



19th Australasian Vertebrate Pest Conference

MONDAY 29 JULY 2024 Aerial UTS Function Centre		
6.00-8.00pm	Welcome Reception and Exhibition Opening	Harris Room and Foyer

TUESDAY 30 JULY 2024: Conference Day 1 Aerial UTS Function Centre		
8.00am	Registration	Foyer
8.30am-5.00pm	Speakers' preparation	Short course
8.30-9.00am	Opening plenary Welcome to the 19 th AVPC, EIC Chair, Nigel Ainsworth , <i>VIC Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action</i> Welcome to Country, Uncle Allan Madden , <i>Gadigal Elder</i> NSW Minister official opening, The Hon. Tara Moriarty MLC , <i>NSW Minister for Agriculture</i> MC welcome and opening, Pip Courtney , <i>Landline</i>	Wattle/Thomas/Broadway/Jones Room MC: Pip Courtney
9.00-9.25am	Plenary 1: Andreas Glanznig , <i>Centre for Invasive Species Solutions</i>	
9.25-9.50am	Plenary 2: Towards a predator free 2050, Phil Bell , <i>Zero Invasive Predators</i> , Brent Beaven , <i>Department of Conservation NZ</i>	
9.50-10.15am	Plenary 3: Strategically managing invasive predators in Australia: Some history, economics, science and art, Dr Peter Fleming , <i>Vertebrate Pest Research Unit, NSW Department of Primary Industries</i>	
10.15-10.30am	Panel interview with speakers	
10.30-11.00am	Morning tea and exhibition	Harris Room and Foyer

11.00-12.30pm	1A: Managing rabbits Wattle & Thomas Room	1B: Managing wild canids Broadway & Jones Room
11.00am	Recovery of Victorian Mallee Parks through Total Grazing Management Brendan Rodgers, Parks Victoria	Reducing total predation pressure on Australian native fauna: Potential biodiversity benefits from effective wild dog management across Australia Greg Mifsud, Center for Invasive Species Solutions
11.15am	Spread of RHDV2 into numerous lagomorph species worldwide limits future biological control options for Australia Dr Brian Cooke, Foundation for Rabbit Free Australia	Wild dog movement behaviours in western NSW Dr Deane Smith, NSW Department of Primary Industries
11.30am	Pathogen detectives: Finding new tools and preparing for new threats Dr Maria Jenckel, CSIRO Health & Biosecurity	Livestock guardian dog protection of sheep and weaner cattle against wild dogs in the station country of Western Australia Dr Tracey Kreplins, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
11.45am	De-wild before you Re-wild: Lessons for conservation projects Tim Bloomfield, Victorian Rabbit Action Network	The effect of anthropogenic resources on dingoes from a mine site in the Strzelecki Desert, SA Dr Paul Meek, NSW Department of Primary Industries
12.00pm	Didn't Calici fix them? A national conversation to reinvigorate rabbit control Adj. Prof Wayne Meyer, Foundation for Rabbit Free Australia	Landscape scale wild dog monitoring in the Northern Agricultural Zone, WA Linda Vernon, Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association, Marieke Jansen, Northern Biosecurity Group
12.15pm	A framework for peri-urban rabbit control Peter Day, Foundation for Rabbit Free Australia	Possum, tongue or kangaroo? Trialling novel lure types of Canid Pest Ejectors for wild dog and fox control Chloe Miller, University of Southern Queensland
12.30pm	Rabbit romance, better biocontrols and a citizen census Dr Amy Iannella, Foundation for Rabbit Free Australia	Successful conditioned taste aversion in a wild red fox population Tim Andrewartha, Australian National University
12.45pm	Evolutionary insights into myxomatosis resistance in wild rabbits in Australia Dr Brian Cooke, Foundation for Rabbit Free Australia	Towards non-lethal fox control: Animal odour profiling and synthetic bait development for conditioned odour aversion Ashlyn Austin, University of South Australia
1.00-2.00pm	Lunch and exhibition	
2.00-4.00pm	2A: Managing feral cats Wattle & Thomas Room	2B: Open session Broadway & Jones Room
2.00pm	Working together: What national coordination means for feral cat management Gillian Basnett, Centre for Invasive Species Solutions	Does aerial shooting increase the risk of disease spread in feral ungulates? Dr Andrew Bengsen, NSW Department of Primary Industries
2.15pm	Poison bait products for feral cats and the Relative Humaneness Matrix Michael Johnston, Ecolegacy	Feral horse distribution and population size determined by dung counts in exotic pine plantations in South-East Queensland Dr David Berman, Ozecological

