

AAEE Biennial Conference 2023

Listen, Learn, Transform

25-27 September 2023, University of Wollongong



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	Dr	First Name	Laura	Family Name	Skates
Position/Role	ReWild Perth Program Coordinator				
Organisation you will represent	Perth NRM				
Personal Bio Max. 100 words	Dr Laura Skates is an environmental researcher and science communicator, with a passion for connecting people with Australia's unique native flora. She completed her PhD on the ecology and conservation of carnivorous plants at the University of Western Australia, with Kings Park Science and the University of Bayreuth, Germany. As ReWild Perth Program Coordinator with Perth NRM, Laura engages with a wide variety of stakeholders to create positive change for urban biodiversity through the ReWild Perth program, ReWild for Rivers education program, and the Turning Gardeners into Conservationists citizen science program.				
Title of Presentation	Turning Gardeners into Conservationists: citizen science for conserving urban wildlife				
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	This presentation shares learnings from the citizen science project "Turning Gardeners into Conservationists", led in partnership by the University of Western Australia and Perth NRM, and supported by the Australian Government's Inspiring Australia Science Engagement Programme. Discover the education and engagement strategies used to upskill and empower residents to create and monitor wildlife-friendly gardens, as well as the ecological and sociological research outcomes from the project.				
Presentation Abstract:	Greenspaces can play an enormous role in urban biodiversity conservation, providing habitat resources and supporting connectivity for wildlife to move through the				

<p>max. 300 words</p>	<p>landscape. Private greenspaces, such as residential gardens, are a valuable and yet often overlooked part of this strategy.</p> <p>The ‘Turning Gardeners into Conservationists’ citizen science project aims to connect residents with the biodiversity in their own backyards, build environmental literacy and community capacity to contribute meaningful conservation outcomes, and develop a large network of wildlife-friendly gardeners.</p> <p>Since August 2022, the project has empowered more than 220 community members in southwestern Australia with the skills to identify and monitor vertebrate wildlife, and install wildlife-friendly habitat structures in their gardens. Through our training workshops, videos, and guides, participants learn about scientific principles, research design and animal welfare considerations.</p> <p>To date, project participants have identified 170 species of wildlife using their gardens, including 118 birds, 34 reptiles, 8 mammals, and 10 frogs. These observations are contributing towards a long-term wildlife monitoring database, revealing new scientific knowledge about the role of urban gardens for native wildlife. Participants have learnt about wildlife-friendly gardening techniques and installed more than 150 new habitat structures including 102 nest boxes, 21 bird baths, 20 frog hotels, 7 ponds, and numerous reptile shelters. To better understand the human-side of wildlife-friendly gardening, citizen scientists are also contributing to sociological research through surveys and interviews to understand how their garden activities have influenced their own health, wellbeing, and connection to nature.</p> <p>Through projects like this, we can empower communities to connect with their local environments, contribute habitat resources in their gardens, and become part of the strategy to conserve urban biodiversity.</p> <p>The ‘Turning Gardeners into Conservationists’ project is proudly delivered by the University of Western Australia and Perth NRM, through funding from the Australian Government’s Inspiring Australia Science Engagement Programme.</p>
<p>Key Message: A short summary of presentation</p>	<p>The Turning Gardeners into Conservationists project used a citizen science approach to empower and upskill residents to garden for wildlife, contributing to our understanding of urban biodiversity and its conservation. The project highlights the important role that residents can play in providing habitat through actions in their own home gardens, and the benefits this can have not only for wildlife but for people 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.