



PHILLIP ISLAND NATURE PARKS SPOKESPERSON BIOS



SPOKESPERSON	TITLE	KNOWLEDGE AREAS
Dr Andre Chiaradia	Senior Scientist	Foraging ecology, seabirds, penguins, trophic interactions, food webs, ecosystem ecology
Brandan Zerafa	Ranger, Reserves	Koalas, pest plants and animals, revegetation, conservation volunteers, wetlands, Ramsar
Catherine Basterfield	Chief Executive Officer	Phillip Island (Mallowl), Nature Parks, ecotourism, conservation
Chloe Dann	Farm Lead	Churchill Island, agriculture, visitor experience
Dr Duncan Sutherland	Senior Scientist	Threatened species, vertebrate ecology, population modelling, island ecosystems
Jodi Bellett	Senior Ranger, Reserves	Wildlife rehabilitation and rescue, land management, emergency wildlife response
Dr Rebecca McIntosh	Senior Scientist	Seals, ecology and demography of marine predators, conservation of marine protected species
Meagan Tucker	Senior Research Officer	Penguins, field research, visitor experience, ecotourism



We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live, work and learn, the Bunurong. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

Phillip Island (Mallowl)

DR ANDRE CHIARADIA

SENIOR SCIENTIST

KNOWLEDGE AREAS:

Foraging ecology, seabirds, penguins, trophic interactions, food webs, ecosystem ecology

Andre always wanted to learn more about the creatures he saw while diving off the coast of Brazil. This, along with his fascination with Jacques Cousteau's documentaries, encouraged him to move away from the thrill of working with motorbikes and into a career in science.

After completing his PhD at the University of Tasmania and the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, Andre came to work at Phillip Island Nature Parks. As a Marine Scientist, Andre now works on prey-predator relationships and interactions with their environment using little penguins as an ecological model.

Collaborating with scientists in Australia and overseas, Andre works with more sensitive variables such as foraging efficiency, presence/absence of thermoclines, foraging-trip-duration, isotopic niche analysis, fractal diving analysis and new spatial-temporal scales to detect penguins' response to environmental changes. This often involves using high-tech equipment and cutting-edge science to study penguins out at sea.

Andre is on the editorial board of PLoS ONE and section editor of PLoS Climate, past editor of the Australasian Seabird Group Bulletin, current steering committee member of the IUCN Penguin Specialist Group and adjunct Associate Professor to Monash University.

For more information about Andre's current projects, post graduate students and fellows, and publications click [here](#).



BRANDAN ZERAFA

RANGER, RESERVES

KNOWLEDGE AREAS:

Koalas, pest plants and animals, revegetation, conservation volunteers, wetlands, Ramsar

After completing his undergraduate degree in Environmental Science, Brandan dedicated time to volunteering in land management, research, wildlife rehabilitation and beach cleaning. This is where his love of the environment and wildlife began, and he soon joined Phillip Island Nature Parks.

Through tour guiding and environmental education, Brandan was able to leverage his passion for wildlife conservation to inspire others to help protect nature. Brandan also spent time working with the Conservation team as both a Field Services Officer and Environment Ranger, conducting weed control, revegetation, koala husbandry and feral cat trapping across all Nature Parks sites.

Having started his career as a volunteer himself, Brandan was excited to take on the role of volunteer liaison; providing support and coordination for short term conservation volunteers and our next generation of environmentalists completing university placement.

Brandan now continues to help maintain and enhance the natural environment and build his knowledge as the Environment Ranger: Ramsar Project Officer. Brandan is passionate about conserving wetlands due to the crucial environmental role they play as well as their significance in national biodiversity.

Brandan offers a broad overview of what the Nature Parks does and can speak from the perspective of a ranger, tour guide, land manager or even volunteer.



CATHERINE BASTERFIELD

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

KNOWLEDGE AREAS:

Phillip Island (Mallowl), the Nature Parks, ecotourism, conservation

Catherine is the Chief Executive Officer of the Phillip Island Nature Parks and is responsible for ensuring that the organisation achieves its purpose to protect nature for wildlife through the effective delivery of nature-based tourism experiences, innovative conservation programs and the creation of positive community partnerships.

Catherine commenced her career with the Nature Parks in 2009 holding executive roles in finance and operations before being appointed the Chief Executive Officer in 2017.

With experience in risk management, strategy and financial management from her roles at KPMG Australia and Bupa UK, Catherine enjoys combining these skills with her passion for the environment to achieve positive economic and conservation outcomes for Phillip Island and Victoria.

Catherine is the Chair of Destination Phillip Island, board member of the Penguin Foundation, and a founding member of Not in My Workplace. To acknowledge her exceptional leadership achievements, Catherine was recognised in the 2020 IPAA Top 50 Public Sector Women.



CHLOE DANN

FARM LEAD

KNOWLEDGE AREAS:

Churchill Island, agriculture, visitor experience

Chloe grew up in the small farming community of Bass and spent her childhood with horses and ponies. This is where she developed a strong love for animals and providing the best care for them.

When she first joined Phillip Island Nature Parks, Chloe started in the food and beverage department and then moved to admissions. It wasn't long before Chloe landed her dream role as a Farm Assistant on Churchill Island.

Chloe has completed her certificate in shearing and runs the farming activities on Churchill Island including shearing, blacksmith, whip cracking, working dog and cow milking demonstrations. She also provides animal care and welfare for the animals on Churchill Island and runs volunteer programs to encourage community involvement.



