



SOCIETY FOR CONSERVATION BIOLOGY - 5TH OCEANIA CONGRESS
WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND 3-5 JULY 2018

CONSERVATION IN A CHANGING WORLD



Society for Conservation
Biology Oceania

Society for Conservation Biology 5th Oceania Congress

Conservation in a changing world

FINAL REPORT

Draft as of 20/9/2018



Victoria University of Wellington (VUW), ZEALANDIA and the Society for Conservation Biology Oceania Section (SCBO) co-hosted the SCBO Conference July 2-6, 2018 in Wellington (<http://wellington2018.scboceania.org/>). The meeting brought together the Oceania community of conservation professionals to address conservation challenges and present new findings, initiatives, methods, tools and opportunities in conservation science and practice. Scientists, students, managers, decision-makers, writers, and other conservation professionals participated in this event. We were able to offer a range of activities for all participants, including 1 day of workshops, 3 days of oral presentations and 1 day of excursions. Pre-conference workshops and short courses were held at VUW on July 2 and post-conference fieldtrips occurred July 6.

1. Organizing Committee

Meeting Partners: VUW, ZEALANDIA

Chairs

Nicola Nelson (Co-Chair), VUW
Danielle Shanahan (Co-Chair), ZEALANDIA
Vanessa Adams (Co-Chair), University of Queensland

Organization Committee Members

Nicola Nelson (Co-Chair), VUW
Danielle Shanahan (Co-Chair), ZEALANDIA
Vanessa Adams (Co-Chair), University of Queensland
Sue Keall, VUW
Paul Marsden, VUW
Caroline Nebel, VUW
Monica Gruber, VUW
Heiko Wittmer, VUW
Joe McCarter, Wildlife Conservation Society
Lara Shepherd, Te Papa
Myfanwy Emeny, Wellington City Council
Daniela Biaggio, Wellington City Council
Penny Fairbrother, Greater Wellington Regional Council
Helen Taylor, Otago University
Toni Love, Wellington SCBO Chapter
Elizabeth Gaiduch, VUW, Wellington SCBO Chapter
Miriam Sherratt, Papa Taiao
Monica Awasthy, BirdLife Australia
Carolyn Lundquist, NIWA
James Russell, University of Auckland
Toby Barach, Bay of Plenty Regional Council
Glenda Lewis, self employed
Jo Monks, Department of Conservation
Fleur Maseyk



Pascale Michel
Rosalynn Anderson-Lederer

Volunteers

Ox Lennon
Sarah Herbert
Chris Woolley
Brittany Florence-Bennett
And all the travel awardees managed timekeeping.

We thank the Local Organizing Committee, Volunteers for their tireless efforts and all of the SCB chapter members who attended the conference and helped support the SCB booth during the conference.

2. Scientific Program

The conference program spanned three days and included 3 plenary addresses, 4 speed sessions, 13 symposiums, 16 open abstract full talk sessions, 1 poster session, an award session featuring a plenary from our Oceania Distinguished Service awardee and an evening panel on the topic of Killing for Conservation with four notable speakers. This resulted in a total of 211 presentations (3 plenaries, 156 full talks, 55 speed talks and 44 posters).

The Program Committee chose to take two unusual approaches that they found highly successful: 1) blind abstract review to indicate only that the abstract was acceptable for presentation and overall relevance to the conference, 2) randomly assigned accepted abstracts to presentation format (as per the previous SCBO conference in Brisbane). Authors were able to select a poster presentation only, or elect into random allocation (assigned to poster, speed talk or full talk). This year there was a large number of speaking slots and only 5 'random allocation' abstracts were placed into a poster slot. These were later offered speaking slots as people withdrew. This likely added to a lack of issues for people. Some people did note that if they had been awarded a shorter talk or poster slot, their organization may not have supported their attendance.

The choice of having a large number of speed sessions enabled more presentation slots to be available for attendees. Full talks were 15 minutes (12 minutes speaking and 3 minutes questions), which worked well. Those attending speed talk sessions liked the format, but recommended the discussion at the end of each session was not run concurrently with other talk sessions. This year we slightly lengthened the speed talks from the last conference to 5 mins. Each session had 12 consecutive talks which made the session feel somewhat drawn out, and increased the challenges associated with grouping into themes (it was easy to find 6 similar talks, but 12 was very difficult). Some possible improvements could include:

- Move away from the table based format (people were able to come talk to speakers at designated tables, which did stimulate discussion but meant speed talks were limited to one



room which was set up in this way). This would enable concurrent speed talk sessions. In addition, it would help with people moving between rooms.

