







# Our speakers



## Matt Herring

### Murray Wildlife/Charles Darwin University

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Over the past 20 years, Matt has worked as a wildlife ecologist on more than 950 farms in the Murray-Darling Basin. With a focus on wetlands and waterbirds, he's become a strong advocate for community engagement, working alongside farmers to unleash the conservation potential of private land.

He is passionate about the ideal of producing food and conserving biodiversity at the same time, and has been working on bitterns in rice over the past ten years. Matt recently completed his PhD on bittern-friendly rice farming, looking at population modelling, breeding success, conservation incentives, consumer values and novel water policy.



## Damien Cook

### Wetland Revival Trust

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Damien Cook is the senior ecologist at the Wetland Revival Trust. He has been a keen naturalist for 40 years and has developed a sound knowledge of flora and fauna ecology, identification, and habitat requirements.

His main interest is restoration ecology, with a focus on the establishment and management of wetland plants and the revegetation of semi-arid terrestrial ecosystems.

Damien has helped deliver some of the most complex ecological restoration projects attempted in Victoria, for which he received a Restoration Excellence Award from the Society for Ecological Restoration Australasia (SERA) in November 2016.



## Liz Znidersic

### Charles Sturt University

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Dr Liz Znidersic is a Post-doctoral research scientist with Charles Sturt University. Her research interests are based on the application of novel monitoring techniques to detect wetland birds including rails, crakes and bitterns.

Liz's research has led her into the wetlands of Australia and the USA, searching for some of the most secretive wetland birds using acoustic and motion-activated camera monitoring. She has worked extensively in the field as a wildlife ranger, field ecologist and environmental educator.

With her hands-on knowledge of field ecology, she is well placed to focus on integrating technology into her monitoring repertoire.





## Jennifer Spencer

**Water and Wetlands Team, Science, Economics and Insights Division, Environment, Energy and Science, NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment**

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Jennifer has worked for the NSW Government for more than ten years on waterbird monitoring projects in the NSW Murray-Darling Basin.

She completed a PhD in 2010 focused on migratory shorebird ecology in the Hunter estuary. In her current role Jennifer coordinates waterbird monitoring to support the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's Water for the Environment Program.

## Sarah Comer



**Western Australia Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions**

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Sarah Comer is Chair of the WA Australasian Bittern Recovery Team and works for Western Australia's Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions as the South Coast Region's Ecologist.

In her 20 years in this role, Sarah has been involved in coordinating threatened species recovery programs, fire management for conservation, and adding to biodiversity knowledge of the region.

Sarah has led the noisy scrub-bird recovery program since 1999 and works on other threatened species conservation programs including for the western ground parrot, western ringtail possum and Australasian bittern.

Sarah is involved in efforts to improve introduced predator control programs, leading trials of landscape scale feral cat control through the delivery of Eradicat baits, and with her part-time PhD studies at the University of Western Australia.