



SPEAKERS

Jason Van Weenen

Team Leader, Urban Biodiversity | Department for Environment and Water



Jason is an ecologist with the South Australian Department for Environment and Water and has been working with threatened species conservation projects and native species management for 24 years. He now sits within the ecology team of the Green Adelaide Landscapes Region and has been involved with flying foxes since their arrival in South Australia in 2010. In his personal time, Jason is committed to the restoration of bushland areas in his care, volunteering in wildlife conservation projects and leading biodiversity conservation activities on one of SA's offshore islands.

Rodney Vile

Principal Officer Wildlife Emergencies | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Rodney is the Principal Officer Wildlife Emergencies for the Victorian Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning (DELWP). In this role he develops policy, response plans and training programs for the declared wildlife emergencies within Victoria and provides strategic leadership and advice to the State during incidents. Rodney represents DELWP on Victorian and national committees to ensure that wildlife emergency response plans are developed in line with industry best practice and that synergies between response agencies are developed. He has undertaken a range of roles that has given him experience in extension, regulation and enforcement, vocational training and development, emergency management and program and project management at senior levels. The development of response plans and training programs is a key strength.



Michelle Jeffrey

Manager Open Space, National Capital Authority



Michelle is the Open Space Manager for the National Capital Authority (NCA), managing the green assets, open spaces, and memorials of Canberra which make the National Capital. Significant assets in this portfolio include the Parliamentary Zone, Anzac Parade, Commonwealth Park, Kings Park, the National Rose Gardens, the Old Parliament House Rose Gardens, Lindsay Pryor National Arboretum, national memorial sites and commemorative spaces, conservation areas, diplomatic sites, outdoor art, fountains, ponds, and event spaces.

Matthew Mo

Saving our Species, NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Matthew is a Senior Project Officer working for Saving our Species, the NSW Government's flagship program for threatened species. His current role involves convening the NSW Flying-fox Consultative Committee and the NSW Flying-fox Land Managers' Network, as well as representation on a number of working groups. Matthew has led key flying-fox projects including policy work on flying-fox camp management, recent rounds of the Flying-fox Grants Program, support initiatives for wildlife carers and the phasing out of flying-fox shooting in NSW. He's currently leading a flying-fox stream for the Australian Government's bushfire recovery funding. He enjoys collaboration and has recently worked with local councils to develop flying-fox camp management case studies, and collaborated with wildlife carers, land managers and scientists to estimate flying-fox mortalities during the 2019-20 extreme heat and pup abandonment events. His work has been published in Australian Zoologist, Pacific Conservation Biology, Australian Mammalogy and Human Dimensions of Wildlife.



Sue Ellis

Flying-fox Project Manager | Flying-fox Habitat Restoration Program



Sue Ellis is the Flying-fox Program Manager for the LGNSW Flying-fox Habitat Restoration Program. This is a long-term flying-fox camp and foraging habitat restoration project supported by the Environmental Trust, managed by LGNSW and delivered by local councils. Her presentation provides an update on the progress of this initiative. Sue has a long term voluntary involvement in restoration and rehabilitation work in her local community on the Central Coast of NSW and a background in program management, adult education and community capacity building.

Lindsay Delzoppo

Director - Wildlife Northern Operations | Department of Environment and Science

Lindsay is the Director of Northern Wildlife Operations, where he is responsible for: public and stakeholder engagement, delivery of cassowary, crocodile and flying-fox management programs, development of wildlife management policies such as flying-fox codes of practice and roost management guidelines, and investigations and compliance under Queensland's Nature Conservation laws. His previous roles include Director of Environmental Impact Assessment (DEH), Director of Regional Service Delivery (DERM), Director of Sustainable Industries (Environmental Protection Agency), and Regional Director for the far northern region of Queensland (QPWS).



Tim McGrath

Threatened Species Officer, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment



Tim has been working for the Australian Government for the last 10 years in the Threatened Species section. Prior to that, he worked privately as a consultant ecologist in Queensland. His role with the Commonwealth is diverse but relates largely to threatened species listing assessments and conservation planning, particularly for reptiles. Other responsibilities include supporting regulatory areas of the Department with threatened species advice, engaging with traditional owners on the conservation of culturally important species, educating the agricultural sector on its responsibilities to threatened species under national environmental law and managing some responsibilities for nationally listed flying-foxes.

Byron Reynolds

Ecologist | Port Macquarie Hastings Council



Tamika Lunn

PhD Candidate | Griffith University



Tamika recently completed her PhD at Griffith University under the supervision of Alison Peel, Hamish McCallum and Raina Plowright, and advisement of Peggy Eby. Tamika's PhD research focussed on quantifying the roosting structure of flying-foxes in south-eastern Queensland and north-eastern New South Wales, including application of roost structure information to conservation goals and understanding of disease dynamics. Tamika's presentation focusses on one element of her PhD research that has recently been accepted for publication – 'Conventional wisdom on roosting behaviour of Australian flying foxes – a critical review, and evaluation using new data' – available as a preprint: DOI: 10.22541/au.161615114.43163894/v2.