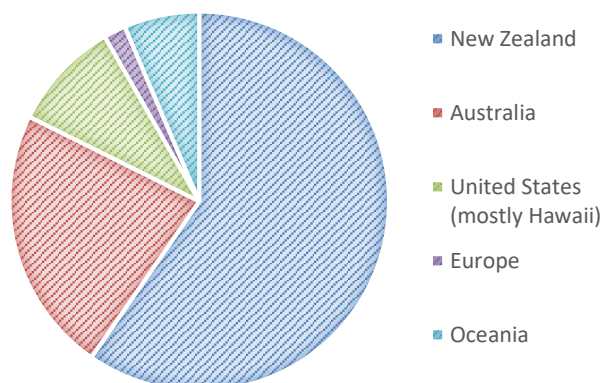
- Consider grouping speed talks into 6, with 15 minutes at the end of each group for submitted questions, and repeat this process twice in a single session. One approach that worked well in one speed talk session was for people to submit questions on paper as the talks were going with a 'hand-up' system. This allowed for a panel based moderated question session, which would be easy to run based on 6 similar talks.
- A briefing session each day or at the start of the conference for session moderators. The speed talks in particular had variable moderators, some of whom were strict on time and others not. This had significant implications for how well the sessions ran.

3. Congress in Numbers

a. Attendees

The conference was attended by 374 registrants from 17 countries (versus 27 in Australia). A break down by country and region is provided below.

Country	%
New Zealand	59.6
Australia	22.7
United States (mostly Hawaii)	9.4
Papua New Guinea	2.4
Solomons	0.5
Spain	0.5
Sweden	0.3
Fiji	0.5
Kiribati	0.3
New Caledonia	1.1
Philippines	0.3
Poland	0.5
Samoa	0.5
Tokelau	0.3
Tonga	0.3
Tuvalu	0.3
United Kingdom	0.5



b. Registration

The conference offered full and day registrations for members and non-members at full and student/developing country rates. Of the 374 attendees we had:

Free registrations 41



Full Registrations

Registration type	Number
Regular non-member	92
Regular member	66
Student/developing member	58
Student/developing non-member	52
Total	268

Day registrations

Registration type	Number
Day - regular non-member	58
Day - regular member	2
Day - student/developing member	0
Day - student/developing non-member	5
Total	65

Every registrant had to funnel through a single person at the registration desk, which did create a bottle neck. This could be improved through a system based on the first letter of the surname with multiple registration points.

c. Travel Awards

We awarded a total of NZD \$41,350 in travel scholarships to allow students, scientists and practitioners to attend our conference. We are incredibly grateful to the Allan Wilson Centre at Otago, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Conservation International for their funding support. SCB and SCBO supported travel awards to the value of NZD \$8,639.03. We received 75 applications for scholarships to the conference, many of high caliber, so it was very difficult to choose just 6 full awardees and 20 partial awardees (19 came from SCB chapters). Our travel award recipients came from 9 different countries. Their support included varying combinations of registration, accommodation and flights (partial or full support). In addition, a further 15 New Zealand based students and chapter members received free registrations. The successful applicants were chosen based on the scientific merit of their work, their ability to be able to present their work and where they came from. We were keen to have representatives from as many countries in the region as possible, and limited scholarships for those outside the Oceania region, due to the expense in getting them to New Zealand.

In total this means 41 attendees received travel support and/or registration waivers with the funding available to support their attendance at the conference. All funded researchers were required to present either a poster or an oral presentation of their work. The quality of presentations was very



high. Attendance at the conference allowed these participants to discuss their research and techniques with others in their fields of expertise and to hold some relevant site based conversations. The participants were able to attend workshops and field trips adjacent to the conference scientific program. All the participants were located in the same accommodation along with many other conference attendees, enabling additional conversations and connections.



Travel awards recipients from the Oceania Pacific

'Thank you so much the SCBO organising the committee and the sponsors for sponsoring the Island Nation Countries to attend the conference. Dr Ingrid Visser conducted the first dedicated marine mammal survey in PNG. And this has been the biggest highlight of attending this conference after 2 years of unsuccessful attempts to get in contact with her.'

Wilma Mavea, Papua New Guinea

Grace Nugi best student talk award



d. Sponsors & Exhibitors

We were able to successfully fundraise \$65,400 in sponsorship and exhibition space for the conference. Funding *italicized* below represents specific travel award sponsorship noted in the section above.

