



VICTORIAN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE

2023

8-10 FEBRUARY
#VicBioCon23

DAY 1 08/02/22	Time	WORKSHOPS		
Workshop 1	9.30 - 12.30pm	Say goodbye to data entry: how to create data collection forms for your phone or tablet/iPad. Facilitated by Rachel McIntosh		
Workshop 2	1.00 - 4.00pm	Creating Memorable Wildlife Images Facilitated by Doug Gimesy		
DAY 2 09/02/22	Time	Room 1 (Main Hall MB6)	Room 2 (MB10)	Room 3 (MB11)
Welcome to Country	9.00 - 9.20am			
Plenary 1	9.20 - 10.20am	Ash Knop and Deanna Marshalls (Wilderlands)		
Morning Tea	10.20 - 10.50am			
Sessions 1 - 3	10.50 - 11.45pm	Terrestrial Ecology and Diversity 1	Invertebrate Ecology and Diversity	Threatened Species and Communities
Q & A 1 - 3	11:45 - 12.00pm			
Lunch	12:00 - 1.00pm			
Panel Discussion 1	1.00 - 2.30pm	No new extinctions? How will the new Threatened Species Action Plan meet its goals?		
Sessions 4 - 6	2.30 - 3.50pm	Fire Ecology	Freshwater, Marine, and Coastal Ecology	Advances in Methods
Q & A 4 - 6	3.50 - 4.05pm			
Afternoon Tea	4.05 - 4.30pm			
Plenary 2	4.30 - 5.30pm	Dr Kaori Yokochi, Dr Emily Fobert, Alicia Dimovski (Network for Ecological Research on Artificial Light)		
Poster Session	6.00 - 8.00pm	Poster session		
DAY 3 10/02/22	Time	Room 1 (Main Hall MB6)	ROOM 2 (MB10)	ROOM 3 (MB11)
Welcome	8.55 - 9.05am			
Plenary 3	9.05 - 10.05am	Prof Paul Sunnucks (Monash University)		
Morning Tea	10.05 - 10.35am			
Session 7-9	10.35 - 11.45pm	Urban Ecology	Environmental Policy and Science Communication	Terrestrial Ecology and Diversity 2
Q & A 7-9	11.45 - 12.00pm			
Lunch	12:00 - 1.00pm			
Panel Discussion 2	1.00 - 2.30pm	Out of the box thinking - Ethics of controversial conservation approaches		
Afternoon Tea	2:30 - 3.00pm			
Plenary 4	3.00 - 4.00pm	A/Prof Therésa Jones (The University of Melbourne)		
Awards and closing	4.00 - 4.30pm			
Networking Event	5.30 - 8.30pm			

#VicBioCon23 will be held on the unceded lands of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung People of the Kulin Nations, whom we acknowledge and pay our respects to as Traditional Owners and Custodians.





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The Victorian Biodiversity Conference Organising Committee acknowledges and respects Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices. #VicBioCon23 will be held on the unceded lands of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung People of the Kulin Nations.

The Victorian Biodiversity Conference 2023 is proudly sponsored by:

Tier 3



Tier 2



Tier 1



With additional support from:





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Wednesday 8th February

TIME	
09:30 - 12:30	<p>Workshop: Say goodbye to data entry: how to create data collection forms for your phone or tablet/iPad</p> <p>Facilitator: Rachel McIntosh, Graduate Researcher, La Trobe University</p> <p>Ticket cost: \$45</p>
1:00 - 4:00	<p>Workshop: Creating Memorable Wildlife Images</p> <p>Facilitator: Doug Gimesy, professional conservation and wildlife photojournalist.</p> <p>Max participants: 20 people</p> <p>Ticket cost: \$45</p>



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Thursday 9th February (* indicates student presentations eligible for awards)

