

AWMS Annual Conference



5 - 7 December 2017

The Carrington
Katoomba, New South Wales, Australia

Call for Abstracts

About the conference

The Australasian Wildlife Management Society (AWMS) was established in May 1988, and will be holding its 30th annual conference on 5 - 7 December 2017 at The Carrington, Katoomba, New South Wales, 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 **Wildlife Management: Past, Present and Future**: Every few years there seems to be a new tool, technology or approach to wildlife management, however, to know where we're going, we need to understand where we came from. Given that AWMS is celebrating 30 years, we encourage abstracts that focus on the journey of wildlife management over the last 30 years, as well as abstracts on current research and new and trending innovations.

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

Advances in wildlife monitoring tools: Our methods for monitoring and quantifying wildlife populations are moving forward rapidly. So too are our methods for handling and processing the huge amounts of data collected. This symposium aims to cover practical applications of monitoring tools including UAVs, camera traps, tracking devices, cameras on animals, acoustic recorders, manned aircraft and aerial imagery to improve the way we survey wildlife. How are researchers and practitioners dealing with data they collect? What are the benefits and/or challenges of using these techniques? Do these tools impact upon the animals we are surveying and how can we tell?

The Rise of Citizen Science and Social Media: More than ever before, we need accurate and up-to-date information about where wildlife persists, and in what numbers, to ensure the survival of our unique wildlife, and determine the best use of time and effort for pest management strategies. We also need to understand the relationship between wildlife and local communities in order to implement effective and successful

management practices, whilst educating and informing the public about management needs and strategies. But how do we achieve this? In the age of citizen science, members of the public are contributing to the collection and/or analysis of information for scientific purposes, whilst social media is commonly utilised as a tool for educating and informing the public about science and conservation issues, reconnecting people with nature, and empowering individuals and communities. Data and insights gained through the efforts of citizen scientists and social media can enhance the depth and range of information collected for wildlife research and management.

Conservation Biology: There has been rapid decline in ecosystems leading to the threat and extinction of a range of wildlife species. Conservation biology research encompasses trends and processes of biodiversity loss, species extinctions, and management techniques. This symposium aims to highlight current techniques and research in conservation.

Conservation Physiology: Conservation physiology is an important field of conservation science that uses physiological tools and concepts to understand how stressors are affecting wildlife behaviour, thus providing an organismic view of the environmental challenges and conservation threats faced. This symposium welcomes research that showcases applications of this emerging field of research in solving conservation problems across the broad range of taxa. Papers can include topics such as non-invasive hormone monitoring for evaluating wildlife reproductive ecology, predator-prey interactions, captive breeding, and assessing the impacts of proximate and ultimate stressors such as feral animals and heat wave events.

Food Webs: Based on the content of the Food Webs journal, this symposia focuses on species interactions that structure ecological communities. This includes simple trophic relationships and cascades, multi-species interactions, stability and productivity of food webs and effects of perturbation on species and interaction pathways. Submitters to this symposia are requested to consider participating in the Elsevier Writing Workshop held after the conference (see below).

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.

About the conference cont'd...

Conference field trips

Pre-conference trip: Echo Point, Katoomba (half day)

The Echo Point lookout, near the town of Katoomba, has panoramic views of Jamison Valley and the Three Sisters, a towering sandstone formation and sacred Aboriginal site. Trails lead through bushland, home to lyrebirds and crimson rosella parrots, to the Giant Stairway, which descends to Jamison Valley. Enjoy a presentation and a guided walk with a national park ranger that will provide information on the flora and fauna of the region and the aboriginal history of this iconic site. The field trip will start and finish at the Conference venue. Packed lunch is included.

Post-conference trip: Blue Mountains Walkabout Tour

Live for a day the happy, creative & spiritual way of traditional Aboriginal life. A life changing journey of discovery in the Blue Mountains. Aboriginal owned & guided you will learn by following a song line of sacred sites. The 6 hr tour will lead you along a secluded bushwalk (3.5 km medium grade) followed by learning, activities, photos & relaxing. Your tour includes song line, rock art, ceremonial sites, artefacts & dreamtime stories, bush food tasting, bush medicines & creative ochre bark & body painting. See wildlife & spectacular sandstone caves. Relax by a rock pool & waterfall. Your friendly local Evan Yanna Muru is an Aboriginal person born on Darug land. The field trip will start and finish at the Conference venue. Packed lunch is included.

Student Mentoring Session

AWMS is focused on ensuring that our student members receive the support and guidance they need to ensure they are successful in the field of wildlife management. As part of this, AWMS is offering a free mentoring session to all student members. This is an opportunity for you to meet our senior members, to make contacts, connection, collaborations and introductions.

Workshops

Reintroduction & translocations (Monday - full day):

Reintroductions are an important part of wildlife management. In 2013 the IUCN's Reintroduction Specialist Group released the "Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations". This was followed by the development of a training course designed to improve decision-making by reintroduction practitioners. The AWMS workshop will be a shortened version of that course. It will involve a series of short talks and tools sessions on concepts such as structured decision-making, population projections, and adaptive management, mixed with group discussions on application of these tools to case students. Participants will be expected to bring a "reintroduction problem" they are involved with.

Elsevier writing & publication (Friday - half/full day):

Are you about to start writing manuscripts and not sure where to start? Have you got a manuscript ready to go but want to make sure you're maximising your chance of publication? Elsevier Journals are offering a half/full day writing clinic to help you navigate the publication process. The day will cover topics including ethics, plagiarism, data storage, impact factors and publishers processes, as well as how to write a manuscript (pitch/focus, structure, common pitfalls). After lunch those with half-finished manuscripts will finish with mentors on hand to help you progress your publication.

The destination

Set amongst the stunning Blue Mountains, Katoomba is the perfect base for exploring this region. Consisting of natural wonders including the Three Sisters and Minnehaha Falls as well as the Waradah Aboriginal Centre, there is much to see in Katoomba. Explore the area via hiking trails, or for those looking for more adventure, abseiling, canyoning and rock climbing.

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

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 2017

You are invited...

Abstract submissions:

Abstracts must be submitted by 31 August 2017. 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.

[Click here to submit your abstract](#)

Speakers and presenters of posters will be notified of acceptance by 15 September 2017.

- 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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