



national  
**private land  
conservation**  
conference

**SPEAKERS PROGRAM**  
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**VALUING NATURE**  
**19-20 OCTOBER 2017**  
**HOBART TASMANIA**  
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## Welcome from the ALCA Chair

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*On behalf of the Australian Land Conservation Alliance (ALCA), welcome to the 2017 National Private Land Conservation Conference. This is the fourth national gathering that has been initiated by ALCA and it promises to be a vibrant event! Thank you so much for joining us!*

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The conference theme *Valuing Nature* will encourage delegates to test and challenge how the environment's wellbeing is attributed – from natural capital and ecosystem services, to community and cultural connections, and the inherent value of nature for its own sake. In understanding different views on nature, we can explore fresh ways to communicate and connect with broader audiences. My hope is that applying a wider lens may enable new and nifty opportunities to emerge!

Engaging business in conservation is one such opportunity and we are so very lucky to introduce conservation finance expert and President of Conservation International, Jennifer Morris as one of our keynote speakers. Also travelling from afar is Alan Saunders, Team Leader – Natural Heritage, Integrated Catchment Management, Waikato Regional Council. Working keenly on the interface between environment, economy and society, Alan will introduce new thinking on New Zealand's archipelago approach to ecological restoration. And to Australia's north, we are also delighted to welcome Ricky Archer, General Manager, Djelk Rangers, Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation of Western Arnhem Land to share his perspectives on country.

From indigenous knowledge to the control of crazy ants, from on farm biodiversity to nature on the spreadsheet, it is a diverse and engaging conference program. To all our speakers and delegates, thank you for your contributions to nature conservation and for joining us in Hobart.

There is such a lot we can learn from each other, across sectors and landscapes. The national network for private land conservation is growing stronger every year, and this national conference provides an important opportunity to share information, exchange ideas, and to initiate partnerships and avenues for collaboration. I hope you find the event and the opportunities that may emerge, of great value.

My heartfelt thanks to conference supporters – NAB, JBWere, The Ian Potter Foundation, The Gainsdale Group, The Australian Communities Foundation through the Melliodora Fund, Purves Environmental Fund, Greening Australia, MONA, Banrock Station and the University of Tasmania. Thanks also to the ALCA Board, and the staff and volunteers that have enabled the success of this event. My personal applause to the hardworking team at the Tasmanian Land Conservancy, your conference host for 2017.

*With warmest welcoming wishes,  
Jane Hutchinson  
Chair, ALCA  
CEO, Tasmanian Land Conservancy*

## Thursday 19 October

8.30am	<b>REGISTRATION</b>	
<b>SESSION 1 • WELCOME, LAUNCH AND VALUING NATURE</b>   Session Chair – Jane Hutchinson, CEO Tasmanian Land Conservancy		
9.00am	Welcome from ALCA and introduction to the conference	Jane Hutchinson, CEO, Tasmanian Land Conservancy
9.05am	Welcome to Country	Kartanya Maynard, Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre
9.15am	Welcome from the Tasmanian Government	Tim Baker, Deputy Secretary Corporate, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania
9.20am	Natural Capital – Building resilience in business with nature	James Bentley, Manager Natural Value, Corporate Responsibility, NAB
9.35am	Valuing nature globally	Peter Cochrane, Director NFPs, consultant, advisor, IUCN Councillor Oceania Region, Australian National University, IUCN
9.50am	Nature on the spreadsheet – Engaging business in conservation	Jennifer Morris, President, Conservation International
10.15–10.30am	Q&A	
10.30–11.00am	<b>MORNING BREAK</b>	
<b>SESSION 2 • FUTURE SOLUTIONS FOR PRIVATE LAND CONSERVATION</b>   Session Chair – Dr James Fitzsimons, Director of Conservation, Australia Program, The Nature Conservancy		
11.00am	Introduction and scene setting	Dr James Fitzsimons, Director of Conservation, Australia Program, The Nature Conservancy
11.05am	Island by island – New Zealand's transformative approach to nature conservation	Alan Saunders, Team Leader, Natural Heritage, Integrated, Catchment Management, Waikato Regional Council
11.20am	Natural values, valuing nature, cost efficiency, offsets and prioritisation – tools and ideas to help us muddle through	Prof Brendan Wintle, Director, NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub
11.35am	Solving wicked problems with simplicity	Prof Ted Lefroy, Professor, University of Tasmania
11.50am	Private land conservation networks	Victoria Marles, CEO, Trust for Nature, Victoria
12.05–12.30pm	Q&A	
12.30–1.30pm	<b>LUNCH</b>	
<b>SESSION 3 – FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE</b>   Session Chair – Nerida Bradley, General Manager, Queensland Trust for Nature		
1.30pm	Introduction and scene setting	Nerida Bradley, General Manager, Queensland Trust for Nature
1.35pm	People and Nature – personal perspectives on Country	Ricky Archer, General Manager, Djelk Rangers, Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation
1.50pm	Private land conservation in Australia – national trends and global developments	Dr James Fitzsimons, Director of Conservation, Australia Program, The Nature Conservancy
2.05pm	From the Liffey Valley to Landscape Scale – the Bush Heritage Journey	Gerard O'Neill, CEO, Bush Heritage Australia
2.20pm	Combining production and conservation – enhancing the potential for biodiversity conservation in our farming systems	Fiona Simson, President, National Farmers Federation
2.35–3.00pm	Q&A	



## Thursday 19 October

3.00–3.30pm	<b>AFTERNOON BREAK</b>	
<b>SESSION 4 • QUESTIONING VALUE ‘NATURE SHOULD BE ON THE BALANCE SHEET’</b>   Session Chair – James Forbes, Advancement Director, Australian Indigenous Education Foundation		
3.30pm	Introduction and scene setting	James Forbes, Advancement Director, Australian Indigenous Education Foundation
<i>Teams will alternate with members presenting for ten minutes each on the debate topic. There will also be a five minute rebuttal.</i>		
	Affirmative Team	Penny Figgis AO, Vice Chair for Oceania of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, Jennifer Morris, President, Conservation International and Ben O'Hara, General Manager Land and Environment, The Gainsdale Group
	Negative Team	Prof Jamie Kirkpatrick, Professor of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Tasmania, Marla Edwards, Director of Development, The Nature Conservancy Australia and Atticus Fleming, CEO, Australian Wildlife Conservancy
4.55pm	Summary wrap up and close of Day 1	Jane Hutchinson, CEO, Tasmanian Land Conservancy
5.00pm	<b>DAY 1 CONCLUDES</b>	

## Friday 20 October

8.30am	<b>REGISTRATION</b>	
<b>SESSION 5A • COMMUNICATING FOR CHANGE – ROOM 1</b>   Session Chair – Brendan Foran, CEO, Greening Australia		
9.00am	Introduction and scene setting	Brendan Foran, CEO, Greening Australia
9.05am	Changing landscapes using media for politics and conversation	Dr Claire Konkes, Lecturer, Journalism, Media and Communications, University of Tasmania
9.20am	Changing policy: Communicating the science of environmental decision making	David Salt, Editor, Decision Point
9.35am	The Power of Story: On Albatross Island	Matthew Newton, Photographer and Director, Rummin Productions and Dr Rachael Alderman, Biologist, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania
9.50am	Joining hands – Landcare collaborations	Doug Humann AM, Chair, Landcare Australia and Terry Hubbard OAM, Chair, National Landcare Network
10.05am	Changing minds on climate – new perspectives for Australian farmers	Joshua Gilbert, Director, Farmers for Climate Action
10.20pm–10.30pm	Q&A	

### **SESSION 5B • MEASURING, MONITORING AND REPORTING NATURAL VALUE – ROOM 2** | Session Chair – Angus Hume, Chair, NRM Regions Australia

9.00am	Introduction and scene setting	Angus Hume, Chair, NRM Regions Australia
9.05am	Non-Market Values: What are they? What can we do with them?	Assoc Prof Darla Hatton MacDonald, Associate Professor Tasmanian School of Business and Economics, University of Tasmania
9.20am	Reporting the State of the Environment	Ian Cresswell, Research Director, CSIRO

## Friday 20 October

9.35am	Measuring the true value of private land conservation – a case study	Marnie Lassen, Strategic Projects Manager, Trust for Nature, Victoria
9.50am	Measuring ecological health – tracking effectiveness and efficiency	Atticus Fleming, CEO, Australian Wildlife Conservancy
10.05am	Accounting for nature and ecological monitoring – a case study on TLC's 5 Rivers Reserve	Dr Sally Bryant, Manager Conservation Science & Planning, Tasmanian Land Conservancy
10.20am–10.30am	Q&A	
10.30–11.00am	<b>MORNING BREAK</b>	

### 10 MINUTE TALKS • FIRE, RESTORATION AND CONNECTIVITY – ROOM 1 | Session Chair – Keith Bradby, CEO Gondwana Link

11.00am	Introduction and scene setting	Keith Bradby, CEO, Gondwana Link
11.05am	The grape, the parrot and the daisy: the story of a wine company helping in bringing back species from the brink	Tim Field, Ranger Ecologist, National Environmental Manager, Banrock Station
11.17am	Connectivity Conservation – Sustaining Natural Capital at a Continental Scale	Gary Howling, Director, Great Eastern Ranges Initiative
11.29am	Innovation in Restoration: 2030 and beyond	Todd Berkinshaw, Executive General Manager, Strategy and National Operations, Greening Australia
11.41am	Restoring connectivity across Central West Victoria	Dr Matt Appleby, Conservation Strategy and Systems Manager, Bush Heritage Australia
11.53am	Presenting the <i>truwana</i> Rangers	Graeme Gardner, Manager, Aboriginal Land Council Tasmania
12.05pm	Cape Otway Ecological Burns Program	Dr Jack Pascoe, Conservation and Research Manager, Conservation Ecology Centre
12.17pm	Fire Cycle: growing natural and human recovery after a firestorm	Fern Hames, Science Manager Communication and Collaboration, Arthur Rylah Institute for Enviro Research, Dpt of Enviro, Land, Water and Planning
12.30pm	Conclusion	

### 10 MINUTE TALKS • STEWARDSHIP AND PROTECTION – ROOM 2 | Session Chair – Evan Quartermain, Head of Programs, Humane Society International

11.00am	Introduction and scene setting	Evan Quartermain, Head of Programs, Humane Society International
11.05am	Who's interested in Private National Parks?	Brett Kerr, Manager, Protected Area Strategy, Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
11.17am	Improving the protection of private land in Tasmania – a case study from NE Tasmania	Todd Dudley, President, North East Bioregional Network
11.29am	Crazy ants and feral deer – two influential landowner led initiatives	Andrew Cox, CEO, Invasive Species Council
11.41am	Conservation, degraded land management and the Great Barrier Reef – a story from Cape York	Tim Hughes, Director, South Endeavour Trust
11.53am	Wildlife Conservation in Wingecarribee	Dr Karen Guymer, Bushland Projects Officer, Wingecarribee Shire Council
12.05pm	The Midlands Conservation Fund – Sharing the stewardship risks of long term conservation on private land	Andrew Cameron, Midlandscapes Coordinator, Tasmanian Land Conservancy
12.17pm	Valuing Nature in the Hotham-Williams	Mel Durack, Hotham-Williams NRM Coordinator, Peel-Harvey Catchment Council
12.30pm	Conclusion	

## Friday 20 October

**10 MINUTE TALKS • MOTIVATIONS, RESEARCH AND LEARNING – ROOM 3** | Session Chair – Helen Crawford, Program Manager, Private Land Conservation Program, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania

11.00am	Introduction and scene setting	Helen Crawford, Program Manager, Private Land Conservation Program, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania
11.05am	Managing cultural landscapes in <i>lutruwita</i> (Tasmania)	Sarah Eccles, Aboriginal Partnership Officer – South Eastern Australia, Bush Heritage and Andry Sculthorpe, Land and Heritage Project Officer, Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre
11.17am	Revolving funds – governance and policy settings for success: key achievements by the Nature Conservation Trust of NSW	Michael Williams, Former Deputy Chair, NSW Nature Conservation Trust
11.29am	Marketing Revolving Funds: Secrets to Success	James Forbes, Advancement Director, Australian Indigenous Education Foundation
11.41am	Inspiring landowners – protecting and valuing nature in New Zealand	Paul Kirby, Manager Legal Services, Queen Elizabeth II National Trust
11.53am	Comparing acquisition strategies for private land conservation revolving funds	Mat Hardy, PhD Graduand, RMIT University
12.05pm	Future proofing privately protected areas by monitoring landholder challenges and commitment	Matthew Selinske, PhD Candidate, RMIT University
12.17pm	Protected Areas Learning and Research Collaboration – opportunities for increasing management competencies and awareness through Australia and the region	Doug Humann AM, Development Director, Protected Areas Learning and Research Collaboration
12.30pm	Conclusion	
12.30–1.30pm	<b>LUNCH</b>	

**SESSION 6A • SUSTAINABLE FINANCING – ROOM 1** | Session Chair – Hugo Hopton, CEO, Nature Foundation SA

1.30pm	Introduction and scene setting	Hugo Hopton, CEO, Nature Foundation SA
1.35pm	20 years of (r)evolution in the NFP sector – findings from the Cause Report	John McLeod, Senior Consultant, JBWere Philanthropic Services
1.50pm	Conservation driving tourism success	Ben O'Hara, General Manager Land and Environment, The Gainsdale Group
2.05pm	Is the virtuous cycle of impact Investing a catalyst for environmental funding?	Christopher Thorn AM, Partner – Social Finance, Impact Investment and Philanthropy, Ernst Young
2.20–2.30pm	Q&A	

**SESSION 6B • POLICY AND THE LAW: HINDRANCE AND HELP... – ROOM 2** | Session Chair – Victoria Marles, CEO, Trust for Nature, Victoria

1.30pm	Introduction and scene setting	Victoria Marles, CEO, Trust for Nature, Victoria
1.35pm	[How] can biodiversity offset policies promote conservation on private land?	Prof Jan McDonald, Professor and Associate Dean, School of Law, University of Tasmania
1.50pm	Protecting Indigenous Landscape Values through Statutory Land Use Planning	Prof Darryl Low Choy, Professor Emeritus, Griffith University
2.05pm	Conservation on leasehold land and law in the Australian Outback	Pepe Clarke, Terrestrial Director, Pew Charitable Trust
2.20–2.30pm	Q&A	

**CLOSING SESSION • CONFERENCE ROOM** | Session Chair – Jane Hutchinson, CEO Tasmanian Land Conservancy

2.30pm	In conclusion – Where next for a National Private Land Conservation Network?	Jane Hutchinson on behalf of ALCA, CEO, Tasmanian Land Conservancy and Nerida Bradley, General Manager, Queensland Trust for Nature
3.00pm	<b>CONFERENCE CLOSE</b>	



**DR RACHAEL  
ALDERMAN**

*Biologist, Marine Conservation Program, Department Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (Tas)*



**DR MATT APPLEBY**

*Ecologist, South-east Region, Bush Heritage Australia*

Rachael is a biologist with the Tasmanian Government, where she leads the Marine Conservation Program in the monitoring and conservation of marine mammals and seabirds around Tasmania, including Macquarie Island. Rachael has been actively involved in albatross research and conservation for more than 15 years. She recently established the Tasmanian Albatross Fund to ensure Tasmania's albatross populations are understood and conserved, now and into the future. The Fund will ensure existing long-term monitoring and conservation programs and help fund effective ongoing education and outreach initiatives.

