

BIG IDEAS AND INSPIRING CAREERS



**WABSI
WEBINAR SERIES**



Make an impact with a career in biodiversity science

A unique opportunity to connect with and learn from exceptional women who are addressing some of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time.

- **Friday 16th August 2024**
12.30pm – 1.30pm (Australian Western Standard Time)

ONLINE EVENT

[Register here](#)

Our panellists are carving diverse and remarkable paths in the fields of wildlife biology, conservation, science communication and marine biology. At this event, they will share their career journey and the innovative approaches they are taking to develop successful and meaningful careers.

Join us and be inspired! Learn about how you can build an exciting career to help protect our natural environment.

- **Big ideas in action:** Hear about ideas and initiatives that are driving significant advancements in biodiversity conservation.
- **Inspiring career stories:** Discover diverse career pathways and learn about the many opportunities in biodiversity science.
- **Making an impact:** Understand how you can contribute to meaningful change through a career in biodiversity science.

This event is ideal for senior high school students, undergraduate and postgraduate students eager to explore impactful career opportunities.

Registrations are essential.

Speakers

PANELLISTS



Tenaya Duncan

Wildlife Volunteer, Student Ambassador and PhD candidate, Murdoch University

Tenaya is a PhD candidate with Murdoch University and Bush Heritage Australia, looking at whether artificial refuges for native species can help reduce feral cat predation in disturbed landscapes. Tenaya has a keen interest in predator ecology, particularly dasyurids (native mammals like quolls and dunnarts), stemming from her previous honours research on the diet of the dingo in the west Kimberley.

Whilst studying, Tenaya completed a qualification in zookeeping and also worked in wildlife rehabilitation. Tenaya enjoys volunteering at Kaarakin Black Cockatoo Sanctuary, which focuses on the conservation of Western Australia's three black cockatoo species. Tenaya's aspiration is to pursue a career in predator ecology to help conserve some of our smallest and fiercest carnivores.

Tenaya maintains a keen interest in WABSI's work, attending WABSI's 'Big Issues in Biodiversity Science' webinars, and student roundtable sessions with industry and government leaders, to help build her knowledge and professional network.

Paige Maroni

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, UWA Deep-Sea Centre and Research Associate, Boola Bardip Western Australian Museum

Paige Maroni is a marine molecular biologist at the UWA Deep-Sea Research Centre. Paige employs molecular tools to understand the evolution and diversity of hadal fauna – organisms that live deep in the ocean, at depths of below 6,000 metres.

Paige earned a Bachelor of Science Honours degree in Evolutionary Biology from Murdoch University and recently submitted her PhD thesis at The University of Western Australia. Paige's research focused on soft sea slugs living in the icy waters of the Antarctic; in particular, on the evolution and diversification of an Antarctic nudibranch species complex.

Paige has shown a keen interest in WABSI's work over the past few years, attending WABSI's 'Big Issues in Biodiversity Science' webinars, and student roundtable sessions with industry and government leaders, to help build her knowledge and professional network.



Speakers (cont'd)

PANELLISTS



Kaitlyn Martin

Inspiring Explorers Programme Coordinator, Antarctic Heritage Trust, New Zealand

Mā te rongo ka mōhio, mā te mōhio ka mārama, mā te mārama ka mātau, mā te mātau ka ora. Through perception comes awareness, through awareness comes understanding, through understanding comes knowledge, through knowledge comes wellbeing.

Kaitlyn's passion is connecting people with science and the natural world through experiences and communication. Why? To empower and encourage the skills needed for ambitious challenges, to push ahead our knowledge of the universe, and a lot of time – just to be awed.

Kaitlyn is a science communicator who has worked with students at all levels in STEM. Her interests span formal and informal science learning experiences with a special passion for the areas of biology, astronomy, and the polar regions. She currently helps to coordinate the Antarctic Heritage Trust's Inspiring Explorer™ programme which aims to conserve, share, and encourage the spirit of exploration for the next generation of explorers.

Kaitlyn is linked with WABSI through the Australian Science Communicators and the Science Communicators Association of New Zealand.

Rebecca Quah

Graduate Zoologist, Stantec, Wildlife Ecologist and Volunteer, PhD Candidate, Edith Cowan University

Rebecca is a wildlife ecologist working in research and consulting. She specialises in vertebrate fauna, conservation translocations, ecological restorations and the use of molecular tools.

As part of her PhD at Edith Cowan University, Rebecca is using environmental DNA techniques to inform the translocations of mycophagous mammals.

During her Master of Biological Science at The University of Western Australia, Rebecca incorporated genetics into population models to inform translocation decisions for the Shark Bay mouse (*djoongari*, *Pseudomys gouldii*) as part of the Dirk Hartog Island Ecological Restoration Project 'Return to 1616'.

WABSI works with a range of government and industry stakeholders, including Stantec, where Rebecca is a Graduate Zoologist.



Speakers (cont'd)

FACILITATOR



Preeti Castle

Strategic Engagement Director, The Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute (WABSI)

As WABSI's Strategic Engagement Director, Preeti develops strategies to help build an engaged and informed stakeholder base, and to make scientific knowledge accessible to end users of biodiversity science.

Preeti has worked with several international and national organisations across financial services, science, technology and environment, and established a niche consulting firm that specialised in developing strategies to communicate scientific and technological concepts with clarity.

In addition to her role at WABSI, Preeti holds the International Engagement portfolio on the National Council of the Australian Science Communicators, is a Board Member of the Society for Ecological Restoration Australasia and previously served as a Board Member and the Deputy Chair of the Munda Biddi Trail Foundation.

Preeti has a Bachelor of Arts in Communications, an M.B.A. from The University of Western Australia and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.