

## Blues for the Bush 2018

# Gunduwa Conservation Forum

### The Challenge of Change - People and Environment

The Gunduwa Tent is open to all who are interested in how people manage their environment and the influence we have on the landscape. Join our highly credentialed guest speakers as they share and delight in how they have made a difference in their space, their environment. Delve into the thought provoking, inspiring and sometimes challenging paths they choose to take.

### 10.30am – 11.30am Session One Morning Tea and Posters

**Gunduwa Projects:** NACC Engaging the Badimaya Rangers with conservation and land management on country, YYCMG & ECU Assessing restoration success using reptiles and small mammals, Carbon Neutral Restoration of ecosystem functions and biodiversity in agricultural landscapes, Murdoch University Conservation of insectivorous microbats; new approaches to mapping genetics & infectious disease threats in Australia's global biodiversity hotspot, Conservation Council WA & BirdLife WA Building capacity for structured bird monitoring in the Gunduwa region + **invited Posters:** Moore Catchment Council, Mayfield Ecology (TBC), WA Malleefowl Recovery Group (TBC), Holly Bradley – Curtin University and Ninghan Billy Aboriginal Corp

### 11.30am – 2.00pm Session Two "People and Environment"

11.30am	Open by MC (Elisabeth McLellan)
11.40am	Welcome to Country (Ashley Bell)
11.50am	Welcome from Melissa Price MP
12.00pm	Gunduwa Introduction (Luke Bayley)
12.10pm	Vanessa Westcott, Bush Heritage: Malleefowl in the Mid-west
12.20pm	Brendon Haeusler, Carnamah LCDC: Soil Health
12.30pm	Melissa Farrelly, AWC: Mt Gibson Sanctuary
12.40pm	Ashley Bell, Ninghan Station IPA
12.50pm	Paul Robb, Parks and Wildlife: Karara Rangeland Park
1.00pm	Verity Morgan-Schmidt, CEO Farmers for Climate Action
1.20pm	Dean Revell, Revell Science & Select Carbon
1.40pm	Questions for speakers



Verity Morgan-Schmidt is a farm girl from Bencubbin, and the inaugural CEO of Farmers for Climate Action, a not-for-profit organisation putting those on the front lines of climate change front and centre in creating climate solutions through a vibrant 21st century model of agricultural advocacy. Under her leadership, Farmers for Climate Action has harnessed the power of digital technology to drive community engagement with the agricultural sector. Originally a farm girl from the sheep & wheat country of WA, Verity is a former Executive Officer for Western Australian Farmers Federation; has worked at the coalface of some of the most challenging issues facing Australian agriculture. Verity holds a Master of Arts (Politics) in Sustainability and Bachelor of Arts with a double major in Politics and Global Studies.

Dr Dean Revell has 25 y experience in agricultural research, especially plant-animal interactions. He is interested in food production systems that sustain livelihoods and landscapes in a variable environment. Dean established 'Revell Science' to provide a direct link between research and landholders. He is an Adjunct Associate Professor with UWA, Director of the Board of the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council, Executive Officer for the Gascoyne Catchments Group and has a lead role with a commercial carbon farming company by integrating grazing management with rangeland carbon farming. Dean shared the inaugural Eureka Award in Sustainable Agriculture, awarded to the Enrich project team that explored the use of Australian perennial shrubs in a diverse forage system for grazing livestock.



Melissa Farrelly is the Sanctuary Manager at AWC's Mt Gibson Wildlife Sanctuary having been there since early 2016. She has been with AWC for 7 years previously managing Yookamurra Wildlife Sanctuary in S.A. Her current role includes overseeing the Mt Gibson team and running the land management and visitor management programs over the property covering over 131,000 hectares. Melissa holds a Bachelor of Science- Biological Sciences and Conservation Biology and a Masters of Applied Science- Wildlife Health and Population Management and has worked with private, government and non-profit organisations in wildlife management all across Australia. Melissa's passion lies in pest management but she enjoys all aspects of the job.

Vanessa Westcott is employed as Senior Ecologist West at Bush Heritage Australia. Her role is to oversee the ecological monitoring and research programs for Bush Heritage in Western Australia. Vanessa has also led the development of the Birrilburu Aboriginal Partnership which is based on two-way science support of the growing ranger program within the Birrilburu Indigenous Protected Area in the Little Sandy Desert. Vanessa completed her PhD in fire ecology at the University of Melbourne in 2010. She studied the effect of short fire intervals on the biodiverse Eneabba Sandplain Shrublands in Western Australia.



Ashley Bell is the owner of Ninghan Station (IPA) Indigenous Protected Area Manager, la Budimia Yamatji man who was brought up on his country with his extended family and maintains a strong connection to culture and country. Ashley will not only Welcome you to the Country but speak about Ninghan in general, IPA partnerships and projects.

Brendon Haeusler: I run a mixed farming enterprise with my family just east of Carnamah. We have over 900 hectares of salt affected land running through the middle of our property which is part of the Yarra Yarra Catchment. Over the last 10 years we have been getting some of this land back into production, growing barley on some of the better land and planting native trees and shrubs to increase biodiversity, lower the water table and provide food and shelter for stock. The plan is to plant about 50 ha a year for the next 3 years to bring more of this degraded land back into health and production. We are also putting in drainage to remove the surface water that lies around in the system.



Paul Robb has been working for 7 years as Ranger for the Parks and Wildlife Service. Currently living at Thundelarra a former pastoral station, now part of Karara Rangeland Park, it is located half way between Yalgoo and Paynes Find. He loves the outback lifestyle and living remotely in this beautiful part of WA. Passionate about the environment in the rangelands he is increasing his knowledge of rangeland flora and especially the wonderful birdlife. Paul takes every opportunity he can to photograph the unique plants and animals he encounters in his work in the Karara Rangeland Park. Sunsets are Paul's special time of the day as they are always different, relaxing and seem to last for hours.

