

# SOUTH WEST NATURAL CAPITAL FORUM



## UNLOCKING THE OPPORTUNITIES



WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 8 2025  
WARRNAMBOOL GOLF CLUB



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## Program

8.30am: Delegates arrive

9am: **Welcome and Introduction**

MC – Marius Cuming

WELCOME TO COUNTRY: Uncle Rob Lowe, Peek Wurrung Elder

INTRODUCTION: Dr Adam Bester Glenelg Hopkins CMA

9.30am: **SESSION 1 – FOUNDATIONS OF NATURAL CAPITAL**

Setting the scene: What is natural capital, national and international context, farm scale natural capital accounting, and the benefits of land management with a natural capital perspective.

Dr Anthony O’Grady CSIRO Forest Function Team

Dr Alex Maisey La Trobe University

Angela Hawdon Farming for the Future

Q&A – panel of all session speakers

10.50am MORNING TEA / SPONSOR BOOTHS NETWORKING

11.20am **SESSION 2 – PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE: FINANCE, SUPPLY CHAIN AND LANDHOLDER EXPERIENCE**

Landholder perspective, supply chain perspectives and finance speakers.

Sarah Whinney Chatsworth House

Alison Osborne Rabobank Australia

Supply chain

Q&A – panel of all session speakers

12.25pm LUNCH / SPONSOR BOOTHS AND NETWORKING

1.30pm **SESSION 3 – THE BIGGER PICTURE AND WHAT MAKES SOUTH WEST VICTORIA WELL PLACED TO UNLOCK THE OPPORTUNITIES**

The bigger picture: Biodiversity, Accounting for Nature, blue and teal carbon, why south west Victoria is well placed, and where things might go next. Final reflections for the day.

Professor Hugh Possingham

Professor Peter McCreadie

Q&A – panel of all session speakers

2.50pm CLOSING COMMENTS: Dr Adam Bester & Marius Cuming

3pm – 3:30pm **AFTERNOON TEA AND CLOSE**



## MEET THE SPEAKERS

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER: **Prof. Hugh Possingham**



Professor Hugh Possingham is the former Queensland Chief Scientist and is best known for his work in conservation biology, applied ecology, and basic ecological theory including population ecology.

He is a Professor of Ecology and Mathematics at The University of Queensland, a Fellow of The Royal Society (UK) and US National Academy of Sciences. Chief Scientist of Accounting for Nature, Co-chair Biodiversity Council and Vice-President BirdLife Australia. He is also on numerous other boards, committees and advisory groups.

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### **Alison Osborne** **Chief Sustainability Officer, Rabobank**



Alison (Ally) Osborne joined Rabobank Australia as Chief Sustainability Officer in February 2024 where she is responsible for navigating the bank's net zero and nature-related commitments.

Ally has always been interested in sustainability and her previous roles include:

- Leading the Net Zero target setting for the Agribusiness portfolio at Westpac,
  - Managing the supply of biodiversity credits into the NSW offsets market during her time at the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust. Ally grew up on a farm at Holbrook and later married a farmer from Cowra. She now resides with her family in Glebe, Sydney. Ally has degrees in Rural Science and Psychology and is a Nuffield scholar.
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### **Dr Adam Bester** **CEO, Glenelg Hopkins CMA**



Adam Bester is the CEO of Glenelg Hopkins CMA. He has a broad range of experience in landscape scale restoration programs, water policy and management, threatened species management and reintroductions, NRM strategy, climate policy, economic valuation, mentoring and relationship management. He has held positions and contracts working for government, NGO's, industry and academic institutions in Victoria, NSW, SA and New Zealand. He is also a 2014 Fellow of the Peter Cullen Trust, GAICD and co-founder of the Waterway Management Emerging Leaders Program.

## **Angela Hawdon** **Strategic Engagements Manager, Farming for the Future**



Angela Hawdon, a dedicated land management strategist, has over 25 years of multifaceted experience. Trained in ecology, Angela honed her management skills in government-protected areas and coastal planning. In her capacity as the head of Fauna & Flora International's Australia program, Angela oversaw global conservation initiatives in collaborations BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto, alongside managing a portfolio of Australian conservation projects. Notably, Angela played a pivotal role in initiating Bush Heritage's agricultural strategy, designing co-benefit methods under the Accounting for Nature framework and coordinating ecological teams collecting farm data for the Farming for the Future program.

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## **Dr Alex Maisey** **Research Fellow, La Trobe University**



Alex Maisey is working at the interface of biodiversity and natural capital in a large research group at La Trobe University. His current research focusses on natural capital, ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation in agricultural landscapes. In this research, the team measures on-farm ecosystem services, such as shade and shelter, pollination and beneficial invertebrate activity, to link biodiversity and ecological processes with agricultural performance. Alex believes that recognising and accounting for natural capital is essential to sustaining both healthy ecosystems and human wellbeing.

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## **Sarah Whinney** **Director, Chatsworth House Pastoral**



Sarah Whinney is co-owner and director of Chatsworth House Pastoral in Western Victoria, where she and her husband Tom manage 3,000 hectares of sheep and cattle country with a strong focus on soil health, biodiversity, and natural capital. Their vision is simple yet powerful: bringing together people, plants, and animals for a better future. Sarah and Tom are committed to profitably regenerating the land and building a business that is both future-focused and community-minded. They also host events at Chatsworth House, providing a space for connection, celebration, and shared learning.

## **Dr Anthony O'Grady** **Senior Principal Research Scientist, CSIRO Environment**



Anthony O'Grady is a Senior Principal Research Scientist with CSIRO Environment, based in Hobart, Tas. His research career has spanned a number of Australian biomes. He obtained his PhD in the Northern Territory in 2000 examining carbon and water fluxes in the savannas of northern Australia, he has worked on groundwater dependent ecosystem in the arid heart and studied the growth and productivity of temperate forests. All of this work has been underpinned by a desire to support rural and regional livelihoods while simultaneously better managing our natural resources. In recent years he has focused on integration of environmental knowledge using natural capital accounting, and is currently working with primary producers, forestry companies and the resources industry with the aim of building capability in natural capital accounting across the Australian economy.

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## **Prof. Peter Macreadie** **Director, RMIT Centre for Nature Positive Solutions**



Professor Peter Macreadie is Director of RMIT's Centre for Nature Positive Solutions and Founder/Director of the Blue Carbon Lab. He works at the frontier of nature-based solutions, leading a team of ~30 scientists tackling climate change, biodiversity loss, and ecosystem restoration. His research has shaped global carbon markets and environmental policy—from helping design Australia's first blue carbon crediting method to influencing the EU Green Deal and reports to the US Congress. Pete has published over 270 papers and won major awards including the Frontiers Planet Prize and the Premier's Sustainability Award. He is an Australian Research Council Future Fellow. At the heart of his work is a simple goal: creating a future where people and nature thrive together.

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## **Forum MC: Marius Cuming**

Marius Cuming runs a prime lamb and wool producing enterprise at farms at Penshurst and Glenthompson. An agricultural scientist he has worked across rural media, communication and extension for over 30 years for ABC Radio, Fairfax media and Australian Wool Innovation where he was on the executive team for 14 years. More recently he has been involved in the development of the Woolmark Plus Nature positive initiative and continues to produce AWI/Woolmark's podcast 'The Yarn' which has almost 300 published episodes and half a million downloads.

Notes:

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