



SCIENCE INFORMING POLICY SYMPOSIUM SERIES

Healthy People in a Healthy Environment: valuing the health, social and cultural benefits of nature

Meet the speakers



Held in partnership with:



Tuesday, 17 September

Welcome and keynote speakers

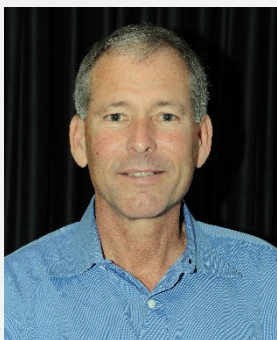


Peter Cochrane

**IUCN Regional Councillor and Australian Committee
for IUCN Executive Member**

Welcome and context setting

Peter has over twenty years of experience in senior executive leadership and governance roles in the public and private sectors. He was elected in September 2016 to the IUCN Council to serve a four-year term, nominated from Oceania. Peter is a member of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas and was a member of its Executive and Steering Committees (2014-2016). He also chairs the Steering Committee of the National Environmental Science Program's Marine Biodiversity Hub; the Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute; the Steering Group of the Protected Area Learning and Research Collaboration; and the Sydney Institute of Marine Science.



Professor Paul Bertsch

**Chief Scientist, Queensland Department of
Environment and Science**

Opening address

Professor Paul Bertsch is the interim Queensland Chief Scientist, an appointment he has held since February this year. He is also the Deputy Director-Science of the Land and Water Business Unit at CSIRO where he leads a team of approximately 650 scientists and technical specialists from across CSIRO working on the stewardship of land and water resources, ecosystems and the built environment. He has championed interdisciplinary and cross-agency science approaches to address the significant challenges facing Australia and the world, specifically around the environment, natural resource management and sustainability.

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Keynote 1: Professor Kerry Arabena

Managing Director, Karabena Consulting Trust and Weyarn Pty Ltd.

First Australian's Cultural Determinants of Health and Wellbeing

A descendant of Meriam people from the Torres Strait, Kerry's work has brought her to the forefront of Indigenous affairs in Australia. A former social worker with a Doctorate in Environmental Science, Kerry has held senior positions including, Chair of Indigenous Health at the University of Melbourne, Executive Director of First 1000 Days Australia, CEO of the Lowitja Institute, and Director of Indigenous Health Research at Monash University. With an extensive background in public health, administration, community development and research, Kerry has led a wide range of organisations and committees including the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Equality Council and the National Congress of Australia's First People. Currently a Director of Kinaway Chamber of Commerce and President of EcoHealth International, Kerry holds an honorary professorial position with the University of Melbourne and has a number of entrepreneurial programs in development.



Keynote 2: Dr Bruce Bolam

Chief Preventive Health Officer, Department of Health and Human Services Victoria

The New Public Health

Dr Bruce Bolam is the Chief Preventive Health Officer in the Department of Health and Human Services, Victoria. He has extensive experience in public health and behavioural science, gained through senior roles in research, healthcare, government and non-government organisations in Australia and the UK. Passionate about behaviour change as a means of tackling the burden of chronic diseases such as cancer and stroke, Bruce was an inaugural Co-Director of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Leadership in Health Promotion hosted by the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, VicHealth. Bruce is a Fellow of both the Public Health Association of Australia and the UK Faculty of Public Health of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and holds several degrees in public health sciences.

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SESSION 1: The link between nature and human health and well-being



Tony Varcoe

Director of Community Programs, Parks Victoria

Healthy Parks Healthy People – the benefits of contact with nature

Tony Varcoe is the Director of Community Programs for Parks Victoria. He has worked across many facets of parks and protected area management including policy development, park management planning, environmental management, senior operational roles, as well as leading Parks Victoria's teams in environmental and social science and research, evaluation of park benefits, and community involvement. His current role is focused on optimising the role of parks and protected areas as places for conservation and community benefit through volunteering, engagement, connection and growing the recognition of parks of critical assets for community health and wellbeing.



