



11th National Flying-fox Forum 2026

Program Outline

Bendigo, Victoria | 20–21 October 2026

DAY 1 – NATIONAL FLYING-FOX FORUM

Tuesday 20 October 2026 | Registration from 8:30 am | Forum 9:00 am–5pm
Larnangurrak (Our Place), Dja Dja Wurrung Corporate and Community Centre,
43 Hattam Street, Golden Square, Bendigo
Hybrid – attend in person or online

Australian jurisdictional updates

Research, climate and emerging risks

- Advancing flying-fox conservation ecology in a changing world — *Justin Welbergen – Western Sydney University*
- Seeing the heat: thermal imaging reveals behavioural responses of grey-headed flying-foxes to hot conditions — *Melissa Walker – Murdoch University (in partnership with Deakin University)*
- The impacts of extreme heat on flying-foxes – a summary of my PhD research — *Samantha Yabsley – Western Sydney University*
- Renewable Energy, Emerging Risk: What We Know About Old World Fruit Bats and Wind Turbines — *Emma Bennett – Elmoby Ecology*
- Analysis of a large-scale telemetry dataset to quantify wind turbine collision risk for the Grey-headed Flying-fox — *Jessica Meade, Pia Lentini et al. – Western Sydney University / DEECA*
- The Life of Brian.... and David: Two Flying-foxes' Contribution to Science — *Melissa Walker – Murdoch University (in partnership with Western Sydney University)*
- Panel Q&A – research, climate and emerging risks — *Session presenters*



Monitoring, management and planning

- The status of the Australian Flying-Fox Monitor (AFFM), 1 year in — *Jessica Meade & Justin Welbergen – Western Sydney University*
- Monitoring of the Spectacled Flying-fox 2024 and 2025 (online) — *Andrew Dennis – Terrain Natural Resource Management*
- Navigating the Challenges in Legislation and Planning to Protect Spectacled Flying Fox Roosts — *Maree Treadwell Kerr – Spectacled Flying Fox Recovery Team*
- When size doesn't matter: flying-fox frictions at a private-tenure camp in regional NSW — *Kylie Coutts-McClelland & Lorraine Oliver – NSW DCCEE*
- What does it take to protect, conserve, and enhance urban flying-fox roosting habitat? — *Jess Gorrington – Wild Solutions Ecology*
- A view from the Top End: a big year for Northern Territory flying-foxes (online) — *Laura Sewell – Wildlife carer*
- Panel Q&A – monitoring, management and planning — *Session presenters*

Coexistence and local government

- From Conflict to Coexistence: The Sunshine Coast Flying Fox Management Plan as a Benchmark for Human-Wildlife Management and Conservation — *Tyron de Kauwe – Sunshine Coast Council*
- Kooloonbung Creek Flying Fox Camp: Emerging Trends, Cultural Connections and Future Directions — *Byron Reynolds – Port Macquarie-Hastings Council*
- Evaluation of Sunshine Coast Council's Flying-Fox Amenity Impact Reduction (FAIR) Grant Program — *Andrew Smith – Sunshine Coast Council*
- Was it a free for all? Opening our Living with Flying-foxes Grants Program to the entire region — *Beth Cox – Gladstone Regional Council*
- Panel Q&A – coexistence and local government — *Session presenters*

Community, advocacy, education and wildlife care

- Batty Tales: From Zero to Beyond: a regional Victorian story about forming the Central Victorian Bat Alliance, a non-profit volunteer community bat advocacy group. — *Julie Sloan – Central Victorian Bat Alliance*
- Introducing Bats Victoria: Harnessing the cornerstones of advocacy, education and rehabilitation for a safer future for Victoria's flying foxes — *Tamsyn Hogarth - Bats Victoria*
- Learning through art and play: engaging children with flying-fox conservation in local communities — *Fernanda Tique Bernal*
- Beyond Management: Building Rehabilitation Capacity as an Essential Component of Flying-Fox Conservation — *Sonja Elwood – NSW Wildlife Council*
- Cross-region rescue of bats in QLD: what have we seen over the last five years? — *Karly Fowler – Bat Conservation & Rescue QLD*
- Panel Q&A – community, advocacy, education and wildlife care — *Session presenters*

Poster session

Poster: On both sides: photographic evidence demonstrating a grey-headed flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) varying the side on which she carries her pup – *Doug Gimesy, Justin Welbergen & Matthew Mo*

Networking function

5:15–7:00 pm

Informal networking for delegates, speakers, sponsors and Forum partners, with light refreshments included.

DAY 2 – WORKSHOPS & FIELD PROGRAM

Wednesday 21 October 2026 | 9:30 am–2:30 pm

Rosalind Park and central Bendigo | Optional in-person day

A practical and interactive program led by representatives from **City of Greater Bendigo, DEECA & NSW DCCEEW, Central Victorian Bat Alliance** and **Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, Western Sydney University**, with additional contributors to be confirmed.

Day 2 will include:

- Rosalind Park flying-fox camp management and coexistence
- camp monitoring workshop
- Bat Buddy Walk
- reflecting on last summer's heat events
- planning and facilitating successful community bat events
- Flying-Fox Heat Stress Forecaster planning
- wildlife disaster-response coordination
- opportunities for practical discussion and networking

Lunch is included. The program will conclude at approximately 2:30 pm, allowing delegates to travel home that afternoon.

Full program and speaker details are subject to confirmation.

Principal Sponsors



Supporting Sponsors & Event Support Partners

