



**Position Description**  
**Biosequestration Research Intern**  
**- Voluntary Position -**

## **1. The organisation**

### **Friends of the Earth Melbourne**

Friends of the Earth (FoE) Melbourne believes that social and environmental issues cannot be separated from each other. As a result, FoE is a social and environmental justice organisation. It seeks to work towards a sustainable and equitable future and seeks to work in a way that empowers individuals and communities. This means that FoE operates on a collective basis using consensus for decision-making.

### **Barmah-Millewa Collective**

The Barmah-Millewa Collective operates under the banner of Friends of the Earth Melbourne. We share a vision of healthy country, where biodiversity and bush tucker flourish; where the land, rivers and wetlands are clean and healthy; and where Traditional Owners enjoy their inherent rights to care for country and enjoy its produce.

In 2001 we joined the Yorta Yorta in their campaign to protect the world grew to cover the red gum forests along the length of the Murray and achieved a stunning victory in December 2008 with the announcement of 91,000ha of new red gum national parks in Victoria, and the co- management of the Barmah and Nyah Forests.

Building on this success, we now collaborate with Traditional Owner Nations throughout the Murray-Darling Basin to protect and care for this unique and threatened landscape. Our work ranges from on-ground revegetation projects through to campaigns for Aboriginal land rights and new conservation reserves.

## **2. Location and Duration**

**Approximate Start Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010

**Completion Date:** The project needs to be completed by the end of June 2010

**Expected Duration:** Four months (sixteen weeks)

**Approximate hours of work:** 256 hours (2 days/wk). This is an estimate provided for guidance only. There is no expectation that the hours be accounted for, and we are very happy to be flexible about when work is completed, provided the project is completed by the due date. A workplan that fits your needs will be negotiated at the start of the project.

**Location:** Office space and computer access will be provided at the Friends of the Earth Melbourne Campaign Office - 1<sup>st</sup> floor, 312 Smith Street COLLINGWOOD 3066. If preferred, however, it is possible for the intern to use their own computer and office space and work off-site, including from outside of Melbourne (if this interests you, please see the note under *Section 5: Qualities and experience we are looking for*). Additional costs incurred by working outside of the FoE office (e.g. home internet access) will be the responsibility of the intern.

### 3. Project Description

#### Function of Position:

The Barmah-Millewa Collective wants to develop its understanding of the likely impact of emerging carbon markets on the Murray-Darling through research into biosequestration. After considering the findings of this research we will consider developing a program of works to ensure the protection of ecosystems and Indigenous rights to speak for country in relation to any emerging biosequestration proposals.

The Biosequestration Research Intern will prepare a 10,000-12,000 word Position Paper for publication that examines the threats and opportunities posed by the development of biosequestration initiatives for the environment, traditional owners and the local non-Indigenous communities in the Basin.

#### Project summary:

Develop a FoE Australia position paper on Biosequestration in the Murray-Darling, which:

- surveys the development of biosequestration proposals in the Murray-Darling
- analyses the potential social, environmental and economic impacts of these proposals
- provides recommendations for a FoE position on key issues and emerging agendas
- informs and initiates the development of future campaign objectives

#### Project tasks:

1. Compile a dossier of key players active in biosequestration proposals in the Murray-Darling Basin, and summarise their interests and positions.
2. Summarise existing literature on the likely environmental, social and economic impacts of all biosequestration techniques relevant to the Murray-Darling Basin.
3. Compile a list of biosequestration projects either being mooted, under development or already implemented in the Murray-Darling and describe the core components of each one
4. Use interviews and desktop research to compile relevant FoE policies and campaign positions on Indigenous rights, climate change, carbon trading, etc
5. Analyse the possible impacts of each of the identified biosequestration projects/proposals and how they relate to existing FoE policies and campaign positions.
6. Produce a well referenced Draft Position Paper for internal discussion (approximate length 10,000-12,000 words)

7. Present findings to FoE campaigners and gather input
8. Finalise Position Paper for publication (approximate length 10,000-12,000 words)
9. Compile a database for use by others including contacts and websites sourced throughout placement.
10. Participate in Evaluation of Internship

## 4. Organisational relationships

**Supervisor:** Jonathan La Nauze, Barmah-Millewa Collective Coordinator. Additional support may be provided by other campaigners within FoE.

The position is based within the Barmah-Millewa Collective and it would be preferable that you attend at least two of our monthly meetings to meet collective members and discuss the project.

You will also need to liaise with other activists within the FoE network, including members of the climate justice campaign in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane. The FoE Australia AGM will be held near Melbourne in February and it may be advantageous for you to attend in order to meet some of these campaigners. This can be negotiated at the beginning of the internship. If it is agreed that you should attend the meeting, travel costs will be covered.

It is not expected that the position will involve representing Friends of the Earth in any public forums, however if the opportunity and need arises this may be negotiated.

## 5. Qualities and experience we are looking for

This internship would suit a post-graduate student or skilled researcher looking for work experience or seeking to donate time and expertise to a non-profit environmental initiative. It may also suit a highly motivated and skilled undergraduate student. The following qualities and experience will be required to complete the project:

**1. A firm grasp of the contemporary politics of climate change and an understanding of FoE's approach to climate justice**

**2. A functional understanding of the key concepts involved in carbon accounting and biosequestration**

**3. Excellent research skills**

Experience in both academic and activist research settings is an advantage.

**4. Ability to communicate clearly both in writing and orally**

Experience in producing lengthy reports and in delivering presentations to a small audience is an advantage.

**5. Ability to articulate complex technical concepts clearly**

**6. Ability to work independently, with initiative and exercising your own judgment**

**7. Commitment to and understanding of environmental justice**

It will be an useful to have an understanding both of the conceptual origins "environmental justice" and an understanding of how contemporary Australian environmental and social justice issues intersect

**8. An understanding of the practical issues involved in achieving Indigenous self-determination in Australia**

*Note for applicants based outside of Melbourne.*

It is our intention to provide day-to-day support and supervision throughout the duration of the internship. We welcome applicants from outside of Melbourne who would like to work from their own office space, however this will place some limits on the amount and quality of supervision that can be provided. If you propose to work from outside of Melbourne, we will need to know that you are able to work with limited supervision, and will therefore be looking for evidence that you can work independently and have experience in producing good quality research reports when we assess your application.

Please state clearly in your application whether you plan to work from outside Melbourne and consider this additional emphasis on independence when preparing your response to the above criteria. Please also tell us where you propose to work from, and how you will access research facilities such as internet and libraries.

## 6. How to Apply

To apply, please email Jonathan the following:

- a cover letter/email that includes your full contact details and when you would be available to start working on the project
- a brief response to the desired qualities and experience detailed in section 5
- a relevant example of your writing (e.g. research essay, journal article, information brochure, website content)
- a resume detailing relevant experience.

Jonathan can also answer any queries you have about this position. Contact details are below:

**Jonathan La Nauze**  
**Barmah Millewa Collective Coordinator**  
**Email:** jonathan.lanauze@foe.org.au  
**Office Phone:** (03) 9419 8700  
**Mobile:** 0402 904 251

**Closing Date:** February 1<sup>st</sup> 2010

We expect to shortlist and interview in early February

Jonathan will confirm receipt of your application and then be in touch closer to the date to discuss an interview.

**Note:** All reasonable expenses incurred will be covered by the Barmah-Millewa Collective but these must be negotiated in advance