



AUSTRALIAN LAND
CONSERVATION ALLIANCE (ALCA)

national
**private land
conservation**
conference

24-25 NOVEMBER 2016

PROGRAM

The background of the entire page is a solid light green color. Scattered across this background are several stylized, dark green leaf shapes. These leaves vary in size and orientation, some pointing upwards, some downwards, and some horizontally. They have a simple, elongated shape with a small stem at one end.

**National Private Land
Conservation Conference**

24–25 November 2016

The National Australia Bank (NAB) Arena
Auditorium Level 2, 700 Bourke Street,
Docklands, Melbourne

www.alca.org.au

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COMPRISING



Welcome from the ALCA Chair

As the Chair of the Australian Land Conservation Alliance (ALCA), I'm delighted to welcome you to the 2016 National Private Land Conservation Conference. This is the third and largest gathering, initiated by ALCA that brings together private land conservation practitioners, scientists, land managers and academics.

There is so much we can learn from each other, from our varied experiences that span across the government, private and not-for-profit sectors. This conference is a wonderful opportunity for delegates to exchange information, discuss new research and initiatives, and to identify ways to work together for conservation on private land. We can maximise our impact and achieve so much more through partnerships and collaborations. The conference brings people together to hatch new ideas and to imagine what else is possible – on your own property, in your own organisation and collectively, when we combine our efforts.

The ALCA Conference Program Steering Committee has designed a diverse and vibrant program with an exceptional calibre of speakers from Australia, New Zealand and the United States of America. We are thrilled to welcome keynote speaker Laura Johnson, Director of the International Land Conservation Network, Former Chair Board of Directors, Land Trust Alliance USA and past President of Massachusetts Audubon Society.

The greatest thanks to the National Australia Bank, the Norman Wettenhall Foundation, The Gainsdale Group, the Australian Communities Foundation through the Melliadora Fund and Victorian Catchment Management Authorities for supporting the conference. Without your generosity, this event would not be possible.

My thanks also, to the ALCA Board and Program Steering Committee, and to the staff involved in the conference delivery.

Lastly, thank you for attending the 2016 National Private Land Conservation Conference. May you find great value in the conference presentations and conversations to further inspire your involvement in this important field.

**Victoria Marles, CEO
Trust for Nature (Victoria)**

Welcome from the National Australia Bank

As Australia's largest agribusiness bank, and one of the inaugural signatories to the Natural Capital Declaration, NAB is a major contributor to Australia's economy. Healthy ecosystems and the services they provide – clean air, water and food – underpin our economy. Investing in the protection and enhancement of our natural capital leads to more resilient and prosperous businesses and communities over time. In short, we need to understand, measure and manage our natural assets, just as we do for our financial assets.

NAB seeks to account for and build in consideration of natural capital impacts into all its decision-making processes and risk assessments. That means working with our customers, industry partners and other experts in land management and conservation, to investigate the links between natural capital and financial performance.

With so much of Australia's valuable natural assets on private land, it is vital to bring together private land owners and managers to work collectively towards a national approach to natural capital management.

As such, we are delighted to sponsor and welcome you all to the 2016 National Private Land Conservation Conference.

**James Bentley, Manager Natural Value, Corporate Responsibility
National Australia Bank**

Day 1

Thursday 24 November

SESSIONS 1 AND 2

8.30	REGISTRATION AND MORNING COFFEE	
9.00	SESSION 1 • NAB ARENA Welcome, Launch and Keynote Address	Session Chair: Victoria Marles Chair, Australian Land Conservation Alliance
9.05	Welcome to Country	Traditional Owners, Wurundjeri Tribe Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council
9.15	Welcome by National Australia Bank	Sasha Courville, Head of Social Innovation National Australia Bank
9.25	Welcome and Introduction to the Conference	Conference Host: Victoria Marles, Chair, Australian Land Conservation Alliance Chief Executive Officer, Trust for Nature (Victoria)
9.35	Keynote Presentation Accelerating the Global Impact of Private Land Conservation: Notes from the US Experience	Laura Johnson, Director of the International Land Conservation Network Chair Board of Directors, Land Trust Alliance USA Past President of Massachusetts Audubon Society
10.05	A Global Overview of Private Land Conservation	Penelope Figgis AO, Vice Chair Oceania IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas
10.30	MORNING BREAK	
	SESSION 2 • NAB ARENA Private Land Conservation: Now More Important Than Ever	Session Chair: Jane Hutchinson, Chief Executive Officer Tasmanian Land Conservancy
11.00	Session Overview Presentation: The Growth and Increasing Importance of Private Land Conservation in Australia	Jane Hutchinson, Chief Executive Officer Tasmanian Land Conservancy
11.05	An Australian Government Perspective on Private Land Conservation	Malcolm Thompson, Deputy Secretary Strategies and Operations Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy
11.20	Kimberley Model of Indigenous Led Conservation	Anthony Watson, Chair and Ariadne Gorrington, Business Development Manager, Kimberley Land Council
11.35	Conservation Planning and Prioritisation and its Relevance to Private Land Conservation	Hugh Possingham, Chief Scientist The Nature Conservancy
11.50	Opportunities for Private Land Conservation Through Landcare	Jim Adams, Chief Executive Officer National Landcare Network
12.05	Private Land Conservation Across the Ditch	Mike Jebson, Chief Executive Officer Queen Elizabeth II National Trust (New Zealand)
12.20	Q&A Panel	Chair: Jane Hutchinson
12.30 -1.30	LUNCH	

Day 1

Thursday 24 November

SESSIONS 3 AND 4

SESSION 3 • NAB ARENA Where's the Money? Financing for Private Land Conservation		Session Chair: Gerard O'Neil Chief Executive Officer, Bush Heritage Australia
1.30	Session Overview Presentation: Financing Private Land Conservation – Challenges and Opportunities	Gerard O'Neill, Chief Executive Officer Bush Heritage Australia
1.35	Trends in Conservation Philanthropy in Australia	Amanda Martin, Chief Executive Officer Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network
1.50	National Australia Bank: Banking on Natural Capital	James Bentley, Manager Natural Value, Corporate Responsibility National Australia Bank
2.05	Driving New Ways of Conserving and Sustainably Managing Natural Environments for the Benefit of Future Generations	James Ensor, Executive Director BHP Billiton Foundation
2.20	The True Cost of Perpetual Protection: Lessons from California	Deborah Rogers, Director of Conservation Science and Stewardship Centre for Natural Lands Management, California USA.
2.35	Q&A Panel	Chair: Gerard O'Neill
3.00	AFTERNOON BREAK	
SESSION 4 • NAB ARENA Conservation Deals: Innovations and Outcomes		Session Chair: Ben O'Hara General Manager Land and Environment, The Gainsdale Group
3.30	Session Overview Presentation: How to Do a Conservation 'Deal'	Ben O'Hara, General Manager Land and Environment The Gainsdale Group
3.35	The Night Parrot: Back From the Brink	Jim Radford, Science and Research Manager Bush Heritage Australia
3.50	Reef Aid: Public Private Partnerships for the Great Barrier Reef	Todd Berkinshaw, National Director of Conservation Greening Australia
4.05	Prosperity in Times of Scarcity: Making Water Markets Work for People and Nature	Rich Gilmore, Country Director, Australia The Nature Conservancy
4.20	A New Model for Conservation: The Role of Public-Private Partnerships	Atticus Fleming, Chief Executive Australian Wildlife Conservancy
4.35	Q&A Panel	Chair: Ben O'Hara
5.00	Day 1: Summary wrap up and close of Day 1	Hugo Hopton, CEO Nature Foundation SA & Gary Wells, CEO Nature Conservation Trust NSW. ALCA Committee members
5.10	Day 2: Instructions, locations of concurrent sessions and dinner	Victoria Marles, Chair, Australian Land Conservation Alliance
6.30	CONFERENCE DINNER	William Angliss Institute 555 La Trobe St, Melbourne, Victoria 3000 Dinner speaker is comedian and conservationist Sean 'The Birdman' Dooley

Day 2

Friday 25 November

CONCURRENT SESSIONS 5A AND 5B

8.30	MORNING COFFEE	
	CONCURRENT SESSION 5A • NAB ARENA Initiatives in the Policy Landscape	Chair: James Fitzsimons, Director of Conservation The Nature Conservancy Australia Program
9.00	Current Policy Influences for Private Land Conservation in Australia	James Fitzsimons, Director of Conservation The Nature Conservancy Australia Program
9.05	Implications of Rangelands Leasehold Reform for Private Land Conservation in WA	Barry Traill, Director Outback Australia The Pew Charitable Trusts
9.20	Directions for Private Land Conservation in the SA Pastoral Zone	Jason Irving, Manager, Protected Areas and Stuart Paul, Regional Director, SA Arid Lands Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, South Australia
9.35	NSW Biodiversity and Private Conservation Laws: What's Happening	Sue Higginson, Chief Executive Officer / Principal Solicitor Environmental Defenders Office (EDO), New South Wales
9.50	Local Government Leading Private Land Conservation in Southeast Queensland	Julie O'Connor, Senior Conservation Partnerships Officer Sunshine Coast Council, Queensland
10.05	Q&A Panel	Chair: James Fitzsimons
	CONCURRENT SESSION 5B • NAB HALL New Thinking in Old Landscapes	Chair: Damien Bell, Chief Executive Officer Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
9.00	Session Overview: Innovations in an Ancient Land	Damien Bell, Chief Executive Officer Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
9.05	Conservation on Working Farms: A Victorian Perspective	Kevin Wood, Chief Executive Officer Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority
9.20	Community-driven Landscape Restoration: Has it Worked and Where to Next?	Beth Mellick, Executive Director The Norman Wettenhall Foundation
9.35	The Hidden Vale Project – A Cooperative Venture	Andrew Tribe, University of Queensland Wildlife Manager, Gainsdale Group
9.50	The Role of Wetland Restoration on Private Land in Threatened Species Recovery	Mark Bachmann, Director Nature Glenelg Trust
10.05	Q&A Panel	Chair: Damien Bell
10.30	MORNING TEA	

