



Call for Abstracts

The 18th Australasian Vertebrate Pest Conference will be held at the Sofitel Melbourne from the 4th to 7th May 2020. The theme for the conference is “Feral Futures 2051”. We want the conference to not only promote the research, on ground management techniques and strategies that are being employed today to propel us towards 2051 but also the over the horizon thinking, strategies and developments that will shape vertebrate pest management in 2051 and beyond. The potential symposia are:

1. Future challenges and impacts: What problems will we be facing in 2051?
2. Predator Free New Zealand 2050
3. Biotechnology and biocontrol
4. Conservation in fenced areas
5. Island conservation
6. Surveillance and incursions
7. Automated systems for managing pests
8. Integrated pest management
9. Cultural icons exploded: How can we effectively manage iconic species such as wild horses and kangaroos?
10. Managing feral cats
11. Managing rabbits
12. Managing wild canids
13. Managing feral pigs
14. Putting research into practice, including community engagement and action
15. Managing carp
16. Managing deer
17. Open session

We specifically encourage indigenous Australian, Maori and Pacific Island rangers and land managers to submit abstracts outlining their perspectives and activities related to these symposia sessions

You are invited to present a spoken paper or poster with a speed talk. Spoken papers are offered for a 10 – 15-minute presentation while poster presentations will have a two-minute speed talk to promote their poster embedded in the corresponding symposia session.

The deadline for submission of abstracts is the 3rd November 2019.

A prize will be offered for the best student presentation. Only full-time students are eligible. Proof of student status may be required. You will need to indicate that you are a student on the abstract submission portal.

Abstracts are to be submitted via on-line abstract submission through the AVPC website www.avpc.net.au

Abstracts will be reviewed prior to acceptance and may be edited. Potential speakers and presenters of posters/speed talks will be notified of acceptance by the 16th December 2019. Please note that final acceptance is conditional upon registration of presenters. The Conference organising committee regrets that it is unable to meet any travel or subsistence expenses.

For all queries, please contact the Conference Organiser, Conference Logistics avpc@conlog.com.au

For all inquiries regarding the program, please contact the Program Coordinator, Tony Buckmaster tony.buckmaster@invasives.com.au

Deadline dates

Closing date for abstract submission: 17th November 2019

Abstracts under review: 18th November 2019 to 13th December 2019

Authors notified of acceptance: from 16th December 2019



Format for abstracts

All abstracts to be written in English and submitted in MS Word format with text in Arial or Calibri, 12 point font.

Abstract to be a maximum 300 words, no exceptions.

Title: Maximum of 20 words, uppercase, bold, centred.

Authors: Lower case, centred with speaker highlighted in bold.

Addresses: Single spaced, centred, multiple authors identified by superscript number, also matched to speakers' names, keep addresses shortened where possible. Speaker or senior author email address to be included.

Abstract: Lower case, single spacing. Use double spacing between paragraphs if required. Sub headings, tables, figures and references to be included within the 300 word limit. Text for these remains in 12 point eg.

NATIONAL GUIDELINES AND RESEARCH PRIORITIES FOR MANAGING PEST BIRDS

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There are over 100 bird species from Australia and New Zealand that can cause significant losses to fruit, nut, grain, rice and aquaculture industries, create conflicts in urban areas, damage infrastructure, reduce aesthetic values, and pose risks to the environment and to human health (Smith et al. 1977). Despite numerous concerns raised by industry and the general public there is very little objective advice and few simple, universally applicable solutions available. Pest bird research programs have traditionally received limited funding and lacked the capacity to comprehensively assist with management decisions where problems occur. Cooperation between federal, state and local government, universities, private organisations and industry is imperative to ensure practical solutions are pursued and limited resources are used effectively. We support the need for national guidelines for managing pest birds and propose future directions for research. To allow land managers to effectively manage pest birds, support is needed to improve our ability to predict patterns of bird movements and damage, develop simple techniques for estimating the extent and severity of damage, assist in economic decision-making, improve the adoption of strategic management, reconcile legislation and responsibilities for managing pest birds and increase the cooperation and commitment by industry and government. Although specifically aimed at reducing the impacts of birds to Australian horticulture, the principles, strategies, management techniques and research directions proposed in the draft national guidelines are applicable for dealing with most pest bird situations in Australasia. The initiatives adopted to encourage cooperation between organisations and to ensure direct involvement by land managers are discussed.

References:

Smith, J., Jones, E., and Alias, F (1977). Bird pests of Australia and New Zealand. *Wildlife Research* 50: 217-223.