TIME						
8:15	Registration and presentation upload opens					
9:00	Welcome to Country: Wurundjeri Elder Uncle Tony Garvey Conference Opening: Rachael Miller and Madeline Taylor, VicBioCon23 Co-chairs Room 1 (Main Hall MB6)					
9:20	Plenary Talk: Ash Knop and Deanna Marshall (Wilderlands) Protection Victoria's Biodiversity, one square metre at a time Room 1 (Main Hall MB6)					
10:20	MORNING TEA					
	Terrestrial Ecology and Diversity 1 Room 1 (Main Hall MB6)		Invertebrate Ecology and Diversity Room 2 (MB10)		Threatened Species and Communities Room 3 (MB11)	
10:50	Jess Lawton*	Citizen science and community action provide insights on a threatened species: nest box use by the brush-tailed phascogale.	Monique Burns*	Comparing wild bee communities at indigenous and exotic urban understorey plantings	Javiera Olivares-Rojas*	Species or communities? Identifying cost-effective surrogates for threatened biodiversity management
11:00	Kevin Newman*	Lure? Nah mate, Din-go	Graham Jury	Golden Sun Moth Conservation in Victoria - Challenges and Future Directions	Phoebe Burns	Recovering the Pookila (New Holland Mouse) in Victoria
11:10	Ryley Johnston*	Mapping species' distributions: how useful is citizen science? A case study of the Koala (<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>)	Edward Tsyrlin*	Molecular methods find the new black or the other 95% of animal diversity	Arabella Eyre	Translocation trial of the Critically Endangered Lowland Leadbeater's possum



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TIME						
11:20	Jessica Chapman*	The Impact of Insectivorous Birds on Invertebrate Communities and Pasture; an Experiment in Avian Conservation Biocontrol	David De Angelis	Myiasis in Australian frogs caused by ectoparasitic fly larvae	Xenia Münger*	How effective are models in predicting the genetic outcome of translocations?
11:25					Julian Voet*	<i>Persoonia arborea</i> - A true Victorian endemic plant, threatened by disturbance
11:30	Eliza Thompson*	Nest boxes for the hollowless: can they work?	Duncan Jaroslow	Terrestrial invertebrate associations with <i>Marchalina hellenica</i> infestations and honeydew availability		<i>Intentionally blank</i>
11:35	Clare Bracey*	Effectiveness of privately protected areas for the temperate woodland bird community				<i>Intentionally blank</i>
11:40		<i>Intentionally blank</i>		<i>Intentionally blank</i>		<i>Intentionally blank</i>
11:45	Terrestrial Ecology and Diversity 1 Q&A		Invertebrate Ecology and Diversity Q&A		Threatened Species and Communities Q&A	
12:00	CATERED LUNCH					
1:00	<p>Panel discussion: No new extinctions? How will the new Threatened Species Action Plan meet its goals?</p> <p>Panellists: James Todd (Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Actions) Dr. Rebecca Spindler (Bush Heritage Australia) Prof. Brendan Wintle (The University of Melbourne) Dr. Kita Ashman (WWF Australia)</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Carla Archibald (Deakin University)</p> <p>Room 1 (Main Hall MB6)</p>					



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TIME	Fire Ecology Room 1 (Main Hall MB6)		Freshwater, Marine and Coastal Ecology Room 2 (MB10)		Advances In Methods Room 3 (MB11)	
2:30	Benjamin Wagner	Assessing the quality of post-fire foraging and nesting resources for arboreal gliders in mixed Eucalyptus forests	Jodie Valpied	Monitoring when the platypus river turns orange: Impacts of construction-related sedimentation on platypus food and habitat in Bacchus Marsh (MAISOP Project Phase One)	Shandiya Balasubramani am	Tools for continental-scale biodiversity data assessment using the Atlas of Living Australia
2:40	Sandra Penman*	The impact of repeat high severity fires on microbats	Elodie Camprasse	Solving mysteries behind one of the world's most iconic marine invertebrate aggregations	Diana Robledo-Ruiz	Easy-to-use R functions to identify sex-linked loci and conduct sex-assignments for conservation genomics
2:50	Rachel McIntosh*	How does time-since-fire affect two adjacent vegetation communities along a climate gradient?	Peter Puskic*	Implications of plastic ingestion on the growth and fledging success of seabirds	Nadine Gaskell, Heather Stewart & Marty Lockett	Making outdoor lighting more wildlife-sensitive; effective collaboration between local government and researchers
3:00	Ella Plumanns Pouton*	Fire influence on cone and seed production in serotinous heath species	April Timmis*	Fear, Flight, and Fitness: The adaptive significance of escape responses.	Zoe Metherell*	The Streetscape Ecological Design Toolkit - codesigned with City of Melbourne
3:10	Tamika Farley-Lehmer	Striking a balance between Conservation and Bushfire risk in a Flammable System	Scott Alexander McKendrick*	Instream vegetation recruitment in relation to flow regime and potential implications for restoration	Nick Bradsworth	18-months on: establishing a new wild population of critically endangered Helmeted Honeyeaters
3:20	Marissa Blunden*	How do belowground microbial communities & organic carbon respond to altered fire regimes?	Piyumi Chaturika Wijepala*	Effect of inundation timing and duration on the growth and reproduction of native riparian and terrestrial plants	Arman Pili*	The escalating global problem of human-mediated accidental transport of alien species
3:25	Tallula Harradine-Hodge	Connecting Gunaikurnai Cultural Values with Biodiversity and Land Management – Fire and Frogs	Pranali Deore	Intraspecific variation in photosynthetic performance of the cnidarian photosymbiont, <i>Breviolum minutum</i> , under short-term cumulative heat stress		