Professor Tony Capon

Professor of Planetary Health, University of Sydney

Understanding how natural systems support civilisational health

Tony Capon is Professor of Planetary Health in the School of Public Health at the University of Sydney, where he also directs the transdisciplinary Planetary Health Platform. A former director of the International Institute for Global Health at United Nations University (UNU-IIGH), Tony is a public health physician and authority on environmental health and health promotion. His research focuses on urbanisation, sustainable development and human health. Tony is a member of the Rockefeller Foundation–Lancet Commission on Planetary Health and has served numerous professional and not-for-profit organisations in Australia and internationally, including as current co-chair for the Future Earth Health Knowledge-Action Network.

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Alison Hill

Managing Director, People and Parks Foundation

Live Nature Wise and Nature Scripts: a nature-based health and wellbeing intervention (with Dr Iain Butterworth)

Alison is the Managing Director of the People and Parks Foundation – trustee for both an Environmental Trust and a Health Trust – which connects people to nature for health outcomes for both. A deeply committed biophilic, Alison is passionate about the need for all lifeforms to live in healthy habitats, including humans. Alison is an experienced executive in the ‘for purpose’ sector and has held leadership roles in social change projects across community services, education, microfinance, homelessness and the arts, as well as commercial experience in marketing communications. Alison’s strengths are bringing together the vision, strategy, partnerships and resources for positive, life-improving outcomes – especially where those outcomes are needed the most. A graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, Alison has over a decade experience as a non-executive director in non-profit organisations.



Dr Iain Butterworth

Consultant and liveability specialist

Live Nature Wise and Nature Scripts: a nature-based health and wellbeing intervention (with Alison Hill)

Trained community psychologist, Dr Iain Butterworth, has 30 years of experience in bringing together community and organisational development, government policy and planning, workforce training and development, and applied research. Iain works to put community capacity-building, quality of life, liveability and sustainability at the centre of policy, legislation and urban development. Iain is President of the Australian Fulbright Alumni Association.

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Fiona Armstrong

Founder and Executive Director, Climate and Health Alliance

Co-creating solutions to the climate crisis to protect health and well-being

Fiona Armstrong is the Founder and Executive Director of the Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA), a coalition of healthcare stakeholders who wish to see the threat to human health from climate change and ecological degradation addressed through prompt policy action. Fiona is the lead author of many of CAHA's reports and is the architect of the Framework for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being for Australia, which has been endorsed and adopted as a policy position by the Australian Labor Party and The Greens. Fiona is the recipient of the prestigious Tony McMichael Ecology and Environment Award, the Frank Fisher Award, and was named as one of Australia's 100 Women of Influence in 2016.

SESSION 2: The importance of spiritual and cultural connection to place



Dr Vanessa Westcott

Ecologist, Bush Heritage Australia

The right way approach to merging traditional and western science (with Sarah Eccles and Phil Eulo)

Dr Vanessa Westcott is Bush Heritage's NSW Ecologist where she leads landscape-scale ecology projects and provides ecological support to regional staff to implement best-practice conservation action planning, land management and monitoring of all reserves in NSW. Vanessa has worked to articulate Bush Heritage's Right Way Science Approach and works in partnership with Birriliburu Traditional Owners and support the development of genuine, respectful science projects.

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Sarah Eccles

Aboriginal Partnership Officer, Bush Heritage Australia

The right way approach to merging traditional and western science (with Vanessa Westcott and Phil

Sarah Eccles is a Wadawurrung woman and the Aboriginal Partnership Officer at Bush Heritage where she feels she is privileged to play a role in building relationships between staff, Traditional Owners and Aboriginal community members facilitating on country and cultural heritage management trips. Where the sharing and integration of different stories and knowledge systems empowers everyone involved, building a greater understanding of country and how we can look it together.