Matt is a botanist with a specific interest in the ecology and conservation of native grasslands. He completed a PhD in the field of restoration ecology at University of Tasmania and spent ten years working in the Private Land Conservation Program with Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment. Matt is now Bush Heritage's regional ecologist supporting the Victorian and New South Wales reserves and the partnership landscape projects, Midlandscapes (Tas) and Kara Kara Wedderburn (Vic). He provides ecological advice and support throughout the planning, implementation and reporting of the conservation projects in his region.

## The Power of Story: On Albatross Island

Community engagement and support is often a critical element of effective conservation of threatened species or communities. For the endemic Tasmanian shy albatross, which spends most of its life at sea, returning only to breed on one of three inaccessible offshore islands, this is a significant problem. How do you get the public to care about a species they know little about and are unlikely ever to encounter?

This session demonstrates the value of conservationists partnering with professional content producers to enhance the conservation gains and education and outreach goals.

It describes a collaboration between a wildlife biologist and a professional photographer. By partnering together, we aimed to raise the profile of the shy albatross by telling compelling stories about their life-history, the threats to their survival and the biologists dedicated to understanding and conserving them.

We describe how this initiative has used artistic interpretation of the scientific data, immersive technologies, such as virtual reality, and traditional emotive cinematic story-telling and photography, to engage new audiences and build empathy for an otherwise overlooked species.

*Co-presented with Matthew Newton.*

## Restoring connectivity across Central West Victoria

The region between Wedderburn and St Arnaud in central western Victoria is a fragmented agricultural landscape yet it retains more than 30 percent of its native vegetation. Bush Heritage purchased its first Victorian reserve there in 2005 to protect remnant grassy woodlands and their suite of declining species. Subsequent land purchases have combined to create the Nardoo Hills Reserves totalling over 1200 hectares. These reserves abut the Wychitella Nature Conservation Reserve and contribute to a protected estate of over 7000 hectares. This area has become the focus for a whole-of-community landscape restoration project, currently with 35 partners. These partners include Trust for Nature, government agencies, local community organisations, businesses and individual landholders. All partners share a vision for re-establishing landscape connectivity and ecosystem function and they contribute at multiple levels. With significant achievements made, including the re-discovery of orchids once thought extinct, this project is now building momentum and expanding its impact by connecting to other landscape connectivity programs in neighbouring regions. It is through the committed work of individual landowners, groups and businesses working at the species and property level, and agencies and organisations planning and working at the landscape level, that connectivity is gradually being restored. The key drivers of this success and the many lessons learned will be shared.



**RICKY ARCHER**

*General Manager, Djelk Rangers, Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation*

**TIM BAKER**

*Deputy Secretary – Corporate, Heritage and Lands, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (Tas).*

*Ricky is a Djungan man from the Western Tablelands region of North Queensland. He has been employed in the natural/cultural resource management field for almost 15 years. Ricky is dedicated to providing strategic leadership and empowering the Djelk Ranger team through capacity building, targeted skills development and succession planning. In addition to his role at Djelk, he is a member of the National Landcare Advisory Committee, which provides strategic advice to the Federal Minister for Agriculture and the Federal Minister for Environment. Ricky is also a member of the National Indigenous Advisory Committee, which provides strategic advice to the Minister for Environment under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. Ricky has a background in traditional knowledge management, geographic information systems, and conservation and land management. His qualifications include an Advanced Diploma in Conservation & Land Management, a Diploma in Social Science, Cert IV Training, Assessment & Education, Cert IV Frontline Management, and Cert IV Spatial Science.*

*Tim is the Deputy Secretary – Corporate, Heritage and Lands with the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania. In this role he has a diverse range of portfolios including: the Department's corporate functions, Cultural and Natural heritage, BioSecurity Tasmania and Racing Integrity. In total, Tim has responsibility for over 600 staff with a total combined operating budget of approximately \$50 million.*

## People and Nature – personal perspectives on Country

The Djelk Rangers are part of an unbroken history of Indigenous use and management of the land and sea country in Arnhem Land. We are widely recognised for our application of Indigenous knowledge in the understanding of contemporary land and sea management issues and the integrity of our cultural governance.

We contribute to the stewardship of a culturally significant landscape that includes spectacular coastlines and rivers, floodplains, rainforest and savannah, and the rocky escarpments of the Arnhem Land Plateau.

Our lands are some of the most biodiverse and structurally intact landscapes in Australia but they face threats common to the rest of northern Australia: changing fire regimes, the decline of native species, and the spread of weeds and feral animals.

Out of our base in Maningrida, we work with our landowners to keep our land and sea country and our languages and cultural knowledge in good health. Our collective vision for our country is set out in our Djelk Healthy Country Plan. This builds on the work that we have been doing in collaboration with landowners and partner organisations for more than 20 years. It guides our operations on the surrounding land and sea country, including the country of the Djelk Indigenous Protected Area.



**JAMES BENTLEY**

*Manager Natural Value,  
Corporate Responsibility, NAB*

James is an experienced environmental economist having worked in UK government and international consulting firms and Australia's largest irrigation company providing advice on water resources and carbon market economics, environmental policy and natural resource risk management.

## Natural Capital – Building resilience in business with nature

Business is increasingly looking to understand more about, and account for, the linkages between natural capital and financial performance so these can be considered in business and financial decision-making. While the impacts of business activities on the environment are reasonably well understood, the linkages between natural capital and financial performance are not. NAB understands that natural capital degradation is both a commercial risk and an opportunity. For example, NAB is considering how good management of soils, nutrients, water and native vegetation (i.e. natural capital) on-farm can lower the risk of an agribusiness enterprise, improve resilience to extreme weather events and is linked to long-term sustained financial performance.

James will explain why the conservation sector is important to the finance sector, explore the case for valuation from a financiers' perspective, provide an update on NAB's Natural Value strategy – what we have done, learned and what is next?



**TODD BERKINSHAW**

*Executive General Manager,  
Strategy and National  
Operations, Greening Australia*

Todd is the Executive General Manager of Strategy and National Operations for Greening Australia and has over 20 years experience in the conservation sector. He leads a team of state and territory managers including Directors of Conservation, Lead Scientists and Restoration Ecologists who are focussed on the implementation of landscape-scale restoration programs across Australia.

Todd has been with Greening Australia for more than 15 years and has a wealth of knowledge about the Australian environment through facilitating large-scale collaborative conservation planning processes. He also leads the development of Greening Australia's flagship national programs including the Reef Aid, Nature in Cities, Indigenous Australia, Tasmania Island Ark and Southern Australia.

## Innovation in Restoration

Greening Australia is celebrating 35 years of conserving and restoring Australian landscapes, working in partnership with private landholders, farmers, indigenous communities and urban volunteers.

It is a good time therefore to look to the future and ask what will ecological restoration look like in 2050 (another 35 years) and what targets should we be setting ourselves now to achieve?

Greening Australia is seeking to answer these questions through the lens of five national flagship programs which were launched last month as part of our birthday celebrations. These include Reef Aid, Great Southern Landscapes, Tasmanian Island Ark, Nature in Cities and Thriving on Country. A number of these programs align to long term government strategies and ambitious program targets such as Reef 2050 and the Victorian Biodiversity Strategy.

A business-as-usual approach however is unlikely to achieve these goals and new innovative approaches will be required. This presentation will briefly explore some of the new innovations that Greening Australia is exploring as it looks to the year 2050 and another 35 years of conserving and restoring Australian landscapes.



**KEITH BRADBY**

*CEO, Gondwana Link*



**NERIDA BRADLEY**

*General Manager, Queensland  
Trust for Nature*

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*Keith is a long-time advocate for the ecological values of south-western Australia. In the 1990s he managed and reformed the Peel-Harvey catchment program and drove the process that ended large scale land clearing in south-western Australia. He has written one book, numerous articles and papers and co-wrote and narrated the award winning SBS documentary A Million Acres a Year. He conspired with friends to establish the Gondwana Link program and is currently its Chief Executive Officer. He also sits on the Board of the National Landcare Network and is Deputy Chair of WA Landcare Network.*

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*Nerida joined QTFN in 2016 after practising as a lawyer and strategic advisor in various areas of land law, environmental impact assessment, planning, natural resource and protected area management as well as regulatory reform. She has worked with public and private sector stakeholders including pastoralists, indigenous groups, miners and landcare groups. Along with substantial professional expertise, Nerida has a life-long commitment to making conservation outcomes feasible and achievable for all sectors of business and the community.*

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**DR SALLY BRYANT**

*Manager, Conservation Science and Planning, Tasmanian Land Conservancy*

*Sally is the Head of Science and Planning at the Tasmanian Land Conservancy after previously managing threatened species programs with the Tasmanian Government for 18 years. Sally travels widely researching island bird faunas and has published numerous books, chapters and scientific papers on a range of conservation issues. She is an Adjunct Lecturer at the University of Tasmania, on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Ecological Management & Restoration and her popular ABC Radio wildlife segment has been running fortnightly since 1999.*

## Accounting for nature and ecological monitoring – a case study on TLC’s 5 Rivers Reserve

The Tasmanian Land Conservancy protects a diverse range of habitats ranging from montane rainforest, woodlands to coastal wetlands. Our ecological monitoring program provides the scientifically robust data needed to inform their effective management. In 2016 TLC adopted the Wentworth Group’s ‘Accounting for Nature’ methodology as a way of interpreting our monitoring data in a consistent way by comparing the health and condition of our reserves against a basal reference point. As a trial we determined reference condition for our largest Five Rivers Reserve (over 11,100ha) then converted our monitoring data for key environmental assets into units of measure ‘Econds’ on a scale of 0 to 100 to show relative change over time. This environmental account can now be visually interpreted in a more meaningful way for scientists and supporters alike. As land managers this methodology will enable us to track the effectiveness of our management and to prioritise which of our reserves or which of their conservation assets need more attention and plan our work accordingly. We are intending to adopt this methodology to interpret monitoring data collected from other private protected lands in Tasmania as it can be up-scaled to provide regional environmental accounts for consistent and comparable state-wide reporting frameworks in the future.



**ANDREW CAMERON**

*Midlandscoapes Coordinator, Tasmanian Land Conservancy*

*Andrew has worked for the Tasmanian Land Conservancy since 2007 and is the coordinator for both the Midlandscapes Program and the Midlands Conservation Fund. Over the last 20 years he has worked on a number of major projects to establish long term conservation agreements with landholders in the Tasmanian Midlands in various roles as a negotiator, consultant stewardship officer or project coordinator.*

*Andrew also owns and operates a sheep grazing and conservation property in the Northern Midlands and brings this experience into the development of practical mechanisms for long term protection of native grasslands and woodlands on working farms.*

## The Midlands Conservation Fund – Sharing the Stewardship Risks of long term conservation on private land

The Tasmanian Midlands is recognised both as one of Australia’s 15 Biodiversity Hotspots and a productive farming landscape with 95% of its area in private ownership and well over 50% cleared for agriculture. It is home to twenty-two wetlands of national and/or state significance and the critically- endangered, EPBC-listed Lowland Native Grasslands of Tasmania. There are high levels of endemic and threatened species largely confined to this low rainfall, lowland region of Tasmania. Fragmentation and degradation of native ecosystems across the landscape is continuing.

For many key landholders, in perpetuity conservation covenants on title impose an unacceptable level of risk of future management costs, loss of income and asset value.

In respect of this challenge, Midlands Conservation Fund (MCF) was developed as a robust alternative to in-perpetuity covenants and land purchases for long term conservation in areas where these tools had failed to gain traction.

The MCF is essentially an endowment fund that can potentially support conservation stewardship on private land in perpetuity. The benefit of this program is that the financial risks of conservation management are shared between the landowner and the MCF.

