



Ivor Beatty Award 2021

The Ivor Beatty Award is presented annually to the best paper published in *Pacific Conservation Biology* during a calendar year. The award honours the contributions of the late Ivor Beatty, AM, to conservation in the Pacific region. Ivor's family business Surrey Beatty and Sons published numerous books on natural history and conservation between 1981 and early this century, many of which have had a significant scientific impact. He founded *Pacific Conservation Biology* in 1992. Surrey Beatty and Sons continued the journal until the end of 2014, with the family maintaining Ivor's legacy and vision after his passing in 2012. However, recognising the difficulty of meeting the increasing services expected by authors in recent times, they transferred the journal to CSIRO Publishing from 2015. The Ivor Beatty Award recognises and celebrates this legacy.

The Ivor Beatty Award for 2021 is presented to the paper:

Geyle HM, Tingley R, Amey AP, Cogger H, Couper PJ, Cowan M, Craig MD, Doughty P, Driscoll DA, Ellis RJ, Emery J-P, Fenner A, Gardner MG, Garnett ST, Gillespie GR, Greenlees MJ, Hoskin CJ, Keogh JS, Lloyd R, Melville J, McDonald PJ, Michael DR, Mitchell NJ, Sanderson C, Shea GM, Sumner J, Wapstra E, Woinarski JCZ, Chapple DG (2021) Reptiles on the brink: identifying the Australian terrestrial snake and lizard species most at risk of extinction. *Pacific Conservation Biology* **27**, 3–12. doi:[10.1071/PC20033](https://doi.org/10.1071/PC20033)

This research was an initiative of the Threatened Species Recovery Hub of the Australian Government's National Environmental Science Program. This research contributes to improving early warning systems for extinction risks, and was part of a broader project looking at the plight of a range of vertebrates and invertebrates across Australia. It aims to identify the taxa in most urgent need of conservation intervention so that appropriate management actions can be implemented in an attempt to secure their future.

Hayley Geyle is currently completing her PhD at Charles Darwin University. Previously, she worked as a Research Assistant for the Threatened Species Recovery Hub of the National Environmental Science Program, primarily on projects focused on identifying the taxa at greatest risk of extinction. Her research interests include threatened species conservation and monitoring and management of introduced species.

Reid Tingley is an applied ecologist, with a particular interest in environmental DNA. As Lead of the Data Science Team at EnviroDNA, he develops automated workflows for

sample processing and reporting, and harnesses the latest statistical and visualisation tools to deliver innovative products to industry.

Andrew Amey is collection manager for herpetology at the Queensland Museum, a role he has held for 24 years. In that time, he has surveyed Queensland widely for new and poorly known species of reptile, resulting in the description of 20 species new to science. He has published nearly 200 papers as well as contributed to popular publications and websites.

Dr Hal Cogger was formerly head of herpetology and later Deputy Director and head of research at the Australian Museum, Sydney. He is an ecologist and systematist who has long been involved in conservation and ecological projects on Australian territorial islands and potential conservation areas in northern Australia. He has also worked extensively in New Guinea and the western Pacific, much of it associated with ecological, systematic and biochemical research on marine snakes.

Mark Cowan is a Senior Research Scientist with the Western Australian Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. His research interests include the biogeography and ecology of Western Australia's reptiles and small mammals.

Michael Craig is a conservation biologist who focuses on applied issues to understand threats to vertebrate populations and management practices that can ameliorate those threats. He has a keen interest in understanding how to improve restoration practices to better accommodate fauna and the role they play in restored ecosystems. His broader research interests include studying a wide range of human impacts on vertebrate populations, including logging, *Phytophthora* dieback, climate change and fire, and management practices that can between conserve these populations.

Paul Doughty is the Curator of Herpetology at the Western Australian Museum. He has interests in the systematics and taxonomy of frogs, geckos and skinks.

Professor Don Driscoll is an ecologist and conservation biologist with research interests spanning movement ecology, habitat loss and fragmentation, invasive plants, feral herbivores, fire ecology and applications of new technology for monitoring wildlife. Although his research spans plants and many animal groups, his portfolio has a strong bias towards frogs, reptiles, and beetles.

Ryan Ellis is a Principal Zoologist at Biologic Environmental Survey, a private environmental consultancy

firm in Western Australia, where he is involved undertaking biological surveys throughout the state. He is also a Research Associate at the Western Australian Museum, where his research is focused on the taxonomy of Western Australian herpetofauna.

Jon-Paul Emery is a conservation biologist, and is interested in reptile conservation, island conservation and reintroduction biology.

