



# VICTORIAN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE

**2022**  
**2-4 FEBRUARY**  
**#VicBioCon22**  
**VIRTUAL**

## Day 1: Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022

8.30 am	Login to SCOOCs virtual conference platform				
9.00 am	Opening Address & Welcome to Country (Main Theatre)				
9.15 am	Plenary 1: <b>Prof. Melodie McGeoch</b>   Department of Environment and Genetics, La Trobe University   Antarctic biodiversity: Past, present and future (Main Theatre)				
10.00 am	Q & A with <b>Prof. Melodie McGeoch</b> (Main Theatre)				
10.15 am	Morning Tea – Check out the poster presentations!				
10.45 am	<b>Pobblebonk Theatre</b> <i>Session 1: Scicomm &amp; Community Engagement</i>	10.45 am	<b>Boobook Theatre</b> <i>Session 2: Fire Ecology &amp; Conservation</i>	10.45 am	<b>Galaxiid Theatre</b> <i>Session 3: Terrestrial Diversity &amp; Ecology (1)</i>
10.49 am	<b>Christina Renowden</b>   ARI   Victoria Nature Festival: celebrating meaningful ways more Victorians can connect with and act for nature	10.49 am	<b>Ella Plumanns Pouton</b>   The University of Melbourne   Using plant functional types to predict species relative abundance in fire-prone heathlands	10.49 am	<b>Carolyn Vlasveld</b>   Monash University   Worldwide diversity and distribution of heteroblasty in plants
11.00 am	<b>Natasha Ward</b>   RMIT University   "Totemic species" can be an effective lens for engaging students with Indigenous knowledge and biodiversity conservation	11.00 am	<b>Rachel McIntosh</b>   La Trobe University   Identifying floristic vegetation patterns along a climatic gradient to evaluate fire management categories.	11.00 am	<b>Jessica Chapman</b>   La Trobe University   Factors affecting the capacity of ground foraging insectivorous birds to regulate insects in grazing land
11.11 am	<b>Ema Corro</b>   MYCOcommunity Applied Mycology Inc   Using DNA technology and citizen science to rapidly increase knowledge of fungal diversity	11.11 am	<b>Dr Johanne Martens</b>   BirdLife Australia   Now you hear them, now you don't – post-fire assessment of Mainland Ground Parrots in East Gippsland	11.11 am	<b>Jessica Presnell</b>   La Trobe University   Genomics to understand hybridisation and genotype-phenotype associations in an endangered bird threatened by genetic introgression
11.17 am	<b>Dr Holly Kirk</b>   RMIT University   Superb City Wrens	11.22 am	<b>Amy Smith</b>   The University of Melbourne   Playing with fire: predicting the effects of future fire management on species connectivity	11.22 am	<b>Suzanne Moss</b>   La Trobe University   A multi-decadal study of vegetation dynamics in grasslands on the Bogong High Plains
11.23 am	<b>Dr Alex Kusmanoff</b>   RMIT University   'Bins on Boats', a behaviourally-based intervention to curb marine pollution in Bass Strait, Australia	11.28 am	<b>Nathan Waddell</b>   Deakin University   Assessing the use of artificial hollows by wildlife across fire-affected East Gippsland, Victoria	11.33 am	<b>Tamandra D'Ombain</b>   La Trobe University   Chromosomal assessment and population genomics to inform conservation of the endangered Matted Flax-lily ( <i>Dianella amoena</i> )
11.29 am	<b>Dr Elodie Camprasse</b>   Deakin University   An army of citizen scientists and their claw-some friends				
11.45 am	<i>Session 1: Live Q &amp; A with presenters</i>	11.45 am	<i>Session 2: Live Q &amp; A with presenters</i>	11.45 am	<i>Session 3: Live Q &amp; A with presenters</i>
12.00 pm	Virtual Poster Session (Foyer)				
12.30 pm	Lunch				



