

Abstract Submission Form and Speaker Profile

Complete your details by typing in the **green** sections of the digital form below. If there are multiple presenters, please include their details where applicable (name, organisation, personal bio)
 Save your completed form in PDF format and submit via the [submission form on the website](#).

Title	Title	First Name	Vicky	Family Name	Bachelard
Position/Role	Sustainable Communities Officer				
Organisation you will represent	Waverley Council				
Personal Bio Max. 100 words	With 18 years' experience in sustainability engagement in local Government, Vicky Bachelard is an experienced sustainability communicator and educator and is passionate about enabling and connecting the community to live sustainable lives. Vicky is a Sustainable Engagement Officer at Waverley Council, she coordinates the Eastern Suburbs Sustainable Schools Network and co designed and coordinates the Living Connections Program.				
Title of Presentation	Creating 'Living Connection' gardens to grow habitat, biodiversity and community action				
Format of Presentation (please select)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oral Presentation (20 minutes) <input type="checkbox"/> Workshop - 60 minutes (eg interactive indoor session) <input type="checkbox"/> Workshop - 120 minutes (eg outdoor activity) Indicate your preferred presentation types (you may select more than one) NB: We may not be able to offer your preferred option				
Which theme would you prefer to present under? (please select)	<input type="checkbox"/> Theme 1: Listen <input type="checkbox"/> Theme 2: Learn <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theme 3: Transform				
Introduction	Harnessing private spaces to restore and regenerate habitat requires collaboration, support and local knowledge. This presentation will cover the implementation of Waverley Council's Living Connections Program, which is engaging with residents in their gardens, and enabling peer to peer networks to support sustainable biodiversity corridors in one of the densest Council areas in Australia.				
Presentation Abstract: max. 300 words	Residential development and a change in garden design trends, leaves small birds with little habitat apart from the dense native vegetation along the coastal walk and small pockets in reserves. As a densely populated coastal Sydney LGA, with limited natural green space, the key to improving and linking habitat in Waverley, is through private residential gardens. With data and anecdotal evidence showing dramatic decreases in				

	<p>small bird populations in residential areas, and a growth of larger more pushy birds, the Living Connections program establishes habitat for small birds, such as the Superb fairy wren and New Holland honeyeater, in private gardens.</p> <p>Linking fragmented habitat corridors to other bird populations enables healthy movement of small birds to enable numbers to flourish once more. But is it possible to switch cactus for correas and other dense native shrubs, to accompany pools, decks and BBQs and create suitable small bird habitat in gardens? The engagement and education is the key to the success of these individual gardens and the network as a whole. Establishing forums to build and share knowledge between participants, and with local landscapers is vital, but so too is providing channels for participants to share their successes, sightings and pride in their individual contributions.</p> <p>Originally funded through the NSW Environment Trust to help restore small bird habitat on private land in Bronte and Tamarama, the Living Connections Program is now available to the whole community. By providing tailored garden advice, garden visits, resources, free native seedlings, workshops and peer to peer networking through social media, Living Connections is removing the barriers to native gardening and linking habitat and community.</p>
<p>Key Message: A short summary of presentation</p>	<p>Increasing habitat in eastern suburbs gardens has many challenges. By engaging homeowners on the benefits of adding diversity to their gardens and making it easy and accessible, it may be possible to restore a small amount of lost habitat, increase habitat elements, pollinators and lizards and overtime, provide living connections for small birds, and neighbourhoods too!</p>

All abstracts must be received by 5pm **Friday 26 May 2023** (AEST).

We expect to notify speakers by mid June

Note: confirmed presenters will be required to register for the conference and pay the relevant registration fees.