



2026
NATIONAL
FLYING-FOX
FORUM

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11th National Flying-fox Forum 2026 Program

20–21 October 2026 | Bendigo, VIC

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NFFF 2026 - Day 1 Working Program

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

Time	Program item	Presenter / organisation
9:00am - 9:20am	Forum opening, Welcome to Country and housekeeping	DJAARA / National Flying-fox Forum Commonwealth, state and territory updates
9:20am - 9:32am	Victoria update	Leila Brook – Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
9:32am - 9:44am	South Australia update	Moses Pillay & Jason VanWeenan – South Australian Government
9:44am - 9:56am	New South Wales update	Matt Mo – NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
9:56am - 10:08am	ACT update	Stephen Bartos & Clare Wynter - ACT Wildlife
10:08am - 10:20am	Commonwealth update	Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
10:20am - 10:30am	Panel Q&A	Government representatives

Poster session

10:30am - 11:00am	Morning tea & poster session	Doug Gimesy, Justin Welbergen & Matthew Mo
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Research, climate and emerging risks

11:00am - 11:12am	Advancing flying-fox conservation ecology in a changing world	Justin Welbergen – Western Sydney University
11:12am - 11:24am	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)
11:24am - 11:36am	The impacts of extreme heat on flying-foxes – a summary of my PhD research	Samantha Yabsley – Western Sydney University
11:36am - 11:48am	Renewable Energy, Emerging Risk: What We Know About Old World Fruit Bats and Wind Turbines	Emma Bennett – Elmoby Ecology
11:48am - 12:00pm	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 / Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

NFFF 2026 - Day 1 Working Program - cont.

Time	Program item	Presenter / organisation
12:00pm - 12:12pm	The Life of Brian.... and David: Two Flying-foxes' Contribution to Science	Melissa Walker – Murdoch University (in partnership with Western Sydney University)
12:12pm - 12:25pm	Panel Q&A	Session presenters
12:25pm - 1:10pm	Lunch	
Monitoring, management and planning		
1:10pm - 1:22pm	The status of the Australian Flying-Fox Monitor (AFFM), 1 year in	Jessica Meade & Justin Welbergen – Western Sydney University
1:22pm - 1:34pm	Monitoring of the Spectacled Flying-fox 2024 and 2025	Andrew Dennis – Terrain Natural Resource Management
1:34pm - 1:46pm	Navigating the Challenges in Legislation and Planning to Protect Spectacled Flying-Fox Roosts	Maree Treadwell Kerr – Spectacled Flying-Fox Recovery Team
1:46pm - 1:58pm	When size doesn't matter: flying-fox frictions at a private-tenure camp in regional NSW	Kylie Coutts-McClelland & Lorraine Oliver – NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
1:58pm - 2:10pm	What does it take to protect, conserve, and enhance urban flying-fox roosting habitat?	Jess Gorrington – Wild Solutions Ecology
2:10pm - 2:22pm	A view from the Top End: a big year for Northern Territory flying-foxes	Laura Sewell – Wildlife carer
2:22pm - 2:35pm	Panel Q&A	Session presenters

Coexistence and local government

2:35pm - 2:47pm	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
2:47pm - 2:59pm	Kooloonbung Creek Flying-Fox Camp: Emerging Trends, Cultural Connections and Future Directions	Byron Reynolds – Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
2:59pm - 3:11pm	Evaluation of Sunshine Coast Council's Flying-Fox Amenity Impact Reduction (FAIR) Grant Program	Andrew Smith – Sunshine Coast Council

NFFF 2026 - Day 1 Working Program - cont.

Time	Program item	Presenter / organisation
3:11pm - 3:23pm	Was it a free for all? Opening our Living with Flying-foxes Grants Program to the entire region	Beth Cox – Gladstone Regional Council
3:23pm - 3:35pm	Panel Q&A	Session presenters
3:35pm - 4:00pm	Afternoon tea & poster viewing	
Community, advocacy, education and wildlife care		
4:00pm - 4:12 pm	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
4:12pm - 4:24pm	Introducing Bats Victoria: Harnessing the cornerstones of advocacy, education and rehabilitation for a safer future for Victoria's flying-foxes	Tamsyn Hogarth – Bats Victoria
4:24pm - 4:36pm	Learning through art and play: engaging children with flying-fox conservation in local communities	Fernanda Tique Bernal
4:36pm - 4:48pm	Beyond Management: Building Rehabilitation Capacity as an Essential Component of Flying-Fox Conservation	Sonja Elwood – NSW Wildlife Council
4:48pm - 5:00pm	Cross-region rescue of bats in QLD: what have we seen over the last five years?	Karly Fowler – Bat Conservation & Rescue QLD
5:00pm - 5:10pm	Panel Q&A	Session presenters
5:10pm - 5:15pm	Forum close & Day 2 overview	National Flying-fox Forum

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NFFF 2026 - Day 2 Workshops & Field Program

Wednesday 21 October 2026 | 9:30 am–2:30 pm | Rosalind Park and central Bendigo

Time	Location	Topic	Lead Presenters
9:30am - 10:00am	Rosalind Park camp	Background to Rosalind Park and camp management	Kerina McIntyre – City of Greater Bendigo; Leila Brook – Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
10:00am - 10:45am		Monitoring workshop	Leila Brook – Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action; Matt Mo – NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water; Justin Welbergen & Jess Meade – Western Sydney University
10:45am - 11:00am	Rosalind Park surrounds	Comfort break/ coffee and snacks	Kerina McIntyre – directions
11:00am - 11:30am	Rosalind Park camp	Monitoring – Bat Buddy Walk	Julie Sloan – Central Victorian Bat Alliance
11:30am - 12:00pm		Planning and facilitating community bat events	Lu-Wei Spinks – City of Greater Bendigo; Julie Sloan – Central Victorian Bat Alliance
12:00pm - 1:00pm	Rifle Brigade Hotel	Lunch	
1:00pm - 1:10pm		Introduction to afternoon session	Jess Bracks; Matthew Mo; Sarah Curran
1:10pm - 1:30pm		Emergency coordination and response; next steps	Sarah Curran
1:30pm - 2:00pm		From forecasts to coordinated response: developing the new Flying-Fox Heat Stress Forecaster	Justin Welbergen & Sam Yabsley – Western Sydney University
2:00pm - 2:20pm		Break-out groups	Facilitated break-out groups
2:20pm - 2:30pm		Day 2 close	Ecosure

Program disclaimer: Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this program at the time of publication. However, speakers, session content, timings and workshop activities may be subject to change. Please refer to the National Flying-fox Forum website for the latest program information.