ZEALANDIA	2483.46
Wellington City Council	5581.79
Greater Wellington Regional Council	2500.00
Department of Conservation	9000.00



NSC – Biological Heritage	5500.00
Advanced Telemetry Systems Australia	2000.00
Atarangi	500.00
IUCN	500.00
NIWA	1000.00
Rufford Foundation	3530.00
<i>Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade</i>	<i>20914.67</i>
<i>Conservation International</i>	<i>6904.84</i>
<i>Allan Wilson Centre at Otago</i>	<i>5000.00</i>
TOTAL	65414.76

4. Positive Congress Outcomes

Unsolicited comments from attendees directly to the conference organizers and volunteers were extremely complementary. In addition, we solicited comments following the conference by running a survey. Of the 85 people that completed our survey, only about ¼ signaled they had attended an SCBO conference before, although half said they were members of SCB and 28% joined SCB for the conference. About half of respondents said they'd be likely to attend the next conference, but comments indicate some of our respondents only attended this conference because it was local for them and they would not be able to get the support from their organizations to travel to the next one. Of those that responded to the question, the main and extremely consistent reasons for attending the conference were 1. networking and 2. presenting research. Only 5% of these people thought their opportunities around these reasons were less than expected; 96% of respondents were satisfied with the conference, and most responded extremely positively around the relevance of topics presented, the conference organization, venue, value for money and diversity of participants. Suggestions for improving the poster session entailed having more space around the posters for networking opportunities. We got a lot of very positive comments about the food being a highlight of the conference, but a couple of people with special dietary needs felt the venue operators did not sufficiently address their needs.

Below we report more specifically on positive outcomes of the conference.

a. Plenaries

We invited four plenary speakers but only three were able to attend. This was ultimately an appropriate number for the slots available. We aimed to display our approach to diversity through our plenary speakers including diversity in topics, gender, and experience. Our plenary speakers started the morning program for each of the three days.

Full program: http://wellington2018.scboceania.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Full_day_layout_final-June-21-for-web.pdf



Attendees reported to us that they really appreciated the diversity in our speakers and their topics, and particularly the indigenous focus from the outset with Jacinta's presentation. A highlight for many was the displaying Southern Right whale outside the venue during Hugh's plenary.

Professor Jacinta Ruru

Jacinta Ruru (Raukawa, Ngāti Ranginui) is an award winning Professor of Law at the University of Otago, Co-Director of Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga New Zealand's Centre of Māori Research Excellence, fellow of the Royal Society Te Apārangi, and recipient of the New Zealand's Prime Minister's Supreme Award for Excellence in Tertiary Teaching. Her more than 100 publications assert Indigenous peoples' rights and responsibilities to own and care for lands and waters and develop multidisciplinary understandings of landscapes. She holds a PhD from the University of Victoria, Canada, and has research collaborations around the world.

Talk at SCBO2018 – “Nourishing Indigenous Ancestors: The Legal Empowerment for Revived Indigenous Peoples' Care for Lands and Waters”

On the world stage there is now a suite of legal devices that aspire to recognise Indigenous peoples' cultural environmental management philosophies and practices. Of international acclaim, on 27 July 2014, Te Urewera, a large forested national park in the North Island of Aotearoa New Zealand, became simply: Te Urewera “a legal entity” with “all the rights, powers, duties, and liabilities of a legal person”. Three years later, on 20 March 2017, Aotearoa New Zealand enacted legislation giving legal personality this time to the country's 3rd longest river, the Whanganui River. These two statutes mark a significant positive transformation for Aotearoa New Zealand's environmental laws enabling a revived and expanded practice for conserving Earth's biological diversity. At the forefront once again are Māori Indigenous worldviews for knowing and caring for lands and waters. Te Urewera is the heart of the fish caught by Maui (a demi god); Whanganui River is a tupuna (ancestor). This talk considers how this legal reform provides new ways for knowing these old places.

Dr Nicola Mitchell BSc (Tasmania) DPhil (Adelaide)

Nicki Mitchell is a conservation physiologist and an award-winning tertiary teacher at the University of Western Australia, where she has been based since 2005. She leads a research group that integrates developmental and thermal biology with mechanistic modelling and genetics to investigate how vertebrates could adapt to climate change, with a focus on marine and freshwater reptiles and terrestrial-breeding amphibians. Her recent publications discuss emerging options for threatened species management, such as assisted colonization. Nicki is a member of Australia's Threatened Species Scientific Committee and co-leads a national program on fauna translocations for the Threatened Species Recovery Hub.

Talk at SCBO2018 – “Conservation in a drying hotspot: can we (and should we) assist species to adapt?”

Many threatened species are isolated in pockets of habitat that are changing rapidly. The Mediterranean climate of south-western Australia began drying in the 1970s and repercussions of this regime shift in this highly-fragmented biodiversity hotspot are now being realized. In this talk I will present evidence that change in the pattern and extent of seasonal rainfall is a key threat to some fauna, focusing on mechanistic links between water availability and reproductive success. I then ask what we might do to mitigate this threat. Two projects underway in Western Australia illustrate that new forms of translocation could be part of the answer. Assisted colonization (translocation outside of the historical range) of the western swamp turtle has recently been trialed, and the utility of genetic translocation (introducing adaptive genotypes into threatened populations) is being evaluated in terrestrial-breeding frogs. I conclude that while we are a way from knowing precisely how to assist species to adapt to climate change, intervention is more likely to succeed when it is guided by detailed understanding of a species' biology.