2.30pm	Field trialling Felixer grooming traps, for control of feral cats in the Strzelecki Desert NSW Dr Reece Pedler, University of New South Wales	Next phase of the Carp Biocontrol Program Dr Bertie Hennecke, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
2.45pm	Evasive invasives? Temporary neophobia of feral cats (<i>Felis catus</i>) towards Felixers Ned Ryan-Schofield, Bush Heritage Australia	Marna Banggara: Controlling introduced predators on a landscape scale to allow for the reintroduction of locally extinct native fauna Derek Sandow, Northern and Yorke Landscape Board
3.00pm	Interactions of native wildlife with non-toxic Eradicat baits: A field experiment in south-eastern mainland Australia Dr Andrew Claridge, NSW Department of Primary Industries	Vertebrate pest control from above: A national approach Dr Annelise Wiebkin, Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia
3.15pm	Taking cat trapping to a new level Ashley Reed, Phillip Island Nature Park	Grey Squirrel impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services in UK woodland habitats, Molly Frost, University of York
3.30pm	Do feral cats respond to lures? Faith Chen, Murdoch University	Using the landholder pest animal and weed management survey to gain insights into established vertebrate pest problems in Australia Dr Tony Arthur, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences
3.45pm	Feral cat responses to silvovine lures Natasha Tay, Murdoch University	Assessment of spilled toxic bait by wild pigs and potential risk to non-target species John Kinsey, Kerr Wildlife Management Area, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
4.00-4.30pm	Afternoon tea and exhibition	Harris Room and Foyer
6.30-7.00pm	Pre-dinner drinks	Harris Room and Foyer
7.00-10.0pm	Conference dinner	Wattle/Thomas/Broadway/Jones Room

WEDNESDAY 31 JULY 2024: Conference Day 2 Aerial UTS Function Centre		
8.00am	Registration	Foyer
8.30am-5.00pm	Speakers' preparation	Short course
8.30-9.00am	Welcome and housekeeping	Wattle/Thomas/Broadway/Jones Room MC: Pip Courtney
8.45-9.00am	Government welcome, The Hon. Murray Watt, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Minister for Emergency Management (pre-recorded)	
9.00-9.25am	Plenary 4: About the Nature Repair Market, Ryan Wilson, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (virtual presentation)	
9.25-9.50am	Plenary 5: Private land manager opportunities, Michael Cornish, Australian Land Conservation Alliance	
9.50-10.15am	Plenary 6: Measuring positive biodiversity outcomes from pest control projects: what, how and when to monitor, Assoc. Prof Katherine Moseby, University of New South Wales	
10.15-10.30am	Innovation panel, <i>presenters to be announced</i>	

