

## Post-graduates on ILWS scholarships

### Wayne Deans



The path that has led ILWS PhD scholarship recipient Wayne Deans to his current research has been varied but has helped give him the 'big picture' viewpoint he needs for his research topic 'Building Australia's Future Landscapes within the emerging nexus of climate, energy, water, waste, food and fibre and human well-being'.

Wayne, who started his PhD in February this year with supervisors Dr Digby Race, Institute adjunct Barney Foran and Dr Mark Howden from CSIRO, was travelling in Thailand when he decided to go into academia. In 1994 he enrolled in an Associate Diploma in International Trade at RMIT and then did a double major in anthropology at the University of Melbourne. His Honours topic was "Salinity in the Murray Darling Basin as an anthropological problem."

Wayne then commenced a PhD in anthropology at ANU, conducting fieldwork in a small village of approximately 1000 people on the island of Cheju in South Korea after receiving a Korean Government scholarship. His work focused on the interplay between village agriculture and economy

inside the constraints and opportunities of international trade. Women of the island have traditionally taken on the dual roles of farming and sea-diving. The *heanyo* (literally-sea woman) dive for up to six hours a day, scouring the communally owned seabeds that abut the village for shellfish, molluscs, seaweed and whatever else they can lay their hands on. "This work provides an alternative income stream for families, but it is a dying craft, as neither the mothers nor daughters now wish for its continuance" says Wayne.

After a year in Japan, he returned to Canberra intending to write up his thesis. However he was unable to complete it. He then worked for the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Studies (AIATSIS), spent three years in Japan and in 2007, as a research fellow with Melbourne University's School of Land and Food Resources monitored and evaluated the Master Tree Grower Program, a rural education and extension program that facilitates landholders in the design, establishment and management of vegetation.

For his PhD with ILWS, Wayne will employ a systems theoretical approach to examine the role of farm forestry and vegetation in S.E. Australia in providing liveable landscapes for future generations in a variable and changing climate. "The examination is brought into focus by the emerging nexus of climate, energy, water, waste, food and fibre, and human well-being," explains Wayne. "The issue is set against a range of wicked problems such as anthropogenic global warming, asset depletion, soil water and air degradation, loss of habitat and biodiversity, population and community. "It's very 'big picture' and in many ways I'm working in similar areas to Barney."

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