For the landholder, conservation stewardship becomes a working priority when it reliably contributes to farm business income and is no longer a potential management liability or risk.

**PEPE CLARKE**

*Deputy Director, Outback to Oceans Program, Pew Charitable Trusts*

**PETER COCHRANE**

*Director NFPs, consultant, advisor, IUCN Councillor Oceania Region, Australian National University*

*Raised in Central Queensland, Pepe has a background in environmental law, policy and public advocacy. He leads the Pew Charitable Trusts' terrestrial conservation work in Australia, and has seventeen years experience working at the state, national and international level. He has previously worked for a number of conservation organisations, including the Environmental Defender's Office, Nature Conservation Council and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Most recently, he worked as Global Head of Policy for BirdLife International.*

## Conservation on Leasehold Land and Law in the Australian Outback

The Pew Charitable Trusts is an international non-profit research and public policy organisation that works with landholders, traditional owners, scientists, conservation organisations and policy makers in Australia to promote conservation and sustainable management of Outback landscapes.

Pastoral leasehold land covers about 40 per cent of the Outback, including areas of significant conservation value. Purchase and management of leasehold properties has become an important strategy for private land conservation. Pastoral land legislation and lease conditions vary between states, placing varying constraints on the conservation and use of leasehold lands.

This presentation will compare and contrast pastoral leasehold legislation and policy between states to better understand the extent to which these laws facilitate or constrain conservation of pastoral landscapes, and to identify opportunities for conservation-focused reform.

*Retiring from full-time employment in 2013, Peter has been appointed as a director of Ecotourism Australia, Tangaroa Blue Foundation and Earthwatch Australia Institute. He chairs the Steering Committee of the National Environmental Science Program's Marine Biodiversity Hub, the board of the Australian Tropical Herbarium and the Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute. He is a member of the Steering Group of the Protected Area Learning and Research Collaboration. He was elected in 2016 as a member of the Council and Bureau of the International Union for Conservation of Nature based in Switzerland. In 2017 he was appointed as a casual member of the NSW Planning Assessment Commission. He consults on environment and governance issues. Peter was Director of National Parks and head of Parks Australia from 1999-2013. From 1994-99 he was Deputy Executive Director of the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association. He was an adviser on sustainable development to two federal Ministers for Primary Industries and Energy from 1990-94. He has a BSC and Master of Public Policy from ANU.*

## Valuing nature globally

The case for conserving our natural world must resonate strongly and widely across and through economies and societies. While the dominant governing paradigm is essentially economic and the conservation message must often be couched in economic language, nature has social and cultural dimensions that also can resonate strongly and influence public thinking, debate, and action to drive change.

There is not one approach therefore to make the case for conserving nature but many – operating at different levels and sectors of society – from nature-based tourism, valuing and pricing ecosystem services, accounting for natural capital by governments and the private sector, the consequences for human health and wellbeing, and inspiration, reflection and learning from nature both as direct experience and through the arts.

These approaches do not necessarily mean putting a price on nature, but they may, and in fact should, help estimate the cost of its loss. It is often said we value something most when we no longer have it – we cannot afford to do that with our natural world.



**ANDREW COX**

*CEO, Invasive  
Species Council*



**HELEN CRAWFORD**

*Program Manager, Private  
Land Conservation Program,  
Department of Primary  
Industries, Parks, Water and  
Environment (Tas)*

*Andrew is CEO of the Invasive Species Council, where he leads a national non-government organisation specialising in stopping the arrival and spread of environmentally harmful feral animals, weeds and other invaders. He sits on committees advising the Queensland and NSW governments on biosecurity and the national feral cat taskforce, is Vice Chair of Environmental Justice Australia and is President of 4nature.*

*Helen has close to 20 years' experience in natural values conservation and management, working principally for the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment in various roles in public and private land conservation. She currently manages the Department's Private Land Conservation Program, which is responsible for establishing new conservation covenants and supporting the ongoing stewardship and administration of the existing private covenant estate. She is passionate about delivering good environmental outcomes and about providing ongoing support for landowners who have signed up to conservation agreements.*

## Crazy ants and feral deer – two influential landowner led initiatives

Invasive species are increasingly being recognised as a major threat to Australia's natural environment. For many animals such as mammals and frogs these are the main threats to their survival. With the arrival into Australia of new harmful invasive species, impacts are set to worsen.

Landholder responses are increasingly becoming more sophisticated. Two examples are used to demonstrate how landholder and community-led action is assisting policy responses and reducing invasive species impacts.

Yellow crazy ants can impact tropical rainforest ecosystems and agriculture. A handful of small ant infestations established on Queensland's eastern seaboard and in 2012 government withdrew support for eradication. Communities in Kuranda, Townsville and Brisbane have mobilised to undertake their own yellow crazy ant delimitation, treatment and fundraising for research.

Feral deer is the most important emerging pest in south eastern Australia. Despite their high numbers, State governments in NSW, Victoria and Tasmania continue to constrain feral deer control on private land and prioritise recreational hunting needs. In response to increasing pasture loss, environmental damage, road casualties and restrictions limiting their control efforts, land managers of south east NSW organised to engage with government and educate politicians and the media. Their goal was to lift restrictions on the control of feral deer by private land managers, to formulate a coordinated regional approach and the removal of the game status for deer.



**IAN CRESSWELL***Research Director, CSIRO***TODD DUDLEY***President, North East  
Bioregional Network*

*Ian is a CSIRO Research Director leading biodiversity and landscape science for the management of the environment, while ensuring broader economic and social benefit. He has extensive experience working in environment both nationally and internationally; including in reserve planning, fisheries/wildlife regulation, protected areas and biodiversity discovery.*

*Ian has worked extensively on protected areas, including the development of the National Reserve System and the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas (NRSMPA) in the 1990s. Working collaboratively with leading scientists from all jurisdictions he developed the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) and the Integrated Marine and Coastal Regionalisation for Australia (IMCRA), as well as the Collaborative Australian Protected Area Database (CAPAD). These tools standardised conservation assessment throughout Australia.*

*Ian is actively involved in major multi-institutional collaborations such as the Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network (TERN) and the Atlas of Living Australia, and maintains a research interest in mangroves and coastal systems.*

*Todd is the President of the North East Bioregional Network and Vice President of the North East Tasmania Land Trust. He has been involved with nature conservation on private and public land for over thirty years in both a professional and voluntary capacity in areas including ecological restoration/bush regeneration, environmental law, land use/conservation planning and environmental education. Current focuses include landscape scale ecological restoration at the Restore Skyline Tier project, improving conservation covenant laws, land use planning and the East Coast Conservation Corridor (cross tenure landscape scale conservation on the east coast of Tasmania).*

## Reporting the State of the Environment

Valuing nature is at an early stage in developing the tools required to provide robust accounts. Here we present some methods for making statements on the state and trend of environmental assets, and explore ways of supporting all landholders to value their ecological assets in a standard, repeatable way that could be adopted to underpin asset management. A nationally coordinated approach to managing our environment that encompasses all land tenures will provide the most effective strategy for valuing nature.

For private land conservation, determining investment priorities in environment management is a key need. Critically, we need a more comprehensive understanding of: (i) threatening processes; (ii) effectiveness of existing initiatives; (iii) mechanisms to learn from successes and failures and when to apply adaptive management; (iv) mechanisms for prioritizing the necessary actions required to maintain the ecological integrity of assets; (v) data on improvements in the condition of ecological assets arising from management actions; and (vi) optimising investment decisions and actions likely to provide the greatest outcomes (time, money, place). Critical to this will be better understanding the perspectives of private landholders and citizens, and building capacity to manage ecological assets.

*Ian wishes to acknowledge Josie Carwardine and Kristen Williams for providing content for the presentation.*

## Improving the protection of private land in Tasmania – a case study in NE Tasmania

North East Bioregional Network in conjunction with the Environmental Defenders Office Tasmania have recently produced a paper recommending strengthening conservation covenant legislation in Tasmania. The paper came about as a result of a “variation” to a perpetual covenant at Binalong Bay (Bay of Fires) being approved by the State and Federal Government which allowed for native vegetation under covenant to be excised and cleared for commercial tourist development. The local community who had fought a long battle to protect this land from inappropriate development were understandably confused and upset when land they thought was saved was allowed to be developed. The report makes a number of recommendations to reform the current legislation to ensure that covenants are more secure in the future. It also looks at other relevant issues such as the relationship between mining, forestry, biodiversity offsets and planning schemes and covenants and proper resourcing of covenanting programs to provide adequate information and resources to assist landowners who covenant their properties.

Conservation covenants are a fundamental part of securing long term private land nature conservation and as such both those entering into an agreement and the public in general must have confidence that the laws guarantee long term protection.



### MEL DURACK

*Hotham-Williams NRM  
Coordinator, Peel-Harvey  
Catchment Council*

*Mel works for the regional NRM body, Peel-Harvey Catchment Council in WA and is the Natural Resource Management Coordinator for the Hotham and Williams Rivers sub-catchment, located at the headwaters of the Peel-Harvey Catchment. After graduating in Environmental Science at Murdoch University, Mel worked in environmental management at Boddington Gold Mine (Newmont) for 13 years and has been employed by the PHCC, since 2014. Mel lives locally in the town of Boddington in South-West WA and owning a small landholding herself, she and her family are dedicated to private land conservation.*

*Mel is part of the team which re-invigorated NRM activities in the Hotham-Williams subcatchment. Due to changes in funding priorities, NRM activities had not existed in the sub-catchment for a number of years. Through new Federal Government funding, a dedicated Hotham-Williams NRM Plan was developed in consultation with the community. Through setting NRM priorities and by developing great partnerships with private landholders and the broader community a large number of onground projects have been delivered.*

## Valuing Nature in the Hotham-Williams

Reinvigoration of Natural Resource Management (NRM) in the Hotham-Williams has enabled 28 landowners to manage and protect 980ha of land for private conservation over a two year period.

Developing a business case enabled the community to identify the need for an NRM Plan and employment of a locally based NRM Officer to re-invigorate NRM in the Hotham-Williams. The Peel-Harvey Catchment Council (PHCC) delivered these aspirations through genuine community engagement, with implementation enabled through funding for landscape scale restoration.

The PHCC worked with landowners to deliver a series of conservation grants. As landholders saw the results of the first round, trust in the PHCC grew and more people were comfortable to engage and apply for funding, providing significant in-kind and financial contributions, value adding to on-ground works. The PHCC listened to the community, and built back community confidence that support was there for the longer term. The projects have delivered significant outcomes and re-enforced the importance of a strategic approach to identify and implement community priorities and the need for a constant NRM presence in the community.

*\*The Hotham-Williams is the upper portion of the Peel-Harvey surface water Catchment, covering an area of 573,000 ha south east of Perth.*



### SARAH ECCLES

*Aboriginal Partnership Officer,  
Bush Heritage Australia*

*Sarah works for Bush Heritage Australia as the Aboriginal Partnership Officer for the South East region. She is a Koori, Wathaurung woman on her father's side, from Western Victoria. Sarah supports Aboriginal partnership activities on Bush Heritage managed properties with a focus on integrating Traditional Owner led cultural heritage management. She is passionate about looking after culture and country, in a way that provides sustainable social and economic benefits for Aboriginal people.*

## Managing cultural landscapes in lutruwita (Tasmania)

*"A sacred place of all our ways, of all our spirits in this one place."  
Jimmy Everett*

*This is the music of millions of years playing here... that's what human ears have heard since the cradle of humanity." Bob Brown*

The Liffey Valley, in northern *lutruwita* is a cultural landscape shaped through generations of management, a meeting place that has brought a continuum of people together who've shared history, knowledge and stories, building cultural connections in the valley. It is not surprising that the birth of significant conservation initiatives, the Greens Party and Bush Heritage Australia were conceived here.

A collaborative cultural heritage project between the Tasmanian Aboriginal community and Bush Heritage Australia on the Oura Oura and Liffey River properties of the Liffey Valley has shown how important community involvement is in understanding and managing cultural landscapes.

*Co-presented with Andry Sculthorpe.*

**MARLA EDWARDS**

*Director of Development,  
The Nature Conservancy  
Australia*

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*Marla is The Nature Conservancy's Australia Director of Development. She is an innovative, corporate, business development and fundraising executive, with more than 15 years' experience steering business fundamentals that maximise growth for multinational corporations, not for profit and conservation organisations in both Australia and the USA. Marla holds a BA Science with Honours from the City University of New York, a Postgraduate Certificate in Business from UTS, a CFRE certificate in fundraising, and was awarded QUT's Vice Chancellor's Performance Award For outstanding achievement in teaching. Marla participated in The Nature Conservancy's CODA and Barbara Thomas Fellowship reviewing innovative conservation financing models.*

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**TIM FIELD**

*Ranger Ecologist,  
Banrock Station*

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*Tim grew up in the South East suburbs of Melbourne where he studied Natural Resource Management. Since 2004, Tim has worked on various conservation and land restoration projects along the River Murray and also in fox control, wildlife monitoring, threatened species management and flora surveying in Far East Gippsland. After volunteering on the Australian Antarctic division base to research and monitor Fur Seal populations, he was warmly welcomed to Banrock Station. Tim works on enhancing the diversity of Banrock Station through developing a more involved restoration and revegetation program, as well as looking at new ways to work towards an integrated pest animal management program on the property.*

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## The Grape, the Parrot and the Daisy: the story of a wine company helping bring back species from the brink

Banrock Station on the shore of the Murray River, in South Australia, is owned by one of the major wine businesses in the world (Accolade Wines, formerly Hardys Wines). Declared as one of Australia's Ramsar "wetlands of international importance" in 2002, it combines agricultural activities (vineyard), tourist venue (around 60,000 visitors annually), educational destination, and on-the-ground conservation of floodplain and mallee habitats.