Day 2

Friday 25 November

CONCURRENT SESSIONS 6A AND 6B

CONCURRENT SESSION 6A • NAB ARENA Leading the Charge: Recent Research		Chair: Doug Robinson Conservation Science Coordinator, Trust for Nature (Victoria)
11.00	Session Overview Presentation: Latest Research	Doug Robinson, Conservation Science Coordinator Trust for Nature (Victoria)
11.05	What Next? Private Land Conservation After the Conclusion of A Market-Based Conservation Scheme	Benjamin Cooke RMIT University
11.15	National Analysis of Land For Wildlife	Helena Puszka, Alexander Forman, Joshua Alberto Prado RMIT University
11.25	Exploring the Use of Revolving Funds to Protect Nature on Private Land	Mat Hardy, PhD Candidate, RMIT University
11.35	What Value Does Native Vegetation Add to Properties?	Geoff Park, Director, Natural Decisions Pty Ltd
11.45	The Importance of Strategically Framed Conservation Messages	Alex Kusmanoff, PhD Candidate RMIT University
11.55	What's Driving the Growth in Private Conservation?	Ben McGowan, PhD Candidate Charles Darwin University and Australian National University
12.05	Tourism as a Driver of South Africa's Privately Protected Areas	Hayley Clements, Research Fellow Monash University
12.15	Returning Wildlife to the Australian Landscape for Healthier Self-Sustaining Ecosystems	John Rodger, Chief Executive Officer FAUNA Research Alliance
CONCURRENT SESSION 6B • NAB HALL Personal Motivations and Drivers		Chair: Nerida Bradley, General Manager Queensland Trust for Nature
11.00	Nature Conservation ... It's Personal	Nerida Bradley, General Manager Queensland Trust for Nature
11.05	Understanding the Motivations, Satisfaction, and Retention of Landowners in Private Land Conservation Programs	Matthew Selinske, PhD Candidate RMIT University
11.20	Conservation from a Farmer's Perspective	Julian von Bibra, Farmer, W and C von Bibra, Tasmanian Midlands
11.35	Creating a Support Network for Conservation Landholders	Phil Collier and Robin Garnett, Steering Committee Conservation Landholders Tasmania
11.50	People, Wildlife and Private Land Conservation: The Wildlife Land Trust Experience	Ben Callison, President & David Hartwell, Board Member Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust (USA)
12.05	Inspiring Privately Led Land Conservation Across Gondwana Link	Keith Bradby, Chief Executive Officer Gondwana Link
12.20	Q&A Panel	Chair: Nerida Bradley
CLOSING SESSION		
12.30	Building a Private Land Conservation Network in Australia	Australian Land Conservation Alliance Committee
12.45	Conference Summary	Australian Land Conservation Alliance Committee
12.55	Closing Address	Victoria Marles, Chair, Australian Land Conservation Alliance
1.00	LUNCH	

Sasha Courville

Head of Social Innovation, National Australia Bank



Welcome by National Australia Bank

Sasha is Head of Social Innovation at NAB, looking at how to address society's needs and challenges through new funding and business solutions. This includes scaling up of NAB's portfolio of Shared Value initiatives that deliver business value while also addressing social and environmental challenges including developing the impact investing ecosystem in Australia, Natural Value, Clean Energy Finance and NAB Assist, as well as embedding a culture of social innovation internally. Previously, Sasha was Head of Corporate Responsibility Strategy at NAB, responsible for strategy development, non-financial performance and reporting and stakeholder engagement on ESG issues. Sasha joined NAB to drive its Natural Value Strategy, managing natural capital risks, taking advantage of new opportunities and supporting agribusiness customers to do the same.

Prior to joining NAB, Sasha was Executive Director of the London-based ISEAL Alliance, the global association for sustainability standards and assurance systems. She has also worked as an international consultant on social justice and environmental sustainability issues in soft commodity sectors, and as an academic, based at the Regulatory Institutions Network at the ANU. Sasha was deeply involved in setting up the Fairtrade labelling system in Australia and New Zealand.

Sasha has a PhD on coffee from the ANU, an MSc from the London School of Economics and a Bachelor of Environmental Studies from York University in Canada.

Victoria Marles

CEO, Trust for Nature (Victoria)

SESSION CHAIR



Welcome and Introduction to the Conference

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. She is also Chair of the Australian Land Conservation Alliance, which has a strong interest in legal mechanisms and taxation reforms which support private land conservation and permanent protection of conservation assets on private property.

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.

Laura Johnson

Director, International Land Conservation Network
Cambridge MA USA



Accelerating the Global Impact of Private Land Conservation: Notes from the US Experience

Laura is a life-long conservationist who was president of the Massachusetts Audubon Society for 14 years, leading the largest independent state Audubon organization in the US. Laura also worked for 16 years at The Nature Conservancy. She is the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Land Trust Alliance. Laura also sits on numerous boards and advisory committees for nonprofit organizations in New England. Laura received her undergraduate degree from Harvard, and a law degree from NYU Law School. From 2013–2014 she was a Bullard Fellow at the Harvard Forest where she completed a study on global private land conservation.

The presentation explores the land trust movement in the US, and how it relates to the growing private land conservation movement around the globe. Can the US experience, including current challenges, help provide a legal, financial and organizational framework to increase private land conservation activity around the world?

Currently there are approximately 1,100 land trusts in the US, which have protected more than 50 million acres of land for purposes including biodiversity, natural habitat, agriculture, recreation, wetlands, urban parks, historic, scenic and cultural values. Since the early 1980's, private land conservation has benefited from the legal recognition of conveyances of "partial" interests in land known as conservation easements, and from federal tax incentives for those transactions.

Even as land conservationists in the US continue to expand their impact, conservationists outside the US are adapting existing tools and developing new practices to work on opportunities and challenges elsewhere around the world. In 110 countries across the globe, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) involved in the protection of private forestland, farmland and natural habitats are now active.

Penelope Figgis AO

Vice Chair, Oceania, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas



A Global Overview of Private Land Conservation

Penelope Figgis AO 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.

The world is embarked on a great struggle for the survival of natural life and ecosystems with all their values and massive benefits against the huge demands placed on a finite planet of human numbers, resource demands and impacts. A key strategy to achieve global biodiversity conservation has been to complete an ecologically

representative network of protected areas. This goal is most succinctly captured in Aichi Target 11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held in Nagoya in 2010. However, as each country endeavours to fulfil the goals of 17 per cent of land and freshwater area and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas and respond

to calls for representativeness and connectivity, there is increasing recognition that 'traditional' protected areas created on state-owned lands and waters will not be enough to achieve the CBD targets. The key words in international conservation are 'innovation' and 'partnerships' as applied to the establishment, governance, management and financing of future protected areas.

Hence throughout the world increasing interest is being focussed on the wide range of conservation entities established by individuals, non-profit and charitable trusts, local communities and indigenous people's community landholder groups, religious groups, ecotourism companies and large corporations – what IUCN calls privately protected areas (PPA's). This paper will review international trends in this important area, the particular benefits of PPAs and highlight effective models of PPA development from around the world.

Jane Hutchinson

CEO, Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC)

SESSION CHAIR



The Growth and Increasing Importance of Private Land Conservation in Australia

Jane is CEO of the Tasmanian Land Conservancy (TLC), a non-for profit, non-government, non-political, environmental organisation with a vision for Tasmania to be a global leader in nature conservation. The TLC started from humble beginnings with only \$50 in the bank. Since then it has grown to being one of the largest private landowners in Tasmania and has worked in partnership with landowners, governments, supporters and volunteers 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 a long term endowment called "the TLC Foundation" 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.

Malcolm Thompson

Deputy Secretary Strategies and Operations, Australian Government
Department of the Environment and Energy



An Australian Government Perspective on Private Land Conservation

Malcolm Thompson is the Deputy Secretary responsible for the Strategy and Operations Group in the Australian Government Department of the Environment. Malcolm joined the Department in 2007 and was appointed Deputy Secretary in September 2009.

Malcolm has over 25 years experience as a policy adviser to the Australian Government. He studied economics at the University of Queensland before beginning his career in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. He has also worked in the Treasury, the Assistant Treasurer's office and the Department of Transport and Regional Services. From 2003 to 2007 Malcolm concentrated on water policy, helping to develop the National Water Initiative and to establish the National Water Commission.

Private land is increasingly important for conserving Australia's unique biodiversity, particularly in a changing climate. Many of the high priority areas for conservation are predominantly agricultural or pastoral landscapes largely managed by private landholders. The Australian Government has supported private landholders to conserve biodiversity on their properties using a range of mechanisms, including short-term grants, environmental stewardship payments, property acquisitions and revolving funds. This presentation will provide examples of past and current initiatives that are supporting conservation efforts on private land. It will canvas new ideas and innovations that can further encourage private landholders to undertake conservation management activities, particularly in regions that are not well represented in the National Reserve System.