Professor Hugh Possingham FNAS FAA BSc (Adelaide) DPhil (Oxford)

The Chief Scientist, The Nature Conservancy; Occasional Professor of Mathematics and Professor of Ecology, The University of Queensland; Honorary Doctorate, University of British Columbia; Emeritus Professor, University of Adelaide

Hugh is The Chief Scientist of The Nature Conservancy <http://www.nature.org/>, the world's largest environmental non-government organization (4000 people including 500 scientists across 72 countries). He is



based in Arlington Virginia (USA) and Brisbane (Australia). His expertise is in ecology, applied mathematics, spatial planning, operations research and economic instruments for conservation outcomes. Before TNC he worked in Australian universities for almost 30 years. Possingham has coauthored 650+ refereed publications covered by the Web of Science (30+ in Science, Nature or PNAS). He has supervised 80 PhD students and 50 postdoctoral fellows. His Google Scholar h-index is 109 <https://scholar.google.com.au/citations?user=ISYOB3cAAAAJ&hl=en>. In 2016, Hugh was elected a foreign associate of the US National Academy of Sciences, the most prestigious science academy in the world. He is one of less than 500 foreign associates in the US NAS – and the only one resident in Queensland. He is no stranger to getting shit done. Hugh and Dr Barry Traill wrote “The Brigalow Declaration”, used by Premier Beattie to more than halve land clearing in Queensland thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Australia by more than 5% per annum and saving one million acres per year from conversion which amounts to saving 50+ million birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians per year. With Ian Ball (PhD student) and Matt Watts (programmer) he developed the most widely used conservation planning software in the world. Marxan www.ecology.uq.edu.au/marxan.htm was used to underpin the rezoning of the Great Barrier Reef and is currently used in over 160 countries by over 6000 users – from the UK and USA to Malaysia and Brazil – to build the world’s marine and terrestrial landscape plans. Marxan can be used to achieve conservation outcomes while maximizing development opportunities. In addition, many governments and ENGOs use the group’s research for the allocation of funding to threatened species recovery and solving other conservation conundrums. Marxan has assisted the conservation rezoning of about 5% of the planet. Hugh has sat on innumerable boards and expert advisory committee. He was the inaugural chair of the Australian federal government Biological Diversity Advisory Committee. He is a founding member of the Wentworth Group that leads Australia’s water reforms. With Dr Martine Maron and others he developed a credible but expedient biodiversity offset calculator that is having global impact. The idea of using basic cost-effective decision-making, developed with Dr Liana Joseph and Dr Richard Maloney, is changing how we allocate money to threatened species and conservation actions around the world.

Talk at SCBO2018 – “What did TNC ever do for the planet? The “science” behind eNGO strategy”

b. SCBO Contributed Sessions

SCB Oceania is working to build regular core conference content that our members can expect at our conferences. Two SCBO sponsored workshops were held for the first time.

The “Mentorship – creating and fostering connections in conservation” workshop was sponsored by the SCBO Science & Education committee and formed the basis for ongoing work in networking and mentorship within the Oceania section. We expect the workshop to be a regular offering at future SCBO conferences. (see workshop details below for more information).

A lunchtime workshop was held for ‘SCBO Chapters - Policy and Management’ led by Monica Awasthy. In this workshop, chapter leaders worked together with the SCBO board’s Policy and Management Committee to review the Reporting Structures document coordinated by chapter presidents and discuss building stronger networks within Oceania. The short lunch-time session was broken into three key areas (1) introductions/summary from each chapter, (2) understanding how chapters are constituted, identifying risk and liabilities, and working together to solve issues such as operational roadblocks, and (3) discussion of methods and opportunities for improved two-way support between chapters and the SCBO board. Outputs of this session continue to be refined with workshop attendees and the SCBO Policy Committee to develop a Chapters Policy for Oceania.

c. PCB Special Issue



One of the ways in which SCB Oceania supports Pacific Conservation Biology is through organizing special issues timed with the Oceania conferences. This year's special issue put together by Heiko Wittmer, VUW, was themed "Conservation/Restoration in Peopled Landscapes". The Special Issue is available online: <http://www.publish.csiro.au/pc/content/UpcomingSpecialIssues> (details below) and was accompanied by a symposium at the conference in which contributors spoke on their submissions.

Conservation/Restoration in Peopled Landscapes

Oceania's ecosystems are among the most degraded worldwide and much of its native biodiversity is now threatened with extinction. Threats are numerous but most often due to direct and indirect interactions of native species with non-native/invasive species. There is, however, current widespread political and societal support for methods aimed at mitigating the effect of invasive species to restore ecosystems that can support viable populations of native species. Many pest eradication projects also no longer focus on natural landscapes but occur in landscapes heavily used by humans such as urban areas.

