

## **Ph.D. Student Project available in Geochemistry**

### **Environmental Impact Monitoring in Wilkes Land, East Antarctica**

The Antarctic Airlink Project was established to implement an intercontinental air transport system linking Australia and Antarctica. The air transport system will initially transport approximately 200 personnel and high priority equipment between Hobart, Casey, Davis, Mawson and other locations within Antarctica.

In July 2007 Dr Massimo Gasparon of The University of Queensland was appointed to design and implement the environmental monitoring program for this project. Key elements of the project include the construction of an ice runway near Casey station, and undertaking the necessary environmental impact monitoring. This proposal addresses the potential impacts related to the introduction of the intercontinental component of the air transport system; the construction and maintenance of Wilkins runway and the aircraft operating from this site.

The scope of the monitoring has been determined through consultation with all areas within the AAD responsible for environmental management. It was decided that several pollutants should be monitored and these are principally emissions arising from construction equipment and aircraft operations. The monitoring work will include snow and air at the runway, and snow, water, mosses, and lake sediments in the coastal areas.

The School of Earth Sciences is seeking ONE PhD student for this project. The ideal candidate will:

1. hold, or be eligible for an APA scholarship (hold the equivalent of a BSc (Honours) (1<sup>st</sup> or 2A class) or a MPhil. in geology, geochemistry, chemistry, environmental sciences, or a related field).
2. be able to commence candidature by 1 August 2009;
3. be fit for field work in Antarctica.

International applicants are welcome, however the project's funding cannot be used to cover tuition fees and living costs.

Experience with ultra-clean geochemical laboratories, low-vacuum SEM, and ICP-MS will be an advantage.

Field work in Antarctica is scheduled for the summer of 2009-2010, however this is subject to operational plans, weather conditions, and logistical restrictions. The project will also involve some travel to Hobart for planning and training, and to Germany (Freiburg) for air particle analysis.

The position will be based in the newly-established School of Earth Sciences at The University of Queensland. In addition to an exciting project, we offer:

- Excellent research environment with advanced micro-analytical/geochemical facilities
- Expertise in isotope geology, geochemistry, and electron microscopy
- National/international contacts to leading research institutions all over the world
- A friendly and supportive multi-cultural environment

#### **Contact persons:**

E-mail a letter of interest, your updated CV, and a transcript of your academic record to A/Prof Massimo Gasparon, School of Earth Sciences, The University of Queensland – [massimo@earth.uq.edu.au](mailto:massimo@earth.uq.edu.au).