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**Dr Sue-Ann Watson**



Queensland Museum Network  
Museum of Tropical Queensland  
College of Science  
James Cook University

The 2023 Emerging Leader in Marine Science is Dr Sue-Ann Watson, a Senior Scientist and Curator (Marine Invertebrates) for the Queensland Museum Network, based at the Museum of Tropical Queensland in Townsville, and a Senior Lecturer in the Marine Biology and Aquaculture team within the College of Science and Engineering at James Cook University.

Sue-Ann's research focuses on the responses of marine organisms to change, both in space (along natural evolutionary gradients) and time (responses to environmental change). She is particularly interested in large scale evolutionary patterns and ecological trends in marine invertebrates and the effects of local to global change environmental drivers such as ocean warming, ocean acidification and water quality on marine animals. Sue-Ann's broad research interests include ecology, biodiversity, biogeography, behaviour, physiology, and the potential for acclimation and adaptation to change in marine organisms.

Sue-Ann translates research knowledge actively through science communication, engagement and education via government and non-government organisations, and communities. Examples include policy briefings, presentations to politicians and members of the Royal Family, museum exhibitions, STEM education and mentoring for school students, and local to international media outreach. Additionally, Sue-Ann is appointed to the Species Technical Committee, Queensland, to assess species at risk of extinction using the IUCN framework, and she is an Advisory Committee member for Invertebrates Australia.