

2018 WA WETLAND MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

Program



Lake Monger, Wembley, Western Australia

World Wetlands Day, 9am-4pm, Friday 2nd February 2018

Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre, 184 Hope Road, Bibra Lake, Western Australia

The 14th Annual WA Wetland Management Conference will be held at the Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre on Friday 2nd February 2018 in celebration of World Wetlands Day, which commemorates the signing of the Convention on Wetlands in the Iranian city of Ramsar on 2 February 1971.

The primary objective of the Conference is to provide an annual opportunity for the exchange of information and ideas between wetland practitioners with a focus on the latest developments about how to effectively manage and restore wetlands. The Conference is intended to bring together community conservation volunteers, landowners, educators, local and State Government officers and private sector environmental officers involved with wetland management.

This year's theme follows the Ramsar theme for 2018 of 'Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future'. The theme recognises that wetlands provide a variety of benefits and services to urban communities, including increasing our connection with nature and cultural heritage, water quality improvement, habitat for plants and animals, and helping to build resilience in a rapidly changing climate. Sub-themes include wetland management and restoration, wetland education and wetland policy.

Minimising impact The conference strives to minimise its environmental impact by encouraging delegates to car-pool and bring their own water bottles. We also provide re-usable coffee mugs, glasses and plates, produce e-program booklets and use recycled paper. We also encourage the display of promotional material on common tables or at exhibition spaces, rather than in conference kits, ensuring only interested persons take the relevant material.

A Conference Steering Committee assists the Cockburn Wetland Education Centre's Conference Organiser. The 2018 Committee includes staff and volunteer representatives from the following community, local and State Government organisations: City of Cockburn; Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre Inc; Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions; State Wetlands Coordinating Committee; Western Australian Local Government Association and Wetlands Conservation Society Inc.

Sponsors Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors, fees are kept to a minimum to enable all sectors of the community to attend. The 2018 registration fees are corporate \$80, general \$65 and concessional \$20 (includes conference registration, morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea, post conference nibbles and conference proceedings).

The Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre gratefully acknowledges the following organisations:

SILVER SPONSORS



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



Government of Western Australia
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

SUPPORTERS



Conference Program

(*Denotes speaker, where there are multiple authors)

8.00 am Registrations (come early for a cuppa and catchup with other wetlanders)

Opening

- 9.00 am Opening remarks
Emeritus Professor Philip Jennings, Wetlands Conservation Society Inc
- 9.05 am Welcome to country
Reverend Sealín Garlett

SESSION 1 (Chairperson: Dr Michael Coote, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions)

Keynote presentation

- 9.10 am Policy failure or success in managing wetlands under climate change?
Professor Max Finlayson, Institute for Land, Water & Society, Charles Sturt University

Due to unforeseen circumstances Professor Finlayson is unable to attend but will be providing a pre-recorded presentation and will take live questions.

Plenary presentations

- 9.40 am Restoring the balance: Gnangara groundwater
Michael Hammond, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
- 10.00 am Peel-Yalgorup System's Wetlands and People Plan –An Australian first in Wetland Action Planning
*Kim Wilson¹, Sharon Meredith¹, Andrew Del Marco² and Amanda Willmott²
¹Peel-Harvey Catchment Council
²Ironbark Environmental (Consultancy)
- 10.20 am Biodiversity and water quality improvements at Mabel Talbot wetland
Giles Pickard, City of Subiaco

10.40 am Morning tea

SESSION 2 (Chairperson: Melanie Davies, WA Local Government Association)

- 11.20 am Sharing cultural and ecological knowledge to protect and manage freshwater ecosystems
*Neil Pettit¹, Rebecca Dobbs¹, Christy Davies², Brad Pusey¹ and Michelle Walker¹
¹Centre of Excellence in Natural Resource Management, The University of Western Australia, Albany, WA
²North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance, Darwin
- 11.40 am Options for the potential replenishment of Ramsar listed Forrestdale Lake, Armadale
*Helen Brookes and *Shelley Shepherd, Urbaqua Ltd
- 12.00 pm Unplanned learning: Benefits of interaction with an urban wetland centre
*Dr Felicity Bairstow¹ and *Dr Catherine Baudains²
¹Cockburn Wetlands Centre
²Murdoch University

Poster presentations

- 12.20 pm Bittern in urban wetlands
Robyn Pickering, BirdLife Western Australia
- 12.25 pm Characterising the condition and function of the Greater Brixton Street Wetlands, Kenwick Western Australia, to inform conservation management
*Lindsay Bourke¹, Kate Brown², Grazyna Paczkowska², Adrian Pinder¹, and David Cale¹
¹Wetlands Conservation Program, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Kensington, WA.
²Parks and Wildlife Service Swan Region, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Crawley, WA

- 12.30 pm Composition of organic matter and nutrient sources contributing to a temperate, modified estuary
*Roisin McCallum¹, Professor Glenn Hyndes¹, Dr Kathryn McMahon¹, Dr Jane Chambers², Professor Bradley Eyre³, Dr Joanne Oakes³, Dr Naomi Wells³
¹ Centre for Marine Ecosystem Research (CMER), School of Science, Edith Cowan University, Joondalup Campus, Perth, WA
² Environmental and Conservation Science, VLS, Murdoch University, Perth, WA
³ Centre for Coastal Biogeochemistry, Southern Cross University, Lismore, NSW
- 12.35 pm Wetland biodiversity patterning along the middle to upper Fortescue valley (Pilbara: Western Australia) to inform conservation planning
*Michael Lyons¹, Adrian Pinder¹, Margaret Collins¹, Loretta Lewis¹, Kirsty Quinlan¹, Russell Shiel², Rebecca Coppen¹ and Faye Thompson¹
¹ Wetlands Conservation Program, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
² Ecology and Environmental Science, University of Adelaide

12.40 pm Lunch

Session 3 (Facilitator: Linda Metz, City of Cockburn)

Panel discussion

- 1.30 pm A facilitated discussion with a focus on wetlands and climate change issues requiring attention both politically and from a management perspective.