10.30-11.00am	Morning tea and exhibition		Harris Room and Foyer
11.00-1.00pm	3A: Biocontrol and biotechnology Wattle & Thomas Room	3B: Managing feral deer Broadway & Jones Room	
11.00am	Genetic biocontrols for invasive vertebrate pests: How close are we? Dr Stephen Frankenberg, University of Melbourne	Eradicating feral deer from South Australia Michael Stevens, Limestone Coast Landscape Board	
11.15am	Using sperm transfected assisted gene editing to produce genetically modified rabbits to improve the feasibility of genetic biocontrol Dr Sarah Topfer, CSIRO	Flying high, an evaluation of Sambar deer control program in the Alps Dr Stephanie Pulsford, ACT Government	
11.30am	Combating Gambusia, an invasive pest fish, at continental scale <i>Presenter to be announced</i>	Ecological and economic models for cost-effective management of feral deer in South Australia Peter Hamnett, Flinders University	
11.45am	Gene drives in the wild: using population genetics to inform development and evaluation of genetic biocontrols Dr Kevin Oh, CSIRO	Counting spots: Space use of collared chital deer in North Queensland Dr Matt Amos, Biosecurity Queensland	
12.00pm	Engineering zebrafish for female-to-male sex reversal Dr Michael Clark, Macquarie University	And then there was one: Monitoring the eradication of rusa deer from an island with camera traps Michael Brennan, Biosecurity Queensland	
12.15pm	Enhancing rabbit biocontrol strategies through hepatobiliary organoid cultures and directed virus evolution Dr Omid Fakhri, CSIRO	The abundance and impacts of deer on Victoria's public land estate Justin Cally, Arthur Rylah Institute	
12.30pm	Improving genomic resources for the genetic biocontrol of invasive vertebrate pests Daniel Barham, University of Melbourne	Predicting local chital deer distribution and abundance in Northern Queensland Cameron Wilson, Biosecurity Queensland	
12.45pm	South Australian community perspectives on the development and use of gene drives for mouse suppression Rebecca Paxton, University of Adelaide	Responses of invasive deer to management actions in Kosciuszko National Park Eliane McCarthy, University of Sydney	
1.00-2.00pm	Lunch and exhibition		Harris Room and Foyer
2.00-3.30pm	4A: Managing feral cats Wattle & Thomas Room	4B: Managing feral pigs Broadway & Jones Room	
2.00pm	Persistent failure of 'the science' to provide evidence that dingo control releases foxes and cats Assoc. Prof Ben Allen, University of Southern Queensland	The road to nowhere: Having tactics without science-based strategy Dr Heather Channon, Australian Pork Limited,	
2.15pm	The curious cat: Feral cat activity at artificial refuges Tenaya Duncan, Murdoch University	State-wide approach to managing feral pigs in Western Australia Dr Peter Adams, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development WA	
2.30pm	BushGuardian: Using artificial intelligence to combat feral cat predation Prof Trish Fleming, Murdoch University	The Big Pig-ture: Research, monitoring and stakeholder engagement informing feral pig management across the Otways James Templeton, Conservation Ecology Centre	

