

WLPG Community Day – speaker bios

John Delpratt

John is a horticultural scientist and an Honorary Fellow with the University of Melbourne. He lectured at the University's Burnley Campus prior to retirement. His teaching and research focused on plant production, seed technology, weed science and the restoration of temperate native grassland. More recently, he has been a volunteer with the Woorndoo Land Protection Group and their work conserving and restoring diverse native grassland on local roadsides.

Title: "The Woorndoo Project"

Lincoln Kern

Lincoln was trained in botany and environmental science in the United States and has been working in the environmental field in Victoria on a full-time basis since 1991. Lincoln has run Practical Ecology Pty. Ltd. since 1993, offering an integrated service for managers of native vegetation and developers as required. He has been providing expertise in flora and fauna survey, environmental planning, bushland restoration, environmental and noxious weed control, revegetation and general land management services since 1993. He sees his mission as a consultant and company as helping land managers and planners, whether in government authorities or as private citizens, to protect and manage indigenous flora and fauna and to provide a wide range of consulting and contracting services to meet conservation land management objectives.

Title: "Mapping roadsides for conservation and repair – a case study"

Ammie Jackson, Natural Environment Programs Officer with DELWP.

Ammie has studied and worked on a variety of environment projects on the VVP for the last 18 years. She has a particular interest in managing and enhancing significant vegetation communities, such as Western Basalt Plains Grasslands, Stony Rises Woodlands and Saltmarsh vegetation of the Western District Lakes.

For the last 3 years she has been working on the Linear Reserves Project with a wide range of stakeholders, aiming to raise the awareness of the importance of native grasslands, manage invasive weeds and reinstate appropriate burning regimes.

Title: "Introduction to native grasslands – a video presentation"

John Morgan

Assoc. Prof John Morgan is a passionate advocate for grassland conservation, management and restoration. From the tiny plants, to the dominant grasses, he has championed their importance and beauty for nearly 30 yrs. He's pragmatic too - grasslands might be small and often weedy, but John has focused on the mantra "to recover the ecosystem, you first have to save all the parts". To do that, he has studied the germination of species, detailed how long plants live, measured their response to fire, and looked at ways to recover the connections that make grasslands tick. Most importantly, he works to bring the local community along for the ride.

Title: "Looking to the future - where should we be focusing our efforts for grassy ecosystem conservation and restoration?"

Dr. Paul Gibson Roy

Paul is a restoration ecologist specializing in re-establishing species-rich native grasslands and grassy woodlands. In 2004 he instigated the Victorian Grassy Groundcover Research Project (Melbourne University and Greening Australia), a state-wide, field-scale grassy restoration program. In 2011 he expanded the project to NSW focusing on EPBC-listed Cumberland Plain Grassy Woodland. There he developed one of the countries most advanced seed production facilities growing wildflowers and grasses for restoration across the region. He was awarded a Churchill Fellowship in 2016 and toured the USA investigating their native seed and restoration sectors. In 2017 he co-developed an ANPC-led native seed sector survey gathering critical information and feedback from restorationists nationally. In 2019 he joined Kalbar Resources to oversee rehabilitation strategies for the Fingerboards project in east Gippsland (Victoria). These include ambitious goals to restore nationally listed grassy woodland to ~200 ha of the post-mined landscape. This will involve developing significant seed production capacity to underpin seed resource needs for that restoration.

Title: "Seed Production: underpinning innovative approaches to restoring species-rich native grasslands."