Since 2007, Banrock Station has been involved in the community-lead group for the recovery of the nationally threatened Regent Parrot (eastern) that breeds along the Murray riparian woodland corridor. In 2013, a satellite tracking project was initiated to solve the mystery of the parrots' post-breeding movements and hopefully will help to solve the mystery of their decline.

Because of its environment credentials and location, Banrock Station was selected to reintroduce the nationally threatened Spiny Daisy, in its historical distribution range. In 2014, 396 daisies were planted and two years after the translocation, the survival rate of these reached 90% and 1090 ramets had been produced.

Since 1995, the company has been investing part of its profit to supporting conservation projects around the world. Banrock Station Environmental Trust's commitment to date exceeds AUD\$6 million to more than 130 projects in 13 countries. The long-term on-site restoration, the parrot tracking and the daisy translocation projects have been funded through the Banrock Station Environmental Trust.





# **PENELOPE FIGGIS AO**

*Vice Chair, for Oceania of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas*

Penelope is Vice Chair, for Oceania of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA). Penelope has had a long career in the NGO, academic and government sectors and is one of Australia's foremost conservation policy experts. She was seventeen years Vice President of the Australian Conservation Foundation and has served on the boards of many national and state statutory authorities as well as extensive public speaking, writing and lecturing. She was Director, Australian Committee for the International Union for Conservation of Nature (ACIUCN) from 2010-2014 during which time she convened many forums, created a major symposium series and generated three books and other publications. Her core areas of expertise are biodiversity and protected area policy, World Heritage, conservation on private lands, and nature based tourism. For her lifetime dedication to conservation she has been twice awarded Australian Honours.



# **DR JAMES FITZSIMONS**

*Director of Conservation (Australia Program), The Nature Conservancy*

James is Director of Conservation (Australia Program) with The Nature Conservancy where he oversees the conservation planning, science and policy functions for that program. Previous he worked in conservation planning and protected area policy for government and non-government organisations. He is an Adjunct Professor at Deakin University where he is involved in a number of cooperative research projects and has published numerous papers on practical conservation planning, protected area and land use policy and legislation and wildlife ecology and has co-edited four books (*Innovation for 21st Century Conservation*, *Linking Australia's Landscapes*, *Valuing Nature*, and *Big, Bold and Blue: Lessons from Australia's Marine Protected Areas*). He owns a 129 ha conservation covenant in central Victoria.

## Private land conservation in Australia – national trends and global developments

Australia has a long history of dedicated private land conservation programs – from Landcare, Land for Wildlife, tender-based approaches, conservation covenants, revolving funds and land trust holdings. Some of these approaches (e.g. Landcare, Land for Wildlife) have been taken up in other countries while for others, Australia has become a world leader. For example, while Privately Protected Areas (PPAs) are known to be under-reported globally, Australia is likely to have the second highest number (behind the US) and largest total area of PPAs of all countries. In September 2013, Australia had 5,000 terrestrial properties that could be considered PPAs (covenants and land trust reserves) in covering 8,913,000 ha. The trend is for a growing demand from landholders for some programs (such as establishing new conservation covenants on their lands) but for others, growth is slow or declining. As global recognition of the importance of private land conservation grows, initiatives to coordinate and learn from varying approaches to private land conservation efforts across many countries and jurisdictions are forming. These include the development of Global Best Practices in PPAs by the IUCN (to be released in late 2018) and international conferences and forums of the International Land Conservation Network.

**ATTICUS FLEMING**

CEO, Australian Wildlife Conservancy

**BRENDAN FORAN**

CEO, Greening Australia

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*Atticus is the inaugural Chief Executive of Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC), which manages almost 4 million hectares across iconic regions such as the Kimberley, the Top End and central Australia. Prior to AWC, Atticus worked as an advisor to Australia's longest serving Federal Environment Minister, the Hon Robert Hill, and as a corporate and commercial lawyer. Atticus was one of four WA finalists in the 2014 Australian of the Year awards and in 2016 was named by Australian Geographic as one of 30 people who have had the greatest influence on conservation of Australia's wildlife over the last 30 years.*

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## Measuring ecological health – tracking effectiveness and efficiency

Conservation organisations – government and non-government – spend around \$1 billion per annum on the management of protected areas around Australia. Yet the recent State of the Environment report indicates that we are continuing to lose our biodiversity.

How do we generate a better return on this \$1 billion investment?

A first step is to improve our ability to measure changes in the ecological health of protected areas – ie, we need to be better at quantifying and tracking the effectiveness of our investments in protected area management. It is critical we differentiate between land management strategies that are effective in improving ecological health; those that are less effective; and those that are ineffective. This requires good and consistent science, so that as far as practicable our assessments are objective and based on relevant data.

A second, often overlooked, step is the need to rigorously account for the cost of land management strategies. It is not enough to be effective – given finite resources, we need to also discriminate between land management strategies on the basis of cost.

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*Since joining Greening Australia as CEO in 2011, Brendan has led an organisation wide governance and strategy reform program that has led to greater levels of impact, efficiency and resilience. He believes that not-for-profit organisations are born out of a need for change and must regularly evaluate themselves to stay focused, relevant and aligned with their internal and external stakeholders. Before joining Greening Australia, Brendan was the Corporate Affairs Manager – Eastern States for Alcoa of Australia. Brendan holds an MBA and an Advanced Diploma in Business Management from the University of Ballarat. Brendan has extensive experience in business management and strategy development, with strengths in government relations and liaison, community and stakeholder relations and organisational transformation. He was a 2011 Rotary Foundation Group Study Exchange participant in Iceland and a 2016 Harvard Club of Australia non-profit fellow. Prior to working for Alcoa, Brendan was an Environmental Program Leader for Conservation Volunteers Australia from 1999 to 2001, and developed and operated his own business in the UK.*

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### JAMES FORBES

*Advancement Director,  
Australian Indigenous  
Education Foundation*

*James' career in not for profit marketing and fundraising spans 13 years and five organisations across the arts, HIV/AIDS and environment. As Marketing Manager at the Nature Conservation Trust of NSW (NCT) (2011–17) he helped turn the Revolving Fund (valued at AUD\$10m) into the most successful in Australia as benchmarked against other Revolving Funds and assessed by an independent agency. In 2016 James was a finalist as Not for Profit Executive of the Year for the CEO Magazine's Executive of the Year Awards. James is now the Advancement Director with the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation.*

## Marketing Revolving Funds: Secrets to Success

Are Revolving Funds a serious part of the solution to biodiversity protection? And if so how do we manage them to ensure they're effective?

James Forbes walks us through how he helped reposition the Nature Conservation Trust (NCT) as a successful rural real estate business ranking on Google's first page with commercial competitors.

- Changed visual identity (look & feel) to more closely resemble other rural real estate businesses
- Shifted content away from biodiversity information as the primary content to focus on audience needs first: house, access, infrastructure, power, water etc; added professional standard photography and videography
- Targeted two key audiences – which also drove the buying strategy – lifestyle (treechangers, hobby farmers, weekenders) and farmers (serious ag enterprises willing to partner with conservation).
- Undertook a transformation of the digital channels including the website's SEO, social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube
- Gradually transferred advertising away from print to predominantly digital through Google Adwords, Youtube and Facebook

The result: Helped shift the NCT Revolving Fund from an average 8% loss on sale to 5% profit on sale in 4 years and in the last financial year reached over 2.2 million people.

James shares his secrets to success that helped massively increase awareness of NCT properties for sale and turn the Revolving Fund into a profit centre for the NCT.



### GRAEME GARDNER

*Manager, Aboriginal Land  
Council Tasmania*

*Graeme is a pakana man. Since 2001 he has been the Manager of the Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania (ALCT). The ALCT holds and manages Aboriginal land on behalf of the Aboriginal people of Tasmania. Graeme's role includes advocating for the return of land, community and social justice and implementing land management activity on Aboriginal land.*

## Presenting the *truwana* Rangers

The *truwana* Rangers live and work on their land – Aboriginal land. *truwana* / Cape Barren Island is the second largest island in the Furneaux group of islands in Bass Strait, off north east Tasmania. Graeme will introduce delegates to the island, and to the *truwana* Rangers.

**JOSH GILBERT**

*Director, Australian Farmers for Climate Action*

*Josh is a Worimi man who uses Indigenous wisdom and values, alongside his environmental and agricultural knowledge to shape modern society. Josh is a Director with Australian Farmers for Climate Action and on the Board of Intrepid Landcare. Josh works as a Manager with PwCs Indigenous Consulting.*

*Josh has recently been recognised as the Australian Geographic Young Conservationist of the Year, the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage's Young Sustainability Champion and the Foundation for Young Australians' Local Legend Award. Josh was previously the Chair of the NSW Young Farmers and led the NSW Young Farmers' Council in moving one of the first international agricultural climate change motions at the NSW Farmers Annual Conference in 2015. The motion gained the attention of Al Gore, who asked Josh to be a part of his Climate Reality Project. Josh's Climate Reality Project video, 'Australia's Young Green Farmers', was viewed in over 75 countries, by over 100 million people. Josh was subsequently named in Pro Bono Australia's Impact 25 as one of the top 25 most influential people in Australia.*

*Josh is creating change by breaking stereotypes and using Indigenous storylines, songlines and a strength-based narrative to bring people to new understandings of the value of the environment and agriculture.*

## Changing minds on climate – new perspectives for Australian farmers

A few years ago, farmers were calling for a Royal Commission as to whether climate change was real. What started as creating the first proactive international climate change policy by an agricultural organisation, has led to the creation of Australian Farmers for Climate Action, a 600 strong farmer membership group seeking good climate policy and action on renewables. We are committed to working with farmers from all across Australia to communicate issues relating to climate change and support farmers to be part of the solution to climate change through climate-smart farming practices. We recognize that many farmers are already leading the way.

**DR KAREN GUYMER**

*Bushland Projects Officer, Wingecarribee Shire Council*

*Karen works in local government in NSW as a Bushland Projects Officer delivering award-winning private land conservation programs and projects. Karen has worked at Wingecarribee Shire Council, a biodiversity hotspot situated between Canberra and Sydney in the Southern Highlands, for the past five years. Karen has worked as a community representative on a variety of natural resource management advisory committees within National Parks and Wildlife Service and the former catchment authorities. Karen was a catchment manager and catchment officer with the Department of Land and Water Conservation in Moss Vale for six years, delivering a variety of frontline natural resource management programs and projects. Early in her career Karen spent two years with NSW Agriculture in Orange delivering an education and awareness program WaterWise on the Farm. Karen has a first-class honours degree and PhD in Agricultural Science from the University of Sydney, a graduate certificate in public sector management and a certificate in training and assessment.*

## Wildlife Conservation in Wingecarribee

Wingecarribee Shire is a 2,700km<sup>2</sup> semi-rural biodiversity hotspot within the Sydney to Canberra corridor. It supports over 472 native animal species, (56 of which are endangered), 2,057 native plant species (128 of which are endangered). Fifteen endangered ecological communities are found within the shire. The Southern Highlands Link lies within the Great Eastern Ranges which provides the big picture vision of landscape-scale conservation. The community of the Wingecarribee Shire values the environment, as articulated within the Wingecarribee 2,031+ Community Strategic Plan that Wingecarribee's distinct and diverse natural environment is protected and enhanced.

The Southern Highlands is home to an estimated 3,000 Koalas, the largest population in southern NSW. A ten-fold increase in Koala sightings has been made since the Southern Highlands Koala Conservation Project commenced in 2014, following an intense fire. This iconic species will guide investment and conservation effort in key areas within the shire.

The Private Land Biodiversity Conservation Strategic Plan (2014–2019) has been implemented over the past four years, building on previous efforts. Education and capacity building through the production of quality information resources and practical land management workshops is a key focus of the programs. The three-tiered approach to conservation through Habitat for Wildlife (HFW) for urban and peri-urban residents, Land for Wildlife (LFW) for larger properties and the Vegetation Conservation Program (VCP) for high value remnants >2ha, is an approach that works for this shire. Around 2,900 hectares or 5.2 percent of extant native vegetation is conserved in LFW agreements on private land. A relatively modest investment has resulted in some great outcomes, particularly the capacity building of a network of landholders interested in wildlife and nature conservation.

**FERN HAMES**

*Science Manager  
Communication and  
Collaboration, Arthur Rylah  
Institute for Environmental  
Research, Department of  
Environment, Land, Water and  
Planning*

*Fern builds links between the research programs at the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research (ARI; part of the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning) and between the science, research partners and the community. These links mean that ARI's applied research can truly help guide on-ground actions for biodiversity, and underpin policy decisions. Fern has three decades of experience across freshwater fish and aquaculture research, policy development, stakeholder and community engagement, environmental education and citizen science, particularly in the Murray-Darling Basin. She was a founding member of the Jane Goodall Institute Australia; is a Fellow of the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation; has volunteered in Tanzania, Pakistan and Myanmar; and participated in the inaugural women's Homeward Bound leadership journey to Antarctica in 2016. She is passionate about wild places, and about connecting people with nature.*

## Fire Cycle: growing natural and human recovery after a firestorm

The 2009 'Black Saturday' wildfires in Victoria were a major, traumatic event for people and also had an enormous impact on the natural environment. Affected species included the nationally threatened Barred Galaxias; a tiny freshwater fish found only in the headwaters of the Goulburn River. Post-fire rains were expected to cause massive silt mobilisation, and smothering of fish and habitats. Fire recovery actions included collecting a sample of fish from affected streams, and moving them to secure aquaria, while their habitat recovered. Simultaneously, fire-affected residents experienced a similar process; moving elsewhere while their homes were rebuilt. People recognised the synergy in the fish's story and their own; moving house while their home recovered. Applying principles of trauma recovery, we worked collaboratively with local communities to give people a sense of control and connect them back to nature. This enhanced their valuing of nature, and triggered ongoing advocacy. We witnessed a cycle of paired recovery, in which natural recovery supported human recovery, and the recovering human community continued to support natural values recovery. This example demonstrates how connecting, valuing and acting for nature, can benefit people and nature; a key goal of Victoria's new Biodiversity Plan; *Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037*.

