31st AWMS Annual Conference

4 - 6 December 2018

The University of Tasmania
Hobart, Tasmania, Australia

Call for Abstracts

About the conference

The Australasian Wildlife Management Society (AWMS) was established in May 1988, and will be holding its 31st annual conference on 4-6 December 2018 at The University of Tasmania, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia. Our conferences normally attract 100-200 delegates.

The objectives of the Society are:

- To promote the study and application of scientific wildlife management in the Australasian region
- To actively encourage the development, dissemination and adoption of applied scientific research in wildlife management
- To influence policy and management decisions through the provision of clear, explicit and pragmatic advice on options for wildlife management and associated risks

The major theme of the conference is '**Integrating wildlife management, nature conservation and production in land, river and seascapes**': Integrating nature conservation across the total matrix of land and water was a hot topic in the 90s and early 2000s resulting in the Nature Conservation Series. Adopting this theme for the 2018 AWMS conference gives us the opportunity to reflect on the theory, principles and approaches that came out of this earlier work and explore new challenges and current barriers. The theme covers all areas where we try to balance production and conservation – forestry, fisheries (inland and marine), agriculture, tourism and renewables (solar, wind, hydro). We encourage abstracts that explore questions such as 'Have we made real progress?' 'How have we applied the theory in practice?' 'What new approaches/techniques are we using?' 'What are the current and future challenges?'

The conference will feature symposia with invited speakers on the following topics:

Effectiveness of 'multi-use' landscape management practices
There is increasing awareness that a landscape-scale management approach is required for the conservation of forest biodiversity, with conservation measures applied at multiple spatial scales. The last two decades have seen a number of regional management plans and tools developed that enable a more strategic approach to managing the forested landscape. However, the effectiveness of these approaches remains unclear. This symposium provides an opportunity to explore the advantages and disadvantages of different approaches and the major factors limiting success.

Managing freshwater and marine systems for wildlife
As well as being used for primary production and harvesting such as agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries; freshwater and marine systems are highly dependent on each other and the use of land around them. This symposia aims to explore how the use and management of landscapes and/or seascapes influences marine and freshwater wildlife both directly and indirectly, and what is being done to manage marine and freshwater wildlife directly.

What does 'renewables (solar, wind, hydro)' mean for wildlife management?
Renewable energy development is occurring in natural and agricultural landscapes across the Pacific. Initially renewable energy development was focussed on large scale wind energy projects where environment impacts tended to focus on avian collision risk and habitat avoidance. More recently, solar development has become the predominant renewable energy development in Australia which has a different range of potential impacts on wildlife, predominantly habitat change. The newest renewable energy source is pumped hydro which uses existing water reservoirs to provide the basis for the development of a scheme which transfers water from a lower reservoir to a higher reservoir to act as energy storage. This theme covers assessment of wildlife impacts from renewable energy projects and the development and implementation of mitigation measures to avoid and minimise impacts on wildlife.

Cultural practices in wildlife management – how and why?
The management of wildlife and its habitat has been going on for many thousands of years. Traditional techniques are still used alongside modern and emerging technology to maintain long-standing cultural practices and connections to the land, with varying success. This session provides a platform for sharing stories of successes and challenges in cultural practices of wildlife management, and to highlight the intrinsic importance of keeping cultural practices alive.

Harvesting and control of wildlife for commercial and environmental purposes
The harvesting and control/culling of wildlife occurs for a wide variety of reasons including subsistence living, recreation, pest control, crop protection, commercial exploitation, environmental management, disease control and conservation. This symposium seeks to explore and highlight the diversity of motives behind the harvest and control of wildlife in the landscape, the range of methods for monitoring and managing them, and some of the complexities and issues arising from multiple, and sometimes competing, management goals.

About the conference cont'd...

Management of wide-ranging species across the landscape
National parks and reserves have often been set aside for the protection of wildlife and habitat, and form a refuge for many wildlife species. But wide-ranging species whose ranges only partially overlap with, but are not encompassed by reserves, may require additional off-reserve management for their effective conservation. Furthermore, individuals or populations of wide ranging fauna species may be distributed across multiple catchments, multiple land tenures and across areas with multiple land uses. How can we best manage these species given the complexity of the ecology of the species and the policy and legislative framework that applies at this scale?

Wildlife disease management
Wildlife disease management is one of the great challenges of contemporary wildlife management. Wildlife disease can affect biodiversity, ecosystem integrity, human and livestock health, and economies. Management actions to combat disease threats are applied across land tenures involving multiple agencies and private landowners. The goals of wildlife disease management include prevention of emerging disease, early detection of new disease, rapid response to new disease, managing existing disease, education and training, communication. This symposium will explore approaches to meeting these goals and the social acceptability of management actions that contribute to perceived impacts of wildlife disease and management responses**.**

Other symposia will be organised to fit the topics of the abstracts received. There will also be open sessions to accommodate talks on any topic related to wildlife management; your topic does not necessarily have to fit the theme of any symposium.