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3:30	Jaclyn Elise Harris*	Trialling Artificial Shelters to Mitigate Post-Fire Predation on Reptiles	Mishal Gudka*	Evaluating the design of resilience potential assessments of coral reefs to improve resilience predictions	Casey Visintin	How diverse is the vegetation in my landscape design?
3:35	Lily Wheeler*	Inspecting the impacts of future fire on mammal responses	Kristova Yubilius Indrataruna*	Exploring the value of Cyanobacteria as probiotics for coral reef conservation	Michael Traurig*	An exploration of the relationship between ecosystem condition and human well-being through a systematic review
3:40	Ange Pestell*	The influence of fire and habitat on mammal distribution and activity in Victoria's mallee region	Danielle Wallace*	Breed, or die another day? The effect of chytrid fungus infection on the breeding colours of the Alpine Tree frog		<i>Intentionally blank</i>
3:45			Aurore Counilh*	Environmental effects on the foraging behaviour of breeding Australasian gannets		<i>Intentionally blank</i>
3:50	Fire Ecology Q&A		Freshwater, Marine, and Coastal Ecology Q&A		Advances in Methods Q&A	
4:05	AFTERNOON TEA					
4:30	Plenary talk: Dr. Kaori Yokochi (Deakin University), Dr. Emily Fobert (University of Melbourne), and Alicia Dimovski (LaTrobe University) The Network for Ecological Research on Artificial Light (NERAL): Taking a collaborative, cross-realm approach to mitigate impacts of light pollution on wildlife Room 1 (Main Hall MB6)					
6:00 - 8:00	POSTER SESSION Room 1 (Main Hall MB6)					



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Friday 10th February (* indicates student presentations eligible for awards)

TIME						
08:15	Registration and presentation upload opens					
08:55	Welcome to Day 2					
09:05	Plenary talk: Prof. Paul Sunnucks (Monash University) Genetic management of wildlife in a changing world Room 1 (Main Hall MB6)					
10:05	MORNING TEA					
	Urban Ecology Room 1 (Main Hall MB6)		Environmental Policy and Science Communication Room 2 (MB10)		Terrestrial Ecology and Diversity 2 Room 3 (MB11)	
10:35	Holly Kirk	Timing is everything - how to include tree flowering phenology in urban design	Sarah Garnick	Applying new science to old policy problems: Optimising timber harvesting buffer widths for threatened aquatic taxa	Emily Scicluna*	Fat-tailed dunnarts of the Victorian grasslands: vulnerable to extinction
10:45	Fiona Hoegh-Guldberg*	Bridging the gap: A framework to combine Biodiversity and Water Sensitive Urban Design (BSUD & WSUD) in urban development.	Katie Jackson & Luis Kennett	More Trees for a Cooler, Greener West Program	Kristy Williams	An island wide perspective: The threatened long-nosed potoroo coexisting alongside the feral cat on French Island, Victoria
10:55	Tyler King*	Exploring local community networks in biodiversity management.	Nicholas Carter*	How well does legislation protect a threatened apex predator?	Kathryn Knights*	Optimised distance sampling offers advantages in cost-efficiency over common plot-based methods for density estimation of high-density species



