

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	Caitlin / Alice	Family Name	Lawrence / McGrath
Position/Role	Caitlin - Business Partnerships and Programs Manager Alice - Team Leader, Education Program				
Organisation you will represent	Caitlin - Petaurus Education Group Inc. Alice - NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust				
Personal Bio Max. 100 words	<p>Caitlin - Caitlin's professional expertise in environmental education spans across a broad range of themes, topics and experiences, and has involved the development of best practice and innovative teaching resources, face to face teaching and engagement and capacity building activities for educators. While initially specialising in freshwater macro-invertebrate research, Caitlin has experienced a very rewarding transition into science and environmental education and is particularly passionate about engaging effectively with students and adults from all kinds of backgrounds and experiences, such as First Nations peoples, neurodiverse students, as well as those with additional learning needs.</p> <p>Alice - Alice is an environmental scientist leading the Biodiversity Education Program at the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust. Her career has ranged from community engagement, landholder extension and training, to implementing strategic state-wide environmental programs. Alice is passionate about making environmental science interesting and relevant, and raising the profile of private land conservation using a range of methods from online platforms to in-field learning events to bridge the gap between scientists, students, landholders and communities.</p>				
Title of Presentation	Conservation Champions - Empowering our Future Environmental and Cultural Custodians				
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theme 2: Learn <input type="checkbox"/> Theme 3: Transform				

<p>Introduction</p>	<p>An innovative partnership between the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust and Petaurus Education Group, Conservation Champions has drawn together students, landholders, First Nations peoples and community groups, to inspire the next generation to become leaders in biodiversity conservation through an interdisciplinary lens and supporting a diversity of learners. Learn from Caitlin and Alice about the value of hands-on, community led and outdoor learning experiences, as well as discover how your students can benefit from FREE curriculum-linked resources and activities that are available.</p>
<p>Presentation Abstract: max. 300 words</p>	<p>Conservation Champions, a collaboration between Petaurus Education Group and the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust, is a transformative pedagogical initiative that aims to inspire the next generation to become leaders in biodiversity conservation. The program offers free hands-on and outdoor learning experiences that support a diversity of learners in primary and secondary schools in rural and urban New South Wales. It also provides curriculum-linked resources and activities that encourage inquiry-focussed and student-led lessons. The program encourages interdisciplinary learning by exploring topics such as agriculture, science and citizen science, geography, and literature. The curriculum is underpinned by student voice, enabling students to participate in community-led initiatives and make positive changes in their environment. Conservation Champions is unique in that it connects students with their local community and environment, through collaboration with local First Nations Peoples, Landcare and other government and non-government organisations, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility towards conservation efforts. By providing opportunities for urban and rural students to experience firsthand the challenges and solutions related to conservation efforts in rural areas, the program helps bridge the gap between these two groups. Through professional development sessions for teachers, the program ensures the sustainability of the initiative beyond its duration. Conservation Champions aligns with Community-Based Social Marketing (CBSM) methodology, promoting behaviour change and using evidence-based practices to evaluate the effectiveness of the program. The initiative not only promotes education and awareness of biodiversity and conservation but also contributes to the preservation of biodiversity in New South Wales. Overall, Conservation Champions is a vital program that provides students with the skills, knowledge, and values needed to become responsible and engaged stewards of the environment.</p>
<p>Key Message: A short summary of presentation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conservation Champions is a model program that can be replicated at a school, community or regional level - Hands-on learning occurs best when connected with the local community - Conservation Champions has free resources and Professional Development to support teachers in running the event - To truly build the capacity of youth in protecting our vital ecosystems, young people need to be shown in a diversity of methods rather than told.

AAEE Biennial Conference 2023

Listen, Learn, Transform

25-27 September 2023, University of Wollongong



All abstracts must be received by 5pm **Friday** 28 April 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.