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1.30 pm	Panel Discussion 1: <b>Challenges and opportunities for ecological restoration in the suburbs: How do you restore habitat over someone's back fence?</b> (Main Theatre) Featuring: Paul Davis (Biodiversity Officer, Banyule City Council), Ben Smith (Community & Environment Special Projects Officer, City of Darebin), Rebecca Bond (Environment Officer, Wyndham City Council), Michael Longmore (Program Manager, Merri Creek Management Committee), and George Paras (Land Ecology Restoration Advisor, Tangible Ecology; former Head Ranger, Nangak Tamboree Wildlife Sanctuary) Moderated by: Prof. Sarah Bekessy (Convener of ICON Science, Centre for Urban Research, RMIT University)							
2.30 pm	<b>Pobblebonk Theatre</b> <i>Session 4: Urban Ecology &amp; Conservation</i>		2.30 pm	<b>Boobook Theatre</b> <i>Session 5: Environmental Policy &amp; Management</i>		2.30 pm	<b>Galaxiid Theatre</b> <i>Session 6: Threatened Species</i>	
2.34 pm	<b>Dr Kylie Soanes</b>   The University of Melbourne   Conserving biodiversity in Australia's cities – what, where and how?		2.34 pm	<b>Dr Danny Spring</b>   The University of Melbourne   Conflicts of interest in conservation		2.34 pm	<b>Robin Sinclair</b>   Deakin University   Using scat-detection dogs to describe the diet of red foxes ( <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> ) in the Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park	
2.45 pm	<b>Jacinta Humphrey</b>   La Trobe University   Avoid, adapt or exploit: Modelling avian species responses to housing and canopy tree cover		2.45 pm	<b>Loulou Gebbie</b>   EcoGipps   The Biodiversity Opportunity		2.45 pm	<b>Flossy Sperring</b>   Monash University   Better home-ranges and gardens; using home range analyses to investigate how habitat restoration can improve territory quality for a Critically Endangered island owl	
2.56 pm	<b>Alicia Dimovski</b>   La Trobe University   Does urban lighting affect the health of Australian mammals?		2.56 pm	<b>Ielyzaveta Ivanova</b>   Monash University   The potential of small protected areas with poor habitat to form viable clusters for long-term protection of species		2.56 pm	<b>Nick Bradsworth</b>   Zoos Victoria   Risk-spreading required: attempts to establish a new population of Helmeted Honeyeater	
3.07 pm	<b>Katherine Berthon</b>   RMIT University   Plant Insect Dating in the City: Using pollinator preferences to inform our greenspace designs		3.07 pm	<b>Arman Pili</b>   Monash University   Advancing invasion science <i>in silico</i> : Simulate the population dynamics and management of a globally significant invader, the Cane Toad ( <i>Rhinella marina</i> )		3.07 pm	<b>Mikaeylah Davidson</b>   The University of Melbourne   Investigation into embryo mortality in the critically endangered Southern Corroboree frog ( <i>Pseudophryne corroboree</i> )	
3.18 pm	<b>Rachael Miller</b>   The University of Melbourne   Quantifying biodiversity on the University of Melbourne's campuses		3.18 pm	<b>Ayesha Burdett</b>   River Bend Ecology   Tracking changes in the macroinvertebrate community at Walker Swamp Restoration Reserve		3.18 pm	<b>Daniel Nugent</b>   La Trobe University   Livestock production land and conservation areas play a complementary role in the conservation of a critically endangered grassland bird – the Plains-wanderer	
3.29 pm	<b>Sophie Moore</b>   Macquarie University   Street tree communities have high taxonomic richness but noticeable functional redundancy relative to native trees		3.29 pm	<b>Dr Zoe Squires</b>   ARI   A systems approach to promoting domestic cat containment		3.29 pm	<b>Emily Mathews</b>   Federation University   Between a rock and a hard place: Site selection for Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby ( <i>Petrogale penicillata</i> ) translocations using structured decision making	
3.35 pm	<b>Dr Scarlett Howard</b>   Deakin University   Elemental learning in native Australian bees across urban gradients ( <i>VicBioCon Research Grant Winner 2021</i> )					3.35 pm	<b>William Mitchell</b>   Monash University   Are we adequately assessing the demographic impacts of harvesting for wild-sourced conservation translocations?	
3.41 pm	<b>Thami Croeser</b>   RMIT University   Depaving paradise: Converting redundant urban car parking to green space					3.41 pm	<b>Hannah Roberts</b>   La Trobe University   A novel method of oestrus detection in the captive Tasmanian devil ( <i>Sarcophilus harrisii</i> )	
3.50 pm	<i>Session 4: Live Q &amp; A with presenters</i>		3.50 pm	<i>Session 5: Live Q &amp; A with presenters</i>		3.50 pm	<i>Session 6: Live Q &amp; A with presenters</i>	
4.05 pm	Afternoon Tea							
4.30 pm	Plenary 2: <b>Dr Jack Pascoe</b>   Conservation and Research Manager, Conservation Ecology Centre   The work of the Conservation Ecology Centre (Main Theatre)							
5.15 pm	Q & A with <b>Dr Jack Pascoe</b> and wrap up of Day 1 (Main Theatre)							
6.00 pm	Virtual Networking Event – Join us for a biodiversity-themed murder mystery!							





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## Day 2: Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022