Dr Aaron Fenner is an ecologist and research assistant at Flinders University. His research primarily focuses on sociality and host parasite transmission in lizards and the conservation of threatened and endangered arid and semi-arid zone reptiles.

Mike Gardner's vision is to study the intricacies of the natural world, to instil others with a sense of awe and wonder so that they gain a sense of place – and are ultimately inspired to look after this world. He does this using two lizard systems. Evolutionary, parasitological, and social organisation questions are investigated in *Tiliqua rugosa* (sleepy lizards) where Mike is the custodian of a 40-year long (and counting) study on the interaction of ticks with these lizards. The other main project centres around the conservation of the endangered pygmy bluetongued lizards, an endemic species to South Australia that is threatened by habitat fragmentation and climate change.

Stephen Garnett is a conservation biologist at Charles Darwin University who was a Deputy Director of the Threatened Species Recovery Hub of the National Environmental Science Program. His research interests include threatened and migratory species, particularly birds, tropical ecosystems and living, and sustainable livelihoods.

Matt Greenlees is an ecologist with a passion for learning about reptiles and amphibians. He has been studying cane toads for over 15 years along with a diverse range of other systems and taxa. His research is strongly conservation focused and frequently practically applicable.

Conrad Hoskin is an Associate Professor at James Cook University in Townsville. His research focuses on biodiversity, what's out there, how we discover and describe it, how it arises and adapts through time, and how we can conserve it. Conrad works on both reptile and frog groups.

Scott Keogh is a Professor of Evolutionary Biology at the Australian National University. His research group works on phylogenomics, comparative evolutionary biology and conservation biology of Australian frogs and reptiles.

Ray Lloyd is a consultant zoologist with an interest in the ecology and conservation of cryptic, range restricted and poorly documented Australian reptiles, particularly those of conservation significance.

Jane Melville is the Senior Curator of Terrestrial Vertebrates at Museums Victoria, and an Associate Professor at Monash University. Her research combines field-based studies on reptiles and amphibians across conservation, genetics, ecology, taxonomy and evolution.

Dr Damian Michael is a landscape ecologist and herpetologist with the Gulbali Institute for Agriculture, Water and Environment at Charles Sturt University. His research focuses on vertebrate conservation in human-modified landscapes, applied herpetology and inselberg management, with a particular interest in the squamates of south-eastern Australia.

Associate Professor Nicki Mitchell is a conservation biologist with a focus on predicting impacts of climate change on threatened reptiles.

Chris Sanderson is a zoologist specialising in terrestrial fauna with a particular interest in birds, reptiles, frogs, mammals, and butterflies. His areas of research interest include threatened species listing policy and citizen science in conservation.

Dr Glenn Shea is a senior lecturer at the University of Sydney and a research associate of the Australian Museum. His research focus over more than 40 years has been the taxonomy and biology of the reptiles of the Australopapuan region, particularly the skinks and typhlopids snakes, and is co-author of *A Field Guide to the Reptiles of New South Wales*, as well as over 200 research papers.

Erik Wapstra is a Professor at the University of Tasmania. His research focuses on terrestrial and behavioural ecology, focusing on areas including climatic variability and climate change, maternal effects, sex allocation, and the evolution of social behaviour in reptiles.

John Woinarski is a Professor of Conservation Biology at Charles Darwin University, with particular interests in the management of threatened species, conservation policy and nature in general.

David Chapple is a Professor of Evolutionary and Conservation Ecology at Monash University. He is the Chair of the IUCN SSC Skink Specialist Group, and led the Action Plan for Australian Lizards and Snakes in 2017. His research group focuses on the conservation of threatened and Data Deficient Australian skinks.

Patrick Couper, Graeme Gillespie, Peter McDonald and Jo Summer were also authors on this paper.

The Ivor Beatty Award is judged by the Editor-in-Chief Dr Mike Calver, and the Managing Editors Dr Alan Lymbery and Dr Mike van Keulen. On awarding the Ivor Beatty Award to this paper by Geyle *et al.*, Editor-in-Chief Mike Calver commented 'There were many impressive features of this paper. The paper is well-structured and integrated, especially given the diversity of authors. It is timely, given that serious consideration of threats to Australia's reptile fauna, much of which is endemic, is recent. And clear actions are recommended'. In recognition of the award, the authors will receive a \$500 book voucher from the publisher, a certificate and will each receive a subscription to *Pacific Conservation Biology*. The staff at CSIRO Publishing and the editorial board join the Managing Editors and the Editor-in-Chief in congratulating the authors on their achievement.