Motivations for conservation action in peopled landscapes. D. F. Shanahan, J. E. Ledington and F. J. F. Maseyk

Using community engagement and biodiversity surveys to inform decisions to control invasive species: a case study of yellow crazy ants in Atafu, Tokelau. M. A. M. Gruber, R. J. Pierce, A. R. Burne, L. Naseri-Sale and P. J. Lester

Initiating a conflict with wildlife – the reintroduction and feeding of kākā, Wellington City, New Zealand. W. Linklater, H. Chapman, A. Gregor, R. Calder-Flynn, J. Gouws, O. Quigan, A. Rustandi, J. Molitaviti and Y. Ying Pacific

Animal reintroductions in peopled landscapes: moving towards urban-based species restorations in New Zealand. Y. van Heezik and P. J. Seddon

An overview of introduced predator management in inhabited landscapes. J. C. Russell and M. C. Stanley
Conservation challenges and benefits of multi-species reintroductions to a national park – a case study from New South Wales, Australia. R. D. Pedler, R. S. West, J. L. Read, K. E. Moseby, M. Letnic, D. A. Keith, K. D. Leggett, S. R. Ryall and R. T. Kingsford

More than just the animals: opportunities and costs of reintroducing threatened black-footed rock-wallabies to remote Indigenous land. L. Ireland, M. Zabek, C. Galindez-Silva, S. Weir, R. West, L. Olds, B. Backhouse, P. Copley and J. Read

d. Evening Public Event

We hosted a public event: 'Killing for Conservation' on July 4th. The event included four panel members who are contributing to a discussion document on the ethics surrounding killing for conservation for the Biological Heritage National Science Challenge. The panel was hosted by New Zealand's eminent Kim Hill, recorded for Radio New Zealand and videoed for internet access by a wider audience (link: <http://bit.ly/2xkoXOe>). Approximately 450-500 people attended the event, of which we estimate half were from the general public and half were associated with the conference.



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Society for Conservation
Biology Oceania



HOSTED BY *Kim Hill*



WED
4TH
JULY

5.30 TO
7.00 PM

THE AMOKURA ROOM
TE PAPA



HEAR FROM THE EXPERTS. ASK QUESTIONS. GET INVOLVED!



JAMES
MACLAURIN
Philosopher
Otago University



EDY
MACDONALD
Psychologist
Department of
Conservation



DOUG
ARMSTRONG
Ecologist
Massey University



CILLA WEHI
Cultural Ecologist
Manaaki
Whenua

e. Workshops and short courses

We held seven workshops and short courses associated with the conference, including two organized by SCBO supporting our goals: 'Understanding and engaging with conservation policy' and 'Mentorship – creating and fostering connections in conservation'. Almost half of conference registrants enrolled to attend workshops and short courses which was a very encouraging uptake, but there was about a 25% no-show rate at these events which potentially prevented some people attending those that were apparently full. Workshops and short courses were free to attend. Payment for attendance at future conferences is worth considering, even at a small rate, as it might encourage people to really consider whether they will attend, and increase the numbers actually showing up to these courses. All of those that attended workshops and short courses that completed our survey thought they were as good as, or better than they expected; 81% thought they had gained skills and knowledge by attending.

W1 Short Course

James Parker

Introduction to small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) for Natural Resource Management and Invasive Species Target Detection.

Full day



Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) are revolutionizing data collection and resource management worldwide, allowing the acquisition of high resolution imagery on-demand at a low operational cost. Managing natural resources within an island ecosystem will continue to change as the climate changes around us. Invasive species will continue to expand their ranges and new invasive pests continue to spread from island to island. In this changing climate, detecting new pests early will be even more important. New sUAS technology is available that not only complements the work of field crews but also allows for significant cost savings when paired with ground surveys. This one day introductory workshop will cover the essential knowledge an organization needs to safely and responsibly integrate sUAS operations into their daily work objectives. The workshop will consist of a series of lecture modules, hands-on sUAS simulations, live demonstrations (weather conditions permitting), and image processing techniques working with sUAS-derived data. Participants will leave with the background knowledge, hands-on experience, and confidence to begin incorporating sUAS technology into their early detection survey and invasive species/natural resource management programs. Participants will understand how to evaluate the right platform and software for their operations and budget, meet regulatory requirements, and design an efficient workflow, and test feasibility in the field. This workshop is supported by the US Forest Service and Hawaii Invasive Species Council.

W2 Short Course

Katie Moon

Understanding social science to improve conservation.

