

## THE BOMMIES AWARD

In its tenth year, the Great Barrier Reef Foundation is proud to announce the launch of a new science prize for a young Australian postgraduate.

**The Bommies Award** will be given for a solution or adaptation concept for the Reef in the face of climate change.

Globally Climate change is the biggest threat to coral reefs.

Projections of future water temperatures suggest coral bleaching could become more frequent and severe in coming decades.

IPCC predictions made in 2007 indicate that by 2020, if we do nothing, 60% of the Reef will bleach every second year.

**The Bommies Award** aims to inspire young Australian postgraduates to explore new ideas and concepts that may help to save the Reef from this urgent threat.

"Time is short and the need is great. Our new scientists and thinkers must be encouraged to pursue innovative thinking, and a commitment to addressing the challenges of climate change on coral reefs in ways that may not have been thought of before," said GBRF Managing Director, Judy Stewart.

"We want them to identify new concepts, new approaches to old concepts, strategies from other industries and sectors modified to apply to the Reef – in all, new ways of thinking about how the Reef, or our interactions with it will have to adapt to a different future."

**The Bommies Award** is an initiative of the GBRF Chairman's Panel. This panel, comprising of 33 of Australia's Chief Executives and Chairs has built support for both the Foundation and The Great Barrier Reef over a number of years.

The winning applicant will receive a prize of \$10,000 and a work on paper rendering an image of Artist Vera Moller's sculpture "Bomborella" created to mark the award.

An honor plaque linked to the sculpture will also record winners over time.

Entries will be reviewed by the foundation's "Solutions and Adaptations Working Group" with selected finalists presented to the International Scientific Advisory Committee for review. The Foundation's Board will make the final decision on the Committee's recommendation.

Any post graduate who is an Australian resident and less than 36 years of age may enter **The Bommies Award**.

Submissions must be received using the online application form at [www.barrierreef.org](http://www.barrierreef.org) by the 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2009.