

# The Atlas of Living Australia for teaching biogeography: distributions and climate change

Simon Connor - School of Geography and Environmental Science



**MONASH** University



**ATLAS of LIVING AUSTRALIA**  
sharing biodiversity knowledge

# Hello Possums!



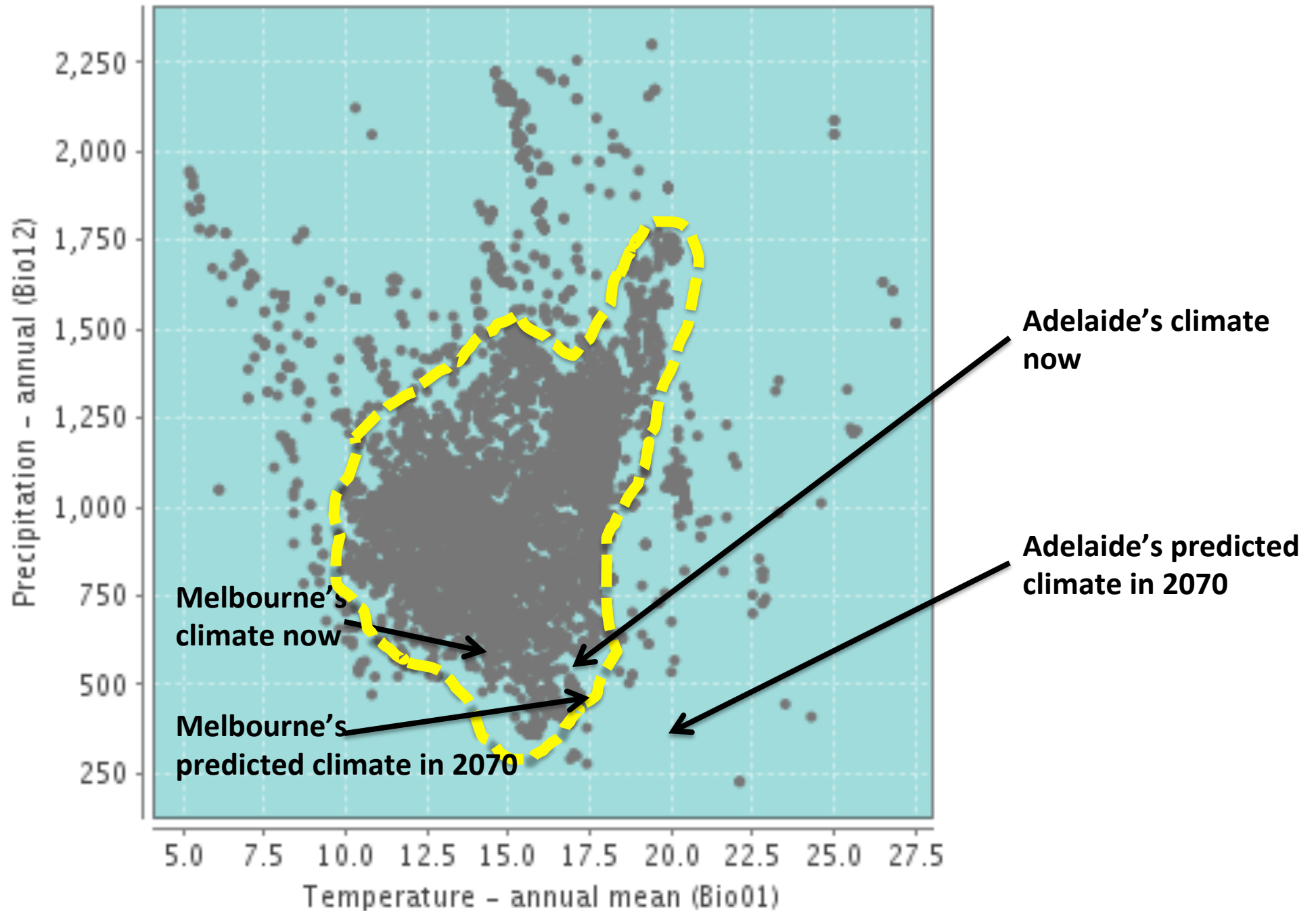
*Pseudocheirus peregrinus*  
Ringtail Possum

