

gorges, waterfalls and sweeping views (on clear days), many endemic plant species, and possibly quoll and burrowing frogs. Cost \$40 per person, includes transport, lunch and morning and afternoon snacks. Min. 15 participants.

For further information about excursions, see the conference website.

Registration

Full registration includes the Program and Book of Abstracts, session attendance, all lunches, morning and afternoon teas, the welcoming reception on Sun 7 December, and an evening BBQ on Mon 8 December. One-day registration includes session attendance, lunch, and morning and afternoon teas for the nominated day. Additional activities at extra cost include the postgraduate course on Sunday, conference dinner at Echidna Gully on Tuesday evening and post-conference excursions.

Associates program

Persons accompanying delegates to ESA Ecology 2003 are very welcome and should register as Associates. Associate registration includes the welcoming reception, the official opening, plenary session, poster session and BBQ on Mon 8 December, an Armidale Heritage Tour on Tues 9 December, and a guided tour of the late 19th century homestead, Saumarez, on Wed 10 December (including lunch).

Conference dinner

The conference dinner on the evening of Tues 9 December will be held at Echidna Gully, in the scenic New England bushland setting of Metz Gorge, 25 km east of Armidale. The dinner will provide a characteristically 'New England' experience, and the cost (\$60 per person) includes transport to and from the venue, welcome drinks (a bar is available on-site), the meal, live music and a cabaret show written especially for the occasion, performed by members of Armidale's arts community.

Disclaimer

The conference host body and local organising committee reserve the right to make changes to the conference program if necessary. Information is accurate at time of printing.

Conference secretariat

UNE Conference Company, University of New England
Armidale NSW 2351 Email: confco@metz.une.edu.au
Telephone: 02 6773 2154, Fax: 02 6773 3766

Armidale

Armidale is a City of 22 000 people, situated 1000 m a.s.l. on the New England Tablelands, 510 km north of Sydney and 462 km south of Brisbane. It offers access to a range of environments including the subtropical North Coast of NSW, the spectacular eastern escarpment and gorge country of the Great Dividing Range, temperate woodlands and pastoral properties of the Tablelands and North-Western Slopes, and croplands and semi-arid grasslands on the North-West Plains. Armidale's annual rainfall of 793 mm is summer-dominant, with an average monthly rainfall of 88 mm in December (10 rain days per month). Mean daily minimum and maximum temperatures in December are 12°C and 26°C. Come prepared with long pants and a jumper or jacket for evening wear, and an umbrella.

Travel, accommodation and child care

Delegates are responsible for their own travel, accommodation and child care arrangements, but we have provided a range of options and contact details on the conference website. On-campus accommodation can be booked on the registration form. Duval College offers serviced, single study bedrooms with telephone and tea/coffee making facilities, shared bathrooms and a complimentary parking permit for \$48 per night (including full cooked breakfast). It is a 1 km walk from the main conference venue. A limited number of twin and double rooms with ensuite facilities are also available. POA to UNE Conference Company.

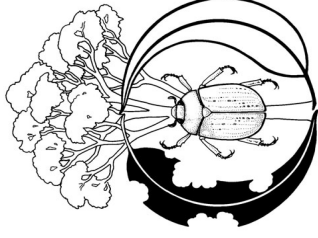
Registration cancellation policy

All cancellations must be made in writing to the UNE Conference Company. Cancellations before 31 October 2003 will forfeit \$66 of the registration fee to cover administration costs. No refunds will be made after 31 October 2003, but substitute delegates are acceptable.

Privacy

In registering for this conference, relevant details will be incorporated into a delegate list for the benefit of all delegates (name and organisation only), and may be made available to parties directly related to the conference including venue and accommodation providers and key sponsors. Should you not wish your details to be used for this purpose, please contact the UNE Conference Company.

ESA ECOLOGY 2003 Conference Armidale, NSW



The annual conference of the
Ecological Society of Australia



University of New England
Armidale, NSW, Australia

8-10 December 2003

The Armidale organising committee takes great pleasure in inviting you to the beautiful New England region of New South Wales to take part in the 28th annual meeting of the ESA.

For full conference details
visit the conference website at:
<http://www.ecolsoc.org.au/conferences.html>

The scientific program

Includes a 1-day course for postgraduate students on Sun 7 December, 3 days of open forum and special symposium sessions (Mon 8 to Wed 10 December), evening and 1 to 3-day post-conference excursions (Wed 10 to Sat 13 December), social activities, and a visual and performing arts program to entertain and encourage reflection on alternative media for communicating with society.

Open forum sessions

Presentations can cover any subject of relevance to ecologists. To avoid timetable clashes, talks in open forum sessions will be arranged thematically in groups.

