

Shark Conservation Summit

The Refectory, University of Sydney
Thursday, February 21st and Friday, February 22nd, 2019

Program of Speakers

In Order of Appearance



Erica Martin – CEO, Humane Society International

Erica Martin is the CEO of Humane Society International Australia. Erica joined HSI in 2017 after working for the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) as the Vice President of Global Communications based in the USA. Prior to that she was the Regional Director for IFAW Asia Pacific, based in Sydney. Erica also has a wealth of experience in government relations having previously worked for the Australian Federal Government as Director of Communications for the then Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts in Canberra.



Darren Kindleysides – CEO, Australian Marine Conservation Society

Darren Kindleysides is the CEO of the Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS), Australia's only national charity dedicated to protecting our oceans. In the decade of Darren's leadership, AMCS has led the charge to create marine protected areas around Australia, defend our World Heritage Great Barrier Reef from climate change, conserve our threatened species, create sustainable fisheries and mitigate the environmental impacts of marine industries, coastal development and shipping.

Darren has in-depth experience, knowledge and expertise in marine conservation having worked in this field for over 20 years both in Australia and overseas. He has overseen the development and implementation of marine conservation programs, projects and campaigns in Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, the South Pacific and Europe, leading initiatives to safeguard Coral Sea reefs, Antarctic whales, Pacific turtles, Atlantic seabirds and North Sea cod.

Professor Colin Simpfendorfer, PhD - Personal Chair: College of Science & Engineering, Centre for Sustainable Tropical Fisheries and Aquaculture, James Cook University



Prof Colin Simpfendorfer is a Professor of Marine Biology in the College of Science and Engineering. He has more than 25 years of experience in researching sharks, and has published extensively in the scientific literature on shark biology, ecology, fisheries and conservation. His expertise on sharks has been recognized by his appointment as the Co-Chair of the IUCN's Shark Specialist Group. Other extramural appointments include being a member of Australia's Threatened Species Scientific Committee and the Queensland Shark Control Program Scientific Working Group.

Colin is a graduate of James Cook University, having undertaken both his undergraduate and postgraduate training in Townsville. After completing his PhD he worked on shark fisheries at the Western Australian Fisheries Department before moving to Florida to work at the Centre for Shark Research at Mote Marine Laboratory. He returned to JCU in 2007 to lead the Fishing and Fisheries Research Centre, where he has helped build a research group focused on improving our understanding of sharks and how best to conserve and manage their populations.

Lawrence Chlebeck – Marine Campaigner, Humane Society International



A marine ecologist specialising in conservation, research and outreach, Lawrence has spent years working with wildlife, the ocean and the public to engender sustainable relationships between them. He has worked as a field biologist, environmental consultant, naturalist and project coordinator with a BA in Marine Science: Biology from the University of San Diego, and an MSc in Marine Biology from James Cook University. Lawrence's work at HSI is currently focused on shark welfare and protection, specifically in regards to culling and control programs, overexploitation, and international protection

Leonardo Guida, PhD – Senior Shark Campaigner, Australian Marine Conservation Society



Sharks have fascinated me for as long as I can remember and as a kid I always wanted to be a marine biologist when I grew up. In 2016 I completed my PhD at Monash University investigating the effects of commercial fishing on shark and ray populations – specifically, how the stress of capture affected their survival, behaviour, and reproduction. During my PhD I also co-founded an eNGO and through these collective experiences, I fully appreciated the power of science communication and community empowerment. As of August 2018, I was appointed to lead the “Shark Champions” campaign on behalf of the Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) – a dream gig to say the least. I look forward to working with the broader Australian community in delivering conservation outcomes that protect our sharks, rays, and the oceans we all depend on.



Matt Heard, PhD – Orarius Ecology

Matt recently completed his PhD at Flinders University where he investigated the vulnerability of pelagic sharks to commercial and recreational fisheries within Australian waters. He has a background in agricultural research, fisheries science and environmental policy. With a passion for marine conservation and sustainable resource use, Matt is continuing his research into the vulnerability of Australian sharks and rays in his current role preparing EPBC threatened species assessments on behalf of Humane Society International.

Nick Otway, PhD – New South Wales Department of Primary Industries



Rich Hillary, PhD – Researcher, Marine Biodiversity Hub, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

Dr Rich Hillary is a mathematician in the Oceans and Atmosphere business unit of the CSIRO. His general background is in the modelling and management of marine species. Over the past 5 years he has been working on novel genetic and tagging-based techniques to estimate the abundance and status of a number of large shark species (in particular the white shark populations in the Australasian region).

