



AABR SYMPOSIUM - NOVEMBER 13TH 2014

THEME: “Rebuilding Ecosystems – What are the Principles?”

Teacher’s Federation Conference Centre, Reservoir St, Surrey Hills, Sydney.

PROGRAM

MORNING:

8.00 – 8.45- Registration

8.45 – Welcome and acknowledgements – AABR President, Tein McDonald

INVITED SPEAKERS

Moderator: Tein McDonald

9.00-9.35 - Nigel Tucker (Principal Environmental Scientist, Biotropica Australia) - **Restoration, Regeneration and Resilience in the tropics**”. Nigel is co-author of the very popular book guiding restoration in north Queensland, ‘Repairing the Rainforest’ and will illustrate his talk drawing on his own experience of rainforest restoration projects across the wet and dry tropics. He will emphasise the importance of using a reference ecosystem and building complexity through synergies between planting and natural regeneration.

9.35-10.10 - Justin Jonson (Managing Director, Threshold Environmental Pty. Ltd.) – **Large scale reconstruction of semi-arid ecosystems in south-west Western Australia**. As Restoration Manager for Greening Australia (2006-9) and manager of his own company (2010 – present) Justin has been involved in designing and implementing broad scale direct seeded and planted linkages on 765 hectares of marginal agricultural land in SW Western Australia. Detailed monitoring indicates these works have resulted in the establishment of 3.2 million trees and shrubs.

10.10-10.45 - Tim Berryman (Principal, Cumberland Plain Seeds). **Goals and logistics of Restoring grassy understoreys on mined land in the Hunter Valley, NSW**. For some decades Tim has been developing ecological approaches and technologies for rebuilding grassy understories, particularly focusing on the Cumberland Plain Woodland. More recently he has been working towards establishing broad acre grassy swards in Rio Tinto’s Hunter Valley mine sites.

Morning Tea – 10.45 - 11.00

Moderator: Judy Christie

11.00 to 11.35. Peggy O’Donnell (Cardno), **Geoff Sainty** (Sainty & Associates) and **Mia Dalby-Ball** (Dragonfly Environmental). **Planning, implementation and results of a constructed saltmarsh at Penryn Estuary, Port Botany, NSW**. This talk will highlight some of the design elements, implementation lessons and outcomes to date from one of the world’s largest saltmarsh construction projects - the Penryn Estuary Enhancement Project (part of the Port Botany Expansion.)

11.35-12.10 Peggy Svoboda – (Project Manager, Kooragang Wetland Rehabilitation Project, Hunter Local Land Services) **Helping Saltmarsh Recover in the Hunter River Estuary, NSW**. While managers generally use manipulations to trigger natural recovery of saltmarsh, at times planting is a necessary step in the restoration process. Examples from Kooragang Wetlands will illustrate some general principles and lessons learned from planting saltmarsh species and managing buffers for saltmarsh in a dynamic environment.

12.10-12.30 Questions to panel of invited speakers – focusing on standards of practice.

Moderator: Tim Baker

Lunch 12.30-1.15

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AFTERNOON

SPEED TALKS BY PRACTITIONERS

A series of short talks by contractors and agencies presenting case studies from their own experience.

Moderator: Frank Gasparre

1.20-1.25 – Speed talk 1 - **Mia Dalby-Ball** (Director, Dragonfly Environmental) **Reconstructing Saltmarsh at Penryn Estuary**. Mia will describe how the Dragonfly team prepared the soil and planted 280,000 Saltmarsh plants, all from local propagules, to create 2ha of new Saltmarsh at the Penryn Estuary saltmarsh construction site at Port Botany

1.25-1.30 – Speed talk 2. - **Elizabeth MacPhee** (Rehabilitation Officer, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (OEH), Tumut, NSW.) **Reconstruction of native plant communities on rock dumps in Kosciuszko NP, NSW**. Ecological and horticultural knowledge and skills informed the reconstruction of native ecosystems on rock dumps within Kosciuszko National Park. Sites bare for 40 years are now on a trajectory to ecosystem recovery.

1.30-1.35 - Speed talk 3 - **Dan Cunningham** (Program leader, Waterways, Sydney Water). **Cook's River naturalisation, Sydney**. This project involves converting existing concrete channels back to semi natural waterways, with 1.1km of riverbank naturalised, with an investment of around \$9 million. Habitats being reconstructed include freshwater wetland and saltmarsh as well as terrestrial vegetation.

1.35-1.40 - Speed talk 4 - **David Brennan** (Project manager, Toolijooa). **Trialing the application of sugar in revegetated plots to reduce weed germination and enhance *Microlaena* establishment, Sydney Olympic Park**. Photopoint monitoring comparing replanted plots with and without Sugar is indicating some successes but several weedy species appear not to be readily affected by sugar applications.

1.40-1.45 - Speed talk 5 - **Edgar Friemanis** (Director, Ecohort Pty Ltd) **Directly transplanting native monocotyledonous plants from donor areas to suitable sites in need of reconstruction in the Sydney area**. The talk will use examples from many restoration sites in the Sydney region to show how native monocots taken from sites being cleared for development have been successfully transplanted onto restoration sites.

1.45-1.50 - Speed talk 6 - **Christopher Brogan** (Director & Senior Ecologist Earth Repair & Restoration Pty Ltd) – **Reconstructing Western Sydney Grassy Woodland Understorey at Hoxton Park**. Chris will talk about a revegetation project carried out for Endeavour Energy at Hoxton Park.

WORKSHOPS - Moderators: Justin Jonson, Agata Mitchell and Danny Hirschfeld

1.50-2.30 - Workshop 1. SERA Principles and standards –Justin Jonson, SERA board member, will chair this session on the draft SERA standards, focusing on reconstruction. After a brief presentation on the Standards project he will open up audience and panel discussion on what might be key principles and standards for the practice of reconstruction – indeed, ecological restoration generally. (Information gained from the workshop will be fed back into the next draft of the Principles and Standards document.)

2.30-2.50 Afternoon tea break

2.50-3.30 - Workshop 2 –Is there a need and potential for accreditation of on-ground practitioners of reconstruction? Agata Mitchell and Danny Hirschfeld will jointly chair a workshop to discuss potential for an AABR accreditation system for practitioners involved in reconstruction of plant communities.

4.00 AABR Annual General Meeting – all welcome.

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