Jen Ford

Principal Restoration Ecologist



Jen is a highly experienced ecological restoration practitioner with 25 years' experience working in a range of positions. She has worked in the field as a Bush Regenerator, as a trainer and TAFE teacher of Conservation and Ecosystem Management and in local and state government roles facilitating the recovery of many sites and large conservation areas. For the last 8 years, Jen has been in the role of Ecosure's Principal Restoration Ecologist where she leads a team of 60+ people. Her experience includes successfully applying a range of ecological restoration approaches across a wide range of ecosystem and habitat types. She successfully works on larger scales including developing practical ecological restoration plans to assist a wide range of people understand how and where to intervene on a site to maximise recovery and achieve project goals.

Hugh Pitty

Community Coordinator | Friends of Glebe Wetlands



Hugh Pitty is the Community Coordinator for the Friends of Glebe Wetlands, a local conservation group in Bega on the Far South Coast of NSW. Hugh leads the Friends of Glebe Wetlands as a group of volunteers who conduct monthly flying fox counts of the seasonal Grey-headed flying-foxes that form a breeding camp at the Glebe Park Lagoon each year from around October/November through to April/May. Through this valuable citizen science initiative, Hugh has built a dataset spanning the last eight years (2012 to 2020), which has made a valuable contribution to the National Flying Fox Monitoring Program and also underpinned education about flying foxes in the local community.

Cameron Duthie

Manager, Services and Operations | Colac Otway Shire

Cameron is the Manager of Services and Operations for the Colac Otway Shire and has had to date an extensive career in Local Government more specially oversight and management of Council service delivery. This includes the management of environmental issues including more recently the Colac Colony of Grey Headed Flying Foxes. Cameron is passionate in making a difference to the Colac community through precise management of operations and effective environmental outcomes.



Mark Robinson

Team Leader Parks and Gardens | Colac Otway Shire



Mark is the Team Leader Parks and Gardens for the Colac Otway Shire and oversees the maintenance of all the shires active and passive areas of open space including the historical Colac Botanical Gardens. Mark has provided to the Colac community 40 years of service and as a part of his portfolio provides oversight of the Botanical gardens. Mark has taken the Project Management lead for the management of the Colac Grey Headed Flying Fox Camp and the current nudging project.

Keren Cox-Witton

Senior Project Officer | Wildlife Health Australia

Keren Cox-Witton is the Senior Project Officer at Wildlife Health Australia. She is a veterinarian with an interest in wildlife health and epidemiology and has worked at WHA since 2010. Keren coordinates the WHA Bat Health Focus Group, which has a broad membership and considers bat health issues in the context of biosecurity, public health, domestic animal health and environmental impacts in Australia. Keren's role at WHA also includes co-ordination of wildlife disease surveillance programs involving zoo-based hospitals and sentinel veterinary clinics, administering a national database of wildlife health information, and maintaining a national dataset for Australian bat lyssavirus.



Anita Gordon

Principal Veterinarian, Pathology | Department of Agriculture and Fisheries



Anita works as a veterinary pathologist at the Qld Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Biosecurity Sciences Laboratory. She has been the Queensland State Co-ordinator for Wildlife Health Australia since 2006.

Jess Bracks

Principal Wildlife Biologist | Ecosure

Jess is a Wildlife Biologist with 16 years' practical experience with wildlife through positions in the veterinary, zoo and consulting industries. She has extensive experience in risk assessment and managing human/wildlife conflict, with demonstrated successful outcomes developing and implementing mitigation measures for a diverse array of wildlife. Jess is passionate about driving pragmatic wildlife management policy, balancing the needs of community and conservation, and is driving a National Flying-fox Strategy and Working Group to ensure a consistent and strategic national approach to flying-fox management and conservation.



Natalie Foster

Natural Resources - Flying-fox Officer | Eurobodalla Shire Council



Tyron de Kauwe

Natural Areas Conservation Officer | Sunshine Coast Regional Council

Tyron is a Natural Areas Conservation Officer with a strength in developing novel management techniques for wildlife conservation and conflict issues. Tyron is highly experienced in flying-fox management and conservation and is a member of the SEQ flying-fox managers group and the LGAQ/DES flying-fox special working group. He also presented at Annual flying-fox forum 2019 on novel Heat-stress Autonomous Response Unit, for which he was a Finalist for Sunshine Coast Council CEO Awards 2019 Innovation Category (Project lead). Tyron was also involved in the Queensland-first trial of subsidised services program for flying-fox management.



