

Pat Keill Award recipient

PHILIPPA HIGGINS

After gaining First Class Honours in Environmental Engineering at RMIT Phillip was awarded an Erasmus Scholarship to pursue a Master of Water science in the Netherlands in Delft. She is a current recipient of one of UNSW's prestigious Scientia PhD scholarships, which reflects her academic strengths and social engagement.

Her PhD explores the impacts of climate change on the groundwater resources of Pacific Island communities. Small Pacific Islands are highly vulnerable to natural disasters such as droughts and water scarcity disproportionately affects women. Through her research, Philippa is assisting communities to manage their water resources sustainably and build resilience to climate change.

Philippa is a dedicated water resource professional and brings to her research the experience of four years of working for the Australian Government in climate change and water management roles. This gives her a unique perspective encompassing both the scientific and political aspects of water resource management.

She is a passionate supporter of environmental sustainability on the university campus. She is active in the ShareWaste initiative, which prevents food waste going to landfill, and she is a weekly volunteer at the University's food co-operative, making cheap, ethically produced food available to university students and staff.

Outside of University, Philippa is also active in her local community – volunteering at her local community garden helping to build a strong, resilient and supportive local community.

Philippa has much to offer regarding Australia's future management of its scarce water resources.