

Sonia Leonard

Sonia obtained a Bachelor of Applied Science in Environmental Management with first class Honours from James Cook University (JCU), Cairns in 2003. Her Honours project assessed the interface of fluvial geomorphic evidence and oral histories in catchment management. In 2004 Sonia was awarded a PhD scholarship at JCU and subsequently won a Queensland Government PhD Smart State award. Sonia's PhD used optical stimulated luminescence dating to reconstruct floodplain chronostratigraphy as an indicator of pre-European sediment yields of the Daintree and Mulgrave river catchments in the Wet Tropics of Northern Australia. The research looked at the natural variability of sediment delivery from changing flood regimes and its implications for future climate change.

Whilst undertaking her PhD, Sonia worked part time co-ordinating JCU's Centre for Disaster Studies and tutoring a number of undergraduate subjects including Introduction to Environmental Science, Catchment Management and Indigenous Land Management. At the end of 2008 Sonia left JCU to take up an exciting new position as Indigenous Community Water Facilitator for the Ord River Catchment with the Yawoorroong Miriuwung Gajerrong Yirrgeb Noong Dawang Aboriginal Corporation in Kununurra, WA. The position is part of the Northern Australia Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliances' (NAISMA) water facilitators' network. Sonia is currently working with Indigenous communities to actively engage with land management organisations and the scientific community to help facilitate indigenous driven research projects. Sonia is currently writing up her PhD thesis and anticipates completion by May 2010.



**Sonia will be presenting on Monday at 2.00pm
Session A3D in room M9**