**MAT HARDY**

*PHD Graduand,  
RMIT University*

*Mat has just completed his PhD at RMIT University, which explored the use of revolving funds for protecting nature on private land. He has published various articles on private land conservation, including on revolving funds, conservation covenants, and land stewardship. Mat is also the current Revolving Fund Coordinator for Trust for Nature (Victoria), and has worked previously in the private land conservation, landscape restoration and water management fields, predominantly in the non-government sector. Mat's research interests include the implementation and effectiveness of Privately Protected Areas, the ongoing stewardship of private land for nature conservation, and conservation policy.*

## Comparing acquisition strategies for private land conservation revolving funds

The acquisition of private land with conservation value is an important part of global conservation efforts. Revolving funds offer conservation organisations the ability to acquire private land with conservation value, and then on-sell it to new conservation-minded owners, in the process recouping costs and adding a permanent conservation agreement to protect the property's ecological values. However, the amount of conservation achieved by revolving funds over time is constrained by property purchases and sales, which are linked to the size of the fund and the type of acquisition strategy used. Drawing on historical data from all major revolving fund programs in Australia, we developed a simulation model to explore the effect of different acquisition strategies over a 100 year period, across three fund sizes (\$1m, \$5m and \$20m). For all fund sizes, the resale-focussed strategies delivered consistently higher conservation gains. The larger (\$20m) fund delivered the greatest return on investment (ROI) and also had the least varied ROI across all fund sizes. Increasing the size of revolving funds may allow for their greater contribution to conservation outcomes on private land, but only if the supply of, and demand for conservation properties exist.





**ASSOC PROF DARLA  
HATTON MACDONALD**

*Associate Professor of Resource Economics, Tasmanian School of Business & Economics, University of Tasmania*



**HUGO HOPTON**

*CEO, Nature Foundation SA*

*Darla joined the Tasmanian School of Business and Economics in 2015. Previously she was at the CSIRO in the Land and Water Division for 15 years. She teaches primarily in the area of Environmental and Resource Economics as part of the new Resource Economics major in this area as part of the Bachelor of Economics degree at UTas. Darla's primary area of research is in non-market valuation where she examines the values people hold for restoring habitat areas across landscapes (Upper SE of South Australia; Pilbara region; southern connected Murray-Darling Basin). Her research is used as evidence in public policy debates being cited extensively in the Guide to the proposed Murray-Darling Basin Water Sharing Plan, Regulation Impact Statements, South Australian position statement on the proposed Basin Plan.*

*Hugo's passion for nature conservation was germinated from a love of the outdoors, farming and from an early age. A career starting as a professional forester in the South East pine forests evolved into leadership of South Australia's revegetation program, supporting and working with farmers, Landcare groups, scientists and industry to tackle environmental degradation and improve agricultural productivity. Hugo then worked with the SE community to develop the first catchment water management plan and highly contested but respected groundwater sharing plans. He led the staff of the Natural Resources Management Board in the South East and then the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin, responsible for high-performing teams which delivered for regional communities and governments programs as diverse as multimillion dollar irrigation efficiency, fire and park management, private land conservation, water allocation, environmental watering, Aboriginal Learning on Country, pest plant and animal control, schools programs and River Murray infrastructure projects. Hugo now leads Nature Foundation as its CEO with a burning desire to see it make an enduring positive difference to the prospects of nature and landscape, and the way society values them.*

## Non-Market Values: What are they? What can we do with them?

Many land-use decisions involve a series of financial costs borne by landholders. Conservation of native vegetation can have a number of tangible and intangible private benefits for landholders but more often, the benefits extend to a wider society. Increasingly, these wider societal values are being used as evidence to justify changes in public policies. Economists working in environmental economics have been establishing a catalogue of these benefits across Australian landscapes. What do we need to be aware of in these estimates? What other potential uses for this information are possible?

**GARY HOWLING**

*Director, Great Eastern Ranges Initiative*

*Gary is a Director of the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative (GER), and ecologist working in the field of connectivity conservation and Australasian migration ecology. He has worked as part of the team establishing and implementing the GER since early 2008. As a member of the newly formed board overseeing the GER, Gary continues to be involved in providing regional and program-wide partnerships with specialist scientific conservation advice to guide connectivity conservation efforts. His role also involves communicating the importance of collaboration across and between stakeholders and landscapes, and putting this into practice through his links with other initiatives such as Gondwana Link and the FAUNA Research Alliance.*

## Connectivity Conservation: Sustaining Natural Values on a Continental Scale

The Great Eastern Ranges Initiative (GER) was established in 2007 as a bold response to the growing impacts of loss of nature and native species across eastern Australia. Spanning 3,600 kilometres from Cape York and the wet tropics, to the Grampians in western Victoria, the Ranges comprise a network of interconnected natural habitats. They support wildlife movements across seasons and landscapes, maintain the ecological processes that sustain immense carbon sinks and nutrient cycling systems, and are essential for the provision of fresh water for 11 million people. Natural processes operating at this scale cannot be managed through individual, disconnected efforts. 'Connectivity conservation' provides a tenure-blind approach that links efforts through a vision shared across land tenures, community sectors and landscapes. Over the last decade, GER has stimulated the formation of regionally-based partnerships to achieve connectivity conservation outcomes in ten landscapes between the Sunshine Coast and Central Victoria. As it reaches its tenth anniversary, the GER is implementing plans to support an even broader network of partnerships across the GER.

*Gary Howling and Bob Debus.*

**TERRY HUBBARD  
OAM**

*Chair, National Landcare Network*

*After a varied working life in the Victorian Public Service, in Papua New Guinea, in Local Government and then in private enterprise, Terry moved from the Yarra Valley to Flowerdale in the early 1990s where he and his wife Janet farm sheep and cattle on their property, The Three Sisters. Thus began Terry's interest in restoring a run-down, weed infested and severely eroded property. In collaboration with the Goulburn Broken CMA most of the waterways on the property have now been fenced out, thousands of trees and understorey planted and subdivisional fences built to better manage stock.*

*Terry is the immediate Past President of the Strath Creek Landcare Group and the Upper Goulburn Landcare Network, positions held for over 15 years, is currently the Chair of Landcare Victoria Incorporated, (the peak body representing Landcarers in Victoria following the recent merge of the Victorian Landcare Council with the Farm Trees and Landcare Association), and Chair of the National Landcare Network. Terry serves on a number of Advisory Committees including the Riparian Advisory Forum, the Landcare Community Reference Group and the Victorian Blackberry Taskforce.*

*Terry was awarded the medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2016 for services to conservation and the environment.*

## Joining hands – Landcare collaborations

Terry and Doug chair Australia's leading national Landcare organisations and are hoping for a new era for Landcare. They are determined to create a single voice for the Landcare movement that will connect its participants across Australia and empower the movement in being represented nationally.

Terry and Doug's different but distinctive journeys embody the Landcare ethic as illustrated by Terry recently being awarded the prestigious 2017 Joan Kirner Landcare Award in Victoria's awards, for his outstanding contribution to Landcare. Doug has come more recently to Landcare.

What is Landcare? Who was Joan Kirner? What is the Landcare movement? What is the Landcare ethic? What does a single voice for Landcare look like? What is the National Landcare Program? Where is Landcare going?

Terry and Doug will zip open the Landcare box and have a conversation where these questions and more have an airing.

*Co-presented with Doug Humann AM.*

**TIM HUGHES***Director, South Endeavour Trust*

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*Tim is a Director of South Endeavour Trust. He oversees the management of the Trust and its 16 private conservation reserves in Queensland and New South Wales. Tim was previously Chair of the Nature Conservation Trust of NSW and was instrumental in the founding of ALCA. Before working full time in conservation he was a senior executive in the finance industry and wrote a column on economics and finance for the Brisbane Courier-Mail. He currently sits on the the board of emerging listed biotech company, Factor Therapeutics, and is a member of the Investment Committee of HESTA, a \$40 billion superannuation fund for the health industry. He has first class honours degrees in Geology and Economics and a masters in Natural Resource Management.*

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## Conservation, degraded land management and the Great Barrier Reef – a story from Cape York

Science tells us that the Great Barrier Reef is under serious threat. The greater part of that threat comes from climate change, but water quality also plays a substantial role, particularly in terms of increasing the resilience of the Reef to the threat of climate change. The Northern section of the GBR World Heritage Area is the most pristine but even it is facing issues with water quality. The major river flowing into the GBR lagoon in this northern section is the Normanby. A large part of the critical part of its catchment is now being managed for conservation by public, indigenous and private conservation managers. South Endeavour is the second largest landholder in the critical area. We and our neighbours are seeking to come to grips with what needs to be done to improve Reef water quality, but the issues are many and the solutions challenging.

**DOUG HUMANN AM***Development Director, Protected Areas Learning and Research Collaboration**Chair, Landcare Australia*

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*Doug has around 30 years of leadership experience in the NGO sector across Australia and runs his own consultancy, working principally with environmental NGOs, as well as Indigenous groups, natural resource management authorities, corporate clients and governments. Doug is the current Chairman of Landcare Australia, Convenor of the National Parks Advisory Council (Victoria) and Deputy Chair of Dhelkunya Dja Traditional Owner Land Management Board (Victoria). He also sits on the Advisory Board of the Conservation Ecology Centre (Cape Otway, Victoria) and the Melbourne Indigenous Transition School Fundraising Committee. He is the Development Director for the Protected Areas Learning and Research Collaboration and was CEO of Bush Heritage Australia (1997-2011) after leading the Victorian National Parks Association (1990-97).*

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## PALRC; opportunities for increasing management competencies and awareness through Australia and the region

The Protected Areas Learning and Research Collaboration [www.palrc.com](http://www.palrc.com) is a tertiary and vocational education and research initiative for Australia, Asia and the Pacific. It originated in Hobart and is hosted by the Tasmanian Land Conservancy.

This presentation outlines the purpose for and objectives of the PALRC and describes the opportunities in Australia to improve management capabilities in protected areas.

It will address training needs and opportunities, including: the range of requirements in Indigenous, government and NGO protected areas; cultural heritage management; recognition of prior learning and Traditional Knowledge; scholarship opportunities; and pathways through vocational training to higher education.

PALRC offers short course opportunities which will be of particular interest. In addition, there are graduate certificate, masters courses and field intensives offered through the University of Tasmania, Murdoch, James Cook, Charles Darwin and Charles Sturt universities. Courses address selected competences from A Global Register of Competences for Protected Area Practitioners.



**ANGUS HUME**

*Chair, Victorian Catchment Management Council*

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*Angus is the Chair of the Victorian Catchment Management Council, a statewide advisory body on natural resource management. He holds qualifications in education and company directorship.*

*Angus has learned of natural resource management and sustainable agriculture through his experiences as a dairy farmer in South Gippsland and employment with the Department of Primary Industries. His past leadership has been in the Not For Profit sector and government as CEO of West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA) and Greening Australia NSW; Chair, Natural Resource Management Regions, Australia; Chair, WGCMA; Chair, Our Catchments Our Communities Strategic Reference Group and Co-Chair, Gippsland Lakes Coordinating Committee. Angus describes his time as Officer-in-Charge with Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition (ANARE) on Macquarie Island as the pinnacle of his working life.*

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**JANE HUTCHINSON**

*CEO, Tasmanian Land Conservancy*

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*Jane is the CEO of the Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC). Started from humble beginnings with only \$50 in the bank, the TLC has grown to become one of the largest private landowners in Tasmania, working in partnership with landowners, governments and supporters to achieve nature conservation across more than 2% of Tasmania's private land. Since becoming CEO, Jane has managed several multi-million dollar conservation projects, established the Tasmanian Land Conservancy Foundation, a long term endowment to achieve a perpetual income stream to steward the TLC's Reserves, monetised a carbon initiative and overseen the implementation of the Midlands Conservation Fund (MCF), a partnership with farmers, Bush Heritage Australia and the State and Commonwealth governments to put nature conservation on farm balance sheets in the Tasmanian Midlands.*

*Jane has a combined Science and Law degree with honours in Law from the University of Tasmania. She was awarded the 2016 Tasmanian Australian of the Year for her achievements for nature conservation.*

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**BRETT KERR**

*Manager – Protected Area Strategy, Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection*

*Brett has worked for the Queensland Government for over 15 years in a variety of conservation roles, including as a park ranger and a wildlife ranger, and manager of large scale koala habitat revegetation projects. Most of his career has been focussed on the private land conservation field, principally as a field officer and manager within the Queensland Government's Nature Refuges Program, and in recent times, contributing to policy development on private protected areas and running the legislative program for the development of a new class of privately protected area – the Special Wildlife Reserve.*

*When Brett needs to escape the world of government policy development, he spends time bemusing his neighbours by hand-treating weeds on his 4 hectare bush block on the Gold Coast.*

## Who's Interested in Private National Parks?

As it turns out, a lot of people are interested in the concept of private national parks, within government, industry and the community. A consideration of the values placed on land by those interested people is at the heart of the development of a proposal for a new class of privately protected area in Queensland.