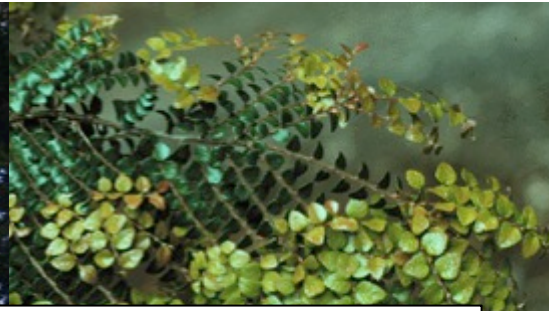
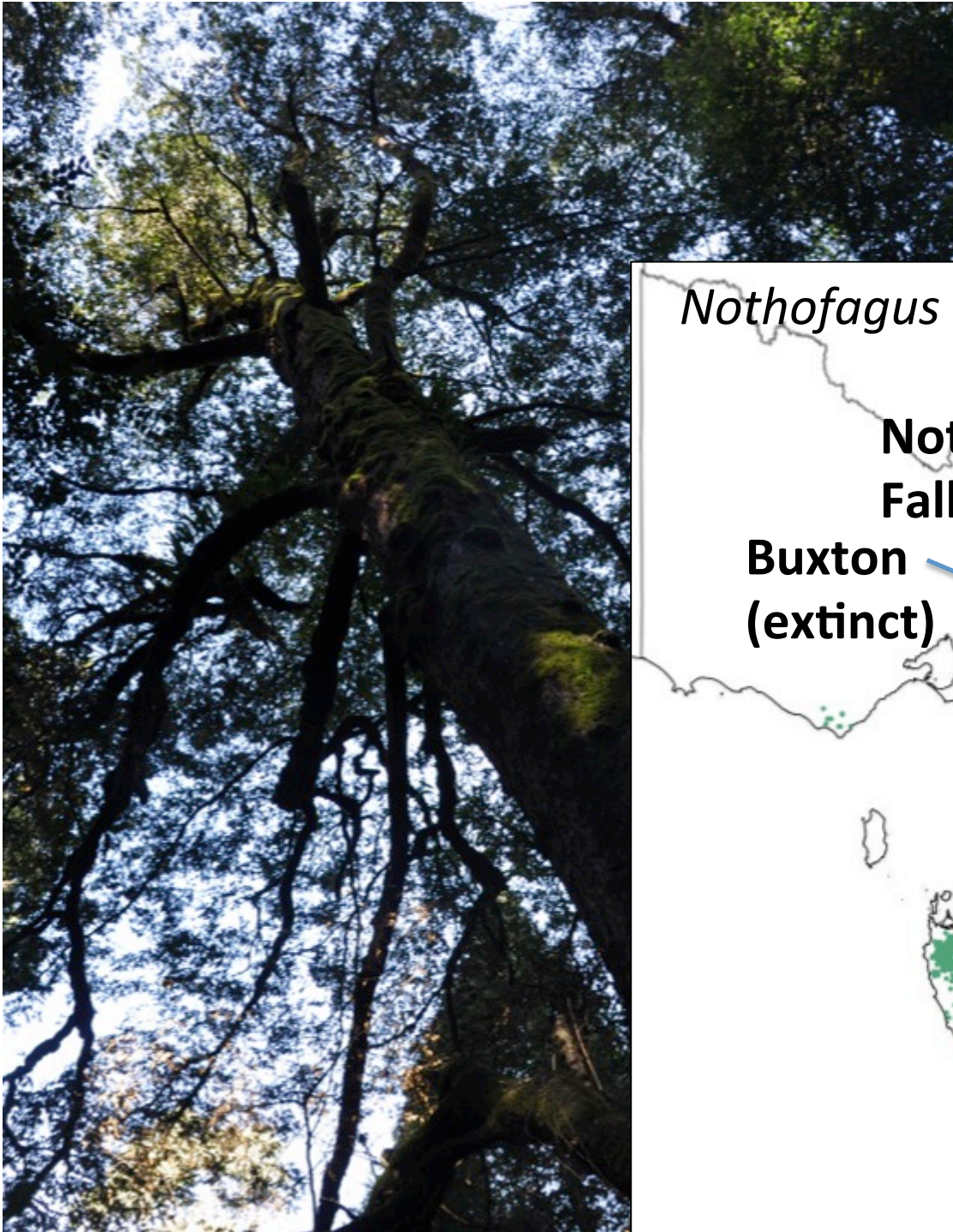


