Faculty of Engineering
Summer Research Program 2019/2020

Monitoring the Yarra – Take part to understand if there’s a risk!

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**Objective**
The Yarra River provides multiple community benefits including flood mitigation, aesthetic appeal and recreational opportunities. However, due care is required when entering the water as waterborne disease outbreaks are common. To help defend against these organisms monitoring of water quality is required. In this project, you will collect water samples from the Yarra River for analysis in our state-of-the-art laboratory. From the results you will be able to identify and understand the risks to recreational users of the Yarra River this summer.

**Description**

*Do you like sun, open roads, big rivers, water quality sampling, analysis and making public health impacts? If so then this project is for you!*

Disease causing microbes could be causing illnesses to recreational users of the Yarra River. In particular, we would like to know what the risks are to those who swim in areas such as Warburton and Warrandyte, during summer. However, we just don’t know the level of risk and where the greatest risk is coming from and how this effects the river at the time people are swimming. We need to conduct further water quality testing on both the river and potential local sources of contamination. If we can show where the greatest risk is coming from we can inform local councils and industry bodies to intervene to help lower the level of contamination.

This project will include: driving to sample water at up to five locations each week; returning to our state-of-the-art laboratory and examine the samples; analyse the results and help present our findings to Melbourne Water and Yarra Ranges Council on water quality and sources of contamination in the Yarra River. Having a sense of humour is helpful, working as a team is a must.

**Prerequisites - units, degree, experience or restrictions on student types:**
Nothing other than a good attitude, a love of the outdoors and availability during the scholarship period.

**Additional information for students:**
This project is partly funded by Melbourne Water, Yarra Ranges Council and EPA Victoria. Students will have the opportunity for you to develop close connections with these industry partners which may result in future job opportunities.

If you are shortlisted, you will attend an informal chat with our team.