Phil Eulo

Budjiti Elder

The right way approach to merging traditional and western science (with Vanessa Westcott and Sarah Eccles)

Phil Eulo, Budjiti Elder continues to care for his country in Western NSW and SW QLD taking on the role of his mother and his ancestors before him. His leadership in promoting Budjiti culture in sharing and passing on his cultural knowledge and building partnerships that enable his people to do this is building the next generations of Budjiti carers for country. His work in partnership with Bush Heritage at Naree and Yantabulla Stations out the back of Bourke has seen the understanding of how to manage country enhanced and incorporate right way science approaches.



Ricky Archer

CEO, North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAISMA)

Connecting culture and conservation

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Ricky Archer is a Djungan man from the Western Tablelands region of North Qld. Ricky has a strong network of on ground land and sea managers across northern Australia from which to draw from and has demonstrated an ability to connect on-ground work of Indigenous organisations with regional, state and commonwealth priorities. He has been actively involved and engaged on the Indigenous Advisory Committee since 2014 and has built good relationships with current members on the Committee. The Indigenous Advisory Committee (IAC) is an expert group who provide advice to the Minister for the Environment on the operation of the EPBC Act, taking into account the significance of Indigenous peoples' knowledge of the management of land and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. He was also a member of the National Landcare Advisory Committee which provided further connections to the work of the Indigenous Advisory Committee. Mr Archer has a background in geographical information systems, Indigenous knowledge management, and natural & cultural resource management.



Jason Ardler

Head of Aboriginal Affairs NSW

When the rivers run dry (with Bilyara Bates)

Jason's cultural ties are to the Yuin people of the NSW south coast. As Head of Aboriginal Affairs NSW, he is leading Aboriginal affairs strategy and reform across such diverse areas as economic participation, community governance, land rights, culture and heritage, community safety, environmental health and service accountability. Prior to joining Aboriginal Affairs, Jason was Executive Director, Culture and Heritage in the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change. He was awarded the Public Service Medal (PSM) in the 2018 Queen's Birthday Honours for outstanding public service to Indigenous people in NSW.



Bilyara Bates

Board member of Mutawintji Local Aboriginal Land Council

When the rivers run dry (with Jason Ardler)

Bilyara Bates is a Barkindji man from western NSW with a passion for Aboriginal culture, people and our environment. He describes himself as a curious person with a thirst for knowledge and many interests.

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Bilyara has been involved in the public sector with Aboriginal Affairs for the last three years mostly supporting community governance structures working toward the advancement of Aboriginal people in the communities of Far west NSW. As a Barkindji man living on country he understands the link between healthy country and people, this subject motivates Bilyara be to and active board member of the Mutawintji Local Aboriginal Land Council and Director of The Barkindji Native Title Prescribed Body Corporate.

SESSION 3: How nature can support vulnerable and under-represented communities



Dr David Hudson

Chairperson, Ewamian Aboriginal Corporation

The multiple co-benefits of Indigenous land and sea management (with Natalie Stoeckl)

Dr David Hudson is a well-known Indigenous identity. He is a key note speaker, musician, facilitator and presenter of cultural capability. David has travelled both in Australia and internationally as a cultural ambassador, promoting an insight into the world's oldest living culture through presentation and music. He describes himself as an Edu-tainer. To have a global, national and local understanding of cultural awareness is invaluable. Cultural knowledge is not only about history, it is about current issues affecting our region as well as those that affect Australia's history as a nation.



Professor Natalie Stoeckl

Professor of Economics, James Cook University

The multiple co-benefits of Indigenous land and sea management (with David Hudson)

Natalie Stoeckl is an adjunct Professor of Economics at James Cook University and from December, will be Professor and Associate Dean of Research in the College of Business and Economics at the University of Tasmania. She has an established track record of collaborative research that is both cross-disciplinary and cross institutional. Her work focuses primarily on issues relevant to environmental and natural

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resource management and on economic aspects of sustainable development in regional areas – especially in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Northern Australia. She has worked with more than 130 co-authors/collaborators from different disciplines and institutions across the world, and with Indigenous communities in the Kimberly, the Northern Territory, Cape York and Torres Strait.