While it is clear that many areas critical to biodiversity are owned by private families, organisations or individuals, and the need to fully protect such areas has long been recognised, in Queensland there has been no clear legislative basis on which to achieve this. In June 2017, the Queensland Government introduced a bill into Parliament to create a new class of privately protected area (a special wildlife reserve) that intends to provide national park-level protection for private land of exceptional conservation value.

This presentation will discuss the process that was undertaken to create the bill, with a focus on the broad range of values in land – social and cultural, economic and environmental – that had to be considered in the development of the policy and the drafting of the legislation for special wildlife reserves.

**PAUL KIRBY**

*Manager Legal Services, Queen Elizabeth II National Trust*

*Paul is a Legal Counsel for Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust. He has been at the Trust for 6 years and lives just outside Wellington with his wife and three daughters. Prior to working at the National Trust Paul worked as a general practice lawyer. He was the first full time lawyer employed by the National Trust and has assisted the National Trust in successfully defending its covenants in the courts. He feels privileged in working for the National Trust and being able to see the amazing work that goes on protecting landscapes and nature on private land in New Zealand.*

## Inspiring Landowners – protecting and valuing nature in New Zealand

The National Trust in New Zealand protects biodiversity, landscapes, cultural and heritage sites on private land. We help landowners to protect the values on their land, we are the mechanism for landowners wanting to leave a legacy. Landowners come to us because they understand protection of these areas is essential. We have recently obtained a report on the value of the landowner contribution. They understand the importance of the role they play to protect the land they own and for all New Zealanders. Compliance and a legal regime is necessary for protection, but is not the basis for a constructive relationship. Our relationship with landowners is based on fulfilling their legacy in the best way we can. I will present some specific examples of landowners who are inspiring. I will explain how we inspire secondary landowners to meet their expectations.





**PROF JAMIE  
KIRKPATRICK AM**

*Professor of Geography and  
Environmental Studies,  
University of Tasmania*

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*Jamie is Distinguished Professor of Geography and Environmental Studies in the School of Land and Food of the University of Tasmania. He teaches in the undergraduate program and supervises 15-20 postgraduate and honours students working on a variety of topics. His main research loves are alpine, grassy, coastal and garden ecosystems, nature conservation and the politics of environment. He has been recognized by several national awards and prizes for his work developing methods for planning reserves and his contribution to forest conservation and world heritage matters, and has been recognized internationally for producing the seminal work on minimum set reservation planning methods.*

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**CLAIRE KONKES**

*Lecturer, Journalism, Media and  
Communications, University of  
Tasmania*

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*Claire lectures in Journalism, Media and Communication at the University of Tasmania. Her research interests include how news media informs public opinion about environmental policy and how reporting on legal matters informs public debate. Before joining UTas in 2010, Claire worked as a journalist and her work has appeared in several publications, including The Australian and The Monthly. Before journalism, she worked with a number of environmental NGOs, including the Tarkine National Coalition and Bush Heritage Australia.*

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## Changing Landscapes: Media's challenges and opportunities for environmental policy

Media, especially news media, has long played a key strategic role for raising public awareness and promoting policy about the environment. The changing media landscape means that those seeking to promote conservation, and environmental matters more broadly, are facing new opportunities and challenges to getting their message out there – and to mobilise public and political support for our natural places. This brief presentation discusses a longitudinal study of Australian news coverage of the Great Barrier Reef (1974-2012) to present a picture of how media representations of conservation and protection have shifted from being largely celebrated in media (seriously) to more recently being represented more negatively. Communication strategies in the more recent Mackay Conservation Group's challenge against Adani will be discussed before a brief traverse of recent findings about how digital platforms are (or can be) used to engage and mobilise people.

**MARNIE LASSEN**

*Strategic Projects Manager,  
Trust for Nature (Victoria)*

Marnie works with Trust for Nature, Victoria's dedicated private land conservation agency. In her role as Strategic Projects Manager, Marnie is responsible for leading strategy, innovation and the development of new conservation finance opportunities and partnerships. Marnie's professional career has been split between Australia and the US, working in conservation in both countries and practising as an environmental and planning lawyer in Los Angeles. She holds a Bachelor of Laws with Honours and a Bachelor of Arts from Monash University. In 2015 Marnie participated in The Nature Conservancy's Coda and Barbara Thomas Fellowship program investigating how conservation is funded in North America. In 2017 Marnie was selected for the Kinship Conservation Fellowship program in the US, where she studied market-based solutions that address environmental challenges.

## Measuring the true value of private land conservation – a case study

National Australia Bank and Trust for Nature commissioned world-leading natural capital valuation consultant, Trucost, to quantify the value that Trust for Nature's permanent protection programs provide. Increasingly, conservation organisations like Trust for Nature are seeking tools that allow them to describe the benefits of their work in economic as well as ecological terms. The pilot study by Trucost was Trust for Nature's first step in doing so.

For NAB – Australia's largest agribusiness lender – this study was part of its broader efforts to show that more sustainable land uses can deliver back real value to farmers and their investors.

The pilot study valued the carbon sequestration, erosion control, waste treatment and extreme weather event moderation services provided by Trust for Nature's protected estate in three study areas across Victoria. Marnie will present the key findings of the study, how Trust for Nature plans to use the data, and some of the challenges encountered in valuing nature in monetary terms.

**PROF TED LEFROY**

*Director, Centre for  
Environment, University of  
Tasmania*

Ted studied agricultural science and worked in rural extension in Australia and Papua New Guinea for 15 years before embarking on a research career focused on improving the environmental sustainability and nature conservation value of farming systems. He has worked for the Queensland and Western Australian Departments of Agriculture, the Royal Tasmanian Botanic Gardens, The University of Western Australia and CSIRO and since 2005 has been Director of the Centre for Environment at the University of Tasmania.

## Solving wicked problems with simplicity

For every complex problem there is a simple solution that's wrong. In other words there are no simple solutions to wicked problems but there are useful ways to approach wicked problems. Wicked problems are problems with no right answer. They have no right answer because they involve a mixture of facts and values. There are right facts there are no right values, the virtues that guide us in our dealings with others.

*The search for scientific bases for confronting problems of social policy is bound to fail because of the nature of these problems. They are "wicked" problems, whereas science has developed to deal with "tame" problems.*

*Rittel & Webber (1973). Dilemmas in a general theory of planning. Policy Sciences, 4(2), 155–169.*

So the first rule of wicked problems is to work out 'Who wants what outcome?' In other words, who's involved and what are their goals. Only when the goals have been defined can you proceed. A common mistake is to assume that we are starting with shared goals when they have not been clearly articulated, are not shared, or are not achievable. So don't just do something, sit there. Until you have established that 1) The goals have been clearly articulated, 2) They have been endorsed by those involved and as much as possible those affected, and 3) The goals are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time bound (SMART).



**PROF DARRYL  
LOW CHOY**

*Professor Emeritus,  
Environmental and Landscape  
Planning, Griffith University*



**VICTORIA MARLES**

*CEO, Trust for Nature (Victoria)*

*Darryl is Professor Emeritus (Environmental and Landscape Planning) at Griffith University. He is a Registered Planner and Fellow of the Planning Institute of Australia and a Fellow of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand. He is leading research into climate change adaptation for human settlements; planning for water sensitive cities; incorporating indigenous landscape values in planning; community led planning and community resilience for peri-urban and hazard prone areas. He has completed major secondments to State Government planning initiatives and has served on state and national government boards and committees advising on environmental planning and NRM matters. He has a Visiting Professorship for Senior International Scientists of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.*

*Victoria joined Trust for Nature as CEO in 2009, recognising the value of the organisation's work in protecting the state of Victoria's vulnerable biodiversity. Victoria brings extensive legal and management expertise to Trust for Nature, being a solicitor by training, with her previous roles including the inaugural Legal Services Commissioner and ten years with the Communications Law Centre. Victoria is currently Chair of the Abbotsford Convent Foundation and a board member of the Consumer Action Law Centre. In her spare time, Victoria is a keen bike rider, cycling trails through the city and the bush. She also has a continuing passion for the arts, having graduated in drama at the Victorian College of the Arts.*

## Protecting Indigenous Landscape Values through Statutory Land Use Planning

Many contemporary statutory and non-statutory land use and natural resource management planning initiatives have embraced a values-led planning approach that recognise typical core values such as biodiversity, agricultural production, ecosystem services and outdoor recreation values.

At the same time, there have been increasing calls to recognise and respect culturally diverse values in public policy. However, a quick scan of most contemporary plans reveals a significant hiatus in the recognition and incorporation of indigenous landscape values.

This is most noticeable in metropolitan regions, especially their peri-urban areas which characteristically are highly contested spaces with a multitude of community/environmental values all vying for recognition in the land use allocation process. Typical of these long settled regions is the dominance of freehold tenure and very limited recognised native title land. Hence, a question arises as to the adequacy of statutory land use planning to protect Indigenous landscape values, both in the spatially limited Native Title lands and in the more ubiquitous freehold land which is rarely controlled by its Traditional Owners.

Drawing on extensive research into the incorporation of Indigenous landscape values into planning and experience gained from working with peri-urban Native Title holders engaged with the statutory land use planning system at local and regional levels, this paper will explore opportunities for protecting indigenous landscape values through statutory land use planning in circumstances of both Traditional Owners who have successfully (re)gained Native Title and those groups that have not and may never do so. The paper will draw on research and planning experience from the South East Queensland region where over 84% of the land is freehold, where some 36% of Queensland's Indigenous population reside and where only 2.4% of the region has thus far been determined as exclusive Native Title land.

## Private land conservation networks

Conservation on privately owned land is increasing in many countries around the world. There are organisations and individuals actively managing and/or permanently protecting privately owned land in nearly 100 countries. There is also an expanding range of approaches and tools for undertaking this work. Responding to these developments and changes, has been the establishment and growth of networks at both a national, regional and international level. Common to these networks is the desire to connect organisations and people and share and develop ideas and best practices. This presentation will provide an update on the key networks – new and emerging – and the roles they are playing. In particular it will look at the emerging European network, the International Land Conservation Network, the Land Trust Alliance and the Australian Land Conservation Alliance.



**PROF JAN  
MCDONALD**

*Professor of Environmental Law,  
Faculty of Law, University of  
Tasmania*

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*Jan is New Star Professor of Environmental Law at the University of Tasmania's Faculty of Law. She has taught, researched and published widely across a range of environmental law issues, with a particular interest in law reform to promote socio-ecological resilience to the impacts of climate change. Jan is immediate Part President of the National Environmental Law Association and has served as a member of the Tasmanian Climate Action Council.*

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## [How] can biodiversity offset policies promote conservation on private land?

This presentation explores the relationship between biodiversity offsetting policies and private land conservation. Biodiversity offsetting has become an essential tool of major project approvals processes in cases where the impacts of a development cannot be avoided or mitigated. The use of offsets to compensate for the "residual" biodiversity loss from a new development has become widespread, despite ongoing concerns about both the theory underpinning the practice and its implementation, and despite all indicators showing ongoing decline in Australia's biodiversity. With minimal monitoring or evaluation of the effectiveness of biodiversity offsets, there is growing concern that this practice is entrenching unsustainable development patterns and undermining conservation efforts on private land. I argue that, properly designed, offsetting policies could play a valuable role in promoting conservation on private land, but their design and application needs careful scrutiny to avoid or minimize perverse incentives.



**JOHN MCLEOD**

*Senior Consultant, JBWere  
Philanthropic Services*

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*John joined JBWere Philanthropic Services on its establishment in 2001 after 15 years as a financial analyst with JBWere covering resource strategy and manager of the Resource Research group within the firm's top-ranking strategy team. He produces widely read reports on Australian Giving Trends and on the Private Ancillary Fund and charitable trust sector. He co-authored the "Impact – Australia" report in 2013 highlighting the current practice and growth potential for Impact Investing and authored "The Cause Report" on the evolution of the NFP sector in Australia over the last 20 years and examined the implications for its future direction. He also compiled the list of Australia's major philanthropists for the May 2017 Australian Financial Review special, "Philanthropy 50". Most recently, John authored "The New Zealand Cause Report" providing a detailed analysis of the trends and direction for their not for the profit and charity sector. John also presents at a range of conferences and workshops on issues related to philanthropy as well as the governance of charitable trusts and measurement of social return and trends in the charity sector. He also sits on the Board of a number of charities including on the Council of Philanthropy Australia.*

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## 20 years of (r)evolution in the NFP sector – findings from the Cause Report

The not for profit sector has changed significantly in the last 20 years with funding sources moving closer to Government and away from sustainable self-reliance. Philanthropy as a proportion has been flat. At the same time, demand has grown faster than the economy. This combination does not bode well for the future. For the environment sector, where reliance on philanthropy has been much larger, the search for sustainability and indeed growth, is even more challenging.

The areas of hope are twofold. Firstly, philanthropy is growing, but not evenly in either supporter demographics or cause areas. Understanding and appealing to the donor sectors that are expanding will be more important in coming years and taking advantage of causes that are falling in appeal will be critical. Secondly, the sector has a strong asset base and although generally well aligned with cause, it doesn't produce strong financial returns. The growth in the impact investment field offers opportunities to think about assets differently.

We will examine these two areas of opportunity and discuss what needs to be in place for environmental organisations to benefit.