Anthony Watson and Ariadne Gorrington

Chair and Business Development Manager, Kimberley Land Council



Kimberley Model of Indigenous Led Conservation

Anthony Watson is the Chair of the Kimberley Land Council – a not-for-profit organisation assisting Aboriginal people to achieve native title recognition, and care for and manage country. Mr Watson is a Nyikina man with strong ties to his people and culture. He started work as a station hand, before moving on to employment with Jarlmadangah Burru community. Over the past 30 years, Mr Watson has co-founded and chaired the suicide and self-harm prevention initiative the Yirriman Project, held leadership roles with a number of peak Indigenous organisations and tirelessly contributed to the national conversation on Indigenous land management, native title and community development.

Ariadne Gorrington is the Kimberley Land Council Business Development Manager. Ari's interest is in building meaningful partnerships between Aboriginal communities, corporate, philanthropic and government sector that deliver long-term benefits for future generations. She has extensive on-ground experience working with Traditional Owners throughout the Kimberley in all aspects of Native Title, cultural and natural resource management and community engagement. This includes working with 14 Native Title groups to register the West Kimberley on the National Heritage List for its outstanding cultural and natural values. She also led the registration of the North Kimberley Savanna Carbon Projects – the first carbon projects in Australia to be registered on Native Title lands. In recent years Ari's focus has included establishing national and international networks to promote best practice models of Indigenous led conservation.



Tucked away in the remote north-west corner of Australia, the Kimberley is a biologically diverse region recognised on the National Heritage List for its unique cultural and natural values.

It is home to a network of eight Indigenous Protected Areas, covering 90,000km², which are managed by traditional owners who combine traditional knowledge with modern science to conserve unique ecosystems and promote habitat corridors. Land and sea management is led by Indigenous rangers who collectively form the Kimberley Ranger Network operating across millions of hectares, irrespective of tenure.

To secure the long-term development of the ranger and IPA network, the KLC is exploring ways to diversify revenue streams to ensure intergenerational sustainability. This model not only delivers significant conservation outcomes – of benefit to the global community – it also nurtures a culture of entrepreneurship and supports Aboriginal people to live and work on country.

Hugh Possingham

Chief Scientist, The Nature Conservancy



Conservation Planning and Prioritisation and its Relevance to Private Land Conservation

Hugh is the Chief Scientist of The Nature Conservancy and an Australian Research Council Laureate Fellow at The University of Queensland. Since the 1990s he has pioneered research into how decision science tools from mathematics and economics can bring rigor and efficiency to conservation decisions. Hugh has coauthored over 520 peer-reviewed scientific publications and been a primary supervisor for over 70 PhD students and 60 honours students. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science and The National Academy of Sciences (USA).

Conservation managers have to make decisions and set priorities because our resources are limited. Our research group has pioneered approaches to help us make better decisions with respect to questions such as: what areas should we acquire for conservation, how should those areas be managed, which threatened species require ore investment of resources and which threats can be tackled to deliver the greatest biodiversity benefit in the long term? Our tools and thinking have influenced policy and management decisions in over 100 countries. In this talk I will discuss the application of decision science thinking to private land conservation.

Much of what we do is summarised in our bimonthly magazine, Decision Point <http://decision-point.com.au/>.

Jim Adams

CEO, National Landcare Network



Opportunities for Private Land Conservation Through Landcare

Jim is currently the CEO of the National Landcare Network, a role he has filled for the past two years. Jim was trained and worked for 20 years as a forester, in forest management across a range of public and private tenures, including private property, public State forests and National Parks. In these roles Jim lived and worked in many small rural communities in Victoria and New South Wales, and became acutely aware of how government and corporate decisions affect these communities. This led to Jim taking an interest in local government where he served two terms including as Mayor. Jim has also successfully run his own business, and served on a range of government Ministerial committees, and private Boards, including as Chair of the Forest Stewardship Council in Australia.

Jim's experiences in the forests sector, in business and with government at all levels has led him to developing a strong commitment to community and in particular in social license, and sustainable natural resource management. Jim has had previous experience in heading up a national NFP organisation, and has been a member of his local Landcare group for in excess of 20 years. It is not surprising perhaps that this combination of experience and interests has attracted Jim to the National Landcare Network. Jim has a powerful vision for the NLN built on good governance, strong representation and a commitment to stakeholder engagement, community, and environmental and sustainable agricultural outcomes.

Mike Jebson

Chief Executive Officer, Queen Elizabeth II National Trust (New Zealand)



Private Land Conservation Across the Ditch

Prior to taking on the role of CEO in 2013 Mike had various senior leadership and management roles in the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Department of Conservation dealing with significant natural resource and sustainability challenges. These include freshwater reform, domestic and international climate change policy and programmes, indigenous forestry policy, sustainable land management programmes, walking access policy, resource management reforms and commercial use of public conservation land. He has a Master's of Science in Resource Management and a B.SC in Zoology from the University of Canterbury.

The QEII National Trust supports the permanent protection of New Zealand's unique biodiversity, outstanding landscapes, cultural and historic heritage on private and Crown lease land through the establishment of open space covenants.

Currently the National Trust is the perpetual Trustee for over 4,200 covenants protecting around 180,000 hectares of private land including indigenous forests and forest remnants, wetlands, dune lands, tussock lands, native shrub and grass lands and sites of importance for landscape, historic, cultural or recreational importance. It is by far the largest covenanting agency in New Zealand with covenants across all regions and some offshore Islands.

Mike will discuss the background to covenanting in New Zealand, what other organisations are involved in private land conservation and recent innovations in its approach to private land protection on the greener side of the Tasman sea.

Gerard O'Neil

Chief Executive, Bush Heritage Australia

SESSION CHAIR



Financing Private Land Conservation: Challenges and Opportunities

Gerard is CEO of Bush Heritage Australia, a leading not for profit organisation that specialises in private land conservation and management. Owning over 1.2 million hectares, Bush Heritage also works with Aboriginal people over a further five million hectares supporting conservation practices on their land.

Gerard's experience spans senior policy development, land management, ecological survey and operational roles. After graduating from Canberra University in 1979 with a science degree, he worked as a ranger in the Kakadu National Park, with subsequent roles in Central Australia, East Gippsland and the Victorian Mallee.

In 1995 Gerard became a senior executive in the Victorian Public Service where he held leadership roles in resource utilisation, fire policy and management, Commonwealth/State resource use agreements and catchment and protected area management. In 2001, he was appointed a General Manager at Parks Victoria and promoted to Deputy Chief Executive in 2007. 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.

As demonstrated though this and previous international and national forums, private land conservation is a major part of our global efforts to conserve nature. As the world's population grows and competition for land and resources intensifies then the conservation challenge becomes greater.

An underlying issue that many private

land conservation initiatives seek to address is the reducing financial resource base, both in Government and in privately funded initiatives. Attracting Government investment or philanthropic support requires skill, patience and the ability to refresh and reinvent programs whilst also demonstrating long-term benefits.

The shortage / decline in funds arises through, among other reasons

competition from other service sectors for scarce tax dollars through to direct competition within the not-for-profit sector for donor funds. Within Australia, there are over 54,000 registered charities. At 440 people per charity, it's one of the highest rates per capita in the world. Competition is inherent and new ideas and strategies are essential.

So what are some of the ingredients required for success in funding your activity? Based on what I see the following stand out;

- A clear vision and a sound strategic plan for growth and improvement of the grant / revenue seeking program.
- Objectives based on clear priorities and accurate plans, budgets, and needs.
- A fully committed team including directors and staff combined with clear policy settings from Government and the beneficiary community (supporters, tax payers and other NGO's.)
- A compelling and authentic case for support, properly documented.
- Demonstrated value including leveraged activity based on financial innovation, mutual interest, and, outcomes that deliver real and enduring change consistent with purpose.

The cost of private land conservation is highly variable depending on scale, objectives and duration of the initiative. With increasing diversity of delivery strategies, there is a commensurate need for innovation in private financing.

Amanda Martin

Chief Executive Officer, Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network



Trends in Conservation Philanthropy in Australia

Amanda has worked in philanthropy for over a decade, having worked for the Poola Foundation for four years before helping to establish the AEGN in 2009. She has specialised in environment and Indigenous grantmaking and more recently on building the skills and knowledge of funders on environmental issues.

Amanda has a background in biodiversity and protected area advocacy and management working in both the public and community sector. She was the Executive Officer of the Victorian National Parks Association, and the Head of Policy and Planning at Parks Victoria. She has a degree in Zoology and is a trained and skilled facilitator of groups.

With increasing demand for untied private funding, decreasing public funds for conservation and an increasing need for investment in conservation, philanthropy can play a key role to protecting our environment. However, in Australia, between 2-6% of philanthropic funds have gone to the environment. What are the current trends in giving to the environment, who is in the philanthropic sector and how can we catalyse a significant increase in giving to giving to conservation?

James Bentley

Manager Natural Value, National Australia Bank



National Australia Bank: Banking on Natural Capital

James Bentley 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.

