

ACT ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERS

CONFERENCE | 2025

‘Regeneration’



Landcare
ACT



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Government





Yuma, Welcome to the 2025 Environmental Volunteers Conference.

We acknowledge that we are meeting today on the lands of the Ngunawal people. We pay our respects to their Elders — past and present — who have cared for this land for tens of thousands of years, and who continue to care for it today.



2025 Environmental Volunteers Conference - Regeneration

9th August 2025 | 8:15am – 18:00pm | Ann Harding Conference Centre

8:15 - 8:45	Registration
8:45 - 9:00	Smoking Ceremony Richie Allan, Ngunnawal Custodian
9:00 - 9:05	Introductions
9:05 - 9:10	Welcome to Country Richie Allan, Ngunnawal Custodian
9:10 - 9:30	Official Conference Opening The Hon Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water
9:30 - 9:45	ACT Government address Bren Burkevics, ACT Conservator of Flora and Fauna and Executive Group Manager, Environment Division, City and Environment Directorate (CED)
9:45 - 10:30	Keynote Speaker Pip Kiernan, Chair, Clean Up Australia 'Clean Up Australia: Mobilising 23 million volunteers over 3 decades' Pip shares stories that are both personal and universal, about the power of collective action, the importance of environmental responsibility, and the enduring impact of volunteerism
10:30 - 11:00	Morning Tea
11:00 - 12:30	Breakout 1: Panel- Regenerating ACT volunteers: Exploring how different demographics want to engage as volunteers Location: Seminar Room 1 Room Capacity: 48 CHAIR: Lauren McQueen Panellists include Landcare ACT, ANU Intrepid Landcare, Volunteering ACT, Bush Heritage Australia, and Cleanup Australia This panel explores how to engage a broader mix of Canberrans in volunteering—removing barriers and building a more inclusive, regenerative movement
	Breakout 2: Panel- Regenerating for climate resilience: how to factor into our volunteer activities Location: Main Conference Room Room Capacity: 75 CHAIR: Dr. Sarah Milne Panellists include ACT Parks and Conservation Service, Climate Justice Campaigner, Microforest Collective, and ACT Office of Nature Conservation This panel explores how landcare and volunteering can adapt to climate change through regenerative practices and climate-conscious approaches



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11:00 - 12:30	<p>Breakout 3: Panel - Pathways from volunteer to a career Location: Classroom 1 (22B14) Room Capacity: 50 CHAIR: Miranda Gardner Panellists include Southern Inland Environmental, ANU Intrepid, UC and ANU.</p> <p>This panel explores how can personal volunteering experiences shape career pathways, and what insights can help turn passion into profession</p>
	<p>Breakout 4: Panel - Regenerating Soils for Conservation Location: Seminar Room 2 Room Capacity: 50 CHAIR: Dr Katharine Brown Panellists include Soils For Life, Ainslie Urban Farm and ACT NRM</p> <p>This panel looks at how volunteers can assess and improve soil health, laying the foundation for ecological regeneration and resilient landscapes</p>
12:30 - 1:30	<p>Lunch</p>
1:30 - 3:00	<p>Breakout 5: Panel - Effective Storytelling/The Power of Interpretation for land care Location: Classroom 1 (22B14) Room Capacity: 50 CHAIR: Dr. Louise Curham Panellists include Tidbinbilla Pioneers Association, a 2024 ACT NextGen Landcare Award Winner, Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation, Happydance Creative, and Landcare ACT</p> <p>This panel explores how storytelling, through diverse formats and personal experiences, can empower volunteers, foster collaboration, and amplify regenerative conservation efforts</p>
	<p>Breakout 6: Panel - Rehydrating the landscape- volunteer case studies in action Location: Main conference room Room Capacity: 75 CHAIR: Frank Garofalow Panellists include Rivers of Carbon, Bragg Street and Magpie Hill Park Volunteers</p> <p>This panel highlights practical conservation efforts and inspiring volunteer stories that help restore water and regenerate local ecosystems</p>



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1:30 - 3:00	<p>Breakout 7: Panel - Citizen science - making a difference to science and volunteers</p> <p>Location: Seminar Room 2 Room Capacity: 50 CHAIR: Daniel Harris-Pascal Panellists include ACT & Region Frogwatch, NatureMapr, Great Southern BioBlitz and a local photographer</p> <p>This panel explores how citizen science empowers volunteers and supports landcare—driving regeneration through community-led research</p>
	<p>Breakout 8: Panel/workshop - More Love, Less Loss: Cultivating Nature Connection for Personal and Planetary Health</p> <p>Location: Seminar Room 1 Room Capacity: 48 CHAIR: Sally Holliday Panellists include UC, Psychology for a Safe Climate and Bush Heritage Australia</p> <p>This panel will explore How can deepening our connection with nature support personal wellbeing, inspire environmental action, and help us navigate eco grief and climate challenges</p>
3:00 - 3:30	Afternoon Tea
3:30 - 4:00	<p>Idea sharing from breakout groups</p> <p>Reflections and key messages from the day's breakout sessions</p>
4:00 - 4:30	<p>Landcare peak body address</p> <p>Dr Michael Robinson, CEO Landcare ACT 'Regenerating Landcare in the ACT region' Michael will share how Landcare ACT is regenerating its role in the region—strengthening partnerships, empowering volunteers, and shaping a resilient future for our regions landscapes</p>
4:30	<p>Wrap up and close</p> <p>Dr Michael Robinson, CEO Landcare ACT Michael will offer closing reflections on the day's conversations and the collective journey toward regeneration in the ACT</p>
5:00 - 6:00	<p>Tea/coffee/network</p> <p>Wind down with a warm drink and connect with fellow attendees. Share reflections, build relationships, and explore how today's ideas can grow into tomorrow's regenerative actions</p>
6:00	Event empty

**We want your feedback on how
today went.**

**Fill out this quick survey to let us
know what you thought and what we
could do better next time:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HGWKHFM>



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