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**Professor David Bellwood**



Distinguished Professor of Marine Biology  
College of Science and Engineering

ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies at James Cook University

**Distinguished Professor David Bellwood** is the world's foremost expert on the evolution and functional ecology of coral reef fishes. He received his PhD from James Cook University and is currently a Distinguished Professor of Marine Biology in the College of Science and Engineering and the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies at James Cook University. Bellwood's pioneering work on coral reef ecosystem function has firmly established him as the preeminent researcher in this expanding research field, not just in Australia, but globally. His findings have revolutionized our understanding of the evolution of coral reefs, the global ecology of reef systems, and their capacity to withstand human impacts. He has contributed a host of now standard methodologies to the field including fish capture and swimming performance assessment techniques and has defined novel functional groups with his work linking feeding morphology to functional roles of coral reef fishes. His work spans paleontology, molecular biology, and social-ecological systems. It would not be an understatement to suggest that Distinguished Professor Bellwood has led the charge in working out how coral reef ecosystems function and what we have to do to maintain them.