

Speaker profiles

Keynote Speaker



Dr Steve Davis
The Everglades Foundation

Dr. Steve Davis is The Everglades Foundation's Chief Science Officer. A native of Ohio, he earned a PhD from Florida International University in 1999 with research in Florida Bay and the coastal Everglades. Davis joined The Everglades Foundation in 2009 as a member of the Science Department, and he became a key voice in support of the organization's mission to restore America's Everglades. He draws upon his 25 years of Everglades science and teaching experience, including 10 years as professor of wetland ecology at Texas A&M University, to lead science, communication and outreach efforts focused on Everglades restoration, ecosystem health, and impacts of sea-level rise.

Session 2 - Urban



Dr Chris Walker
Covey Associates

Chris Walker has pioneered the use of floating wetlands in urban development, designing and managing the first floating wetland system to be integrated into a new urban development as part of the stormwater treatment train. Following this, he has designed numerous floating wetland projects in the stormwater, wastewater and mining fields. Chris has a strong research focus, having co-authored several key papers on floating wetland performance and design and works with a number of Australian and international Universities. He is an Associate and the Manager of the Water, Environment, & Bushfires branches of Covey Associates, a leading Sunshine Coast Engineering consultancy. Chris is also an Adjunct Associate Professor at both the University of South Australia and the University of the Sunshine Coast.



Dr Charles Kelly
Humes

Charles Kelly is the National Manager of Water Solutions for Humes and is an experienced and passionate solutions engineer with a demonstrated history of working in the manufacturing, consulting and construction industry. Chartered professional engineer skilled in Water, Feasibility Studies, Environmental Awareness, Construction, and Drainage.



Kevin Patrick
Pacific Bio

Kevin is an experienced water industry professional with a career spanning almost three decades. He has recently held senior leadership roles within large international companies and has accrued demonstrable experience in maturing and commercialising novel technologies, as well as generating and implementing successful corporate strategies for business growth.

Session 3: Agriculture/Aquaculture



Marcus Bulstrode
Department of Agriculture and
Fisheries

Marcus Bulstrode is a Principal Agronomist and Team Leader in DAF's Advanced Coastal Farming Systems Team based in South Johnstone. Marcus has been involved with drone technology for a long time, specifically in drone-based precision agriculture. He is currently working on utilising knowledge of tropical hydrology to better design appropriate crop management systems and water quality assessments.



Carla Wegscheidl

Department of Agriculture and
Fisheries

Carla Wegscheidl works for the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries based in Townsville, promoting the use of treatment systems and wetland management on farms. She works on increasing understanding on the practical use and efficacy of treatment systems, developing resources and building capacity of advisors, growers and NRM staff in the use of these systems, aiming to find solutions that benefit growers and the environment.



Suzette Argent

Office of the Great Barrier Reef
and World Heritage

Suzette Argent worked for Terrain NRM as the Catchment Repair Officer on the Wet Tropics Major Integrated Project in the Tully and Johnstone. Suzette coordinated the site selection, design, construction, and monitoring of 7 bioreactors, 4 wetlands and several vegetated drains to assess the feasibility and effectiveness of treatment systems to improve water quality within farming landscapes.



Natalie Heard
(The Social Deck)



Gavin Devaney
(Bartle Frere Bananas)



William Darveniza

William Darveniza is an Innisfail local who took the opportunity to leave his family farm for three years and work on the Wet Tropics Major Integrated Project. During this time, in his role as an Extension Officer, William worked closely with farmers and the scientific community to help farmers match their needs with the scientific research available. Using practical farming knowledge and his background in Environmental Design and Architecture, William was able to help implement and assess several trial sites in the Innisfail area, including a large vegetated drain at Bartle Frere Bananas with Gavin Devaney.

Session 4: Cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary



Dennis Ah-Kee
Jaragun Ecoservices

Dennis Ah-Kee carries out sustainable resource management, working with land managers, traditional owners, community stakeholders and scientists to improve water quality to the Reef and to restore landscape functioning. Working in Natural Resource Management since 2013, Dennis is both a Director of Jaragun EcoServices and a Wanjuru-Yidinji Elder of the Russell River catchment. He has successfully combined environmental restoration with Wanjuru aspirations to work on and manage country.

Jaragun EcoServices is implementing the 'Russell River Catchment Sustainability Plan, 2020-2035' (RSP) to improve water quality to the Reef, restore landscape function and develop leadership of younger Wanjuru-Yidinji traditional owners as future managers of catchment NRM.



Gudju Gudju Fourmile
Abriculture

Gudju Gudju is a Gimuy Wulubara Yidinji Traditional Owner, tribal ecologist and director of Abriculture. He is a respected local Indigenous leader and has years of experience working on community development and advocates for circular economies and indigenous economic development. Gudju Gudju is the founder and owner of a number of indigenous enterprises, he has the skills and expertise to mobilize the community and develop strong partnerships.



Jenny Lynch
Abriculture

Jenny Lynch is the Managing Director of Abriculture and runs a team of 20 including Indigenous Rangers, Cultural Heritage Monitors and Tribal Ecologists. Also the Managing Director of AppOriginee, an online booking system for indigenous tourism products, events, and places to stay. She also founded the Abriculture Advancement Trust which has the objective of increasing the number of indigenous growers in the bushfood industry. She also initiated the Gimuy Fish Festival and coordinated it for over 7 years.



Gavin Singleton
Dawul Wuru Aboriginal
Corporation

Gavin Singleton is a Yirrganydji man from the Cairns to Port Douglas region and is currently a Project Manager with the Dawul Wuru Aboriginal Corporation and coordinates the Yirrganydji Land and Sea Ranger Program and Yirrganydji Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreement. Gavin's experience and contributions include representation on advisory committees such as the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Indigenous Reef Advisory Committee, Reef 2050 Indigenous Heritage Expert Group, and Cairns Regional Council's First Peoples Advisory Committee. Gavin was a presenter/performer at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Poland (2018), TEDx JCU Cairns (2018), and United Nations Oceans Conference SD-14 in New York (2017).



Megan Forrest

Local Government Association of
Queensland

Megan has over 8 years of project management experience and now leads the Great Barrier Reef Cleaner Road Runoff project at the LGAQ. In this role, Megan works with Queensland's Reef Councils to improve understanding of unsealed roads and their impact on water quality and develop a framework to enable road managers to better address erosion and sediment control (ESC) in the design and maintenance of unsealed roads. Having worked across multiple sectors including Consultancy, Higher Education and State Government, Megan has led a variety of projects in the innovation, startup, ed-tech, international education and sustainability space.



Dr Han She Lim

James Cook University

Han She is a lecturer in hydrology at James Cook University and is interested in the hydrological response behaviour of tropical catchments, especially catchments which experience distinct rainfall seasonality. An important area of Han She's research focuses on urban stormwater remediation using blue green infrastructure and water sensitive urban design techniques to achieve hydrological and stormwater runoff quality improvements. This work includes historical and indigenous knowledges to better understand hydrological processes and events (e.g. floods) for the purpose of improved catchment management.