NAB is Australia's largest agribusiness bank. NAB is also signatory to the Natural Capital Declaration. Last year NAB provided an outline of why Natural Capital was important to agribusiness customers and what we were doing. This presentation will provide an update on the work we have undertaken in the last 12 months with CSIRO and highlight we have learned about the strength of the relationship between good natural capital management and financial performance.

James Ensor

Executive Director, BHP Billiton Foundation



Driving New Ways of Conserving and Sustainably Managing Natural Environments for the Benefit of Future Generations

James Ensor is Executive Director of the BHP Billiton Foundation which works with others around the world to address some of the most critical global sustainable development challenges facing our generation.

Between 2001 and 2012 James was Policy & Program Director of Oxfam, an international development agency devoted to poverty reduction and social justice. Prior to joining Oxfam, James worked for the Central Land Council in the Northern Territory, which represents the interests of the indigenous traditional owners of the Northern Territory in relation to land claims, community and enterprise development and exploration and mining activity on their lands.

James has degrees in Economics and Science (specializing in Natural Resource Management), postgraduate qualifications in Journalism and has completed the Melbourne Business School Senior Executive Program and the Cambridge University Prince of Wales's Business & Environment Program for Industry.

James will outline the global engagement process which has informed the development of the new investment strategy of the BHP Billiton Foundation, with a particular focus on the Foundation's Environmental Resilience Global Signature Program (GSP). The Foundation's new strategy focuses on three significant global challenges which are directly relevant to the global resources sector and to wider society – where we believe that working in partnership with others we have the opportunity to act at scale to make a

distinctive contribution. The foundation's three GSP's are:

Natural Resource Governance: because raising standards of governance and transparency is essential to ensuring that the wealth created by the global resources sector helps improve living standards of millions of people around the world.

Education Equity: because providing access to quality education and skills opens up opportunities for individuals, communities and economies.

Environmental Resilience: because sustainably managing landscapes, in order to protect biodiversity and water resources and become resilient in the face of climate change, is critical to the future of all of us.

The BHP Billiton Foundation is investing in a portfolio of large scale projects, working alongside leading organisations to:

- Deliver high-impact, enduring interventions in areas of international significance
- Engage with people who live in the landscapes to involve them in our efforts, build their capacity and support their livelihoods
- Use these projects to act as test-beds, piloting new approaches and sharing our learnings so that others can take them on with confidence
- Develop replicable environmental policy frameworks to advance the future of conservation.

The Foundation's portfolio of projects will particularly seek to focus on working with Indigenous peoples to enhance the environmental, cultural and socio-economic resilience of their lands.

Deborah L Rogers

Director of Conservation Science and Stewardship, Centre for Natural Lands Management (CNLM)



The True Cost of Perpetual Protection: Lessons from California

During Deborah's 30-year career in natural resources conservation, she has worked in private, government, academic, and non-profit sectors. Deborah's research has focused on determining and conserving genetic diversity of native plants (e.g., *Pinus radiata*, *Sequoia sempervirens*). She joined CNLM in 2006 and provides leadership for CNLM's conservation science and stewardship programs including conservation plans and cost calculation for perpetual stewardship. She is an associate editor of the *Native Plants Journal* and holds an associate position at the University of California, Davis. Deborah holds a M.S. from the University of Washington, Seattle, and a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley.

With its high level of biodiversity and extreme population pressures, California is a crucible for creating endangered species and reducing habitat types to disjunct fragments. Further, many of the same pressures continue after the remaining populations and their habitat are 'protected' by fee title acquisition or conservation covenants. Indeed, it has long been recognized that effective conservation requires not only appropriate legal protections, but science-based stewardship supported by adequate and perpetual funding. This environment provides an impetus to determining the true costs of perpetual conservation and acquiring stewardship funding upfront, as an endowment. The Centre for Natural Lands Management—a non-profit organization that owns and manages sensitive conservation lands with high-risk species in California and Washington—has invested in

developing and continually revising its upfront cost calculation approach. With over 25 years of experience in acquiring and managing conservation properties, it has a considerable portfolio of conservation real estate and over \$70 million in endowments. CNLM has an acquisition policy that requires upfront funding of acquisitions—a policy required by federal law when the properties are mitigation-related and guided by experience (that the best opportunity to acquire perpetual funding is at the time of acquisition), even when they are not.

Ben O'Hara

General Manager Land and Environment, The Gainsdale Group

SESSION CHAIR



How to do a Conservation ‘Deal’

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, engaging with practical work in establishing wildlife corridors, ecological restoration and biodiversity offsets within the QTFN revolving fund. Ben joined Gainsdale in March this year to assist develop the Turner Foundation, the ecological vehicle of Graham and Jude Turner. The Turner Foundation is currently developing the Hidden Vale UQ Wildlife Facility and the Little Liverpool Range Initiative, a community led wildlife and ecological corridor.

Jim Radford

Executive Manager Science and Conservation, Bush Heritage Australia

Co-authors: Stephen Murphy, Science Fellow, Bush Heritage Australia and Map-IT, and Robert Murphy, Executive Manager North, Bush Heritage Australia



The Night Parrot: Back from the Brink

Jim leads Bush Heritage's science, research and ecological monitoring programs. Bush Heritage is currently a partner in over 50 collaborative research projects, involving hundreds of students, academics and community members around the country. Jim is involved in several threatened species recovery projects – from Red-finned Blue-eyes to Plains Wanderers to Striped Legless Lizards – and is a member of the Night Parrot Recovery Team.

A key question arising from the 2013 discovery of a live population of the enigmatic and mysterious Night Parrot – one of Australia's rarest birds – on a pastoral lease in south-western Queensland was "how can we conserve this population, and thus, ensure the survival of the species?". What transpired demonstrates that collaboration, innovation and pragmatism – informed by science and evidence – can achieve great conservation outcomes, in this case, bringing the Night Parrot back from the brink of extinction. The pastoral lease in question is prime grazing country. The Night Parrot discovery occurred shortly after the lease had changed hands and the new owners were shocked by the news. Due to their plans to intensify cattle production, a rapid conservation response was required. A temporary

stewardship fee was arranged through Fortescue Metals. Meanwhile, Bush Heritage was invited to become involved. Acquisition of the primary habitat for a Night Parrot reserve was the preferred solution for all parties. This required Queensland Government approval for subdivision and in the process a new lease category – for Conservation Purposes – was created. Ongoing research – guided by the Night Parrot Recovery Team – has provided insights into Night Parrot ecology and behaviour, critical for informing on-ground management.

Todd Berkinshaw

National Director of Conservation, Greening Australia



Reef Aid: Public Private Partnerships for the Great Barrier Reef

Todd is the National Director of Conservation 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 leading large-scale collaborative conservation planning processes. He also leads the development of Greening Australia's major campaigns including the Great Barrier Reef catchments, Northern Australia, Southern Australia, Tasmania 'Island Ark' and Green Cities.

Restoring the water quality flowing onto the Great Barrier Reef from land based activities is estimated to require many billions of dollars and will need to be implemented at a scale unparalleled in the environmental sector. This year Greening Australia launched a \$100 million fund-raising campaign which to date has raised in excess of \$10 million through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) approach. The PPP co-investment model is proving attractive to all type of investors as they seek to share in the achievement of mutually shared goals.

Greening Australia's ambitious fund-raising campaign is occurring during a period where many E-NGOs are experiencing a decline in investment from traditional sources. This change in traditional funding streams requires the environmental sector to look to new proactive approaches including facilitating innovative 'conservation deals' if resources are to be secured for large-scale conservation programs.

Conservation deals are not about convincing potential investors that they should adopt our beliefs and pass over their money. They are about developing long term relationships and understanding the challenges, motivations and interests of those investing in environmental programs.

Rich Gilmore

Country Director, Australia
The Nature Conservancy



Prosperity in Times of Scarcity: Making Water Markets Work for People and Nature

Rich Gilmore is The Nature Conservancy's Australia Director. He has a diverse professional background in financial markets, industry, conservation and international development that aligns with the multi-disciplinary nature of the Conservancy's work.

Rich is passionate about mangrove conservation and about bringing together financial markets, science and social entrepreneurship for conservation and the empowerment of vulnerable communities. Before joining the Conservancy, Rich worked with aid agencies, donors and the Government of Timor-Leste to drive sustainable, community-based economic development in Timor-Leste. Rich was the CEO of Earthwatch Australia for five years and has a Master of Environmental Management from the University of New South Wales.

Water reform within the Murray-Darling Basin has given rise to opportunities for private environmental water trusts to be established using corporate and private investment. In late 2015, The Nature Conservancy and Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group began a 10-year partnership to deliver water to stressed wetlands and rivers within the Murray-Darling Basin. This unique model is funded through the Murray-Darling Basin Balanced Fund, the first water fund in Australia with the multiple objectives of generating financial, social and environmental returns. Traditional capital markets investors can support large-scale, long-term conservation works while diversifying their portfolio and earning income through investment in the water market. Annual allocations from water entitlements will be traded on a 'counter-cyclical' basis such that in the dry years when water is scarce and demand is higher, more water is made available to agriculture. In the wet years when water is abundant and agricultural demand

is lower, more water is made available to wetlands. The Environmental Water Trust provides opportunities for public/private sector complementarity and watering will complement and integrate with government supported and run programs being undertaken by Commonwealth Environmental Water Office, Murray-Darling Basin Authority and natural resource management organisations.