2.45pm	Managing feral cats around a fenced wildlife reserve in the arid zone Nathan Manders, Arid Recovery	Enhancing feral pig monitoring and control in the Western Downs, Queensland Aiden Sydenham, Southern Queensland Landscapes
3.00pm	Which feral cat is that? Using individual identification to assess management impact Elly Gooch, University of New England	Foot and mouth outbreak simulation, is it possible to locally eradicate feral pigs? Lachlan Marshall, Southern Queensland Landscapes
3.15pm	Estimating feral cat control impact to inform management decision tools Dr Annalie Dorph, University of New England	HOGGONE® meSN feral pig bait controls USA wild hogs but spilled bait can pose risk to small birds in winter Dr Linton Staples, Animal Control Technologies Australia
3.30-4.00pm	Afternoon tea and exhibition Harris Room and Foyer	
4.00-5.30pm	5A: Managing urban and peri-urban pests Wattle & Thomas Room	5B: Eradications Broadway & Jones Room
4.00pm	Efficacy of canid pest ejectors in a peri-urban landscape Dr Lana Harriott, Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries	Predator elimination in South Westland, New Zealand Phil Bell, Zero Invasive Predators
4.15pm	Peri-urban aerial feral deer control in the Gawler and Light River deltas Jessica Cavallo, Tim Howard, Northern and Yorke Landscape Board	Eradication of pigs, cats, goats and rats over 40 years sparks dramatic recovery of the Lord Howe Island Woodhen Andrew Walsh, Eco Logical Australia
4.30pm	Rabbit control engagement in the Peri Urban System: Lessons so far Teele Hooper-Worrell, Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group	Eradication of Rooks from the Bay of Plenty and Waikato – can it be achieved? Juliet Brebner, Bay of Plenty Regional Council
4.45pm	DNA research complementing wild canid (fox) management in urban and peri-urban environments in South-East Queensland Rita Everitt, Sunshine Coast Regional Council	Eradication: Wild dog management inside the SA Dog Fence Dr Annette Scanlon, Department for Primary Industries and Regions SA
5.00pm	A practitioners look at activity area of foxes in an urban area Dr Graham Thompson, Terrestrial Ecosystems	Using data on pest management activities to quantify control success or progress toward eradication Dr Dave Ramsey, Arthur Rylah Institute
5.15pm	<i>To be announced</i>	Wake Atoll Rat Eradication Project - Approaches to Commensal Management Tyler Bogardus, United States Department of Agriculture-Wildlife Services
5.30-6.00pm	Break for beverages Harris Room and Foyer	
6.00-7.00pm	Poster speed talks Wattle/Thomas/Broadway/Jones Room	
6.00pm	Maximising research impact to help achieve a wallaby-free Aotearoa, Dr Alastair Fairweather, Waikato Regional Council	
6.03pm	Developing the Trojan Y chromosome strategy in the smooth newt (<i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i>), Felix Smits, University of Melbourne	
6.06pm	Developing a pipeline for the production of gene drive mammals, Erin Scase, University of Melbourne	
6.09pm	Optical/Thermal/Night Vision Edge AI Camera Trap with Remote Trigger, Hamesh Shah, Evorta	

6.12pm	Working with, not against, the 'under' dogs: targeted invasive predator management conservation in the great Victorian desert, Brett Backhouse , <i>Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board</i>
6.15pm	Advancing wild dog control in the Rangelands: Harnessing thermal technologies, Krystie Bremer , <i>Carnarvon Rangelands Biosecurity Association</i>
6.18pm	Engaging the masses using the dark art of marketing, Craig Magnussen , <i>Darling Downs-Moreton Rabbit Board</i>
6.21pm	From hunters to gatherers: turning pig hunters into data gatherers to scale-up research opportunities, Ned Makim , <i>Australian Pig Doggers & Hunters Association</i>
6.24pm	Technology can be a catalyst for collaborative pest management, Simon Croft , <i>Encounter Solutions</i>
6.27pm	Technology to support surveillance and monitoring of invasive species and shared biosecurity responsibility strategies, <i>presenter to be announced</i>
6.30pm	Wildlife Drones: Innovative aerial radio-tracking technology for advancing invasive species management, <i>presenter to be announced</i>
6.33pm	Field assessment of attractants for improving the efficacy of RATTOFF® zinc phosphide sachets for control of <i>rattus sordidus</i> in sugarcane, <i>presenter to be announced</i>
6.36pm	Chemical control of rodents and its impact on rodent infestations during subsequent cropping season, <i>presenter to be announced</i>
6.39pm	Adapting feral pig management technology to a potential depopulation need for domestic pigs in piggeries, Dr Linton Staples , <i>Animal Control Technologies Australia</i>
6.42pm	Improved technologies translating to lasting impacts in managing red and rusa deer in urban and peri-urban environments in South-East Queensland, Rita Everitt , <i>Sunshine Coast Regional Council</i>