Dr. Janine Barrett

Principal Veterinarian (Surveillance) | Department of Agriculture and Fisheries



Janine is a veterinarian with postgraduate qualifications in veterinary pathology, virology, and management. As a policy officer for Biosecurity Queensland, she created Queensland's policy for managing the exposure of pets to Australian bat lyssavirus based on her PhD research at UQ. Through this work she significantly influenced the national emergency animal response policy for lyssaviruses under AUSVETPLAN.

Maree Treadwell-Kerr

The Spectacled Flying-fox Recovery Team

Maree has a Masters of Wildlife Management and is currently undertaking a higher degree examining societal values for flying foxes by assessing impact of education/interpretation programs, including tourism potential, in changing attitudes toward flying-foxes. She is a joint convenor of the Australasian Bat Society's (ABS) Flying-fox Expert Group and created and coordinates the annual ABS Australasian Bat Night program, including coordinating the Cairns Bat Festival since 2015. Maree has presented to national conferences of Wildlife Tourism Australia, Australasian Wildlife Management Society, Australasian Bat Society, and Interpretation Australia on the subjects of bat tourism, interpretation and flying-fox management.



Sera Steves

The Spectacled Flying-fox Recovery Team



Sera holds a degree in Biology and Psychology with an Ethology focus and is currently working on her masters in Zoology and Ecology including research on crocodiles and blossom-bats. Sera has been in the zoo industry for 12 years working in both Australia and the United States as a zookeeper, animal trainer and wildlife presenter. Her main focus is birds and reptiles, but bats have been an interest of hers since she was a child. Sera is promoting bats and tourism using a model developed by Bat Conservation International in her home state of Texas.

Linda Collins

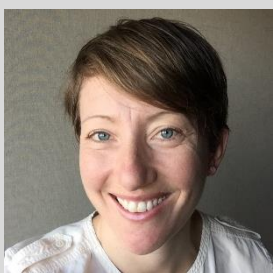
Fauna Rescue of South Australia Inc.

Linda has been a volunteer flying-fox rehabilitator, trainer, researcher and consultant for the past 33 years. She has worked in numerous flying-fox colonies throughout NSW and Queensland and with over 30 rehabilitation groups. Linda is currently the flying-fox consultant for Fauna Rescue of SA and stakeholders responsible for supporting the Adelaide colony.



Dr. Alison Peel

ARC Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) Research Fellow | Griffith University



Alison is a DECRA Research Fellow at the Centre for Planetary Health and Food Security at Griffith University in Brisbane, Australia. She trained as a wildlife veterinarian in Sydney and London, but it was her PhD at the University of Cambridge which introduced her to the world of bats. She is now working on a large project across 5 continents that aims to understand the root drivers of bat viral dynamics and ways in which we can pre-empt and prevent spillover. She mostly focuses on ecological drivers of viral community dynamics of Hendra virus and other bat paramyxoviruses in Australian flying foxes, but has also recently branched out in attempt to fill the significant gaps in knowledge on coronaviruses in Australian bats.

Dr. Justin Welbergen

Associate Professor | Western Sydney University

Justin Welbergen is an Associate Professor at the Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment (Western Sydney University), where he leads the “Lab of Animal Ecology”. He is also President of the Australasian Bat Society, a nonprofit organisation whose aim is to promote the conservation and study of bats in Australasia. In addition, he is co-founder of 'BATsLAB', a primary academic destination for bat research in Australia. Justin’s research covers a range of subjects in whole-organism biology, but focuses on the evolutionary ecology of bats and birds. He has parallel interests in conservation and climate change biology, and particularly in the areas of endangered species biology, human-wildlife conflict, extreme events, and conservation planning. Justin and his students have worked on flying-foxes for over 20 years, starting with his study on the social organisation of the grey-headed flying-fox for his PhD from the University of Cambridge. Further info: <https://www.animalecologylab.org/justin-welbergen.html>



Dr. John Martin

Research Scientist | Taronga Conservation Society Australia



Dr. John Martin is a research scientist at Taronga Conservation Society Australia. His current flying-fox projects involve researching grey-headed flying-foxes including GPS tracking, population monitoring, and assessing habitat preferences. An extension of this research includes the assessment of flying-foxes response to heat stress throughout the eastern States of Australia (<http://theconversation.com/killer-climate-tens-of-thousands-of-flying-foxes-dead-in-a-day-23227>).

Adam McKeown

Research Officer | CSIRO

Adam McKeown is an ecologist working for CSIRO on a range of ecological and transport related projects. He has worked on flying-fox population and movement ecology questions on all Australian species for 20 years.

