
Peter Doll



PhD Candidate

ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies
James Cook University

The 2022 Allen Award winner is **Peter Doll** from the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies (CoE) at James Cook University. The focus of Peter's PhD research and AMSA conference talk is larval settlement in the destructive crown-of-thorns starfish (CoTS).

Peter has a research background in reef fish ecology but was enchanted by the notorious CoTS while exploring their biology and ecology as a Research Assistant at the ARC CoE in 2019-20. He has since designed and conducted a wide range of laboratory and field-based CoTS projects, authored five publications on CoTS, and recently led a key review on larval settlement in echinoderms. Peter has worked to

develop innovative methods and molecular-based protocols to facilitate field studies of *in situ* settlement patterns but is also embarking on pioneering experimental work to understand larval responses to chemical cues and their ecological implications. His research resolves key information gaps surrounding this critical life-history phase and improves the ecological underpinning for CoTS management by identifying factors promoting the proliferation and spread of their pervasive population irruptions.