Living Catchments Masters project

**Title:** Understanding and supporting the practice of facilitating social learning and stakeholder engagement for catchment management.

**Description:** A growing number of professionals in the water, biodiversity and related sectors are developing specific approaches, skills and tools to facilitate social processes such as social learning and stakeholder engagement. This research is focused on working with this emerging community of practice. The specific aims of the research are:

1) to describe the community of practice and identify the individuals and organisations involved in this area of work;
2) to facilitate workshops and/or interviews to initiate a conversation among the community of practice to exchange experiences, learning and tools, and
3) to better understand the context, and the capacity development and support needs of this emerging community of practice.

The Masters candidate will accompany key project staff within the Living Catchments project leading the process described above. This candidate will take on the role of an apprentice and research assistant while immersing themselves in the practice of social learning facilitation. They will contribute to the above aims through an engaged, participatory research process. The study will draw on methods and theories from education and other relevant social sciences. Depending on the previous experience and interest of the candidate, some adjustments and refinements to the project are possible, and will be discussed with the project team.

**University of registration:** Rhodes University
**Supervisors:** Dr Jessica Cockburn (Rhodes), Ms Tanya Layne (SANBI)