THURSDAY 1 AUGUST 2024: Conference Day 3
Aerial UTS Function Centre

8.00am	Registration	Foyer
8.00am-3.00pm	Speakers' preparation	Short course
8.30-8.45am	Welcome and housekeeping	Wattle/Thomas/Broadway/Jones Room MC: Pip Courtney
8.45-9.05am	Plenary 7: Lessons from Kosciuszko: Social license and lethal control of invasive species, Jack Gough , <i>Invasive Species Council</i>	
9.05-9.30am	<i>Plenary 8 to be announced</i>	
9.30-10.15am	Moderated Panel, <i>presenters to be announced</i>	
10.15-10.45am	Morning tea and exhibition	Harris Room and Foyer
10.45-12.15pm	6A: Community Wattle & Thomas Room	6B: Technology Broadway & Jones Room
10.45am	Working together to help return Country to Country Heidi Kleinert , <i>Victorian Rabbit Action Network</i>	Thermal imagery and aerial culling: How crew configuration and equipment affect program outcomes Dr Tarnya Cox , <i>NSW Department of Primary Industries</i>
11.00am	Cute but costing us dearly – using puns to build social licence Aleesha Lesiuk , <i>Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA</i>	Population protecting implants: Targeted control of invasive predators to mitigate catastrophic predation Assoc. Prof Anton Blencowe , <i>University of South Australia</i>
11.15am	The human dimensions of controlling and managing feral pigs Darren Marshall , <i>University of New England</i>	Perceptions, challenges and innovations; WA pest bird management Dr Susan Campbell , <i>Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development WA</i>
11.30am	Lethal control of vertebrate pest animals is ethically justified by multiple ethical frameworks Assoc. Prof Ben Allen , <i>University of Southern Queensland</i>	The highs and lows in the development of research specific technology for Vertebrate Pest Management Glen Charlton , <i>Intersect Australia</i>
11.45am	Self-reflections of a recovering vertebrate pest coordinator <i>Presenter to be announced</i>	Developing a target selective bait delivery technique for lethal control of feral goats and deer Rob Hunt , <i>NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service</i>
12.00pm	The Corella Collective – tackling pest birds head on Jacqueline Lucas , <i>Wheatbelt NRM</i>	The Catling Gun: an AI-driven object classification and tracking system for invasive species management Stephen von Takach , <i>Place Technology</i>
12.15-1.15pm	Lunch and exhibition	Harris Room and Foyer
1.15-2.45pm	7A: Managing feral pigs (2) Wattle & Thomas Room	7B: Surveillance and incursions Broadway & Jones Room
1.15pm	Assessing new technologies in the management of feral pigs in the Queensland wet tropics Rod Nielson , <i>Herbert Cane Productivity Services</i>	Development of surveillance techniques for juvenile Red Eared Slider Turtles Dr Lana Harriott , <i>Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries</i>

