



RSB Director's seminar series

Should I go or should I stay: the evolutionary causes and consequences of dispersal

Wednesday 16 April 4 – 5pm

Speaker

Professor Andrew Cockburn

Outgoing Director, College of Medicine,
Biology & Environment

Incoming Emeritus Professor of Natural
History, Research School of Biology

Location

R.N. Robertson Theatre

R.N. Robertson Building (Bldg. 46),
Cunningham Close, ANU

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This lecture is free and open to the public

RSB event information:
biology.anu.edu.au/News/Events.php



Although I have traversed a large number of research themes in the 31 years since I came to ANU as a postdoctoral fellow, a central unifying theme in my research has been the study of the dispersal fraction: which individuals disperse and which remain philopatric. I will sketch how this question is fundamental to understanding a range of questions in behavioural ecology, such as the perennial problems of the evolution of cooperation, the optimum sex ratio, mate choice, and sexual selection. I will also illustrate the pivotal role of the dispersal fraction in major questions in evolutionary ecology, such as the rate of diversification of lineages, and the assembly of ecological communities.

I will use this exploration to illustrate how opportunities to do research have flourished and waned over the intervening decades, and comment on the problems of career development for young scientists aspiring to do blue science research. I will then retire immediately.

Presented by

The Research School
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