

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	Ms	First Name	Ashley	Family Name	Kelly
Position/Role	Senior Science Communicator				
Organisation you will represent	Central Coast Council				
Personal Bio Max. 100 words	Ashley is a passionate environmental scientist who specialises in education and communication. With a masters degree in conservation psychology from the USA she takes an innovative approach to coastal protection, focusing on human values and attitudes; tapping into people's felt-sense, believing that connection is the most powerful driver of behaviour.				
Title of Presentation	Community Changemakers' Course to create ambassadors for our environment				
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	Within the Central Coast Council Estuary Management team, we are passionate about facilitating nature-positive community programs of the highest quality for the greatest cognitive and affective environmental impact through empowering pro-conservation behaviour change. We have utilised evidence based best practices from the field of conservation psychology to develop and deliver this unique and innovative social enterprise program to facilitate community-led pro-environmental anthropogenic change.				
Presentation Abstract: max. 300 words	Central Coast Council's Changemakers' Course empowered community-led, nature-positive initiatives to protect and restore the Tuggerah Lakes Estuary. Passionate community members participated in a series of workshops and excursions to develop expertise in areas that upskilled them to confidently design and implement their own				

	<p>waterway protection project from start to finish. We awarded promising projects with grants of up to \$5,000 to kick-start their initiatives, with funding assistance from the Australian Government.</p> <p>In recent years Central Coast Council’s reputation within the community has been damaged by political issues including an amalgamation, administration and restructure which resulted in a significant loss of jobs and services. The NSW Government appointed an Expert Panel to examine best-practice management approaches to improve water quality in Tuggerah Lakes. This project was developed based on recommendations by the expert panel include focusing engagement on learning together rather than solving ‘the problem’ or ‘fixing’ the Lakes and supporting community to design and conduct small-scale experiments together, testing the various theories put forward by community members.</p> <p>Our project achieves long term commitment to the protection of our waterway by upskilling, motivating, empowering and facilitating passionate community members to develop and deliver programs that they believe are important. In doing so, we have created a cohort of ambassadors promoting protection and restoration of the Tuggerah Lakes Estuary within our community, with the opportunity for exponential growth as we tap into each of their own networks.</p> <p>A unique and unexpected outcome of this program was that the graduating participants collaboratively and organically decided to pursue a joint project that combined each of their strengths. They were selflessly willing to forgo funding for their own projects in recognition of the greater good that could be achieved through a collaboration. We were able to fund two projects which are successfully growing.</p>
<p>Key Message: A short summary of presentation</p>	<p>The tangible output of a Changemakers’ Course is to protect and restore the environment, but instead of focusing on the ecology, we take an innovative approach by focusing on human values and attitudes. In order to conserve biodiversity and protect and restore our ecosystems, we aim to change people’s behaviour and increase advocacy. We have designed this social enterprise program to increase motivation and facilitate community-led action, with very successful results.</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.