

**Robine Enid Wilson Grants Scheme
Terms and Conditions**

(email all enquiries to zoology@une.edu.au)

1. Introduction

Robine Enid Wilson was born on 19 May 1932 and passed away on 13 April 2015, aged 82 years.

In early May 2015, UNE received notification of a bequest from the deceased estate of Robine Enid Wilson. UNE's share of the Estate will be held in Trust and income distributed to the UNE Foundation annually. This bequest is specified for the furtherance of teaching and research into the forest ecosystem, its management and preservation.

Applications are open to all UNE staff (continuing and fixed term) and research students (see 2.2) to undertake work on the ecology of any forest ecosystem in the world.

Vision

To deliver excellence in research and teaching in forest ecology, management and preservation.

Our vision is for a forest ecosystem hub of excellence at UNE, administered via the School of Environmental and Rural Science.

The aim of this hub is to underpin and further improve the national and international recognition of UNE's work on forest ecosystems.

Funds from the Robine Enid Wilson Bequest will be used to develop and support research, teaching and community outreach initiatives that clearly align with this vision.

The definition of forest used by Australia for the Kyoto Protocol is consistent with the definition used for Australia's National Forest Inventory (<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/forestsaustralia/australias-forests>) and Australia's reporting to the UNFAO and Montreal Process.

A forest is defined as:

“An area, incorporating all living and non-living components, that is dominated by trees having usually a single stem and a mature or potentially mature stand height exceeding 2 metres and with existing or potential crown cover of overstorey strata about equal to or greater than 20 per cent. This includes Australia's diverse native forests and plantations, regardless of age. It is also sufficiently broad to encompass areas of trees that are sometimes described as woodlands.”

(Source: <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/forestsaustralia/sofr>)

2. Details*

2.1 Research & Teaching Grants:

- a) Small grants of \$5,000-\$10,000
- b) Large grants of up to \$20,000

2.2 Student Scholarships: Support related to research projects, and includes Undergraduate, Honours, Masters (Research and Research project in Coursework Masters) and PhD projects. Funding is provided to assist in completion of a project or travel to a conference. Amount available varies by enrolment as:

- a) PhD, Masters and Honours students up to \$2,000
- b) Undergraduate students up to \$500

2.3 Community Engagement and Outreach: Initiatives that enhance community interest and knowledge of forest ecosystems (e.g., educational roadshows to primary or secondary schools, and project development and materials that will enhance other UNE Outreach activities).

- a) Grants of up to \$2,000.

Note: Successful grants are typically awarded for 1 year from the date of notification. The awarding Steering Committee also has the right not to award grants in a given category for a particular year.

3 Eligibility

Applications are open to continuing and fixed-term UNE staff (including postdoctoral) and students (undergraduates, coursework Masters, Honours, Masters, PhD) of the University of New England – to undertake work on the ecology of any forest ecosystem in the world.

Note: fixed-term applicants need to be appointed for the duration of the grant.

*Applicants or teams applying for more than one category (2.1-2.3) will need to make a strong case that the proposed projects are complementary and not duplication. Regardless, each application will need to stand on its own merits.

4 Selection

Applicants are required to complete an application form using the nominated headings. The application should be accompanied by CVs of all investigators listing qualifications, achievements (relative to opportunity), and publications. Applications are assessed by the Robine Enid Wilson Grant Steering Committee.

The Committee will be chaired by the Dean of Science, Agriculture, Business and Law or nominee and includes academic and professional staff with appropriate expertise from throughout the Faculty. Experts outside the field may be called in as required. The makeup of the Committee may vary from year to year with the intention of not having Committee members in the application pool.

4.1 Research & Teaching Grants

Grants will be awarded based on the merit of the project and the track record of the applicants, particularly regarding completion and publication of results in high quality journals from previous competitive grants.

4.2 Student Scholarships

Scholarships will be awarded on project merit and the track record of the applicants.

4.3 Community Engagement and Outreach

Limited support will be provided annually for community outreach initiatives. Applications under this category must first be assessed and supported by the Dean or a proxy. Please seek this approval by sending the project outline to the Chair of the Steering Committee via zoology@une.edu.au. Please append the email endorsement to your application. The amount of money awarded will depend on the amounts made available from the Trust in each particular year.

5 Application Criteria

Funding is awarded based on alignment with the purpose of the scheme, the merits of the project, justification of the budget and the track record of the applicant(s). See further details below.

5.1 What funds may be used for:

- ecosystem studies in any forest ecosystem in the world
- travel to field sites using UNE rates
- accommodation at UNE rates
- equipment under \$5,000 (not computers)
- research and technical assistance
- laboratory expenses (e.g., assay costs)

5.2 Funds may **not be used for:**

- non-forest ecosystem research
- retrospective funding of activities
- infrastructure including equipment over \$5,000
- computers
- open access journal costs over \$2,000
- visa and other immigration paperwork
- medical expenses associated with field work (e.g., immunisations)
- visiting fellow costs
- first aid or 4WD training
- software development
- textbook purchases
- journal subscriptions
- stipend contributions
- buy-out of teaching or marking

5.3 All staff/students associated with the project must be UNE compliant for first aid and 4WD training (if required). The responsibility for compliance is carried by the Principal Investigator and any training costs are not covered by the Robine Enid Wilson Grant Scheme.

5.4 Unsuccessful applicants should consider board feedback provided by the Committee and consider applying in future rounds.

6 Application submission

Applications should be emailed to zoology@une.edu.au no later than the notified closing date of the award round. Late applications will not be accepted.

7 Funding Outcomes

Funds awarded for research work should have clear milestones of one or more peer-reviewed papers.

Funds awarded for teaching development must have an outcome that can be measured against student performance and improvement in learning.

8 Report/s

A Faculty seminar is a condition of funding and will be required at the end of projects funded by the Robine Enid Wilson Grants Scheme. In addition, a 6-month progress report and final report will be required that addresses work achieved and progress towards outcomes and outputs. This will be provided to the Steering Committee and the UNE Foundation.

9 Conditions

- 9.1** The grant shall be administered by, and awarded on, the recommendation of the Committee. Funds are paid in instalments into the relevant Faculty account at the start of the project and upon satisfactory completion of milestones.
- 9.2** The award is intended for the nominated project and may not be deferred or transferred without the written approval of the Committee.
- 9.3** The award is payable directly into the relevant Faculty account.
- 9.4** You must seek approval from the Steering Committee if you wish to change the project such that project milestones and budget items/allocations would vary from what has been funded. If these changes cause the project to no longer satisfy the conditions of the grant the recipient may be required to repay any instalments.
- 9.5** Continuation of the grant is subject to satisfactory progress at the 6-month milestone stage.
- 9.6** Any request to vary the conditions of the grant must be made in writing to the Chair of the Steering Committee at zoology@une.edu.au and will be determined at the discretion of the Committee.
- 9.7** UNE may change these Conditions on written notice to the recipient.
- 9.8** At the end of the project, all unspent funds will be returned to the Robine Enid Wilson Grants Scheme and contribute to future funding rounds.

10 Acceptance of Conditions

- 10.1** In accepting the Robine Enid Wilson Grant, the recipient acknowledges that they are accepting the terms and conditions outlined above.

10.2 Failure to meet the requirements of these terms and conditions may lead to the termination of the grant.