Full day

Conservation scientists and practitioners must engage with social science because at the most fundamental level, the verb “to conserve” describes an action, which must be undertaken by a person or group of people. People are understood through the social sciences by examining: what they think and why; their values, culture and perceptions; their knowledge of systems and processes; and what motivates them to adopt certain behaviours. This short course will provide an interactive, practice-based exploration of commonly used conservation social science philosophies. First, dominant elements of philosophy will be presented, with video examples. Second, conservation case studies will be used to demonstrate how philosophy influences the:

- types of questions that researchers and practitioners ask
- nature of data that is collected (quantitative and/or qualitative)
- assumptions that are made about the nature of the research and its outputs
- instruments used to collect data and associated analysis options
- recruitment of people and/or organisations
- findings that are generated, including their interpretation, application and transfer to other contexts

Finally, participants will be invited to explore their own philosophy, and apply it to a conservation problem, sharing their ideas and approach within a small group setting.

W3 Short Course

Megan Evans

Understanding and engaging with conservation policy.

Full day

Many conservation scientists are interested in engaging with policy, but may not be sure where to start, or how they can most effectively contribute. This course aims to provide a “Public Policy 101” for conservation scientists who want the knowledge and tools needed to navigate messy policy processes. The course will feature presenters working across the spectrum of policy, practice and academia who will contribute to the following topics:

What is policy?

- Key legislation and conservation policies, national & local level governance (New Zealand focus)
- Stakeholder engagement
- Effective advocacy
- Working with the media
- Drafting a policy statement

Participants will receive an introductory grounding in public policy, training in advocacy planning, and will draft a policy statement summarising the policy relevance of their research.

W4 Workshop

Moncia Gruber



The promises and the pitfalls: sharing lessons from invasive ant management programs around the Pacific

Full day

Ants are among the worst invasive species in the Pacific region. As well as being a major threat to species of conservation concern, invasive ants impact people, the broader environment, agriculture, economic and cultural activities. Despite these impacts the capacity of Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) to manage these species is a challenge. This workshop brings together a group of international experts who have led hands-on work on invasive ants all around the Pacific including Australia, Tokelau, Hawai'i, French Polynesia, Kiribati, California, Tuvalu, the Solomon Islands, New Zealand and Norfolk Island. These facilitators will share practical advice for people who are aware that ants are a problem but don't know where to start. The workshop will be interactive, and rather than focus on telling, we will focus on sharing. The participants will gain a more practical understanding of the threats posed by invasive ants in the Pacific, and how to deal with these threats. Participants will also be able to begin to form relationships with experts.

W5 Workshop

Sandra Velarde

Unleashing conservation opportunities in urban green spaces in Oceania.

9:00-12:30

Urban sprawl has an impact on environmental sustainability, lifestyle affordability and quality of life, including mental health. While conservation efforts are usually focused on rural areas, urban green spaces provide a valuable habitat for conservation as well. Traditionally these spaces include 'Victorian era' parks, street trees, stream plantings, etc., however, the constantly evolving social fabric of cities around the world requires new configurations suited to different cultures, priorities and changing lifestyles, marked by increased mobility, 'gig economy' and disruption of sense of place and values. In this workshop we will explore new bold ideas for conservation opportunities in urban green spaces in Oceania, their social, economic and environmental benefits and potential costs, win-win and tradeoffs, and how they fit in the planning of new buildings, neighbourhoods, towns and cities. These ideas will serve as building blocks of a vision of conservation for urban green spaces in Oceania.

W6 Workshop

Monica Awasthy

Mentorship – creating and fostering connections in conservation.

1:00-4:30

Mentorship is a key driver of success and can have positive effects for both mentees and mentors. Yet finding the right mentor – especially one with influence that is willing to champion and support you – can be challenging. Mentorship is important for both the knowledge and skills you can learn, but also provides professional socialization, networking, and can greatly enhance your chances of success. Importantly, mentorship should happen at every stage of your career. But finding mentorship can be particularly challenging for conservation professionals who come from a diverse set of organizations and job types, are often geographically dispersed across large regions, or don't have access to formal programs. And the process of finding mentorship can be very daunting – where do you even start? This SCBO supported workshop is aimed at both potential mentees and mentors. It will take participants through the basics of defining your mentorship goals, finding a mentor, establishing a relationship, and managing and adapting the connection. We'll also explore what it means to be a good mentor, why it's important for you and your mentee and how you can empower the next generation of conservation professionals. By the end of this session, participants will have the tools and confidence to undertake meaningful mentoring relationships to drive and impact their own personal and professional goals within the conservation science world.