Atticus Fleming

Chief Executive, Australian Wildlife Conservancy



A New Model for Conservation: the Role of Public-Private Partnerships

Atticus Fleming is the inaugural Chief Executive of Australian Wildlife Conservancy, 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.

Australia is losing its natural capital. A "business as usual" model will mean more extinctions and a continued loss of our unique biodiversity.

While the immediate causes of biodiversity loss include feral animals and wildfire, a critical underlying factor is a sector-wide lack of accountability for ecological returns (ie, insufficient accountability for ecological outcomes and the cost of delivering those outcomes).

Partnerships which harness the relative strengths of the public and private sector – including a reassessment of traditional roles – can help build a framework with greater accountability for ecological returns, delivering better biodiversity outcomes for available public and private funds. Australian Wildlife Conservancy has recently entered into two ground-breaking partnerships with the NSW Government and the Defence Department which may provide a model for future public-private partnerships. The NSW partnership will, for example, deliver an increase in the global population of at least 8 threatened mammals by between 15% – 150%.

Hugo Hopton

Chief Executive Officer, Nature Foundation SA



Hugo Hopton’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.

Gary Wells

Chief Executive Officer, Nature Conservation Trust of NSW



Gary has qualifications in Science and Law from Sydney University and has had a wide ranging career over the last 25 years. He started his career in international trade consulting for six years with Deloitte and Ernst & Young in Sydney. Gary then moved to the family farm in Wagga Wagga where he joined the Wagga Wagga City Council as Director of Engineering & Technical Services and subsequently

Commercial Strategy. During this time he developed a passion for regional development and in 2004 established a private consultancy which led a number of key strategic regional initiatives across NSW. Gary has been CEO of a number of private companies and is a director of Coast City Country General Practice Training, a not for profit company training young doctors for general practice in regional NSW.

Gary has also led a number of successful partnerships involving private companies and public entities and believes that partnering will be one of the keys to successful sustainable environmental management and conservation in the future.

James Fitzsimons

Director of Conservation (Australia Program), The Nature Conservancy

SESSION CHAIR



Current Policy Influences for Private Land Conservation in Australia

Dr James Fitzsimons is Director of Conservation (Australia Program) with The Nature Conservancy where he oversees the conservation planning, science and policy functions for that program. Previously 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.

There is no shortage of policy challenges for private land conservation in Australia. These include (but are not limited to):

- Antiquated legislation not enabling current policy objectives to be enacted (e.g. the need for rangelands reform)
- Gaps between community and landholder expectations for conserving natural features on their properties and policies and legislation which lead to conflicting land use (e.g. threats of mining in conservation covenants)
- The increasing need to undertake private land conservation with less funding
- The political or constitutional need to spread resources across landscapes and the restrictions this can place on prioritisation

- Financial disincentives for undertaking conservation activity on private land (for example see Smith et al. 2016. Reforms required to the Australian tax system to improve biodiversity conservation on private land. Environmental and Planning Law Journal 33, 443-450)

This session outlines some of the more important and innovative policies or policy reforms being pursued for private land conservation.

Barry Traill

Director, Outback to Oceans Program, The Pew Charitable Trusts



Implications of Rangelands Leasehold Reform for Private Land Conservation in WA

Dr. Barry (B.J.) Traill directs the work of Pew's Charitable Trusts in Australia, where he works with partner organisations to secure protection and good management for the Outback and adjacent remote seas. Before joining Pew, Barry worked for 25 years as a conservation advocate and zoologist for Australian state and national organisations.

Pastoral leases cover around 40% of Outback Australia. In parts of remote Australia, some pastoral leases are no longer commercially viable as grazing operations, due to their being on poorer quality lands for grazing and changed terms of trade. Expert estimates indicate that 30-50% of rangeland leases in WA are no longer commercially viable. As a consequence, many rural communities have declined. Some leases are no longer run for grazing, instead being managed primarily for conservation, mining, tourism, lifestyle, and cultural purposes, with ownership now diversified to include conservation NGOs, Aboriginal organisations and mining companies,

as well as pastoral businesses. However, in WA, leases continue to legally mandate that leaseholders run grazing businesses. Reform is needed to open up alternative enterprises. If native title rights are protected, such reform would allow significant gains for better land management and conservation, through opening opportunities for new enterprises, including carbon farming. Reform has been mooted for some time to allow a diversity of uses on leases through legislative changes. There is building momentum for change which is expected to occur after the WA election in March 2017.

Jason Irving and Stuart Paul

Manager, Protected Areas and Regional Director, South Australian Arid Lands
Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, South Australia



Directions for Private Land Conservation in the SA Pastoral Zone

Stuart has spent around 20 years working in protected area, conservation program and natural resource management in Australia, and has been employed across both State and Commonwealth public sector environments.

In the role of Regional Director, South Australian Arid Lands, Stuart leads a team who operate broadly to manage conservation and natural resource management outcomes across the South Australian Arid Lands Region, which spans over 50% of South Australia taking in rangelands and arid outback landscapes.

Jason is Manager of Protected Areas in the South Australian Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources.

He has over 15 years experience in protected area policy and is currently responsible for legislation and policy for protected areas on public and private land, including legislation, management planning, wilderness protection, native title and co-management, tourism and recreation, marine parks, and exploration and mining.

The South Australian Arid Lands NRM Region spans over 500,000 square kilometres, just over 50% of South Australia. The region takes in the northern Flinders Ranges and outback rangelands landscapes, with much of the region held under Crown pastoral lease, or as public land (parks). Major conservation related land management issues include the requirement to manage total grazing pressure and water resource use, and by association the management of native vegetation, biodiversity and ecological communities. Achieving conservation goals requires strong partnerships, and a strategic approach to dealing with connectivity, representativeness and landscape resilience. Conservation initiatives include those of a more traditional nature, ie. land purchase and management for conservation, and new innovative approaches such as the SA Arid Lands Pastoral Land Conservation Stewardship program.

Sue Higginson

Chief Executive Officer, Environmental Defenders Office, New South Wales



NSW Biodiversity and Private Conservation Laws: What's Happening

Sue is the CEO of EDO NSW. Sue is responsible for the delivery of EDO NSW's public interest environmental legal services – which includes litigation and advice, law reform and community legal education and outreach.

She has carried many public interest environmental cases through different courts in Australia, has acted for hundreds of community groups and individuals, has delivered legal workshops to communities all over NSW and beyond, and has represented EDO NSW and its clients on various advisory groups and forums.

Sue has advised on many private conservation programs and agreements throughout NSW and has a particular interest in the policy and law of private conservation.

Sue is passionate about public interest environmental law and providing access to environmental justice.

The NSW Government is currently pushing highly controversial changes to existing biodiversity and native vegetation protection laws through the Parliament right now. The proposed changes will significantly change the legal and physical landscape.

A key element of the changes proposed is that the package is accompanied by a commitment for \$240 million over 5 years to support private land conservation, with \$70 million each subsequent year following performance reviews.

Currently there are several options for landholders who wish to engage in private land conservation – ranging from voluntary conservation agreements to biobank sites, Aboriginal management agreements, wildlife refuges and so on. The private conservation community is varied and diverse so it makes sense to have a number of tools to meet the needs of the community and conservation.

The proposed new package reduces private conservation options in NSW to three, with the most invested option an offset mechanism.

The proposed scheme raises serious questions about the broader issue of biodiversity conservation of which private conservation is but one element. Also questionable is that the conservation gains hoped for under the new regime aren't guaranteed in law, but are dependent on future funding decisions.

The proposed regime places almost complete reliance on political, budgetary decisions (which may be short-term) to achieve biodiversity gains, rather than on protections in the law to prevent continued biodiversity decline.

Julie O'Connor

Senior Conservation Partnerships Officer, Sunshine Coast Council



Local Government Leading Private Land Conservation in Southeast Queensland

Julie is a Senior Conservation Partnerships Officer with Sunshine Coast Council in Queensland. Her passion for conservation has led her into a number of roles including several years coordinating the marine turtle conservation program on the coast and in the last three years as team leader for Conservation Partnerships. She is also in the process of wrapping up her PhD on fox ecology in coastal southeast Queensland.

Southeast Queensland is one of Australia's most biodiverse regions. Within the Sunshine Coast local government area 54% of pre-European vegetation remains, almost 60% of which is in private ownership. Council's innovative approach to private land conservation has resulted in private land accounting for more than 17% of the 54,000 ha actively managed for conservation. Collaborative community and landholder engagement continues to grow the private land conservation estate by approximately 10% per year. Council's core budget and Environment Levy (EL) fund a range of programs including; Land for Wildlife (LFW), Voluntary Conservation Agreements, LFW Incentives, EL Landholder Environment Grants and EL Partnerships. Together these programs provide an estimated 744% return on council's \$1.9m annual investment into private land conservation.

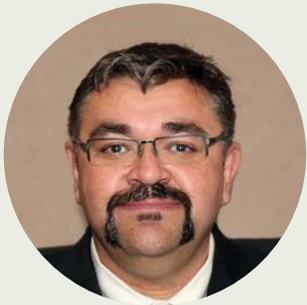
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Damien Bell

Chief Executive Officer, Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners
Aboriginal Corporation

SESSION CHAIR

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New Thinking in Old Landscapes

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Damein Bell is a Gundtjmarra man and CEO of Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation where, under instruction from the community, he implements Gunditj Mirring’s strategic plan, and advocates for Gunditjmarra in native title and cultural heritage. Damein has been a board member of Parks Victoria and the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission, and is currently a board member of the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority and the Independent Chair of the National Cultural Flows Research Committee.