Barbara Wueringer, PhD – Founder and Director, Sharks and Rays Australia



Barbara is the founder, director and lead scientist of SARA. She is a zoologist specialized on the behaviour, sensory ecology and biology of elasmobranch fishes. Barbara first fell in love with sharks when she volunteered at the Bimini Biological Field Station, Bahamas. For her Masters she worked on the sensory biology of two species of shovelnose ray. This work got her interested in the shark like rays, which include sawfish. Barbara received her PhD from the University of Queensland, for a project on the sensory ecology and feeding behaviour of freshwater elasmobranchs of northern Queensland, Australia, including sawfish, spartooth sharks and freshwater stingrays.

Throughout her 12 year scientific career, Barbara has acquired knowledge on capturing, tagging and releasing large elasmobranchs including lemon sharks, tiger sharks and sawfish, and has worked in the remote river systems of Far North Queensland and Cape York Peninsula. She has also acquired knowledge on morphological and behavioural methods to identify the sensory adaptations of large fishes. She has worked with people from all walks of life, including industry, fisheries, and politicians. Her research has resulted in peer reviewed high impact publications and has been featured multiple times in international media, such as BBC, National Geographic, New York Times, Science Magazine, Cosmos Magazine, ABC, and Discovery Magazine.



Toby Patterson, PhD – Researcher, Marine Biodiversity Hub, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

Dr Toby Patterson is a senior research scientist at CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere. His work focuses on marine megafauna spatial ecology and population dynamics with applications in conservation and fisheries management. He is a specialist in animal movement analysis and has been part of recent CSIRO work combining telemetry, genetic analysis and advanced statistics for estimating abundance, survival and habitat selection for several elasmobranch species. His research also encompasses foraging and movement ecology of marine mammals, seabirds, turtles and highly migratory tunas and billfish.



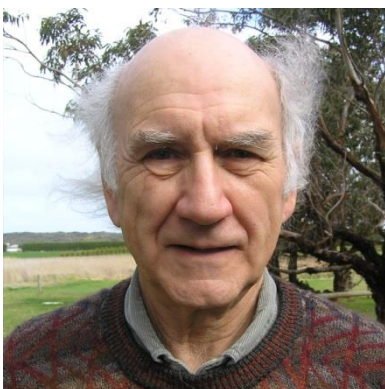
Associate Professor Jeremy Lyle, PhD – Senior Research Scientist, Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, University of Tasmania

After completing his PhD at the University of Liverpool (UK), Jeremy was employed as a fisheries scientist in the Northern Territory where he led a major initiative to develop a shark fishery off northern Australia. From there he joined the then Tasmanian Sea Fisheries Department and later the Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute (TAFI), University of Tasmania. TAFI became part of the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies in 2010. He has worked on a wide variety of commercial fisheries, including offshore trawl, small pelagics and coastal fisheries, as well as conducting recreational fishing surveys over many years. The primary focus of his research has been to understand the impacts of fishing on target and non-target species and provide the science required to support the sustainable management of the fish stocks.



Bradley Norman, PhD - Postdoctoral Research Fellow, School of Biological Sciences, University of Queensland

Brad Norman has been studying whale sharks since 1995, completing his Masters thesis on the ecology of whale sharks and the ecotourism industry at Ningaloo Reef, and PhD thesis on integrating telemetry and citizen science to understand the movements of whale sharks. Recognised globally for his work on this species, he prepared reports for the IUCN *Red List of Threatened Species* in 2000 and 2016; successfully nominated the whale shark for listing on the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* (EPBC Act) in 2001; and contributed to proposals that resulted in this species listing under international conventions, including CITES and CMS. Dr Norman pioneered the global photo-identification monitoring program used throughout the world to monitor whale shark numbers.



Terence I. Walker, PhD – University of Melbourne, Monash University

As a former member of the Victorian fisheries agency, Terry Walker has extensive experience undertaking fisheries research and providing fisheries management, and policy advice on state and commonwealth managed commercial and recreational fisheries in Australia and overseas. His research included fishery stock assessment, population biology, and fishery monitoring and survey of chondrichthyan, teleost, rock lobster, scallop, and squid species both in Australia and various parts of the world. Through Melbourne and Monash Universities, he is currently undertaking species vulnerability analyses of the chondrichthyan fauna of southern Australia and the Gulf of California to the effects of fishing and climate change.

Wendy Harmer – ABC Broadcaster

Allison Langdon – 60 Minutes

Allison Langdon is a 60 Minutes reporter, co-host of Weekend Today Show and author.



Ally joined 60 Minutes in 2011. Among her achievements so far are stories she has filed from Somalia in the midst of a brutal civil war, venturing into the raging heart of one of the most active and dangerous volcanoes on earth and coming face to face with Grizzly bears in the Canadian wilderness, and great white sharks off South Africa.