1.30pm	Spatially assisted aerial shooting (SAAS) - translating feral pig collaring research into improved on ground outcomes <i>Presenter to be announced</i>	Predator Free 2050 and the proof of absence model. Learnings from a user's perspective Paul Kviecinskas, Ethos Environmental
1.45pm	Variable responses to aerial control demonstrate adaptability of feral pigs Dr Catherine Kelly, Biosecurity Queensland	Successful removal of an incipient rat population from an inhabited island - Lord Howe Island; techniques used and lessons learned Dr Grant Harper, Biodiversity Restoration Specialists, Simon Pahor, Effective Conservation Outcomes
2.00pm	What a boar: bringing together diverse data to infer feral pig distribution David Mitchell, Dr Kirstin Proft, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences	Complementing feral rabbit management: Utilising molecular epidemiology and Citizen Science for the surveillance of virulent Lagoviruses in Australia Dr Nias Peng, CSIRO Health & Biosecurity
2.15pm	Development of a cost-effective, versatile, humane wild pig trap John Kinsey, Kerr Wildlife Management Area, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	Leveraging biodiversity infrastructure to enhance biosecurity through the Atlas of Living Australia's Biosecurity Alerts Service, Dr Andrew Turley, CSIRO Atlas of Living Australia
2.30pm	PIGOUT® Econobait 1080 long life feral pig bait for feral pig management Dr Linton Staples, Animal Control Technologies Australia	Management of exotic animal incursions in NSW- a toadally important priority! Victoria Greentree, NSW Department of Primary Industries
2.45-3.15pm	Afternoon tea and exhibition	
		Harris Room and Foyer
3.15-4.45pm	8A: Open session (2) Wattle, Thomas and Broadway Room	8B: Putting research into effective management Jones Room
3.15pm	Protecting our precious places and spaces Dr Bertie Hennecke, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	The national FeralScan community website and mobile App for pest animal monitoring, recording and control Peter West, NSW Department of Primary Industries
3.30pm	The broad and deep human and social impacts of the 2021 New South Wales mouse plague: A qualitative study Dr Lucy Carter, CSIRO Environment	Wake Atoll Rat Eradication Project - Using research to eradicate the Novel Rodent Species, Neotoma leucodon Eric Lanners, USDA-Aphis-Wildlife Services
3.45pm	Creating a national feral animal disease surveillance and management network - Bringing in the one health perspective Dr Joanne Walker, Wildlife Health Australia	Hunger Games: A multi-pronged, sectional approach to rodent control Dr Allie Nance, Melinda Wilson, Parks Australia
4.00pm	Developing tools and techniques for the elimination of pest species in New Zealand Tussock Grasslands Phil Bell, Zero Invasive Predators	A template for assessing the animal welfare impacts of aerial shooting: A case study with feral horses Dr Trudy Sharp, NSW Department of Primary Industries
4.15pm	Scavenging by invasive species Dr Thomas Newsome, University of Sydney	Density-impact functions and community engagement to improve management of feral horses in the Australian Alps Dr David Berman, Ozecological
4.30pm	Testing the effectiveness of native non-target mitigation measures for Goodnature® Ltd. A24 self-resetting traps for rats and stoats Dr Craig Gillies, NZ Department of Conservation	Aerial baiting for wild dog management: What has been measured effectively and what needs to be done? Dr Andrew Claridge, NSW Department of Primary Industries
4.45-5.00pm	Conference wrap up, prizes/awards and close	
		Wattle/Thomas/Broadway Room

FRIDAY 2 AUGUST 2024: Field trips

<p>8.15am-3.30pm depart from King St Wharf, Darling Harbour precinct</p>	<p>North Head Field Trip</p> <p>Take a private chartered ferry across Sydney Harbour to the stunning North Head in Manly. North Head presents unique requirements and challenges for feral predator control due to its nature as a peninsula and as a key site for little penguin and bandicoot preservation.</p> <p>Enjoy presentations on key Sydney National Park features, including little penguin beaches, as you cruise along enjoying a catered morning tea. Presentations at scenic North Head will include vertebrate pest control and threatened species at Fairfax Point, fox control for bandicoot and little penguin preservation, and rabbit control at heritage landscape sites. Cap off the day with a return to Sydney Harbour while the private ferry team serve up a woodfired pizza lunch.</p>	<p>Price: \$220 Inclusions: Private ferry to North Head, coach to the Quarantine Station, morning tea, woodfired pizza lunch</p>
<p>8.30am-12.15pm depart from Aerial UTS Function Centre</p>	<p>Centennial Park Field Trip</p> <p>Enjoy a morning picnic at the picturesque Willow Pond, Centennial Park. View displays of surveillance, monitoring and incursion equipment from NSW Department of Primary Industries, QLD Government's Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Sydney Wildlife Rescue and discuss methods to combat the spread of invasive species, all while Black Cormorants dry their wings nearby!</p>	<p>Price: \$95 Inclusions: Coach, morning tea</p>
<p>9.00am-2.30pm depart from Aerial UTS Function Centre</p>	<p>Western Parklands Field Trip</p> <p>As deer populations push further into peri- and sub-urban areas, methods to effectively contain and control their increasing numbers in a safe and non-disruptive manner provide new challenges. Led by Principal David Kirkland from Greater Sydney Parklands, travel out to Bungarribee Reserve in Western Sydney. As you tour the site see techniques and strategies being demonstrated for corralling and controlling deer so close to human populations, and witness efforts to regenerate nearby native wetland ecosystems and bushland. Enjoy catered morning tea, lunch and refreshments in one of Sydney's most scenic spaces.</p>	<p>Price: \$110 Inclusions: Coach, morning tea, lunch</p>