Confirmed panel members

Dr Jane Chambers, Wetland Ecologist, Murdoch University
Suzanne Brown, Manager Drainage and Liveable Communities, Water Corporation
James Duggie, Principal Policy Officer, Climate Change, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

2.30 pm Afternoon tea

Session 4

Workshop concurrent session

- 2.50 pm Workshop Session

WORKSHOP CHOICES (choice of 1 workshop)

Delegates can attend one workshop during the concurrent session. Please select two preferences from the following five workshops and number from 1 to 2 on the registration form (1 equals your highest preference). Workshops will be filled on a first-come basis following registration.

Workshop 1: Typha management in a changing climate

Presenters: Adam Harris, Environmental Officer, City of Cockburn and Greg Keighery, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Typha orientalis is a common coloniser in wetlands and has in some cases become weedy in nature as it displaces other native vegetation. Join Adam Harris from the City of Cockburn with special guest Greg Keighery from Department Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions to learn more about this species including its recent reclassification in status, biology and management actions including control.

Workshop 2: Mapping tools to identify priority restoration projects to improve habitat connectivity

Presenter: Renata Zelinova, Business Development Officer (Environmental Planning Tool), Western Australian Local Government Association

Following a short demonstration of data available to assess vegetation connectivity in the SW of Western Australia, workshop participants will be exploring the capabilities of the publicly available on-line Environmental Planning Tool in assisting with prioritising and designing restoration projects. The focus of the workshop will be on identifying gaps in habitat connectivity.

The public version of WALGA's Environmental Planning Tool (EPT) is designed to assist community groups undertaking natural area restoration to assist with planning, mapping and monitoring their works in a format that can be easily exchanged with land managers, such as Local Government of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

The EPT can be used to assist with the identification of ecological linkages at regional and local levels, to assess indicative environmental values and can be used to record and monitor vegetation condition, management actions and plan restoration projects. Access is provided to information on vegetation types by current and pre-clearing vegetation extent as well as to Reference Sites which summarise information on typical plant communities for the Swan Coastal Plain and Jarrah Forest in the Perth metropolitan area.

The EPT can be used to various types of files, including GIS software compatible shape files, which can be exchanged with others. The reporting function provides immediate access to information on area, vegetation type, vegetation conservation significance, proximity to wetlands and their buffers, proximity to protected areas or ecological corridors and other information relevant to natural resource management. The users can identify whether the Local Government where they are working adopted a Local Biodiversity Strategy.

Further benefits of using the EPT include the ability to load and display information collected in the field using a GPS or other methods with other relevant information not only an aerial photography; and an ability to undertake basic mapping without the need to purchase or access other GIS software and collect datasets.

A booklet of one page instructions to undertake specific EPT analysis will be provided to workshop participants, including instructions on how to access the EPT. The booklet will be used by the workshop participants to test how to use the EPT effectively and provide an easy guide for using the EPT after the workshop.

Workshop participants are welcome to use their own laptops with Wi-Fi internet access to follow the demonstrations.

Workshop 3: Bird surveying in the technological age: Using Birdata for wetland bird surveys

Presenter: Tegan Douglas, WA Citizen Science Project Coordinator, BirdLife Western Australia

Birds are visible indicators of wetland health, and can demonstrate the success and progress of restoration and ongoing management activities. BirdLife Australia has a long history of monitoring wetland birds, including resident waterbirds, migratory shorebirds and bush birds. The ongoing contribution of citizen scientists is instrumental in this work, with the compiled wealth of knowledge feeding directly into on-ground actions and guiding management decisions. In recent years BirdLife has shifted to a user-friendly app and web portal called Birdata to allow this work to continue. In this workshop we will explore how easy it is to use these BirdLife tools to monitor wetlands regardless of whether you are a recreational citizen scientist, a member of a friends group, or a land manager. We will incorporate a practical demonstration of how Birdata can work for you, both to submit surveys and to use the existing data to answer questions about our wetlands and their birds.

Workshop 4: RIPPLE EFFECTS: How to grow community participation in wetland-friendly living

Presenter: Anne Pettit, Pettit Projects

The notion of 'wetlands' and their benefits for urban communities can be vague or not even on the radar for people, even though a lot of everyday habits are affecting wetlands in positive or negative ways. This workshop will explore these things, and provide a guide to using our interests and expertise to bring communities on board with wetlands appreciation and care.

Workshop 5: From wetland weeds to a wetland SPA (site visit)!

Presenter: Denise Crosbie, Wetlands Officer, Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre Inc

The wetland vegetation community at Bibra Lake has suffered from past land clearing practices and subsequent invasion by weeds. Since 2003 the Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre, with support from the City of Cockburn, has undertaken a variety of trials to develop practical techniques for re-establishing the wetland vegetation communities. The project aimed to create reasonably self-sustaining vegetation communities that would also function as a wetland seed production area (wet SPA) to supply locally provenanced seed for annual revegetation projects.

The site visit will pass through an annual sequence of works dating back to 2003 and examine the practical techniques used including seed collection and propagation, initial site preparation, revegetation and maintenance.

Photomonitoring records will demonstrate the changes over time. A highlight of the visit will be the *Narma Kullarck* floating boardwalk. Please wear enclosed shoes, a hat and bring a water bottle. *(Please note: some delegates may have participated in this site visit at previous conferences. The visit is primarily aimed at new attendees).*

4.00 pm Post-conference drinks and nibblies

This Program may be subject to some changes prior to or during the conference.

Please help the environment – bring your own water bottle!