Ally moved to Nine's flagship current affairs program after nine years in the Sydney newsroom, where she frequently travelled the globe to cover major stories. She's played a key role in Nine's award-winning coverage of the Australian federal election and hosted prime-time documentaries.

She wrote the book 'The Child Who Never Was –The Tegan Lane Story' (released in 2007) after covering the inquest into the disappearance of the baby born to former water polo champion, Keli Lane. In December 2010, Lane was convicted of the baby's murder.

She lives in Sydney with her husband Michael and son Mack.

Christopher Pepin-Neff, PhD – University of Sydney

Christopher Pepin-Neff is a Senior Lecturer in Public Policy at the University of Sydney. He conducted the world's first PhD on the "politics of shark attacks" and is the author of the new book: "Flaws: Shark Bites and Emotional Public Policymaking" from Palgrave Macmillan.

He has published articles in the Australian Journal of Political Science, Environmental Studies and Sciences, Marine Policy, and Coastal Management. His research has been noted in The New York Times, Washington Post, Time magazine, The Economist, USA Today and New Scientist magazine. In May 2012, Christopher gave a 'TED Talk' on his research for TED's Global Talent Search.



Blake Chapman, PhD – Author and Sharks Editor-at-Large, Australian Geographic

Dr Blake Chapman grew up and completed her undergraduate degree in Biology in the United States, before moving to Australia to undertake postgraduate studies in shark neuroscience, ecology and development. She completed her PhD in 2009, and was awarded The University of Queensland Dean's Award for Research Higher Degrees Theses. Blake then spent a number of years working for a large public aquarium, where she managed the animal health and rescue and rehabilitation programs. She then shifted her focus towards science communication as a means of helping to promote and advance critical research findings to a wide variety of audiences, from students to academics. Blake continues to research sharks, and now focuses primarily on negative shark-human interaction, commonly referred to as 'shark attacks', and global mitigation efforts. She published her first book, 'Shark Attacks: Myths, Misunderstandings and Human Fear', in November 2017. She continues to work with the media to promote a more realistic picture of sharks and how they interact with humans, as well as a greater understanding of sharks more generally, and the various mitigation measures being used and explored. She is the Sharks Editor-at-Large for Australian Geographic.



Nicola Beynon – Head of Campaigns, Humane Society International



Nicola Beynon is Head of Campaigns for Humane Society International in Australia. When Nicola first joined HSI in 1998 the organisation had just successfully nominated the great white and grey nurse sharks for their threatened listings under state and federal laws and she was the conservation representative on their recovery teams. Since then, HSI nominations have secured listings for the school shark and the scalloped hammerhead.

Nicola chaired the Shark Working Group for the Species Survival Network - the global coalition of conservation NGOs that work on CITES - at the time we were trying to break the 'shark ceiling' at CITES with the whale, basking and great white shark listings. Today HSI is proud to have helped a number of shark species benefit from trade regulation through CITES. Nicola was also proud to work with the Australian Government to secure the great white shark's protection under the Convention for the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) and the resolution that instigated the CMS MOU for Sharks, to which HSI is a cooperating partner.

Nicola oversees Shark Champions, an exciting partnership project between HSI and AMCS, which is funded by the Shark Conservation Fund. Shark Champions is a 3 year campaign to champion the conservation of sharks and rays in Australia.

Last week Nicola and the HSI team, represented by the Environmental Defender's Office NSW, were at the Administrative Appeals Tribunal in Brisbane, seeking to overturn the 10 year permit for culling sharks on the Great Barrier Reef.

Before emigrating to Australia, Nicola obtained a BA Hons in Geography from Oxford University and a MSc in Conservation from University College London.



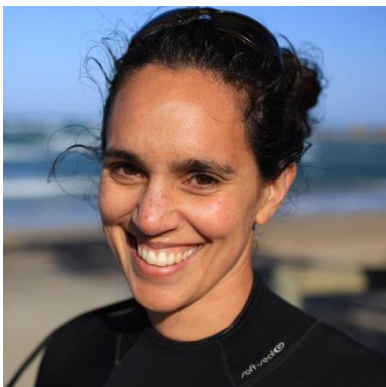
Michelle Heupel, PhD - Adjunct Principal Research Fellow, College of Science & Engineering, Centre for Sustainable Tropical Fisheries and Aquaculture, James Cook University

Michelle Heupel has over 20 years' experience conducting research on shark and ray population in various environments and regions. She has a strong background in providing science for management and advising government on policies regarding sharks and rays. She has served as the science advisor on the Australian Delegation for the CMS Sharks MOU and is a former member of the Australian Threatened Species Scientific Committee which advises the Minister for the Environment.



