ECOEd Champions PROGRAM

THE ECOED PROGRAM

The EcoEd Champions Program provides educators with a wealth of information resources that can be used in courses that focus on topics such as ecology, biogeography, environmental management and spatial analysis.

We have ready-to-use lecture and workshop modules that explain the theoretical underpinnings of ecological models, and provide real-world examples to show how these concepts can be analysed in online tools. We use ALA, BCCVL and TERN platforms to explore species data and their relationships with their environment. The program aims to provide educators with the resources and knowledge required so that they can confidently re-deliver the teaching program in their own institution.

Below is a list of our current EcoEd Champions. If you're interested in joining this program in the future please let us know.

SARAH LUXTON (CURTIN UNIVERSITY, PERTH, WA)

Sarah is a PhD student at Curtin University in WA. Her research focuses on how spatial data can be used to improve our understanding of vegetation dynamics, with applications to conservation management under climate change.

NESTOR ROBINSON (UNIVERISTY OF AUCKLAND, NZ)

Nestor is a Doctoral Candidate at the School of Biological Sciences and Joint Graduate School in Coastal and Marine Science from the University of Auckland. He is also a member of the marine biodiversity and biosystematics research group at the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA). Nestor's research in marine phycology includes work on systematics, ecology, biogeography, and biosecurity. His current research (Doctoral dissertation) involves the use of Species Distribution Models (SDMs) to predict the occurrence of marine invasive algae, both at global and regional scales.

ATLAS OF LIVING AUSTRALIA bccvl TERN

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MICHAEL SWINBOURNE (UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE, SA)

Mike is a PhD student at the University of Adelaide, undertaking research into how the distribution of southern hairy-nosed wombats has changed over time – including how future impacts such as climate and land-use changes will affect the species. Mike spent the majority of his long career (he is 59 years old!) as an officer in the Air Force, including over 5,000 hours flying P-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft. He holds a Bachelor of Applied Science (Parks and Wildlife Management) from the University of Queensland, a Bachelor of Science (Honours) from the University of Adelaide, and a Masters of Strategic Studies from the United States Air Warfare College.

LOUISE CROESER (MURDOCH UNIVERSITY, PERTH, WA)

Louise completed her Honors degree in Plant Physiology at the University of Pretoria, after which she commenced a career in Biotechnology at the Department of Agriculture in Pretoria. After a few years, Louise decided to exchange the laminar flow for a computer, and has worked in the Information Technology industry until she and her family immigrated to Australia in 2011. Louise returned to her 'biological roots', when deciding to continue her studies in Biology by accepting a PhD scholarship in Forest Pathology at Murdoch University. She is very excited about all the new technological development in biology and believes that one day biological research will set the way for other disciplines.

NANO LANGENHEIM (UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE, VIC)

Nano is a Landscape Architect with fifteen years' experience in management and co-ordination of complex multi-disciplinary public realm projects. Over the past five years she has been part of a small research team at the UoM through which she has developed a unique skill set crossing the realms of plant and terrain modelling with large scale city precinct modelling. This work has developed a research interest in the role of trees in urban design; how to integrate them early in design processes and how to make more informed decisions about their inclusion in cities. Nano also co-ordinates the undergraduate and graduate subjects in the Landscape Architecture program at the UoM.

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CHRISTINA ZDENEK (UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND, QLD)

Christina is a PhD candidate at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, researching the venom and ecology of Brown, taipan, and death adder snakes. She is a Fulbright Fellow alumna and an ecologist who has worked with numerous species for several universities over the past nine years and also in the private sector recently.

BERTRAM OSTENDORF (UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE, SA)

Bertram is an Associate Professor in the department of Ecology and Environmental Science at the University of Adelaide. His teaching goal is to increase awareness about the needs for spatial evidence in environmental decision making. Without us being able to understand how environmental conditions vary in space and time (wildlife, soils, water, climate), decisions on how to manage our resources and conserve our native species will necessarily remain vague and subjective and hence open to criticism.