions of consent the Trust is required over a ten-year period to undertake significant commitments to monitor, manage and/or mitigate any future effect in support of an expected, natural recovery of the Reef with the remains of the wreck on it.

The Trust administers a number of Restoration and Mitigation funds for the purposes of providing for, or assisting in a range of environmental, cultural and social projects. This includes a contestable fund that will provide research and education scholarships.

The Trust has made contestable funds available to fund 3 Masters Scholarships in any area of marine environmental research to be made available through the Environmental Research Institute, University of Waikato.

Proposals are sought for Masters research projects that are to be undertaken in the Bay of Plenty.

The proposals will be appraised based on the following criteria:

- Research excellence
- Strategic fit and potential opportunities generated
- Iwi and stakeholder engagement and support

Funding for three Masters projects ($18.5K for one year – Contribution to fees of $6.5k and a stipend of $12k) is offered. In addition, there is a pool of funding of $12,000 exc GST available to cover limited research expenses. These funds will be allocated by the selection committee through the University of Waikato Research & Innovation Office on the basis of need and will not necessarily cover all research expenses.

Short proposals outlining the project must be submitted by student/proposed academic staff member on the attached form before 5 pm Friday 5 August, 2022. Potential candidates will be reviewed by the selection panel, with successful students notified within four weeks of the closing date. Enrolment may commence from Trimester B (July) of 2022, with the latest start being from the start of Trimester A (March) 2023. Please note that funding will be allocated to students and projects deemed suitable by the selection committee and a new round will be called if the number of suitable students required is not achieved.

For a copy of the application form, further information, or discussion of potential proposals please contact John Tyrrell (ERI Business Manager, john.tyrrell@waikato.ac.nz).