Environmental evolution of an estuary.

The project aims to establish a suitable methodology to assess the changes that occurred in the unconsolidated sediments in Sydney's estuaries during the last few thousand years. The site selected for the study is off Towra Point (Woolooware Bay) in Botany Bay.

Several cores of the sediments will be obtained (up to 4 metres long) and samples from the core will be analysed for sediment grainsize, total geochemistry and the benthic foraminiferal content. The sediment characteristics and the associated benthic foraminifera assemblages will allow a reconstruction of the environments of deposition. The foraminiferal study will be conducted by A/P Albani and the results made available for the discussion of the project.

This honours project will consist on:
1- obtaining the necessary cores
2- subsample the cores
3- visual description of the cores
4- detailed analyses of the sediment characteristics
5- grainsize determination at ¼ phi interval
6- preparation of the samples for XRF analyses
7- interpretation of results from sediment and geochemical data

A/Prof. Albani and David Edwards of the School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences will supervise the project.