Dr Anita Pryor

Director, Adventure Works Australia

Bush Adventure Therapy: outdoor healthcare with bio-psycho-socio-ecological benefits

Anita Pryor has been involved in the field of Bush Adventure Therapy (BAT) for over two decades in roles of practitioner, manager, trainer and researcher/evaluator. In 2009 she completed a PhD in Public Health investigating the histories, practices, outcomes and evidence base of the spectrum of Australian outdoor adventure interventions. From 2012 to 2015 Anita was co-chair of the International Adventure Therapy Committee (ATIC) and international representative on of the Australian Association for Bush Adventure Therapy (AABAT). Anita currently supports BAT in Australia as co-Director of Adventure Works Australia and co-leader of AABAT's policy unit.



Seraeah Wyles

Communication Officer, Girringun Aboriginal Corporation, Cardwell North Queensland

Building strong Connections to Country and Culture for health and wellbeing

Seraeah Wyles, a proud descendant of the Girramay and Warrgamay Traditional Owner Groups from the Cardwell and Ingham areas, has been working as the Communication Officer at Girringun Aboriginal Corporation since July 2015 and has worked very closely and collaboratively with Traditional Owners from within the Girringun Region and Girringun Program staff from the Aboriginal Arts Centre, Biodiversity and Nursery, Aboriginal Rangers, Indigenous Protected Areas and Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement. Seraeah is very passionate about helping to build the capacity of Traditional Owners to enable successful management of land and sea country and to benefit and prosper from sustainable eco-tourism opportunities.

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Wednesday, 18 September

Welcome



Darren Grover

**Head of Living Ecosystems, WWF-Australia and
Chair of the Australian Committee for IUCN**

Welcome

As Head of Living Ecosystems at WWF-Australia, Darren leads the organisation's Species, Oceans, Science and Impact team. His geographically dispersed team delivers projects that seek to improve the conservation status of species across Australia including the black-flanked rock-wallaby and Carnaby's black cockatoo in southwest Australia, the bilby and Gouldian finch in the Kimberley and marine turtles on the Great Barrier Reef. Darren also leads WWF-Australia's contributions to species and marine conservation in the Asia-Pacific region, most notably for species such as the tiger and the snow leopard and in places such as Solomon Islands and Borneo. Darren has over 20 years' experience in species conservation, environmental impact assessment, Indigenous education and land management, and the development of environmental and water policies.

SESSION 1: Connecting people with nature



Gretchen Miller

**Freelance podcaster, PhD candidate, and former
ABC RN documentary maker**

The power of podcast - citizen storytelling from
home ground to grow engagement

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Gretchen Miller is an internationally recognised audio documentary producer. She made over 80 longform features in her 20 years at ABC RN, largely around environmental issues. Now freelance, her skillset is in complex feature making - using sound and the spoken word to evocatively capture the essence of human engagement with landscape and using local stories to cast light on global issues. She trailblazed climate and environment citizen/co-creative storytelling which tapped into the psychological connections of unique individuals to native birds and forests. Interviews include: David Attenborough, Robyn Williams, Ove Hough-Gouldberg, Charlie Veron, Buddhist activist Sulak Sivaraksa, philosophers Glenn Albrecht and Robert Pogue Harrison. But alongside these experts are interwoven local storytellers, from turtle rescuers in Queensland to Karen rebels fighting to save pristine forest in Myanmar.

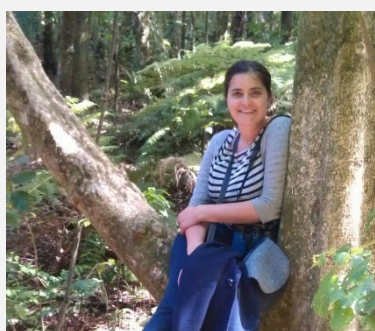


Rachel Pfitzner

Senior Policy Manager, Healthy Parks Healthy People SA

Parks Access for All – improving the inclusivity and accessibility of SA Parks

Rachel has worked as a Science Communicator, Adviser and Policy Officer in non- government and government organisations. This has enabled her to pursue her passion in making science accessible to the community and relevant in policy making. Rachel's work profile has spanned across working in environmental education, primary industries, Indigenous engagement, natural resource management and now an area that holds significant personal connection – the role of contact with nature for health and wellbeing.