Conference symposia

The symposia highlight particular themes and bring together some of the most exciting and recent developments in selected fields. Symposia for ESA Ecology 2003 are:

- ❖ **Australia's environmental challenge: ecological and decision making**
The Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists
- ❖ **Ecological functions and values of scattered native vegetation in managed landscapes**
Brian Wilson, NSW Dept Sustainable Natural Resources
- ❖ **Disturbance regimes and the ecology and evolution of plant persistence in the Australian environment**
Peter Clarke, Univ. of New England
- ❖ **Bugs, birds and bats: conservation biological control**
Letitia Silberbauer, Sarah Mansfield & Ingrid Rencken, Aust. Cotton CRC & Univ. New England/CSIRO Entomology/UNE
- ❖ **Ecology, economics and public policy of revegetation schemes as carbon sinks**
Michael Roderick, CRC for Greenhouse Accounting & Australian National Univ.
- ❖ **The ecology of salinity: what do we really know?**
Margaret Brock, NSW Dept Sustainable Natural Resources & Richard Hobbs, Murdoch Univ.
- ❖ **Australasian peatlands: past, present and future**
Kerry Bridle, Univ. of Tasmania & Jeff Parr, Southern Cross Univ.
- ❖ **Managing profitable and biodiverse production systems: linking policy, research and practice**
Jann Williams, RMIT University Melbourne
- ❖ **Woodlands and their sustainable management**
Christopher Nadolny, NSW Dept Sustainable Natural Resources & John Hunter, J.A. Hunter Pty Ltd
- ❖ **Conservation planning for ecological connectivity at landscape, regional and continental scales**
Brendan Mackey, Australian National Univ.

❖ Reproductive ecology of native and invasive plants

Caroline Gross, UNE & Ross Goldingay, Southern Cross Univ.

❖ Ecological impact assessment: what role for science?

Louisa Mamouny, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

❖ Ecological thresholds in biodiversity conservation

Andrew Huggett, CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems

❖ Riverine ecosystems: a multidisciplinary perspective

Craig Miller, Macquarie Univ.

❖ Human dimensions in ecology: institutions, communities and landscapes

David Brunchhorst & Phil Coop, Univ. of New England

❖ Chemical ecology: from process to application

Peter Gregg & David Britton, Aust. Cotton CRC & Univ. of New England

❖ Wetland ecosystems: ecological applications of spatial information technologies

Lalit Kumar, Paul Frazier, Univ. of New England & Simon Ferrier, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

Poster and paper presentations

Anyone is eligible to present, provided their registration, payment and abstract are received by **Friday 5 September**. Presentations can be offered as talks or posters for symposium or open forum sessions. There will be up to 4 concurrent sessions featuring symposia and open forum presentations grouped thematically. Speaking slots are 15 minutes only. Posters will be prominently displayed throughout and featured in a dedicated session.

Submitting an abstract

Abstracts should be submitted electronically, using the form provided on the conference website at <http://www.ecolsoc.org.au/conferences.html>.

Postgraduate course

Organised in association with the Australasian Evolution Society, a 1-day course on Current Ecology and Evolution is offered on Sun 7 December for research and prospective research students. It is organised by Mark Westoby, Macquarie Univ., as a yearly event in association with ESA's annual meeting. It includes overviews of Australasian ecology and evolution, talks from leading researchers and agencies using ecological research, and focus groups for discussion and feedback. The registration cost of \$75 covers:

- transport from Armidale airport or train station to UNE on Saturday afternoon
- dinner on Saturday night
- lunch, morning and afternoon tea on Sunday

Post-conference excursions

We have 4 post-conference excursions of varying length, heading off to fascinating destinations and catering for both the botanically and zoologically inclined.

1. Mountains to the sea: ecological gradients

Peter Clarke, Thurs 11 to Sat 13 December 2003

A 3-day (2-night) tour of World Heritage rainforests, eucalypt forests, woodlands, heathlands, fire-impacted ecosystems, and spectacular coastal headlands and rock platforms. Itinerary includes Oxley Wild Rivers, New England, Dorrigo and Gibraltar Range National Parks, Arwarra and the Solitary Islands Marine National Park. Cost \$160 per person, includes all meals, accommodation and transport. Min. 10, max. 18 participants.

2. Mammals of the New England gorges

Peter Jarman, Karl Vernes & Stuart Green, Wed 10 December 2003, 1930-2230 h

The gorge country on the eastern scarp of the Tablelands still carries a near-complete mammal fauna, despite abutting vermin-infested, tree-cleared grazing lands. The gorges near Armidale contain the best remaining populations of brush-tailed rock-wallabies and spotted-tailed quoll. This after-dark spotlighting walk offers the potential to see rock-wallabies, gliders and possums, and perhaps quolls. Cost \$20 per person for transport. Min. 8 participants.

3. Grasslands and grassy woodlands near Armidale

Wal Whalley, Chris Nadolny & Jodie Reeseigh, Thurs 11 December 2003, 0830-1800 h

Visit various grassland and grassy woodland sites including those near spectacular gorge country east of Armidale. The itinerary includes commercial properties where landholders have used innovative grazing management to balance animal production and biodiversity: an interesting and challenging day for those interested in grassland management. Cost \$40 per person, includes transport, lunch and morning and afternoon snacks. Min. 15 participants.

4. Great escarpment tour

Jeremy Bruhl & Ian Telford, Thurs 11 December 2003, 0830-1800 h

Visit the Great Escarpment on the eastern edge of the Tablelands and various plant communities including button sedge sedgeland, allocasuarina heath, eucalypt woodlands and open forests, and *Nothofagus* closed forest. Spectacular