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TIME						
11:05	Madeleine Callas	Microbat activity and species richness in Melbourne's urban green spaces	Lily van Eeden	Nature for all: Understanding who benefits from spending time and nature and how to improve inequality of access	Rae Read*	Are 'other effective area-based conservation measures' (OECMs) supporting local and Indigenous communities managing forests: An analysis of the potential of other conservation frameworks to supplement the OECM guidelines
11:15	Alicia Dimovski*	Does bat friendly lighting have a physiological cost?	Tarryn Coward	Learnings from developing the Marine and Coastal Strategy 2022	James Templeton	The contemporary and pre-colonial distribution, community ecology and soil condition of murnong (<i>Microseris</i> sp.) across Eastern Maar country
11:20	Samuel Holleran*	Greening the Cemetery: Care, Memorialisation, and Green Infrastructure			Te Ao Marama Eketone*	Long-nosed potoroo and eastern barred bandicoot activity and habitat use in relation to feral cat reduction on French Island, Victoria
11:25	Sandra McCullough	Tiny Forests: Growing Resilient Cities	Emily Gregg	A reflection on ethical considerations for conservation messaging	Sally Burgemeestre*	Do fire and feral horse impacts interact to alter the movement ecology of the Broad-toothed Rat <i>Mastacomys fuscus</i>
11:30	Hugh Stanford*	Mapping informal green space to better study human-nature interactions in the urban environment			Aviya Naccarella*	Fungi the missing puzzle piece – what role might fungus-feeding mammals play in ecosystem function?
11:35	Madeline Taylor*	Urban BioBlitzes in Greater Melbourne: Evaluating contribution to local biodiversity knowledge	Julian Petris	What do we mean by 'protecting' wildlife		<i>Intentionally blank</i>
11:40		<i>Intentionally blank</i>	Cristina Margherita Napoleone	Biodiversity Assembly by TERRAIN		<i>Intentionally blank</i>
11:45	Urban Ecology Q&A		Environmental Policy and Science Communication Q&A		Terrestrial Ecology and Diversity 2 Q&A	



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TIME	
12:00	CATERED LUNCH
1:00	<p>Panel discussion: Out of the box thinking - Ethics of controversial conservation approaches</p> <p>Panellists: Prof. Madeleine van Oppen (The University of Melbourne, Australian Institute of Marine Science) Prof. Andrew Pask (The University of Melbourne) Dr. Emily Gregg (RMIT University) Prof. Euan Ritchie (Deakin University)</p> <p>Moderator: A/Prof. Jen Martin (The University of Melbourne)</p> <p>Room 1 (Main Hall MB6)</p>
2:30	AFTERNOON TEA
3:00	<p>Plenary talk: A/Prof. Thérésa Jones (The University of Melbourne)</p> <p>The dark side of bright nights: the ecological impact of urban light pollution</p> <p>Room 1 (Main Hall MB6)</p>
4:00 - 4:30	<p>Awards and closing: Rachael Miller and Madeline Taylor (Conference co-chairs)</p> <p>Room 1 (Main Hall MB6)</p>
5:30 - 8:30	<p>Networking event (Bookings essential)</p> <p>Burnley Gardens</p> <p>Includes food, drinks, live music, and tours of the heritage-listed Burnley Gardens</p>



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Posters (* indicates student posters eligible for awards)

Poster No.	Name	Title
1	Julianna Santos*	Does pyrodiversity influence genetic diversity?
2	Sarah McColl-Gausden	FROST aka Fire Regimes and Operations Simulation Tool aka a way to explore current and future fire regimes with applications for ecology, fire management and risk planning
3	Jessica Keem*	Fire, fauna, and the future: identifying and protecting biodiversity hotspots from extreme disturbance events
4	Emma Church*	How do marine citizen science experiences to promote stewardship actions?
5	Danielle Wallace*	Lovesick frogs - how is amphibian breeding display changing with infection?
6	Kylie McGenniskin*	Phylogenetic and environmental determinants of oothecal structure in Australian mantises
7	Allison Menzies*	Investigating a pollinator community in a grassland using metabarcoding
8	Arman Pili*	Using individual-based models to show how indiscriminate disregard of spatial landscape and dynamic environment results in spurious predictions of species establishment success
9	Emily McColl-Gausden	Designing a Victoria Biodiversity Index
10	James Kelleher*	Dynamic occupancy models for the applied ecologist
11	Megan Hirst	Exploring the germination niche breadth of key Victorian alpine species to inform rehabilitation programs
12	Berenice Della Port*	Defining and assessing soil health from a microbiological point of view across agroecosystems
13	Ryan Fisher*	Assessing Morphological Leaf Traits, and Hydraulic Vulnerability in Eucalyptus species across a climatic gradient in Victoria, Australia.