Emily McLeod

Senior Social Science Research Manager, Zoos Victoria

When Balloons Fly – a zoo-based community conservation program

Emily McLeod is the Senior Social Science Research Manager at Zoos Victoria. Emily has an interdisciplinary background in the social and biological sciences. She is interested in how zoo-based conservation organisations can better connect people with wildlife and the environment while fostering sustainable behaviours. Her current research includes applying social psychological theories and methods

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to understand the drivers of specific behaviours in order to inform the development of conservation campaigns and evaluate their impact. Twitter: @emilymmcl



Dr Renee Rossini, PhD, BSc (Hons)

**Ecologist and Conservation Project Manager,
Queensland Trust for Nature**

Partnering to protect the Great Barrier Reef

Renee has over a decade experience working from the coastlines to the arid zone, but always with a strong focus on the conservation of Australia's unique flora and fauna. She joined the ecology team at QTFN in 2018 and maintains her research and education positions at the University of Queensland and Griffith University. If she's not in the office she'll be out chasing snails around desert springs, adventuring around the islands of Quandamooka country, or meandering through the forests of south-east Queensland.



Samantha Hayes

**Managing Consultant, LFIA Biophilic
Design Initiative**

Biophilic Design for Wellbeing

Samantha Hayes is a sustainability professional with extensive experience in delivering strategic organisational and project-level sustainability outcomes across multiple industries. She is a Managing Consultant with Bioneering Australia and pursuing a PhD in Biomimetic Engineering. In her previous role as Group Energy and Sustainability Manager at CPB Contractors, Samantha was responsible for establishing and leading the organisations energy and sustainability functions.

SESSION 2: Ensuring a healthy planet for healthy people - policy challenges and opportunities

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Dr Rosie Cooney

**IUCN SULi and Honorary Senior Lecturer,
Australian National University**

IPBES report: biodiversity challenges and
opportunities for human wellbeing

Rosie Cooney is an interdisciplinary conservation scientist and policy adviser working at the interface of conservation science, policy and practice. She has extensive experience working for global conservation NGOs, a research background in wildlife management and policy, and has held a number of leadership and advisory positions in UN bodies. She is currently a consultant, Honorary Senior Lecturer at the Fenner School of Environment and Society at ANU, and a member of the Global Environment Facility's Science and Technical Advisory Panel.



Barry Hunter

Regional Manager, Aboriginal Carbon Foundation

Building resilient landscapes through carbon farming

Barry J Hunter is a descendant from the Djabugay speaking people of Cairns hinterland and Mbarbarm people to the west of the Atherton Tablelands. He grew up besides the Barron River in the rainforest near Kuranda. Barry experience includes employment in Government conservation agencies, mining and exploration industry, community and not-for-profit NGO's, and recently as a consultant working around Aboriginal Land management, Carbon Industry and community economic development. With over 28 years of experience in Aboriginal affairs particularly in areas of land, natural and cultural resource management. Barry has a Bachelor of Applied Science from Charles Sturt University and has a keen interest in the work community rangers do in looking after land, fire management and cultural heritage. Also having a real passion building community capacity and planning that deliver sustainable social, cultural and economic outcomes within our communities.

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Jess Miller

City of Sydney Councillor

Green, global, connected - Transforming the way we live, work and play

Councillor Jess Miller was first elected to Council in 2016 and is one of the youngest people to hold elected office at the City of Sydney. Jess served as Deputy Lord Mayor from 2017-2018. Jess is currently Deputy Chair of the Environment Committee, the Cycling Advisory Committee, and a member of the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils. Jess is also a Program Advisor to sustainability and innovation company, Republic of Everyone. Jess is known for her creative and inclusive approaches to sustainability, strategy and innovation. Jess co-founded GreenUps Sustainability Drinks, Grow it Local and the Elizabeth Street Gallery, and she has worked on the Garage Sale Trail, Tweed Ride, and Grow Show. For the last four years, Jess has curated the food program for TEDxSydney where she introduced 'Crowd-farming', 'Rebel Food' and 'Love Food'. Jess is passionate about the power of food to bring people together and celebrating local producers, and Sydney's food and drink.



