

DIG Conference 2013 Speakers

Dr Stan E. Bellgard

Stan Bellgard was educated at the University of Western Australia, in Botany. He completed his PhD at the University of Wollongong studying the disturbance ecology of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi. He worked with Dr Bryan Shearer on the *Phytophthora* species impacting southern sand-plain flora. He has worked as a diagnostic plant pathologist in the "Top End" for nine years, and throughout Australia as a Senior Ecological Consultant. He is currently researching biocontrol of weeds using microbes, and the Kauri dieback pathogen. This year he took over management of New Zealand's first Quarantine Glasshouse Facility for biosecure research of unwanted organisms.

Professor Adrienne Hardham

Adrienne Hardham gained her PhD in plant cell biology in 1978. She has studied the cell and molecular basis of *Phytophthora* pathogenicity for nearly 30 years. Early research utilised monoclonal antibodies specific for a range of zoospore proteins and highlighted adhesive secretion during infection. More recent studies focus on *Phytophthora* gene expression during pathogen development and plant infection.

Ms Sophie Moller

Sophie is the Department of Environment and Conservation's (DEC) Senior Environmental Officer - Invasive Plants. Specialising in Myrtle rust, she has worked with researchers and conservation organisations to prepare a range of documents and procedures to guide DEC in its preparedness and response arrangements for Myrtle Rust. Spanning a career of nearly 14 years with DEC, Sophie has worked in a range of nature conservation programs focusing on threat management and species conservation.

Ms Rebecca Maccario

Rebecca Maccario is the City of Joondalup's Environmental Development Coordinator. Rebecca studied environmental science and sustainable development and has worked in the local government sector for the past seven years. Rebecca joined the City in 2009 and leads the Environmental Development Team which is responsible for developing and implementing the City's strategic environmental plans, policies and environmental projects.

Dr John Scott

John K. Scott is a Principal Research Scientist with CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences, based in Western Australia. The main emphases of his research since 1984 with CSIRO are biosecurity risks, invasion ecology, biological control with arthropods and plant pathogens and management of weeds, and species distribution models for weeds, arthropods and plant pathogens that include climate change. <http://www.csiro.au/Organisation-Structure/Divisions/Ecosystem-Sciences/JohnKScott.aspx>.

Dr Chris Dunne

Chris Dunne is a Senior Research Scientist at DEC investigating the impact of plant pathogens in the native ecosystems of WA and developing new improved control techniques for land managers. Chris previously worked as Dieback Working Group coordinator and currently sits on the DWG committee.

Professor Hans Lambers

Hans Lambers has an outstanding international reputation in plant ecophysiology. His recent focus has been on the function of specialised roots in mineral nutrition of Australian plants. He has shown why plants evolved different strategies on severely impoverished soils. He broadened this showing its relevance for nutrient-impoverished natural systems as well as agricultural systems globally.

Ms Cielito Marbus

Cielito has recently commenced a PhD at Murdoch University working on the shoot blight pathogen that affects marri. She is interested in studying its epidemiology, the potential impacts of the disease on the honey industry and on food resources of black cockatoos. Recently she has been working with the team at the State Centre of Excellence for Climate Change, Woodland and Forest Health to develop the marri smartphone app.

Ms Sonia Aghighi

Sonia achieved her B.Sc. in Plant Protection and M.Sc. in Plant Pathology in Iran. Sonia is currently completing her Ph.D. at Murdoch University under supervision of Prof. Giles Hardy, Dr. Treena Burgess and Dr. John Scott (CSIRO), called:

“Understanding the pathology and epidemiology of *Rubus anglocandicans* (European blackberry) decline in the South-West of Western Australia”.

Dr Treena Burgess

Treena's research field is the biology, ecology and genetics of beneficial and detrimental micro-organisms in natural ecosystems, plantation forestry and horticulture, with a focus on biodiversity and biosecurity issues. In recent years she has been focussing on the molecular taxonomy and population genetics of *Phytophthora* and is the current director of the CPSM.

Dr Trudy Paap

Trudy is a postdoctoral research associate at Murdoch University. She completed her PhD in 2006 on the marri canker and described the fungal species that causes the disease. Since then she has worked on *Phytophthora* dieback with the Centre for *Phytophthora* Science and Management, and has recently joined the Centre of Excellence for Climate Change, Woodland and Forest Health on the marri project to continue work on the canker disease.

Dr Mike Craig

Mike is a Senior Research Fellow who has been based at Murdoch University since 2005. He is a vertebrate ecologist whose research interests primarily investigate human impacts upon natural ecosystems, with a specific focus in ecosystem restoration. He has conducted several research projects investigating the indirect effects of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* on vertebrate communities.

Dr Tony Friend

Tony Friend moved from Tasmania to Perth in 1980 to take up a position developing management strategies to reverse the decline of the numbat. Since then he has carried out research programs to support the recovery of a range of threatened marsupials. He moved to Albany in 1999 to run the dibbler and Gilbert's potoroo recovery programs.

Mrs Mady Colquhoun

Engaging her students in linking classroom Science with the real world is paramount in her role as the Science Specialist at Armadale Primary School. With a strong conservation focus, she organises the *Green Team*, Science sleepovers, make bat and possum boxes for the local bush reserve and tries to connect students with their local environment. Mady assists with the delivery of professional learning via our state science teachers association (STAWA) and the development of education resources for the new *Australian Curriculum: Science*.

Mady was honoured to be chosen as the *WA Science Educator of the Year for 2012*, and recently spent an amazingly awesome week in the desert near Alice Springs, working with Scientists in their national species discovery program (**Bush Blitz**) as part of the Earthwatch TeachLive program! Mady will soon be appearing on **Totally Wild!!**

Mrs Kirsten Murray

Kirsten is the Project Dieback leader and responsible for coordinating Phytophthora Dieback activities at South Coast NRM. Her primary responsibility involves the implementation of 'Project Dieback: Action and Opportunities for Protecting Biodiversity Assets' across the south-west of Western Australia. Kirsten also works with other programs and external stakeholders to provide assistance in the management of dieback across various tenures.