W7 Workshop

Helen Taylor

"Ask a Geneticist" Q&A session

1 h lunchtime session on Wednesday July 4

Conservation in a changing world requires new tools and interdisciplinary approaches. Genetics has proved useful for conservation in myriad ways and yet is rarely well-integrated into conservation management strategy. At least some of this poor integration is driven by the perception of genetics as difficult to understand and full of jargon by those working in other areas of conservation science and practice. The advent of



genomics introduces new conservation tools, but also more potential for misunderstandings and confusing terminology. This session will break down the barriers between conservation geneticists and other conservationist biologists, managers, and policy makers, by offering a friendly, relaxed forum to discuss the ways genetics can help solve common conservation problems, from inbreeding to illegal wildlife trade. The ~1hr session will feature some of Oceania's leading conservation geneticists, from universities and conservation agencies, each of whom uses genetic tools to aid conservation in different ways. After a very brief introduction, we will break attendees into small groups to allow interaction with several of the panel members in turn. Attendees will be encouraged to ask any questions they have regarding the use of genetics for conservation, whether it's the meaning of a term they often hear or how they might use genetics in their own work. No question too big or small and no jargon allowed! Towards the end of the session, we will come together to address any outstanding questions and summarise some of the discussions, especially for any common issues.

f. Field trips

We offered seven field trips after the conference showcasing local conservation work, including an opportunity to plant a tree for those that contributed to our sustainability project. Field trips were well attended, but only two were oversubscribed. Of those that completed our survey, all thought the field trips were as good as, or better than, expected.

Te Papa herbarium and Bush City (Cable St)

Duration: 1 hour

Description: Take a behind-the-scenes tour of Te Papa's herbarium and Bush City with one of the museum's botanists. Highlights include viewing historic treasures such as plant specimens collected by Banks and Solander on Captain Cook's first voyage to New Zealand in 1769-1770, as well as extinct and endangered plants.

ZEALANDIA By Day

Duration: 2 hours

Description: Take the free shuttle from Wellington's i-site or top of the Cable Car to ZEALANDIA. Enjoy an engaging and informative walk through the picturesque sanctuary to witness the native wildlife that is once again living on the mainland. Soak up the beautiful scenery while learning more about New Zealand's unique ecological history. Enjoy all the sights and sounds of ZEALANDIA during the daytime with an expert guide and Conservation ranger who will lead you through the sanctuary on a walking tour

ZEALANDIA By Night

Duration: 2.5 hours

Description: Explore the valley by torchlight as your guide leads you in search of many of the rare and endangered species and see those that only come out at night. Your group may see some of the 130 little spotted kiwi who call ZEALANDIA home. Gain a new appreciation for New Zealand's natural history and the significance of the unique species within Māori culture. The tour will end with a replenishing cup of hot kawakawa tea (bushman's tea) at the Visitor Centre.

Seal Safari tours

Duration: 3 hours

Description: Take a 4WD tour to Wellington's rugged and remote South Coast. Enjoy fantastic views of Cook Strait and the South Island. Spot local wildlife including fur seals and seabirds. A hot drink and muffin are also included.

Kumutoto Forest tour

Duration: 1.5 hours

Description: Visit the Wellington Conservation Biology Chapter's forest restoration project, Kumutoto Forest. Kumutoto is a tiny remnant forest (3.5 hectares) where the chapter have been working for the past 7 years. We invite you to experience our hard work and learn about our experience managing an urban forest restoration project. The tour will leave from outside Wagamama restaurant where the Kumutoto Stream enters



the harbour. Kumutoto Stream was the first stream to be culverted in Wellington. We will then follow the stream to the forest, discussing the history on the way. When we reach the forest you will see the developments and we will share our future plans for the forest. The tour will end 20 minutes walk from Te Papa. You will need sturdy shoes and a drink bottle.

Plant your tree – sustainability donation project

Duration: up to 3 hours

Description: Attendees at SCBO2018 can choose to offset some of their carbon footprint by donating towards a Wellington City Council project. Wellington City Council is restoring their urban environment as part of being a Biophilic City. Their aim is to plant two million trees by 2020. Those who donate to the project are able to plant their trees in the Wellington Town Belt, just over 1km from Te Papa, on this field trip.

Matiu/Somes Island Tour

Duration: 4 hours

Description: Situated in the middle of Wellington's harbour, this rodent-free reserve is a short ferry ride from downtown Wellington. Wander amidst native plant and animal life while tracing the island's extraordinary history. Māori have occupied this island for generations, as evidenced by its two pā sites. More recently, the island has served as a human and animal quarantine station and a Prisoner of War camp. Now in Māori ownership with Department of Conservation management, this island presents an excellent example of the complexities of conserving culture as well as flora and fauna.

5. Press & Social media

The conference was tweeted #SCBO2018 @SCBOceania. A popular theme was the whale 'attending' the conference:



6. Toward Sustainable Congresses

The Society for Conservation Biology Oceania (SCBO) is committed to hosting sustainable events that minimize our environmental impact. We engaged in a number of activities to ensure that we achieve this goal.