**JENNIFER MORRIS**

*President, Conservation International*



**MATTHEW NEWTON**

*Photographer and Principal Director at Rummin Productions*

*Jennifer provides strategic leadership for Conservation International (CI) and, as President, is responsible for delivery of the organization's programs. With 20 years of experience in international conservation and economic development, Jennifer has created and implemented cutting-edge initiatives working with diverse partners – from indigenous communities to multinational corporations – to achieve CI's mission of protecting nature for the well-being of humanity. This includes oversight and direction for the Global Conservation Fund, which has helped protect more than 80 million hectares (197 million acres) around the world, invested US\$ 66 million and generated more than US\$ 1 million in wages for local economies, and CI's Verde Ventures program, whose business partners today employ nearly 60,000 local people in 14 countries and protection and restoration of more than half a million hectares (1.2 million acres) of important lands.*

*Prior to joining CI in 1997, Jennifer was a business development consultant with a micro-finance institution and has lived and worked in Japan, Namibia and Bolivia. She serves on the boards of several organizations including the SEED Initiative, the Conservation Strategy Fund and the Natural Capital Coalition. She is a frequent presenter at international conferences, corporate events and universities on issues related to conservation finance, corporate engagement and social impact investing.*

*Jennifer has a master's degree in international affairs with a focus on business development and micro-finance from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and a bachelor's degree in political science from Emory University. She currently lives in Washington, D.C., with her husband and daughter.*

## Nature on the spreadsheet – Engaging business in conservation

Nature is speaking to us. The increases in storm severity, droughts and general global weirding should be a wake-up call for us all. In addition to the human tragedy in the Caribbean this hurricane season, the financial costs are in the billions and will cripple many poor countries for years to come. Nature is now on the profit and loss statement of many countries and companies. But how do we as a society get nature on the balance sheet as an asset to be valued and protected to help prevent future natural disasters? In particular, how do we get the main driver of economies – the private sector – to value nature on its own balance sheet? In this address, Jennifer will present the opportunities and challenges for the private sector to embrace the importance of valuing nature as an asset to be protected.

*Rummin is a Tasmanian based film and digital media production company specialising in cinematic documentary, narrative video and digital media projects. Rummin believe storytelling is the most powerful way to put ideas into the world today. Stories move us, make us feel alive, and inspire us. We collaborate with NGOs, Government and ethical businesses to create work that spans television, theatrical, online learning and site-specific installations. We strive to find powerful and transformative true-to-life stories and bring them to life with a balance of imagination, innovation and authenticity.*

*Matthew's photographic work is regularly chosen amongst the countries best and exhibited in the nation's premier photographic art prizes. He has been a finalist in the National Portrait Prize and the Moran Prize for Contemporary Photography. He regularly photographs for editorial and news publications throughout Australia.*

## The Power of Story: On Albatross Island

Community engagement and support is often a critical element of effective conservation of threatened species or communities. For the endemic Tasmanian shy albatross, which spends most of its life at sea, returning only to breed on one of three inaccessible offshore islands, this is a significant problem. How do you get the public to care about a species they know little about and are unlikely ever to encounter?

This session demonstrates the value of conservationists partnering with professional content producers to enhance the conservation gains and education and outreach goals.

It describes a collaboration between a wildlife biologist and a professional photographer. By partnering together, we aimed to raise the profile of the shy albatross by telling compelling stories about their life-history, the threats to their survival and the biologists dedicated to understanding and conserving them.

We describe how this initiative has used artistic interpretation of the scientific data, immersive technologies, such as virtual reality, and traditional emotive cinematic story-telling and photography, to engage new audiences and build empathy for an otherwise overlooked species.

*Co-presented with Dr Rachael Alderman.*



**BEN O'HARA**

*General Manager Land  
and Environment,  
The Gainsdale Group*

Ben has more than 20 years of experience in the finance and property industry. He has worked in management, client management and origination roles with local and international institutions that saw him develop skills in project analysis and assessment, investment analysis and execution, relationship management, strategic planning, instigation and ongoing review and business development. In 2012 Ben began working in the environmental sector as General Manager for the Queensland Trust for Nature where he oversaw the extraction of QTFN from the Qld state government, engage with practical work in establishing wildlife corridors, ecological restoration and biodiversity offsets within QTFN the revolving fund. Ben joined Gainsdale in March 2016 to develop the Turner Foundation, the ecological vehicle of Graham and Jude Turner. The Turner Foundation is currently developing the Hidden Vale UQ Wildlife Centre and the Little Liverpool Range Initiative, a community led wildlife and ecological corridor.

## Conservation driving tourism success

As the world's population grows, nations and their populations become more affluent, the challenges for conservation grow and become more difficult. Greater reliance and use of natural resources, increased land clearing and more efficient aquatic harvesting have placed the 21st century at the forefront of ecosystem and species decline. Can tourism drive conservation outcomes? And what are the considerations for eco-tourism to provide enduring benefits in the fight to protect our ecosystems and wildlife? The lessons learned in developing the Scenic Rim Trail Six Day Walk and the Hidden Vale project provide a brief insight into the challenges and potential rewards that eco tourism can bring to conservation.

**GERARD O'NEILL**

*Chief Executive,  
Bush Heritage Australia*

Gerard became the CEO of Bush Heritage Australia in late 2011. He brings to the organisation a wealth of expertise gained through an extensive career in conservation and land management. After completing his science degree at Canberra University in 1979, he became a park ranger in the newly established Kakadu National Park. From there he went on to take up roles in conservation land management and ecological survey in central Australia, East Gippsland and the Victorian mallee.

In 1995 Gerard was appointed as an executive in the then Victorian Department of Conservation and Natural Resources before taking up roles at Parks Victoria. In 2007 he was appointed Deputy Chief Executive of Parks Victoria.

Gerard is a member of the Leadership Victoria alumni, a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a member of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas.

## From the Liffey Valley to Landscape Scale – the Bush Heritage Journey

Bush Heritage Australia formally came into existence as an entity in 1991. The motivation for BHA however came from a much earlier place. Born out of widespread concern over the loss of nature and the special places that have become emblematic of the Australian environment, BHA arose from a single act of daring. That act was the purchase of a block of land in the Liffey Valley in Tasmania by Bob Brown. Bob's action was founded in the belief that there was a higher value for that block of land than was recognised; in this case, for conservation as opposed to intensive forestry operations.

The next steps however were taken in the belief that others would agree with that value proposition and support an alternative environmental future through philanthropy. Today, BHA has nearly 7 million hectares under active management and scores of partners and collaborators. How we understand and communicate the value of nature and how people have responded is the subject of this presentation.



# DR JACK PASCOE

*Conservation and Research  
Manager, Conservation  
Ecology Centre*

Jack joined the Conservation Ecology Centre in 2012 to manage the ever-growing Conservation and Research Program. Jack grew up at Cape Otway before leaving to study Environmental Science at Deakin University and going on to complete a PhD with the University of Western Sydney where he studied the ecology of predators in the Blue Mountains. His key fields of interest are the ecology of apex predators and fire. Immediately prior to joining the CEC, Jack worked with one of our project partners, the Southern Otway Landcare Network, primarily focusing on mitigating the impacts of pest plants and animals throughout the Otways. Jack is currently the Vice Chair of the Otway Community Conservation Network, President of the Hordern Vale Glenaire Landcare Group and Chair of the Southern Otway Landcare Network's Projects Committee. Jack has previously advised the Minister for Environment and Climate on the management of Cape Otway's koalas. Jack is a Yuin man, and is passionate about restoring the productive systems in Gadubanud country where CEC operations are based.



# EVAN QUARTERMAIN

*Head of Programs,  
Humane Society International*

Evan is the Head of Programs at Humane Society International and has been with the organisation since early 2010. He holds a Bachelor of Applied Science majoring in Ecology and Biomolecular Science from the Queensland University of Technology and is a member of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas. Evan is responsible for HSI's terrestrial habitat and wildlife protection programs, having a particular focus on legislative reform, flying-foxes (including as a member of the NSW Flying-fox Consultative Committee), dingoes, and habitat protection through HSI's successful Heritage and Threatened Ecological Community nomination programs. As the coordinator of the Australian Wildlife Land Trust for more than seven years, Evan has considerable experience in the world of private land conservation and has seen the program grow from 40 members to more than 500 at this point in time.

## Cape Otway Ecological Burns Program

The woodlands on the private properties of Cape Otway have undergone catastrophic decline in the past six years due to intense browsing by an overabundant koala population. Changes to land management and interruption to the area's fire regime broke the cycle of seedling recruitment and led to an intensification of the shrubby mid-storey. Working with partner organisations, including the Country Fire Authority, the Conservation Ecology Centre has led a 5 year program to re-establish a fire regime on the Cape. The program has now treated 50ha of woodland and we are seeing the benefits in terms of both species diversity and hazardous fuel reduction. This presentation will explore the early results from our monitoring program and discuss how we envisage the program into the future, especially how it can transition from an ecological and fuel hard reduction project into a cultural burns program with traditional owner groups.

**DAVID SALT**

*Editor Decision Point and Science for Saving Species (ARC Centre of Excellence for Environmental Decisions and Threatened Species Recovery Hub)*

*David is the Editor of the research magazines Decision Point (for the ARC Centre of Excellence for Environmental Decisions) and Science for Saving Species (for the Threatened Species Recovery Hub). Both publications present research news and views on environmental decision making, biodiversity, conservation planning and monitoring.*

*Prior to working on Decision Point, David created and produced The Helix magazine for CSIRO Education, Newton magazine for Australian Geographic, Materials Monthly for the ANU Centre for Science and Engineering of Materials and ScienceWise for the ANU College of Science. He has served as the Communications Manager for CSIRO Wildlife and Ecology and co-authored the widely acclaimed texts Resilience Thinking, Resilience Practice and Trees and Biodiversity.*

*In recent years David has been investigating the potential for conservation outcomes on private land. Last year he co-edited a text on policy in this area titled Learning from agri-environment schemes in Australia.*

## Changing policy: Communicating the science of environmental decision making

A good outcome is an important aspect of an environmental decision (save a species over here, protect some valuable habitat over there), but it's only one part of the process. A good decision for the environment is one that is transparent, efficient and effective; that comes about with real stakeholder engagement and support; that enables learning and leads to better decisions down the line. The ARC Centre of Excellence for Environmental Decisions (CEED) has been undertaking research to inform better environmental decision making for many years. It has made major advances in the areas of conservation planning, adaptive management, structured decision making, value-of-information analysis, triage, cost effectiveness, offsetting and much more besides.

But generating quality research on these things is only half the challenge. Engaging policy people, managers and decision makers with the science is just as important. CEED has been working on engagement and uptake of decision science on multiple fronts. One of its highly successful approaches has been via its research magazine Decision Point. Decision Point has now been going for 10 years (over one hundred issues), has a subscriber base of around 6,500 and is widely praised for engaging a range of stakeholders with the importance and potential of environmental decision science. Decision Point's Editor, David Salt, will discuss the magazines evolution and impact on conservation policy in Australia with several examples from the area of Private Land Conservation.

**ALAN SAUNDERS**

*Team Leader – Natural Heritage, Integrated Catchment Management, Waikato Regional Council*

*Alan has been involved in conservation management, research and advocacy throughout New Zealand, and internationally, for more than 40 years. Prior to 1987 he participated in species recovery and island restoration projects with the NZ Wildlife Service. During the 1990s Alan was part of DOC's Threatened Species Unit – a team of experienced specialists with a national overview of species recovery operations. He was also involved in coordinating DOC's national 'Mainland Island' programme. Alan subsequently managed the Pacific Invasives Initiative, based at the University of Auckland, and then 'Invasive Species International, a small consultancy operated by Landcare Research which was involved in evaluating the feasibility and reviewing the achievements of species recovery and invasive species management projects in various countries. From 2013 to 2015 he was based with IUCN's Oceania Regional Office in Fiji where he was responsible for coordinating a range of conservation and sustainable development projects throughout the Pacific.*

*Alan has been Team Leader of the Waikato Regional Council's Natural Heritage Team since April 2015. He has oversight of a range of operations including habitat restoration and pest management and is involved in turning the vision of a 'Predator free New Zealand' into a reality. He particularly enjoys working at the interface between environment, economy and society and has come to realise that conservation is essentially a social enterprise. His greatest pleasure comes from his continued relationships with field practitioners and with community groups who continue to teach and inspire him.*

## Island by island: New Zealand's transformative approach to nature conservation

Since the 1960s New Zealand conservation practitioners have focused on islands to prevent extinctions, to recover species, to reconstruct biological communities and to restore ecological processes. Successes led to progressively more ambitious projects involving larger, more remote islands and the removal of multiple pests. While single-island projects are still being undertaken, economies of scale and a focus on sustaining conservation outcomes mean island archipelagos are increasingly attractive. "Island-type" approaches have also been successfully adapted to "mainland" sites where community-led initiatives are now a feature. The recent launch of a 'Predator Free New Zealand' vision, hailed as New Zealand's 'Apollo moon shot', builds on the lessons from islands. In addition to heralding a new era in conservation these advances have transformed the way politicians, institutional decision makers, donors and local people view the merits of conservation proposals. Perhaps even more importantly conservation practitioners, once known for their vision and enterprise, may now be at risk of being limited by their lack of vision.