8.30 am	Log onto SCOOCS		
9.00 am	Welcome & Housekeeping (Pobblebonk Theatre)		
9.15 am	Plenary 1: <b>Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation On Country ranger crew (GLaWAC)</b>   Reading and healing Country after the bushfires (Main Theatre)		
10.00 am	Q & A with <b>Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation On Country ranger crew (GLaWAC)</b> (Main Theatre)		
10.15 am	Morning Tea		
10.45 am	<b>Pobblebonk Theatre</b> <i>Session 7: Adapting to Environmental Change</i>	10.45 am	<b>Boobook Theatre</b> <i>Session 8: Behavioural Ecology</i>
10.49 am	<b>Iris Hickman</b>   La Trobe University   Alpine shrub functional traits varies with altitude: what are the implications under climate change?	10.49 am	<b>Ettore Camerlenghi</b>   Monash University   Cooperative breeding and the emergence of multilevel societies in birds
11.00 am	<b>Dr Katherine Selwood</b>   Zoos Victoria   Emergency conservation intervention for the Eastern Bristlebird during the Black Summer bushfires	11.00 am	<b>Cassie Speakman</b>   Deakin University   Fear vs. Food: Exploring behavioural and population-level responses to environmental change and predation pressure in Australian fur seals
11.11 am	<b>Tobias Ross</b>   Deakin University   The potential of wastewater treatment plants as alternative habitats - an assessment of contaminants, disease, health and survival of migratory shorebirds in natural versus artificial wetlands	11.11 am	<b>Marty Lockett</b>   The University of Melbourne   Artificial light at night impacts a woodland food chain at every level
11.22 am	<b>David De Angelis</b>   Frogs Victoria   Myiasis in frogs from Victoria involving external parasitism by a chloropid fly	11.22 am	<b>Meg Farmer</b>   Deakin University   Population ecology and movement of the long-nosed potoroo, <i>Potorous tridactylus</i> , on French Island, Victoria
11.33 am	<b>Dr Jennifer Hetz Rodriguez</b>   Museums Victoria   The Ian Potter Australian Wildlife BioBank: working on safe-guarding the diversity of Victoria's wildlife for the future	11.33 am	<b>Danielle Wallace</b>   The University of Melbourne   The unexpected effects of wildlife disease – investigating the impact of chytrid fungus on the breeding display of Victorian frogs
11.44 am	<b>Danielle Eastick</b>   La Trobe University   Braving the storms ahead: are microbats good bioindicators for climate change?	11.44 am	<b>Abigail Robinson</b>   Monash University   Manipulating breeding female quality reveals subtle helper effects in a cooperatively breeding bird
		11.50 am	<b>Kelly Williams</b>   La Trobe University   The bold or the beautiful: Does personality impact translocation success in a vulnerable rodent?
12.05 pm	<i>Session 7: Live Q &amp; A with presenters</i>	12.05 pm	<i>Session 8: Live Q &amp; A with presenters</i>
12.20 pm	Lunch & SCB Greater Melbourne Chapter Meeting – All welcome!		







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## Day 2: Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022 (cont.)

1.30 pm	Panel Discussion 2: <b>Reflections on the recent IPCC report and COP26 Climate Summit: How can we turn the climate narrative around?</b> (Main Theatre) Featuring: Prof. David Karoly (former Chief Research Scientist, CSIRO Climate Science Centre; Honorary Professor, School of Geography, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, University of Melbourne), Paul Beaton (Senior Energy Policy Analyst, Environment Victoria), Deborah Hart (Co-Chair, CLIMARTE), and Michelle van Gerrevink (Coordinator Climate Emergency & Environment Strategy, City of Darebin) Moderated by: Dr Shane Huntington OAM (Host of 3RRR FM's Einstein A Go Go; Deputy Director, Strategy and Partnerships, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne)
2.30 pm	Afternoon Tea
3.00 pm	Plenary 2: <b>Dr Marissa Parrott</b>   Reproductive Biologist, Wildlife Conservation and Science, Zoos Victoria   Wildlife conservation and emergencies: recovery, resilience and preparedness for the future (Main Theatre)
3.45 pm	Q & A with <b>Dr Marissa Parrott</b> and wrap up of Day 1 (Main Theatre)
4.00 pm	Awards & Closing Session – Announcement of the student prizes, winners of the VicBioCon Photo Competition and the VicBioCon Research Grant worth \$2000 (Main Theatre)
6.00 pm	In-person Outdoor Networking Event (Nangak Tamboree Wildlife Sanctuary, La Trobe University)

## Posters presented by:

1	<b>Iris Hickman</b>   La Trobe University   Alpine shrub functional traits varies with altitude: what are the implications under climate change?
2	<b>Lauren Tworkowski</b>   La Trobe University   Impacts of terrestrial heatwaves on survival of adult little penguins during moult
3	<b>Ben Smith &amp; Andrea Canzano</b>   City of Darebin   Rewilding Darebin: Enhancing biodiversity and supporting our community during a global pandemic
4	<b>Nina Roberts</b>   La Trobe University   Bringing the yams back: collaboration with a First Nations Women's Knowledge Group in Central Victoria
5	<b>Abigail Parker</b>   Monash University   Research in progress: PFAS exposure in Victorian freshwater turtles and its impact on their reproductive success
6	<b>Cassie Speakman</b>   Deakin University   Fear vs. Food: Exploring behavioural and population-level responses to environmental change and predation pressure in Australian fur seals
7	<b>Jo Stubbs</b>   The University of Melbourne   How does the environmental volunteer group Friends of the Prom conduct ecological restoration of Yiruk/Wamoon, under the permits, regulations and permissions of Parks Victoria?
8	<b>Kevin Newman</b>   The University of Melbourne   An Analytical Solution for Optimising Multi-species Detection Surveys
9	<b>Sophie Moore</b>   Macquarie University   Street tree chat

