



## **Society of Wetland Scientists Oceania Chapter October 2020 Newsletter**

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### **Oceania Chapter AGM**

Our 2020 AGM will be held online on Thursday 26 November at 1pm AEDT.

We are calling for nominations to fill the role of Vice President, to be voted on during the AGM. If you are interested in joining an enthusiastic Oceania team and contributing to the future direction of SWS please get in touch with a short bio before 12 November.

In addition to presenting the treasurer's report and electing our new VP, we'll also discuss some exciting activities we have planned for 2021. Everyone is welcome, if you'd like the phone-in details please get in touch! If you're unable to make it you can still cast your VP vote via email.

### **Welcome to returning and new members**

SWS and the Oceania Chapter welcome Dr. Kay Morris, Dr. Lyndsey Vivian and Dr. Danny Rogers to the Society. Kay and Lyndsey are wetland scientists specialising in wetland vegetation ecology, based at the Arthur Rylah Institute (ARI) in Victoria. Danny is an ornithologist, specialising in wetland birds and shorebirds, also based at ARI.

### **Upcoming SWS webinar**

The October SWS webinar will be presented by Rajashree Naik on October 16 – “Role of inland saline wetland ecosystems in the face of climate change”:

<https://www.sws.org/About-SWS/upcoming-webinars-for-nonmembers.html>

The November SWS webinar will be presented by Emily Alderton on 20 November – “Resurrecting ‘ghost ponds’ and other approaches in pond restoration and conservation”.

All webinars are also available via the SWS YouTube channel to view at Oceania-friendly times:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8NOlq5cy6-c7N0C7cpoNIV7Fmcqy2hOL>

## Sydney Wetland Institute Launch

The Sydney Wetland Institute will be holding a special inaugural webinar launch event on 29 October, 1:30-2:30pm (AEDT). Sydney Wetland Institute is the culmination of the wetland education and training as well as other capacity building services that Sydney Olympic Park Authority has provided over the past two decades. The Institute aims to expand and diversify those services to establishing a wetland Knowledge Hub.

Please register for this FREE event through the below link, and feel free to extend this invitation to everybody in the wetland families that you know:

[https://events-apac1.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/1892064813/en/events/event/shared/default\\_template/event\\_registration.html?sco-id=1936450535](https://events-apac1.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/1892064813/en/events/event/shared/default_template/event_registration.html?sco-id=1936450535)

Over the coming months and years SWI will keep in touch with you and your team in exploring and establishing areas of mutual cooperation and partnerships, so together we can make a better world of wetlands.

## Wetland conferences

Several great conferences have moved to an online format this year which gives more people than ever the opportunity to see what is happening with wetlands and waterways around the world. Below are a few options that may take your fancy:

SWS will be hosting our annual meeting online this year, 1-3 December (US dates). SWS-O will be hosting a special symposium at the conference, details to come.

<https://www.sws.org/Sample-Content/annual-meeting.html>

The New Zealand Freshwater Science Society conference is happening 1-4 December. They will be hosting a virtual component or if you're lucky enough to be in New Zealand you can even attend in person! <https://www.nzhsrivers2020.co.nz>

The Australian Freshwater Science Society virtual conference is on 8-10 December:

<https://www.auswatersoc.org/conferences/conference-2020>

The Pacific Islands virtual conference will be held 24-27 November:

<https://www.pacificnatureconference.com/node/192>

The Ecological Society of Australia will also be hosting a special wetlands symposium during their online annual conference, 29 November-4 December:

<https://www.esa2020.org.au>

## SWS Forum

Did you know that as a member of SWS you can post and respond to discussion threads in the SWS forum? It's a place for wetland practitioners and researchers from around the world to connect, share management challenges/solutions and interesting things they come across in an informal setting. Have a look!

<https://www.sws.org/Forum/latest.html>

## Resources of Interest

### Green-Blue Space Governance

Urban green-blue spaces, such as parks, waterways, wetlands, street trees, gardens and nature reserves are essential elements of resilient and liveable cities. As well as being aesthetically pleasing, green-blue spaces provide many functions and benefits for people and the other species that call our cities home. They cool our cities, treat air and water, provide space for recreation and connection, and habitat for biodiversity. There are many different types of green-blue spaces in cities, and many different models for their governance, planning and management. Research by the CAUL Hub has investigated new approaches to governance and policies to support the creation and retention of healthy, multifunctional green-blue spaces. These [factsheets](#) provide an overview and definitions of 'governance', and how governance and policy for green-blue spaces can contribute to retaining and maximising resilient nature in cities.

### Perspectives on understanding and measuring the social, cultural and biodiversity benefits of urban greening

This [publication](#) is about a network of study sites across Australian urban centres designed to understand and measure the multiple benefits of urban greening, focussing on outcomes for biodiversity, culture and human health and wellbeing. An important output from the CAUL Hub's [Project 6](#) – 'Social, cultural and biodiversity benefits of urban greening: An integrated network of sites' will be to share the methods and approaches that can be used by researchers and practitioners at urban greening projects at a range of different sites and scales. The use of a network of study sites has provided opportunities to study the process of how urban greening initiatives are implemented, how to study them from a socioecological perspective, and how or why they are successful. This knowledge can inform future urban greening projects and research designed to understand the benefits and outcomes. In doing so it will provide an evidence base and methodology for measuring and understanding social, cultural and biodiversity benefits of urban greening initiatives according to landscape context and scale.

### Benchmarking Urban Vegetation Cover: Melbourne, Perth, Sydney

A network of vigorous and extensive urban vegetation is critical to our health and wellbeing, and for protecting urban biodiversity. But how do we ensure we have abundant urban vegetation as our cities develop, consolidate and grow? Measuring and monitoring tree canopy and urban greening provides essential information to the

government and community to support the management of our urban forests. This [report](#) presents an examination of the current and changing state of tree canopy cover in three Australian cities: Sydney, Melbourne and Perth.

### **Climate Adaptation Synthesis**

This [report](#) provides a summary of the research activities that relate to climate-change adaptation, undertaken by the CAUL Hub between 2015 and 2020. It covers research on the vulnerability of tree species to climate change, strategies to reduce air pollutant emissions and recommendations to protect animals and their urban habitats under future climates. Three common themes emerge throughout the report:

- 1) Adaptations that help people and other biota cope with climate change impacts by reducing other pressures (not in and of themselves climate change impacts) such as local air pollutants.
- 2) Adaptations directly aimed at helping people and urban ecosystems cope with climate change impacts, such as a navigation platform prioritising cooler routes and increasing urban green spaces.
- 3) The co-benefits of various actions, such as the advantages of urban greening for people and biodiversity. These point towards ‘no-regrets’ policy options.

### **Bring a friend!**

Do you have a friend with a watery-bent? Do you have colleagues in the wetlands space? Please share this newsletter with them! We’d love to bring more people together who are working, studying or just interested in the wonderful world of wetlands.

If they’d like to know more about the benefits of being an SWS member, visit [www.sws.org](http://www.sws.org)

**Questions? Comments? Contact Jayne Hanford [jayne.hanford@sydney.edu.au](mailto:jayne.hanford@sydney.edu.au), we’d love to hear from you!**