## ANDRY SCULTHORPE

*Land and Heritage  
Project Officer, Tasmanian  
Aboriginal Centre*

*Andry currently works for the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre in Hobart, Australia where he has worked on and off for over 15 years in coordination and delivery of land management projects on returned Aboriginal Lands and in the delivery of Aboriginal heritage training to the Aboriginal community. Andry has also been extensively involved in Aboriginal Heritage management in Tasmania within the Aboriginal community and the state government, as well as a regional coordinator for the local NRM body.*

*Andry obtained a BSc in Botany and Geography at the University of Tasmania and has training in Aboriginal heritage assessment and protection. Andry is interested in furthering the skills and knowledge of the Aboriginal community to manage and protect land and heritage and to enable Aboriginal people to be involved in broader natural area management.*

## Managing cultural landscapes in lutruwita (Tasmania)

*"A sacred place of all our ways, of all our spirits in this one place."  
Jimmy Everett*

This is the music of millions of years playing here... that's what human ears have heard since the cradle of humanity." Bob Brown

The Liffey Valley, in northern *lutruwita* is a cultural landscape shaped through generations of management, a meeting place that has brought a continuum of people together who've shared history, knowledge and stories, building cultural connections in the valley. It is not surprising that the birth of significant conservation initiatives, the Greens Party and Bush Heritage Australia were conceived here.

A collaborative cultural heritage project between the Tasmanian Aboriginal community and Bush Heritage Australia on the Oura Oura and Liffey River properties of the Liffey Valley has shown how important community involvement is in understanding and managing cultural landscapes.

*Co-presented with Sarah Eccles.*



## MATTHEW SELINSKE

*PHD Candidate, RMIT  
University*

*Matthew is a PhD candidate with the Interdisciplinary Conservation Science Research Group at RMIT University. His work experience includes prairie and savanna restoration in his home state of Minnesota, forest restoration and community engagement in New York City, and six years of protected area management and primate conservation in West Africa. As an undergraduate at the University of Minnesota, Matthew graduated with a Fisheries and Wildlife degree and received his Conservation Science MSc from Imperial College of London. Matthew's PhD investigates how to better incorporate human behaviour into biodiversity decision-making and is funded by RMIT University and the ARC Centre of Excellence for Environmental Decisions.*

*Since engaging private landowners in prairie management back in Minnesota, Matthew has had an affinity for private land conservation. As a research associate at Imperial College, Matthew evaluated the social dimensions of a private protected area program in the Western Cape of South Africa and he continues this research here in Australia investigating the motivations, challenges and commitment that landowners experience in land stewardship. Matthew's current work is in collaboration with and supported by the Australian Land Conservation Alliance and its membership.*

## Future proofing privately protected areas by monitoring landholder challenges and commitment

As with any protected area, PPAs must also be monitored for effectiveness at protecting and managing nature. Monitoring, where it is conducted, typically targets valued biological and ecological elements. However, the drivers of maintaining and improving the effectiveness of PPAs such as covenants and easement are often social dimensions. In Australia, we surveyed 527 covenantors in New South Wales, Tasmania, and Victoria to provide a benchmark for future monitoring and evaluation activities.

We found that landowners are motivated to participate in order to protect their land in perpetuity but come to expect financial and technical assistance as a benefit of the program. While 58.4% (n=344) reported achieving their land management goals, another 41.1% (n=242) of landholders struggle with meeting management agreements because of age, and financial and time constraints. Covenant landholders are generally satisfied with their experience in the program (92%). A subset (8%) of landholders feel disaffected with their participation, relating to their perceived inability to personally manage their lands to their satisfaction, the lack of interaction they have with representatives of land trusts or state agencies, and the inflexibility of the covenant. I will discuss these findings and the opportunities and challenges facing PPAs in the future.

**FIONA SIMSON**

*President, National Farmers' Federation*

*In 2016, Fiona was elected President of the National Farmers' Federation, the first woman in NFF's history to hold the role. Fiona is a farmer from the Liverpool Plains in NSW where she, husband Ed and family run a mixed farming enterprise including broad acre farming and breeding commercial poll Hereford cattle. With tertiary qualifications in business, Fiona is passionate about local food production and the growth and sustainability of rural and regional Australia. Fiona has held leadership roles in local government and was the first female president of the NSW Farmers' Association and is currently a director of NRMA (NSW), the Australian Made Campaign Ltd, AgStewardship Australia and the Australian Farmers Fighting Fund.*

## Combining production and conservation – enhancing the potential for biodiversity conservation in our farming systems

Australian farmers are at the frontline of delivering environmental outcomes on behalf of the Australian community, owning, managing and caring for 61 percent of Australia's land mass. As part of this custody, the agricultural sector is continually striving to change their farming practices in order to improve farm productivity and the condition of natural capital. Farmers continue to explore farming systems that can deliver both viable agricultural production and valuable biodiversity conservation. Industry led initiatives and approaches that seek to encourage and promote sustainability will be outlined.

**CHRISTOPHER THORN AM**

*Partner, Ernst and Young's Climate Change & Sustainability Services*

*Christopher is a Partner in EY's Climate Change & Sustainability Services practice and leads the Impact Investment, Social Finance and Philanthropic Services work. He has a particular focus in building the Impact Investment and Social Finance market in Australia. Christopher is an accomplished financial services executive who has 30 years' experience working across private wealth management, institutional equities, philanthropy and social investment in Melbourne, New York and Brisbane. Having developed an extensive network particularly at the intersection of government, community and business sectors, Christopher has established a reputation as a thought leader in the development of social capital markets, his deep industry knowledge has been sought by a diverse and extensive Australia wide client group. Christopher has a long term interest in social finance and increasing awareness of philanthropic issues and fostering relationships between interested parties in order to facilitate the giving process. Christopher was recognised for his significant service to the not for profit sector through advisory roles on philanthropic strategic planning and to the community by being made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2017. Christopher is an alumnus of the University of Melbourne.*

## Is the virtuous cycle of impact investing a catalyst for environmental funding?

An impact investment is defined as an investment that is made with the intention of creating both a financial return as well as a positive social and or environmental impact that would not have otherwise have materialised. This paradigm shift in the way capital is deployed has seen the rubric of impact investment evolve from a nascent financing mechanism backed by a few individual investors to an increasingly sought after financing model backed by institutional investors that challenges the notion that social and environmental returns should be funded by philanthropy. Impact investment is increasingly seen as a viable means of deploying private equity at scale to address some of the most pressing social and environmental issues such as unsustainable agriculture, misguided land use management and unsustainable forestry, pollution of waterways and oceans, which cannot be solved by Governments alone given the limits on the pools of funding available. At the same time, the rate of demand for social and environmental funding is outstripping broader economic growth. The new financing model offered by impact investing is one that puts social and environmental impact at the core of the investment returns expected whilst ensuring that the investors are also financially rewarded, and so produces a virtuous cycle. As the field of impact investment develops, we are seeing a growing array of environmental causes offering impact investments and an equally growing variety of asset classes with which to invest in them.





**MICHAEL WILLIAMS**

*Former Deputy Chair, NSW Nature Conservation Trust*

Michael is a former Board member of the not-for-profit NSW Nature Conservation Trust and was its deputy chair for the last eleven of the NCT's fourteen-year existence. Michael is also the principal of Michael Williams & Associates Pty Ltd, a Sydney-based natural resource management, strategic planning and facilitation firm.

Michael has had a long-standing commitment to privately protected areas through his involvement with South Australia's Heritage Agreement Scheme, the private reserve system developed and established as part of the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement, Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area, the Indigenous Protected Area program and has consulted widely including to Pew, The Nature Conservancy and Trust for Nature (Victoria).

In 2009 Michael was to facilitate the meeting of Australia's land trust CEOs and Board chairs that led to the formation of the Australian Land Conservation Alliance – but unfortunately was dead for 30 minutes the day before the meeting and had to send his apologies. Mike won the longest time dead award for 2009 and lived on to be on ALCA's inaugural Board from 2009–2014. Michael is a Fellow and former president of the Environmental Institute of Australia and New Zealand (NSW Division) and is a member of the IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas.

## Revolving funds – governance and policy settings for success – key achievements of the NSW Nature Conservation Trust

From its inception in 2002 to its incorporation in 2017 into the NSW State Government's Biodiversity Conservation Trust, the NSW Nature Conservation Trust (NCT) made a significant contribution to private land nature conservation in NSW. None more so than its successful deployment of its Revolving Fund – a tool that when well managed and executed can be the nature conservation "gift that can keep on giving".

The presentation by the former Deputy Chair of the NCT and a Board member from 2004–2017 will explore the significant achievements of the NCT and in particular the Revolving Fund. The focus will be on the governance, strategy, and operational settings underpinning the Revolving Fund's success.



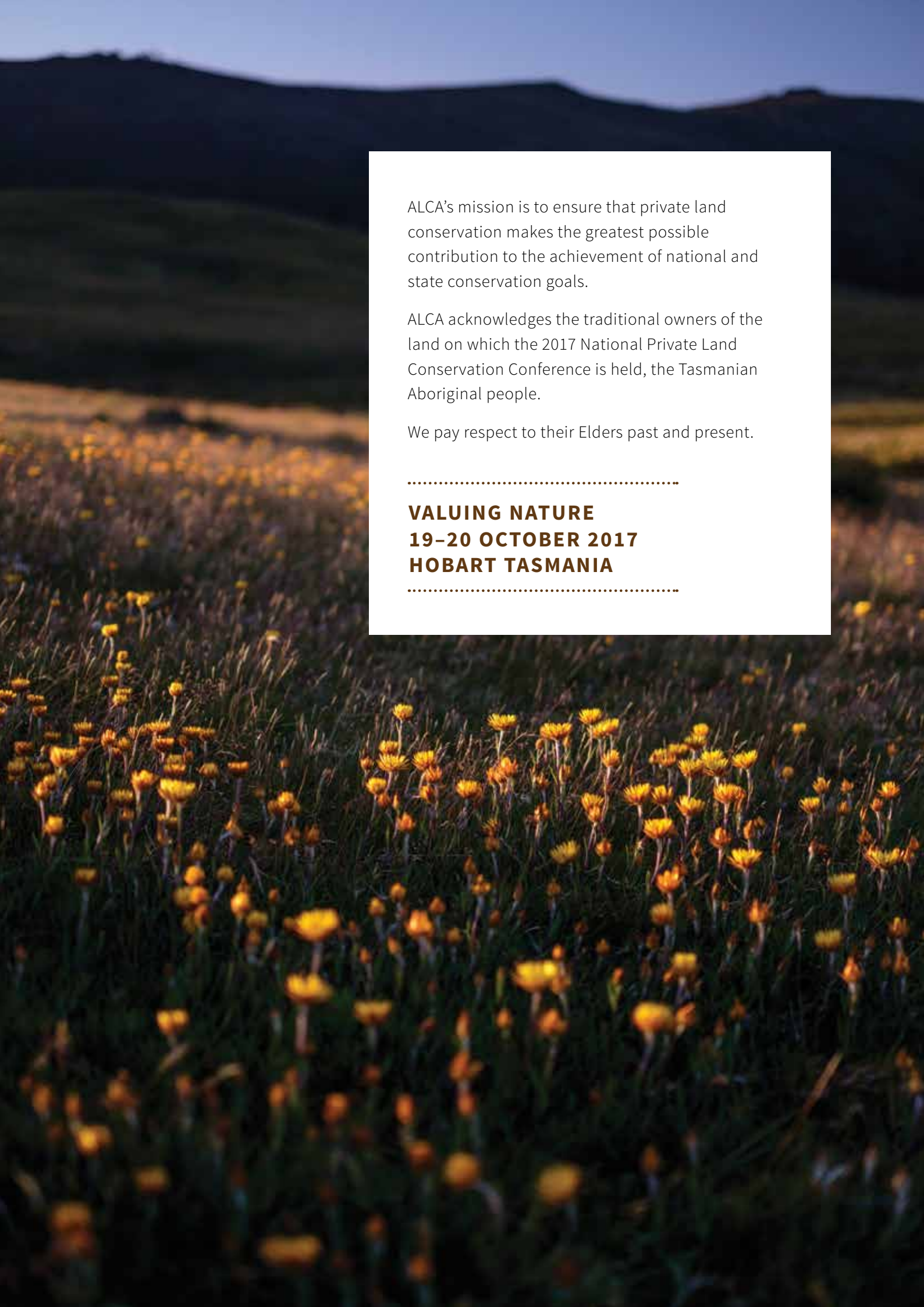
**BRENDAN WINTLE**

*Director, NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub*

Brendan is Professor of Conservation Ecology at the University of Melbourne and Director of Australia's Threatened Species Recovery Research Hub. He develops quantitative methods to support conservation decision-making and policy. He publishes on monitoring design, cost-efficient conservation spending, spatial prioritisation, population viability analysis, and species occupancy and distribution modelling. He's currently enjoying working on field experiments with brilliant students and postdocs.

## Natural values, valuing nature, cost efficiency, offsets and prioritisation – Tools and ideas to help us muddle through

There are many ways in which concepts of value play into nature conservation and many tools to help us incorporate various definitions of value in conservation decision making. Some of these tools are used regularly in decision making, such as metrics for measuring biodiversity value when determining the validity of offsets or when ranking or choosing between conservation actions. In contrast, tools for capturing or aggregating human preferences for alternative environmental outcomes, or tools for analyzing the influence personal values have on the way people respond to conservation messages are seldom used, despite the popularity of these tools in other disciplines and the potentially profound insights they might bring to conservation. I will tell some research stories from the NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub that hint at these opportunities and the breadth of tools and approaches available for characterizing and incorporating various definitions of value in conservation decision making.



ALCA's mission is to ensure that private land conservation makes the greatest possible contribution to the achievement of national and state conservation goals.

ALCA acknowledges the traditional owners of the land on which the 2017 National Private Land Conservation Conference is held, the Tasmanian Aboriginal people.

We pay respect to their Elders past and present.

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