Associate Professor Adam Stow, PhD – Department of Biological Sciences, Macquarie University

I am a conservation biologist and behavioural ecologist who uses genetic and field based techniques to evaluate animal dispersal and gene flow in natural systems and to assess the impacts of human activities. In the marine environment I have focussed on sharks, including those of critical conservation significance and commercially exploited species. Work has been largely carried out by higher degree research students under my supervision and has included a long standing program on grey nurse shark genetics, whaler species and gummy sharks. My overarching goal is to provide information useful for conservation managers.



Tooni Mahto – Senior Marine Campaigner, Australian Marine Conservation Society

Tooni Mahto has led the fisheries and threatened species team at AMCS for eight years. She oversees the national threatened species protection campaign, with a focus on improving the conservation outlook for sharks and rays, and driving our sustainable seafood and fisheries campaigns.

A marine scientist with a Masters in Oceanography, Tooni has a background in communications and television production. In her home country of the UK, Tooni worked as an underwater camera operator and researcher at the BBC's Natural History Unit and presented a BBC series on global oceans and British seas.



Associate Professor Charlie Huveneers, PhD - College of Science and Engineering, Flinders University

Associate Professor Charlie Huveneers leads the Southern Shark Ecology Group (SSEG) at Flinders University. The SSEG research focuses on the ecology and population status of sharks and rays, as well as assessments of their vulnerability, interactions with humans, and related public perception. A/Prof Huveneers moved to South Australia in 2009 to join MISA through a joint position between SARDI – Aquatic Sciences and Flinders University. He has been a full-time academic at Flinders University since 2014, with his current research focusing on minimising the effects of wildlife tourism through adequate management and assessing the efficacy of shark bite mitigation measures.



Lindsay Lyon – CEO, Ocean Guardian

Lindsay Lyon is the CEO of Ocean Guardian Holdings Limited (Shark Shield). He has a successful track record in creating and growing both private and public companies. His corporate experience includes senior executive of a multi-national, CEO of an ASX listed company and the creation of globally focused start-up ventures. He's focus is on innovation, business strategy, global business development, channels, branding strategies, partnering, and strong teamwork. Lindsay's has been granted a number of product innovation patents, he has a Diploma in Electronic Engineering and a Masters in Marketing.



Vic Peddemors, PhD – Senior Research Scientist, New South Wales Department of Primary Industries

Vic has over 25 years scientific research experience in Antarctica, Australia, England, Holland, Mozambique and South Africa. His research interests cover a wide range of marine apex predators, but have inevitably had an over-riding theme of ensuring human impacts on their populations are sustainable. At the NSW DPI, Vic is also responsible for the scientific component of investigating and managing shark attack and mitigation of these traumatic events. In this role, he has participated in the updating and development of the NSW Shark Incident Response Plan, roll-out of the scientific component of the new \$16 Million NSW Shark Management Strategy, and liaises between the various agencies when investigating shark attacks in New South Wales waters. Vic currently sits on the IUCN Shark Specialist Group and is a past Chairman of the Scientific Committee for the IMOS Animal Tracking Facility.

During the course of his career, Vic has pioneered the use of technological advances in his cross-disciplinary research including within his shark research projects: (i) software development for photo-identification of individual sharks with engineers from Delft University, Netherlands; (ii) development and testing of the world's first electronic shark repellent; (iii) examining the potential use of magnets to reduce shark bycatch in fisheries; (iv) the use of Finite Element Analysis modelling of shark bite with colleagues from UNSW; and (v) the use of scanning x-ray fluorescence microscopy (SXF) at the Australian Synchrotron to investigate shark vertebrae composition. His experiences have highlighted the requirement to 'think outside of the box' when it comes to developing new strategies in dealing with human-shark interactions, whether it be in protecting humans from sharks or sharks from humans.

Vic has published 77 scientific manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals, 30 of which have been in the past 5 years. He has also authored another 19 published book chapters or reports during the past 5 years. He has supervised 52 postgraduate students.



Senator Peter Whish-Wilson – Chair of the Senate Enquiry into Shark Control

Peter Whish-Wilson is an Australian Greens Senator for Tasmania with national portfolio responsibility for Healthy Oceans. He has been a passionate surfer for many years and has been actively involved in ocean conservation, including serving on the board of the Surfrider Foundation. He chaired a recent Senate inquiry into shark mitigation and deterrent measures which held ten public hearings across Australia and produced a lengthy report. The inquiry looked extensively at human interaction with sharks and the effectiveness of lethal and non-lethal mitigation measures. Pete will speak on the findings of that inquiry and his personal experience in the ocean.