*Trichosurus vulpecula*  
Brushtail Possum

*Photos from the ALA*

# Common Ring-tailed Possum



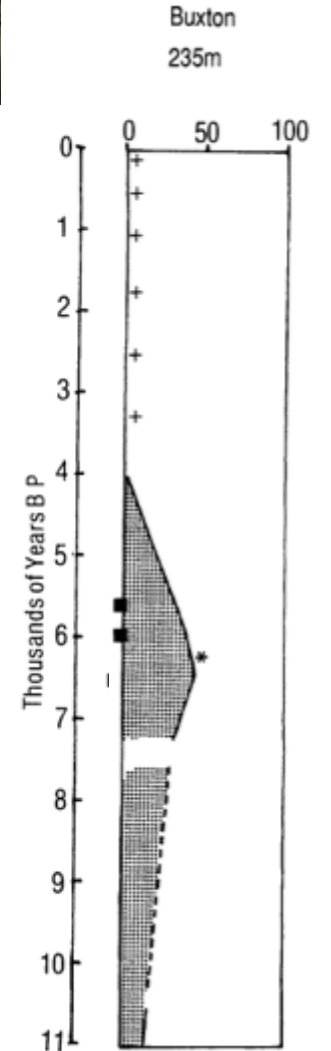
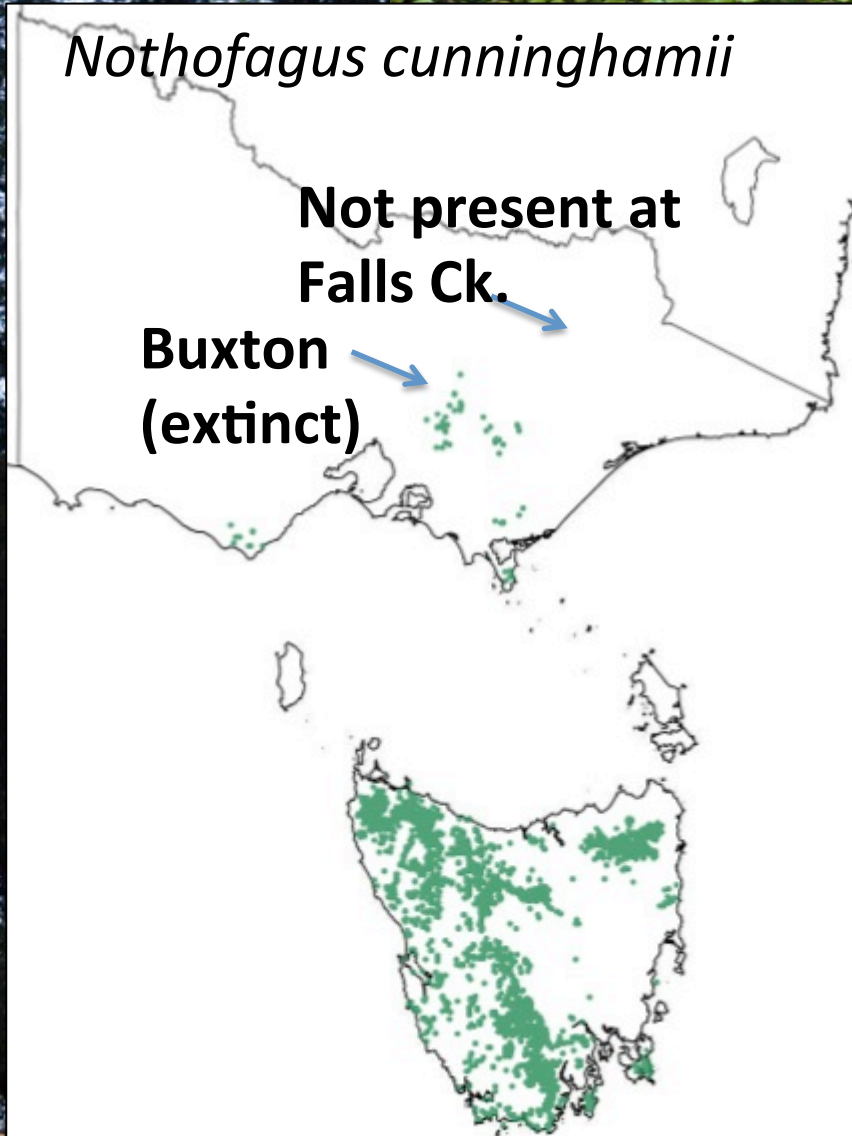


# Pollen record

*Nothofagus cunninghamii*

Not present at Falls Ck.

Buxton (extinct)



“Why is something there, not here?”

Climatic parameter	Myrtle Beech bioclimate		Present climate	
	Minimum	Maximum	Buxton	Falls Ck.
Mean annual temperature	4.7	13.9	13.5	7.8
Mean min. temp., coolest month	-2.9	6.4	2.7	-2.1
Mean max. temp., warmest month	14.8	24.8	28.0	20.8
Mean temperature, wettest quarter	0.4	10.6	7.9	1.7
Mean temperature, driest quarter	9.2	18.5	19.3	12.9
Mean annual precipitation	930	3523	1096	1760
Mean precipitation, wettest month	92	353	123	228
Mean precipitation, driest month	51	188	55	78
Mean precip., wettest quarter	267	1043	351	621
Mean precipitation, driest quarter	169	649	175	253

# Alpine areas today



# Predicted alpine areas with 1.5°C warming



Mt Bogong, Victoria's highest peak  
(1986 m)



Mountain Pygmy Possum (*Burramys parvus*)



Bogong Eyebright (*Euphrasia eichleri*)

# Benefits of teaching with ALA

- Easy-to-use interface and powerful tools
- Incredible repository of knowledge
- Students' results improved

## Three ways to get involved

### Submit a species record

Did you see something? Photograph something? Capture audio or video of something? Share it here! Start by entering the name of the species to record.



Enter the species' scientific or common name.

Do you have multiple records to upload? Try our [data set uploader](#).

### Join a citizen science project or start your own

You can contribute your sightings to one of the [citizen science projects using our software](#) or install your own copy of our [FieldData software](#).

### Digitise specimen records from your computer!



By transcribing specimen labels, field journals and mapping location data you can help our natural history institutions open up their collections.

[Volunteer portal](#)