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Kevin Wood

CEO, Glenelg Hopkins CMA



Conservation on Working Farms: A Victorian Perspective

Kevin is CEO of the Glenelg Hopkins CMA, a natural resource management authority for south west Victoria. The CMA partners with agencies, industry, landholders and community groups to enhance waterways, biodiversity and sustainable production in the region. Kevin has qualifications in agricultural science, planning and ornithology. His career in environmental management spans more than 40 years, with positions held in a range of Victorian government environmental agencies, including Melbourne Water, EPA and Planning and Environment. Prior to moving to the CMA he led programs for coastal planning, waterway management, nature conservation and integrated urban water management in and around Victoria's capital city Melbourne.

Victoria is the most cleared state in Australia, has the highest proportion of private land, and provides the highest agricultural output, producing 26% of Australia's food and fibre exports in 2015-16. While there are landscape scale changes in land use occurring across the state, working farms remain a significant activity in most regions, and a large contributor to regional economies in terms of both production and employment.

Private land also houses a significant proportion of the state's biodiversity, including threatened species and ecosystems. While many landholders understand that they have a duty of care to manage their land to protect existing environmental values, society also has an expectation that there will be increased protection, rehabilitation and ongoing management provided for habitat in farming enterprises. Victorian CMAs have been working in partnership with landholders over many years to protect and improve natural values

and secure future management arrangements. The programs are varied and include tenders, stewardships and grants, with the unifying theme being the provision of incentives and capacity building to achieve increased conservation outcomes. These programs have secured thousands of hectares of habitat and many threatened species, while being integrated into productive farming enterprises.

Beth Mellick

Executive Director, The Norman Wettenhall Foundation



Community-Driven Landscape Restoration: Has it Worked and Where to Next

Beth has been the Executive Director with The Norman Wettenhall Foundation for nearly ten years, following a long history of grassroots environmental activism and project management, both here and overseas. She is responsible for the overall operations of the Foundation including grant management, organising events, maintaining supporter donor relations, and running the landscape restoration program.

In Victoria, 69% of land is privately held and only fragments of habitat remain. Reconnecting habitat requires approaches that ensure landholder 'ownership' of visions for change.

The foundation (NWF) defines a community-driven project as encompassing a partnership containing all stakeholders within a defined landscape. The NWF 'checklist' consists of producing a biodiversity blueprint, then costing action plans to implement objectives from the blueprint.

NWF acts as facilitator, providing project worker funding and a community development checklist ensuring good governance, capacity building, research and monitoring. Applied to seven groups in Victoria over nine years, all have completed blueprints and implemented action plans. As another measure of success, NWF's \$1 million investment has led to groups leveraging over \$10 million.

Rolling the community-driven model out across state could ensure a whole of landscape approach, but NWF cannot tackle this alone. Initially, we envisage NWF's role as facilitating partnership formation. We have the legitimacy and a track record for guiding meaningful engagement.

Other organisations could 'buy in' to resourcing the model's ongoing operation, e.g. project worker or revegetation funding. NWF is exploring MOUs with government agencies whereby NWF takes on facilitating partnership formation and blueprints, in return for recurrent operational funding over a 3–5yr period.

Andrew Tribe

Wildlife Manager, The Gainsdale Group

Co-authors: Andrew Tribe and Ben O'Hara (The Gainsdale Group)
and Peter Murray (School of Agriculture and Food Sciences,
University of Queensland)



The Hidden Vale Project: A Cooperative Venture

For the past 24 years Dr Andrew Tribe was Senior Lecturer in Wildlife at the University of Queensland. He has worked with companion animals and wildlife for more than 30 years and is recognised for his research and teaching in animal welfare and behaviour.

Prior to this he was Director of the University's Veterinary Science Farm for eight years and was the Senior Veterinarian at the Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens from 1985 to 1991.

From this year, Andrew has been managing the \$5m Wildlife Centre at Spicers Hidden Vale near Grandchester. This privately funded facility will be run in conjunction with the University of Queensland to support its conservation initiatives through teaching and research.

This paper describes and discusses the Hidden Vale Project – a long term endeavour to combine conservation with livestock production, ecotourism and adventure activities.

Hidden Vale Nature Refuge comprises 3091 hectares of a 4000 hectare working cattle station. It also includes the Spicers Hidden Vale Retreat, a luxury resort, and is located on the Little Liverpool Ranges, in Southeast Queensland, one hour west of Brisbane. It provides suitable habitat for range of native wildlife, including rare and threatened species such as the koala, glossy black-cockatoos, powerful owls, Albert's lyrebird, and the square-tailed kite.

Hidden Vale has entered into a long term cooperative venture with the University of Queensland to enhance the wildlife on the property through a number of activities, including:

- Managing and rehabilitating the natural habitat
- Breeding and releasing local endangered species into suitable habitat
- Rehabilitating and releasing wildlife endemic to the area
- Developing wildlife activities and information for Spicers Retreat visitors.

All these activities will support and in turn be supported by research through the University.

This project will support conservation by providing a more natural balance of wildlife on this land, while also enhancing the experiences of Retreat visitors by allowing them to observe and to learn about Australian wildlife.

Mark Bachmann

Director, Nature Glenelg Trust



The Role of Wetland Restoration on Private Land in Threatened Species Recovery

Mark is the founding Director and Manager of Nature Glenelg Trust, an environmental charity and NGO focussed on delivering on-ground results for biodiversity in south-eastern Australia. Among other achievements since its launch 5 years ago, Nature Glenelg Trust has successfully restored over 25 drained wetlands across all land tenures (working with public and private landholders), and also owns and manages its own small number of strategically selected Habitat Restoration Reserves.

Mark has 20 years of private land bushland and wetland management experience, both professionally delivering programs as an ecologist and privately as an owner of his own high quality areas of native vegetation. Mark has diverse ecological experience and knowledge, with particular interest in small mammal ecology, environmental weed management, wetland restoration and designing novel solutions to complex problems.

Nature Glenelg Trust (NGT) has restored more than 25 wetlands on private land in south-eastern Australia over the past 4 years. Among a wide range of aesthetic, recreational, hydrological and ecological benefits, threatened species recovery is one of the most crucial outcomes from a biodiversity perspective. This presentation will explore the practicalities of wetland restoration; from communication, design considerations and environmental monitoring, through to threatened species response.

For many wetland dependent threatened species, wetland restoration is *the key activity* that is capable of concurrently addressing the widest range of overarching threats. Whether it is increasing recharge to local aquifers, expanding available wetland habitat, lengthening recruitment season or improving landscape permeability, wetland restoration is a recovery method that works at a scale (and influences key drivers) capable of improving conditions for multiple

threatened species at the same time. It is also rare in being a management action that provides lasting and self-sustaining outcomes.

The presentation will also touch on the range of construction methods available and how these can be tailored to match site characteristics and private landholder expectations. Because works usually deliver immediate, tangible results, this flexible approach strongly resonates with people on the land, who are usually practical and pragmatic – and clearly, in many cases, willing to do their part for wetland restoration and threatened species recovery.

Doug Robinson

Science Coordinator, Trust for Nature (Victoria)

SESSION CHAIR



Leading the Charge: Recent Research

Doug Robinson is a conservation biologist and works as Conservation Science Coordinator at Trust for Nature. He oversees the delivery of the Trust's conservation programs across Victoria, building on 25 years' experience in supporting landholders to implement conservation actions on private land. He has also been actively engaged in woodland bird conservation, especially that of the threatened Grey-crowned Babbler. More recently, Doug coordinated the preparation of Trust for Nature's Statewide Conservation Plan for Private Land in Victoria, using that knowledge base to participate in government agency planning and policy processes at a regional, state and national level.

Benjamin Cooke

Lecturer, RMIT University



What Next? Private Land Conservation After the Conclusion of a Market-based Conservation Scheme

Dr Benjamin Cooke is a lecturer in Sustainability and Urban Planning at RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia, where he currently teaches courses in Environmental Planning and Management, and Social Research. He has professional and research experience in environmental management, rural landscape change, land use policy and private land conservation programs. Benjamin's research interests include human-environment relations and temporality in environmental management, novel ecologies, environmental management practice and policy in the Anthropocene and critical urban greening.

Recent decades have seen the rollout of conservation tender schemes aimed at incentivising landholders to pursue conservation activities on private property. While a body of social research is emerging around conservation tenders, much of this work has focused on understanding the drivers of landholder participation and the intrinsic conservation motives of landholders. The recent emergence of tenders as a conservation tool means that research is only now beginning to turn to questions of what happens at the conclusion of a fixed-term conservation tender contract. Through qualitative interviews and property walks, this research set out to explore the experiences of 18 landholders who had recently completed an EcoTender

contract (reverse-auction tender scheme) in Victoria, with particular emphasis on how their conservation work would continue post-contract. Findings include the way landholders position their EcoTender participation as part of wider stewardship efforts, the emergence of unanticipated ecologies that raised questions about accommodating novel ecosystems and the use of EcoTender by some landholders to leverage permanent protection for their conservation work. This research raises broader questions about how we design and implement private land conservation programs in highly modified landscapes affected by climate change.