To reduce waste, we minimized all printed materials associated with SCBO 2018. Our conferences are plastic free and nearly paperless (with the single exception of a small program doubled as name tag). Attendees could access our program online, by PDF or on their mobile phone. The Rufford Foundation funded a USB stick for all attendees with the conference program loaded. We printed name tags on a recyclable mini program and re-used lanyards from the previous conference. Lanyards were returned at the end of the conference and will be re-used at the next regional conference. Water coolers were available in the conference center, and we encouraged participants



to bring their own water bottle to refill. We recycled all waste based on recycling systems available in New Zealand. We ensured that all catered food was sustainably sourced by working with our caterers at Te Papa. Food was provided on washable plates and utensils.



In order to help offset environmental costs of hosting a conference and travel by participants to the conference, we partnered with Wellington City Council and the Mt Victoria community restoration group to provide trees and volunteers to help plant them in a local restoration project to restore the Wellington green belt. Wellington City Council is restoring their urban environment as part of being a Biophilic City. Their aim is to plant two million trees by 2020. A total of 108 trees were funded for the project.

7. Conference policies

a. Anti-discrimination/harassment

The Society for Conservation Biology Oceania (SCBO) is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for its members to participate in Society activities that are free from all forms of unacceptable behavior, discrimination and harassment.

Participants of SCBO activities were made aware of the [*Code of Conduct for SCB Meetings*](#), and the SCBO Anti-discrimination, Bullying and Harassment Policy and Grievance Resolution Procedure, on our website: <http://scboceania.org/policies/anti-discrimination/>

One trained Contact Officer was present at SCBO2018, who served as the first point of contact for any conference participants who have concerns relating to diversity, discrimination, bullying or harassment. Any individual who witnessed or believes they have been subject to unacceptable behavior was encouraged to contact the SCBO Contact Officers by email, phone, or in person. No reports were made at the conference to Megan.

Megan Evans

SCBO Contact Officer (ACT Respect,
Equity and Diversity Framework)

Email: contactofficer@scboceania.org

Ph: +61 418 984 248



b. Diversity



Improving diversity at SCBO2018 was a focus for SCBO and conference organisers. We pursued specific funding opportunities to allow us to support Pacific nation participants who would not otherwise be able to attend a conference in New Zealand. We were successful in gaining access to some of those funds. We supported student attendance through travel awards. Our programme was built to allow an extremely broad selection of talks to be attended by delegates and was driven by diversity goals from the plenaries through to the random allocation of presentation styles. Conference fee waivers were aimed at gaining more attendance from local indigenous people. Comments on diversity at SCBO2018 acknowledged we could still improve our indigenous attendee numbers of attendees and presentations, and that funding continues to be an issue related to how many from each nation and which nations can attend. Those that were able to attend from outside of New Zealand and Australia were very grateful for the support to attend and most made full use of all their opportunities at the conference.

8. Finances

SCBO provided AUD\$20,000 seed funding for the SCBO2018. The conference costs and registration levels were planned for a breakeven at 300 delegates. We had around 374 delegates in attendance, but not all were fee paying. We secured funding from various grants and sponsors reported above which represented 31% of our income, and this was targeted at specific spending items, for example, travel awards. SCBO2018 turned a profit of over \$41,000. This is much higher than expected and planned for, largely due to many local late full fee paying conference registrants and success with end of financial year sponsorship requests. That is, the income arose too close to the conference start date to deliver on more travel grants, for example. Profits will enable greater travel support opportunities for the next SCBO conference.

A breakdown of the finances is provided below in NZD.



SCBO 2018 reconcile post conference

	items	subtotals
INCOME		
SCBO seed funding	21,244.95	
registration, field trips, conference dinner	144,564.92	
sponsorship, grants	65,414.76	231,224.63
EXPENSES		
Venue		
Room hire	25,400.00	
AV	20,235.00	
Food	61,215.00	106,850.00
Admin		
registration admin (pp charge, invoicing)	6,492.23	
poster boards	2,468.76	
banners	520	
lanyards	346.67	
USB	3688.77	
printed program	1323.49	
website/webforms/logo	622.56	15,462.48
Travel award costs (fully covered by income)		
MFAT	24,947.93	
Chapters	15,800.79	
plan changes	-4,824.23	35,924.49
Public Event (fully covered by income)		
Organization - Glenda Lewis	2,800	
Presenter - Kim Hill	871	
posters	400	4,071
DJ	2,311.25	
field trips	1,460.44	
plenary	2,080.36	
prizes	129.96	5,982.01
TOTAL COSTS		168,289.98

CONFERENCE PROFIT (=income-seed funding-expense total) *does not include consideration of ~\$6000 for chapter funding that was confirmed from SCBO and SCB, ie that \$6000 is still held in Australia and all travel awards have come from these conference funds, therefore profit from conference could be viewed as \$47,689.70*

41,689.70

RETURNED TO SCBO

62,934.65

NB GST paid in NZ on goods and services and does not affect \$values returned to SCBO



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WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND 3-5 JULY 2018

CONSERVATION IN A CHANGING WORLD



Society for Conservation
Biology Oceania