AWMS offers a range of awards for students and professionals

Awards include:

The Practitioners Award
The DW Cooper Student Thesis Award
The Student Travelling Scholarship (for undergraduate and honours students)
The Postgraduate Student Research Award
The Braysher Management Fund

Full details of prizes, award conditions and how to apply can be found on the AWMS website

www.awms.org.au

For all awards, entries close 31 August 2018

Conference field trips

Pre-conference trip: Exploring Flat Rock / Chauncy Vale Reserves, Bagdad (Full day) The Tasmanian Land Conservancy's (TLC's) 455 ha Flat Rock Reserve, links the historic Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary with the Alpha Pinnacle Conservation Area, creating a continuous protected area of over 1500 ha. This guided walk will feature key sites of interest showing the TLC's current ecological monitoring program by visiting a vegetation monitoring site showing the use of still photography and photospheres, a mammal monitoring site using camera traps and stop-off at Falcon Rocks overlooking Chauncy Vale cliffs for a bird survey. There will also be time to wander through the historic Chauncy Vale precinct and explore Brown's Caves, Day Dawn cottage or the diverse woodland of Tasmania's first private nature reserve.

Post-conference trip: Visit Bangor Property (Full day) Spend the day exploring the stunning Bangor property on the south-east coast of Tasmania with Stewart Huxtable of the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program. Learn about the management and reintroduction of Tasmanian devils on the Forestier and Tasman Peninsulas and about wildlife conservation from a local landowner. Take the coastal walk to Tasman Bay where crew from Abel Tasman's ships Heemskirk and Zeehaen became the first Europeans to land in Tasmania. Packed lunch is included.

Networking Opportunity

An opportunity for you to meet our senior members, to make contacts, connection, collaborations and introductions. Students, post doctorates and early career practitioners (<5 years post-PhD or equivalent) are invited. Spend exclusive networking time with keynote speakers, AWMS committee members, Ecological Society of Australia (ESA) members and invited mentors. Generously sponsored by the ESA and supported by makers of local produce (there will be local Tassie wine and cheese!). Tues 4 December, 5.30-6.30pm.

Workshops

Evaluating wildlife management: principles, case studies and proposals (Monday - full day)
Wildlife management aims to achieve at least one of biodiversity conservation (such as saving a species or community), sustainable utilisation (such as harvesting a species) and pest control (such as for agricultural, forestry or fisheries production and human health). This workshop will describe underlying management principles, examine current on-ground programs, and make proposals for future management. The workshop will introduce underlying general principles of wildlife management, then use them to evaluate several wildlife programs. Participants will be asked to then use the

You are invited...

principles to evaluate an existing program in which they are involved, or develop a proposal for a new wildlife management plan for a species or community of their interest. Participants should bring along a copy (electronic or paper) of a management plan that interests them, and that they will use in the workshop. To help get greater benefit from the workshop participants will be provided with some background reading prior to the workshop.

Drones for wildlife management (Friday - full day)
This workshop aims to introduce you to the novel tools and algorithms for environmental remote sensing applications and aerial surveys using unmanned aircraft systems (UAS aka, drones). Lead by the Terraluma team this workshop will focus on ways in which you can map the environment in detail, using specialised sensors (visible, multispectral and hyperspectral (VNIR), thermal, and LiDAR) to map and monitor different aspects of the environment at ultra-high resolutions on-demand. The workshop will demonstrate examples including precision agriculture and viticulture; mapping and monitoring vegetation in remote locations such as Antarctica; deriving 3D tree structure for forest inventories. You will get to see how data is collected, and then work through the post-processing stage in the lab. In addition, you will hear from experts who have utilised drone technology in areas of wildlife management such as the behavioural ecology of wedge-tailed eagles, and sea-ice and vegetation in the Antarctic and sub-Antarctic. hand to help you progress your publication.

The destination

Hobart is Tasmania's capital city and the second oldest capital in Australia, after Sydney. Located at the entrance to the Derwent River, its surrounding bushland reaches close to the city centre and beaches line the shores of the river and estuary beyond.

Abstracts must be submitted by 31 August 2018. Abstracts should be written in English using Arial 12 point font and have a maximum of 250 words. The full address and email of the **speaker only** should be included. Please bold the speakers name in the list of authors.

Abstracts must be uploaded as word documents. PDF files will not be used and you will be asked to resubmit your file. Please select which symposia your abstract best fits. Full length presentations will have 15-minute time slots (12 minutes + 3 minutes for questions).

Poster presenters will also be invited to give a 1-minute speed talk advertising their poster. If there is insufficient space in the program, some presenters may be invited to give a poster instead of a spoken paper. All student presentations will be considered for the prize of Best Student Presentation. A Best Student Poster prize will also be given should enough posters be received. The decision to award or not award prizes for best student poster is at the discretion of the Conference Organising Committee and the AWMS Executive Committee.

Speakers and presenters of posters will be notified of acceptance by 15 September 2018.

- Abstracts will be reviewed prior to acceptance and may be edited.
- Accepted abstracts will be distributed to all attendees at the conference.
- Students must be enrolled at a recognised university.

Please email conference@awms.org.au if you have any problems submitting your abstract.

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