Alexander Forman, Joshua Prado and Helena Puszka

Final year degree students, Bachelor of Environmental Science and/or Bachelor of Environment and Society RMIT University



National Analysis of Land for Wildlife

Alex, Josh and Helena are three RMIT students in their final year of their single and double bachelor degrees, Bachelor of Environmental Science and/or Bachelor of Environment and Society. Wanting to contribute to something greater than themselves, Alex, Josh and Helena are passionate and determined to help minimise the human impacts on the natural environments through land management practices and enhancing the ability of urban and rural landscapes in sustaining native flora and fauna. Understanding the importance of private land conservation, they dedicated this year to research the newly emerging field, focusing on the Land for Wildlife program on behalf of The Nature Conservancy.

The Land for Wildlife program has spread across Australia from Victoria since 1981 as a voluntary program with the broad aim of supporting landholders in providing habitat for wildlife on their property. Land for Wildlife is one of the earliest private land conservation programs in Australia, and in its spread across Australia it has taken on a range of guises and is implemented through a variety of governance approaches. This research collected qualitative and quantitative data on Land for Wildlife programs across Australia to conduct the first national review of the program and assess its growth, trends and potential. Extensive phone interviews with Land for Wildlife coordinators throughout Australia were conducted to explore how the program is positioned in delivering biodiversity outcomes in different regions, and data on changes in program membership were analysed to assess different participation trends. Limited resources are a large challenge faced by the program, with generally low funding and staffing resulting in restricted biodiversity focus and conservation outcomes.

Mat Hardy

PhD Candidate, RMIT University

Co-authors: Dr James Fitzsimons (The Nature Conservancy), Assoc. Prof. Sarah Bekessy (RMIT University) and Dr Ascelin Gordon (RMIT University)



Exploring the Use of Revolving Funds to Protect Nature on Private Land

Mat is a final year PhD student with the Interdisciplinary Conservation Science Research Group at RMIT University and the Australian Research Council's Centre of Excellence for Environmental Decisions. Mat's research is looking at decision-making for private land conservation, with a particular focus on permanent mechanisms for protecting biodiversity (e.g. covenants) and the application of revolving funds to create Privately Protected Areas (PPAs). Mat is working under the supervision of Dr Ascelin Gordon (RMIT), Sarah Bekessy (RMIT) and Dr James Fitzsimons (The Nature Conservancy).

Conservation efforts are increasingly focussed on expanding the amount of private land permanently protected for biodiversity. Revolving funds are used by conservation organisations in a number of countries to buy private land with conservation value and then on-sell it to new owners, in the process adding a covenant or easement to protect biodiversity. The tool offers conservation organisations a unique and potentially financially sustainable way to conserve biodiversity on private land. This presentation will briefly outline two recent studies on revolving funds. In the first, we used practitioner experience to understand what likely constitutes a suitable revolving fund property. The results suggest that revolving funds may be particularly effective where land is under threat of development and prices are high. In the second study, we used a simulation model to explore how different

purchasing strategies and fund sizes might affect conservation outcomes, based on data from revolving fund programs across Australia. We found that factoring in property resale considerations can have considerable impacts for conservation outcomes, and larger funds were able to protect disproportionately more area than smaller funds, including greater numbers of expensive properties. The results suggest that resale considerations are central to long-term conservation gains, and that larger revolving funds may be more effective for conserving private land than smaller funds.

Geoff Park

Director, Natural Decisions Pty Ltd
Member, Victorian Catchment Management Council



What Value Does Native Vegetation Add to Properties?

Geoff Park is a Director of Natural Decisions, an interdisciplinary consulting company concerned with all aspects of environmental decision-making. Currently he is coordinating a diverse range of consultancies and has worked extensively across all agro-ecological regions in Australia over the past twenty years.

From 1998 -2013 Geoff worked in various roles with Victoria's North Central Catchment Management Authority, his last seven years as a Knowledge Broker, where as part of the Future Farm Industries CRC he worked with a small research team exploring the development and application of INFFER, awarded the Australian Research Council 2009 Eureka Prize for excellence in interdisciplinary research.

He has a long standing interest and involvement with communities working to improve biodiversity conservation in agricultural landscapes. Geoff is a trustee with the Norman Wettenhall Foundation, that supports projects to enhance the vitality and diversity of the Australian natural living environment.

In many parts of the world, natural vegetation has been cleared to allow agricultural production. To ensure a long-term flow of ecosystem services without compromising agricultural activities, restoring the environment requires a balance between public and private benefits and costs. Information about private benefits generated by

environmental assets can be utilized to identify conservation opportunities on private lands, evaluate environmental projects, and design effective policy instruments. This presentation highlights a recent study (Polyakov et al. 2015); which found that farmers and other rural landholders, on average, pay more for land that includes a proportion of woody native vegetation on it compared with land that is fully cleared.

The study used a model to estimate the private benefits of native vegetation on rural properties in north-central Victoria. Specifically, it involved an estimation of the marginal value of native vegetation on private land and examined how it varies with the extent of vegetation on a property and across a range of property types and sizes. There is scope for improved targeting of investment in the study region by incorporating private benefits of environmental projects into environmental planning processes. Landowners with high marginal private benefits from revegetation would be more willing to participate in a revegetation program. Targeting these landowners would likely provide higher value for money because such projects could be implemented at lower public cost.

Reference: Polyakov, M., Pannell, D.J., Pandit, R., Tapsuwan, S. and Park, G. (2015). Capitalized amenity value of native vegetation in a multifunctional rural landscape, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 97(1):299–314.

Alex Kusmanoff

PhD Candidate, RMIT University Interdisciplinary
Conservation Science Research Group



The Importance of Strategically Framing Conservation Messages

Alex has a background in law and environmental science and has previously worked in various policy roles for the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments. Nearing the end of his PhD, his research explores how the strategic use of message framing can enhance conservation messages. This has involved the application of principles drawn from across the social sciences, including economics, psychology and communication, to inform the crafting of more effective conservation messages.

It's well established that the way information is framed can significantly affect the way people understand and respond to it. This presentation briefly outlines two studies with implications for the framing of communications intended to promote private land conservation. The first study examines messages used by key Australian private land conservation organisations to communicate participation benefits to landholders. The stated benefits were categorised as either benefits to the landholder, to society, or to the environment, thus corresponding to the egoistic, altruistic and biospheric value orientations that have been shown to influence behaviour. The results suggest too heavy a reliance on environmentally-themed messages which likely fail to engage more egoistically oriented landholders, particularly with respect

to market-based schemes. The second study investigates whether an emphasis on the monetary value of ecosystem services within information that promotes an aspect of nature, can undermine intrinsic values for protecting nature. Using an independent groups design, separate surveys concerning whales and bees show that economically-framed ecosystem services information can crowd-out intrinsic motivations to protect whales/bees. The results raise questions about the long term effects of economically framed ecosystem-service based conservation messages.

Ben McGowan

PhD Candidate, Charles Darwin University
and the Australian National University



What's Driving the Growth in Private Conservation?

How do we govern when we govern using private conservation governance? Ben is working through this guiding question as a part of a PhD through Charles Darwin University and the Australian National University. Before starting his PhD he was an active private conservation participant, preparing biodiversity credits for sale, restoring landscapes and a qualified auditor for certification and offsetting schemes. Putting on a different hat he now follows environmentalists around asking questions and taking notes. Ben has been spending time at two case study sites in Western Australia and South Australia but is now writing his thesis from his home in beautiful North East Victoria.

What are the drivers of private conservation growth? In this presentation I tackle this question based on ethnographic work from two case study sites. I want to speak about two important moments in private conservation that have helped grow the field. The first is the creative conceptual and scientific work carried out by environmentalists to establish *new conservation models*. Ideas like Landcare, Natural Resource Management, Ecosystem Services, Rewilding and Landscape projects have helped to push conservation beyond its former limits at the boundaries of protected areas. The second moment is the ability of environmentalists to *interest others* in these models and on ground projects. Conservationists have had to build new constituencies that include farmers, philanthropists, governments, volunteers, and so on.

The addition of these new models and constituencies has led to an expanding conservation effort but has also meant an increase in complexity. These new models often have their own sets of priorities and ways of going about things, and they are sometimes in competition. So I want to suggest a third private conservation moment of interest, posed as a question: how should we go about the task of organising ourselves given this increased complexity?

Hayley Clements

Research Fellow, Monash University



Tourism as a Driver of South Africa's Privately Protected Areas

Hayley has just completed a PhD at the University of Cape Town, South Africa, and spent the year at James Cook University as a visiting student. She moved to Melbourne this month to start a postdoc at Monash, where she'll be looking at the effectiveness of Australia's protected area networks (both public and private). While working on a privately-owned game reserve in South Africa, Hayley became interested in the role that private land can play in conservation. Her PhD research was aimed at shedding some light on the private protected area industry in South Africa.