Gary Howling

Executive Director, Great Eastern Ranges Initiative

Connectivity conservation: natural solutions to the climate and biodiversity crisis

Gary is Executive Director of the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative (GER) with a long involvement in connectivity conservation and wildlife migration ecology in Australasia. He has added to our understanding of the status and significance of Australia's temperate woodlands, pioneered the development of statutory regional vegetation plans in NSW, and furthered the development of public policy on biodiversity conservation and natural resource management. Since joining the team implementing the GER in 2007, Gary has been a leader in providing specialist connectivity conservation advice and was instrumental in initiating a series of large-scale spatial analyses that highlighted the importance of maintaining networks of interconnected habitats that support ecological and human well-being. He continues to enjoy sharing lessons learned along the way with others involved in connectivity conservation in Australia and overseas.

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SESSION 3: Building support for nature: the future



Dr Joanne Wilson

International Partnerships, NSW NPWS

#NatureForAll – answering the call to connect people with nature

Joanne joined NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service in 2014 and currently leads the national and international partnerships program. She is an experienced conservation scientist and manager with over 20 years of experience in diverse roles across state governments, industry and non-government organisations. She has a background in marine and coastal ecosystems, protected area management and monitoring and evaluation and spent five years in Indonesia leading the coral reef science program for The Nature Conservancy. Her role in NPWS includes working with IUCN to promote the recommendations from the Promise of Sydney. As a keen bushwalker and diver, she knows how important it is to connect with nature. She sees the critical need for programs such as #NatureForAll and Healthy Parks Healthy People to ensure that nature and national parks become as important to people as their health and well-being.



Dr Rosalie Chapple

Board Director & Education Program Leader, Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute

The importance of nature-based learning in education

Rosalie Chapple (BSc PhD) has worked in conservation for over 25 years, with a key focus on wildlife and protected areas, and integrating a wide range of knowledge into policy and management. She teaches in the Master of Environmental Management program at the University of NSW Sydney and was a co-founder of the Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute in 2004. Currently she is working on environmental policy development with the NSW government. Her priorities in a nutshell: Conservation education that moves beyond today's dominant paradigms as they are conventionally understood and practiced. Building personal

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and ecosystem resilience in the face of rapid and dramatic changes. Valuing nature-based experiential learning and different ways of knowing. Integrating a wide range of knowledge into environmental policy and management for sound and innovative policy and decisions.



Associate Professor Kelly Fielding

School of Communication and Arts, University of Queensland

Making the connect: Understanding environmental decisions and behaviours

Kelly Fielding is an Associate Professor in the School of Communication and Arts at The University of Queensland. She is a social and environmental psychologist whose research focuses on understanding environmental attitudes and behaviour and using this understanding to develop effective environmental communication and behaviour change programs. Her research ranges across environmental issues, from sustainable urban water management, to climate change communication, to biodiversity and conservation. Kelly takes an interdisciplinary approach to her research working with academics from a range of disciplines. She also works closely with industry partners including local and state government agencies and is a member of government and non-government scientific advisory committees.



Jo Hopkins

**Manager National and International Engagement,
Parks Victoria; Chair IUCN WCPA Health and
Well-being Specialist Group**

Health and well-being in the context of international conservation efforts

Jo Hopkins is the Manager National and International Engagement at Parks Victoria, Australia. She was part of the team that established the Healthy Parks Healthy People approach to managing parks and has continued that work for over 20 years. As an active member of the IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas, Jo was appointed as Chair Health and Well-being Specialist Group in 2016. She is also Chair of Health Sciences Advisory Board for Deakin University, Australia and Co-Chair of the World Urban Parks Advocacy Committee. Most recently, Jo co-authored a chapter in a new on-line Springer book 'Biodiversity and Health in the Face of Climate Change'.

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