

## PRACTITIONER PRESENTATION

### **Eco-Tourism and Environmental Education to foster connection and conservation of the natural world.**

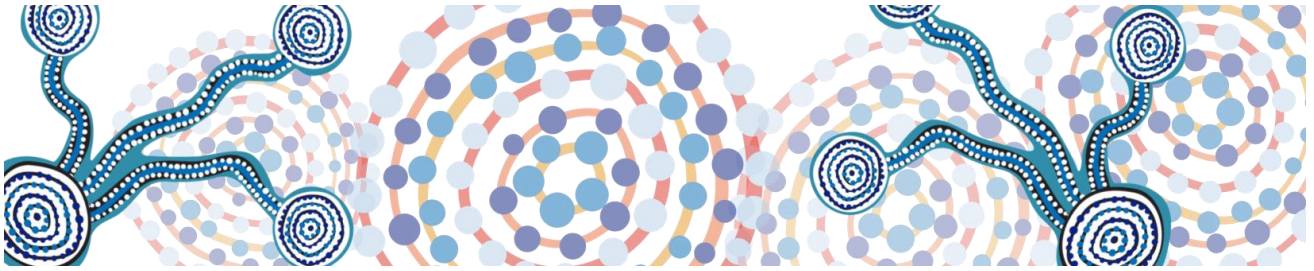
Jamie Van Jones and Sebastian Jones, Salt and Bush Eco Tours and Swanlandia Inc.

#### **Abstract**

Working as Expedition Guides around the world, taking people to wild places like Antarctica, The Kimberley and the Arctic has given amazing insights to the way experiences in nature can change people's perceptions. With backgrounds in science Jamie and Sebastian have taken their worldwide experience as naturalist guides and lecturers and brought their insights into Eco-Tourism and Environmental Education back home to Mandurah. Launching Salt and Bush Eco Tours as a way to foster environmental connection and awareness to the local area has been one aspect of the couple's endeavors to help care for the local environment. The other side is starting a Not-for-profit focused on environmental education to further create connection and help foster young people to become naturalists and stewards of the environment. Together this creates a hybrid social-eco enterprise, where both arms of the organization strengthen the other. Using nature-based experiences for all ages, Jamie and Sebastian have been able to strengthen community connection to nature and are starting to see positive results in the early stages of their organization. This presentation will outline the learnings from a year in operation as a Hybrid eco enterprise and also share the future aims of the organization as they move forward as environmental educators in business and in a not-for-profit organization.

#### **Acknowledgement**

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet and pays respects to their Elders past and present.



## Speaker Profile

### Jamie Van Jones

Jamie completed a degree in science and sustainable development and has worked in international development in Tanzania, Uganda, India, and Bangladesh. Jamie has also worked in conservation and campaigning in Western Australia having worked for the Conservation Council of WA and with Wilderness Society of WA.

Working as a Expedition Leader and naturalist guide on small ships over the past 4 years, Jamie has explored and guided passengers to many remote wild places on all of Earth's Continents. She believes if you explore and learn about a place it stays with you and inevitably you will feel connected to it, and you will do more to take care of it.

### Sebastian Jones

Sebastian grew up in the southwest region and a passion for rocks led him to a career as a exploration geologist. Finding gold in Western Australia and working in -50 degrees Celsius in Northern Canada allowed Sebastian to see amazing parts of the world through geology. His passion for understanding the Earth and sharing his knowledge with others, took him into a career of Naturalist Guiding. Working as an inhouse geology expert on expedition ships led him to work around the world for the past 4 years. Currently Sebastian is the co-director for Salt and Bush Eco Tours.

## Website links

→ [www.saltandbush.com.au](http://www.saltandbush.com.au)