Commercially-operated private protected areas (PPAs) represent a large and growing industry in several parts of the world, including east and southern Africa. The potential for commercial PPAs to generate their own funds through tourism makes them an attractive conservation strategy in an economically-orientated world. There are concerns, however, that their long-term sustainability may be dependent on their ability to become and remain financially viable. In this talk I will provide insight into the PPA industry in South Africa, based on interviews with 72 landowners. Profit generation is an important objective on two thirds of interviewed PPAs, with 2013/2014 financial returns ranging from losses of AUD 270,000 to profits of AUD 1.7 million. Adopted business models include small nature reserves offering inexpensive accommodation to local visitors; hunting reserves; and large, expensive

ecotourism reserves supporting "big game" (lions, elephants, etc.) and attracting international tourists. Big game reserves appear more effective at meeting their financial objectives than hunting reserves. While nature reserves generate minimal profits, they generally rate profit generation to be unimportant. The sustainability of commercial PPAs is therefore likely to be influenced by their financial objectives as well as if and how they achieve these.

John Rodger

CEO, FAUNA Research Alliance



Returning Wildlife to the Australian Landscape for Healthier Self-sustaining Ecosystems

John Rodger has over 40 years of experience in research into the biology of Australian native animals and extensive experience in working with a broad range of stakeholders across Australia and New Zealand. He coordinated the team for the bid for a Marsupial Cooperative Research Centre and was its CEO from 1995-2003. From 2010-13 he coordinated an even larger and more diverse team of people and organisations for the Wildlife CRC bids. From 2005-2010 he was the founding Director of the Tom Farrell Institute for the Environment at the University of Newcastle and in 2014 lead the set up of the FAUNA Research Alliance to foster evidence-based innovation in native wildlife conservation.

There is growing momentum for the return of missing wildlife, especially native mammals, to our depauperate landscapes and ecosystems. Put simply the concept is the animal version of revegetation – a remarkably successful innovation across the country involving diverse communities and landholders. Often called ‘Rewilding’ this idea follows an international trend in Europe and the United States. Rewilding can involve strategies to conserve and return threatened species, but the main emphasis in the Australian context is on the return of formerly common and often widely distributed species and their functions to ecosystems. So the emphasis is not so much on the return of the animal but what it once did naturally and sustainably in the ecosystem – such as population control through predation and competition, soil turn-over and health through digging and support of plant

communities through pollination and seed dispersal. Australia is not Europe or the USA, our animals and systems are very different, and not all species would be welcomed by all stakeholders, but major experimental rewilding projects are under way that aim to demonstrate the advantages any disadvantages of the strategy and to establish best practice in how to rewild including threat management. Private land holders are important stakeholders and are already partners in this innovative approach to better integrate conservation in land management.

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Nerida Bradley

General Manager, Queensland Trust for Nature (QFTN)

SESSION CHAIR

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Nature Conservation... It's Personal

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Nerida recently joined QFTN after more than a decade in Darwin working as a lawyer and strategic advisor in a range of Northern Territory Government Agencies. She has joined QFTN hoping to align her professional expertise with her passion for growing community and corporate appreciation of the value of sustainable living and management practices through engagement in land and natural resource conservation.

Most recently, Nerida headed up the Environment Division of the Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment. Over the years, Nerida has worked with many private and public entities, indigenous organisations, pastoralists, miners, community groups and many others.

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Matthew Selinske

PhD student, Interdisciplinary Conservation Science Research Group, RMIT



Understanding the Motivations, Satisfaction, and Retention of Landowners in Private Land Conservation Programs

Matthew is a PhD candidate investigating the social dimensions of conservation programs. Matthew is specifically interested in behavioral implications of incentivised conservation initiatives and social-ecological modelling. Matthew's previous research focuses on the effectiveness and social outcomes of voluntary stewardship programs on private lands in South Africa. His professional experience include landscape restoration in the US Midwest, urban habitat restoration and community engagement in New York City, and six years in West Africa in protected area management and primate conservation. Matthew's research is supported by RMIT University and the Australian Research Council's Centre of Excellence for Environmental Decisions.

Effective private land conservation programmes are responsive to landholders' reasons for involvement and how their commitment to conservation is engaged, evolves, and is sustained. We surveyed 1202 covenant landowners in New South Wales, Tasmania and Victoria to understand more about the types of landholders who have covenants on their land, why they are motivated to participate in a covenant program, how they benefit from conservation trust support and what challenges they face when managing their land for biodiversity. I will discuss the findings from our survey and reflect on how these findings can inform private land conservation program design and delivery. I will also discuss potential future challenges for Trusts managing covenants given insights from the survey. This research was carried out with funding from ALCA, ALCA members and The Nature Conservancy.

Julian von Bibra

Farmer, W and C von Bibra



Conservation from a Farmer's Perspective

Julian von Bibra is a farmer. He lives at Beaufront a family property, running from the Macquarie River to the Eastern Tiers, at Ross in the Midlands of Tasmania.

He was educated in Commerce at Melbourne University and The Royal Agricultural College Cirencester in the UK.

The family farm at Ross is 12,400 hectares and contains considerable Conservation Values. They also manage a higher rainfall property in the North-Eastern tip of Tasmania at Gladstone covering 6,300 hectares.

Phil Collier and Robin Garnett

Steering Committee, Conservation Landholders Tasmania



Creating a Support Network for Conservation Landholders

Phil Collier has retired from a career as an academic specialising in design and use of intelligent decision aids. He has been interested in native flora since arriving in Tasmania in 1982. He now actively manages conservation land and hopes to leave a legacy of increased knowledge about land management methods and their benefits.

Robin Garnett has a background in science and education. She has worked in teams to create science exhibitions and programs at Questacon in Canberra, and to develop web resources for tertiary teaching. She now works with Phil on adaptive management at their property, *Rubicon*.

In 2007 Robin Garnett and Phil Collier bought the first revolving fund property sold by the Tasmanian Land Conservancy. They were motivated to give something back in exchange for the pleasures provided by bushwalking and natural systems. With little evidence-based knowledge about the best way to manage the property, they have carefully documented their adaptive management approach, backed up by a monitoring program and associated experiments.

An obvious question “who is doing similar things to us?” elicited no clear answer. In response, we conceived of a peer group, now called *Conservation Landholders Tasmania*, that enables conservation landholders to support each other and learn from experts. An initial survey showed that covenanted landholders were very keen to have their own group and provided a guide to their priority issues and interests.

Conservation Landholders Tasmania now runs two field days and one conservation forum each year on themes requested by landholders. Feedback from each event highlights how much the members enjoy being amongst like-minded people, alongside the useful exchange of information. The group’s vision is for every landholder to be the world authority on managing the natural systems on their own property.

Ben Callison and David Hartwell

President and Board Member, US Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust
(HSWLT)



People, Wildlife and Private Land Conservation: The Wildlife Land Trust Experience

Ben Callison became President of the Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust in May, 2016. With a passion for wildlife and deep commitment to preventing habitat loss, his leadership of the HSWLT followed five years of working within The Humane Society of the United States' Animal Care Centres, Animal Rescue Team, and the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association. He has served as Director of the Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch and Director of Integration and Engagement for HSUS's Animal Rescue, Care and Sanctuary department. Ben is also a Board Member of the Texas Humane Legislation Network and the Project Chimps Sanctuary.

David Hartwell was appointed a member of the Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust's board in August, 2016. Highlights of David's non-profit work include: Board Member, Executive Committee Member and Treasurer of the Land Trust Alliance from 1993–2005, rejoining the board from 2006 – 2015; Board Member of the Belwin Conservancy since 1974 and its President since 1989; and Founding President of the Minnesota Land Trust. In 2001 David built and led a coalition for land conservation in Minnesota which now generates \$300m a year for water, habitat protection, and parks. Last month, the Land Trust Alliance presented David with its prestigious Kingsbury Browne Conservation Leadership Award.

Ben Callison (President) and David Hartwell (Board Member) of the US Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust (HSWLT), affiliate organisation and founding inspiration of the Wildlife Land

Trust Australia, explore a range of topics surrounding people, wildlife and private land conservation, comparing the Australian experience with that across the Pacific.

They will discuss the history of the HSWLT since its creation more than 23 years ago, its unique niche in the broader US private land conservation scene, its numerous highlights and innovative programs over the years, and its plans for the future.

More generally, Ben and David will explore the essential role of private land conservation in the protection of wildlife and their habitats, and the importance of engaging and supporting landholders in their private conservation efforts (permanently binding or otherwise) in the face of ever-increasing threats to global biodiversity and uncertainty surrounding the management of public land and conservation intentions of governments.

The personal drivers and motivations for HSWLT members protecting land in the US will be compared with those of landholders involved in the Australian Wildlife Land Trust program, with the strengths and benefits of the varying methods of both programs presented, along with news on their strengthening international ties.

Keith Bradby

CEO, Gondwana Link



Inspiring Privately Led Land Conservation Across Gondwana Link

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.

Gondwana Link is a privately led conservation initiative spanning private and public lands across 1000kms of south-western Australia. It was built by inspiring and supporting a core collection of groups and individuals to be ambitious and take a few risks. We're told that as it developed the program has been part of inspiring others to be similarly ambitious. So we use the benefit of 15 years hindsight to try and outline the critically important inspirational elements behind Gondwana Link's establishment and growth – it can't just be the big vision. It may be that audacious but just possibly achievable vision when combined with strong personal relationships and trust between key players, a focus on transforming current approaches to conservation, our ecologically strategic positioning across a global biodiversity

hotspot, the momentum built through tangible achievement and an organic growth model that minimises tedious structural demands and maximises individual and group ownership of the work they do. Being able to inspire contributions of significant funding was critical in establishing the program, and will be even more critical in bringing it to fruition. But maybe the critical ingredients will need to be different for the next stage of achieving the Link?



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