DR DUNCAN SUTHERLAND

SENIOR SCIENTIST

KNOWLEDGE AREAS:

Threatened species, vertebrate ecology, population modelling, island ecosystems

Duncan is a vertebrate population ecologist with expertise in pest animals, wildlife conservation and population modelling. His research focusses on the drivers of population change to inform best practice management of wildlife.

Starting as a research scientist at Phillip Island Nature Parks in 2010, Duncan now helps lead the Research team as the Deputy Research Director. Prior to this Duncan completed his PhD at Monash University and the CSIRO focusing on the drivers of feral mouse plagues in Australia. He then spent some time as a scientist at the then Western Australian Department of Environment and Conservation, working to understand why the recovery of threatened species was not sustained with fox management and investigating the responses of feral cats and native predators.

Duncan now manages the threatened species program, short-tailed shearwater research program and the monitoring of the little penguin population size. He also provides strategic direction and research for the pest animal program and research into land-based threats to penguins.

Outside of the Nature Parks, Duncan provides his expertise to many groups working on threatened species recovery, pest animal management and the importance of island ecosystems as refuges for conservation.

Duncan is the Chair of the Eastern Barred Bandicoot National Recovery Team and Fellow of The University of Melbourne. For more information about Duncan's current projects, students, and publications click [here](#).



JODI BELLETT

SENIOR RANGER, RESERVES

KNOWLEDGE AREAS:

Wildlife rehabilitation and rescue, land management, emergency response

Jodi joined Phillip Island Nature Parks in 2008 after 20 years working in advertising. The change in direction, sparked by her interest in conservation and wildlife, led her to further study in the areas of conservation and land management, and wildlife rehabilitation and husbandry.

She first started as a ranger at the Penguin Parade, later moving into the Environment team in 2010; revegetating and restoring habitat after the removal of the Summerlands housing estate.

Jodi subsequently moved her focus to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre at the Nature Parks and has worked in wildlife rehabilitation and rescue, specialising in seabirds for over 10 years, caring for sick and injured wildlife until they were fit for release. As a wildlife rehabilitation ranger, Jodi undertook the everyday tasks of an environment ranger along with managing and maintaining the Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, ensuring preparedness and training for emergency response in case of marine pollution, heat stress and wildfire.

In her current role Jodi is now focusing more on land management, and fire preparation, training and response. She provides a wealth of knowledge across the diverse activities of a ranger at the Nature Parks.



DR REBECCA MCINTOSH

SENIOR SCIENTIST

KNOWLEDGE AREAS:

Seals, ecology and demography of marine predators, marine protected species conservation

Rebecca has been a Research Scientist with Phillip Island Nature Parks since 2013.

Rebecca has worked on the ecology and demography of marine predators for over 20 years, with a focus on Australian seals. Her areas of interest extend into marine protected species conservation with over 30 peer-reviewed publications. Rebecca's research experience includes remote offshore islands and currently, she is researching fur seals as sentinel species of ocean change. Projects include ecosystem-scale research to monitor changes in population size and foraging ecology, and the mitigation of threats. Specific research includes investigations into foraging behaviour and diet using satellite linked tracking devices; health, ecotoxicity and stress; the impact of disease on abortion and pup survival; and marine plastic. Thanks to Rebecca's work in this area, human behaviour change programs have been implemented to reduce plastic inputs to the ocean.

Rebecca is a licensed drone pilot, investigating remote systems and citizen science to study fur seal populations without disturbance. The seal research team 'Seals as Ecosystem Sentinels' won the 2020 Victorian Marine and Coastal Award under the Distinction in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Conservation category. Rebecca has an honorary appointment at the Sydney School of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney.

For more information about Rebecca's current projects, post graduate students and fellows, and publications click [here](#).



MEAGAN TUCKER

SENIOR RESEARCH OFFICER

KNOWLEDGE AREAS:

Penguins, field research, threatened species, visitor experience, ecotourism

After completing her undergraduate degree in science, Meagan spent a year studying the little penguin colony that lives near the city of Melbourne. This is where her love of penguins began, and she soon came to work for Phillip Island Nature Parks at the world-famous Penguin Parade.

The model at the Nature Parks is a unique one, where tourism funds conservation and research. Here Meagan found a great opportunity to combine her passion for wildlife conservation and that of engaging and inspiring people to protect nature for wildlife. Over her years working at the Nature Parks, Meagan has become an eco-accredited tour guide, leading guests on engaging and informative experiences not only at the Penguin Parade but across all Nature Parks sites.

When the opportunity arose, Meagan also worked with the Research team as a technical officer, conducting penguin monitoring and undertaking a penguin tracking program. She has also been involved in the Eastern barred bandicoot monitoring and short-tailed shearwater rescue programs, broadening her knowledge of the island's wildlife. As a Senior Research Officer, Meagan can often be found in the field, gathering data and closely monitoring the little penguins. She holds a wealth of knowledge about their life cycles, breeding success and the challenges and threats facing this species.

Meagan has a broad overview of what the Nature Parks does and can speak from the perspective of a ranger, tour guide or researcher. This has led Meagan to share knowledge in other ways, such as through the livestreaming the Penguin Parade.





Check out our [Media Kit](#) and [Factsheet](#) or visit penguins.org.au for more information

CONTACTS FOR MEDIA

HEADLINE PR

Lisa Gilbert

P: 0412 822 673

E: lisa@headlinepr.com.au

Simon Pristel

P: 0412 393 433

E: simon@headlinepr.com.au

PHILLIP ISLAND NATURE PARKS

E: marketing@penguins.org.au