







Team Leaders Cooloola BioBlitz 2024




(Alphabetical Order)





Thank you to all our wonderful volunteer Team Leaders!




| Name & Speciality | About |
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|  Kieran Aland Zoologist / Biologist and  & Alina Zwar | <p>Kieran Aland and Alina Zwar have combined skills and knowledge spanning over 25 years in the environmental sector with a particular focus on wildlife, biodiversity, education, and applied ecology in the field. Their fields of expertise include fauna and flora surveys, wildlife monitoring, biodiversity assessments, and delivering educational workshops.</p> <p>Kieran and Alina will be placing camera and acoustic monitoring equipment out before the BioBlitz and collecting and analysing the observations at the BioBlitz.</p> |
|  Greg Anderson | <p>Greg Anderson is a semi-retired medical research scientist with a lifelong interest in spiders. He is an Emeritus Fellow at QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute and has affiliate appointments at the Queensland and Western Australian Museums. He has a particular interest in the biology and taxonomy of Comb-footed Spiders and has carried out extensive field work in tropical Queensland and central Australia. He co-authored the Field Guide to Australian Spiders with Robert Whyte.</p> |



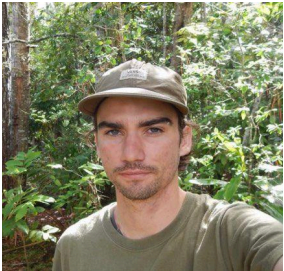

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|  <p data-bbox="204 542 440 607">Elliot Bowerman Botanist</p> | <p data-bbox="544 199 1463 412">Elliot Bowerman is an Ecologist who specialises in Field Botany. Elliot is experienced in conducting flora surveys which target individual species, threatened taxa and mapping regional ecosystems & threatened ecological communities. Additionally, Elliot has a background in ecological restoration, implementing prescribed fire regimes and threatened species projects.</p> |
|  <p data-bbox="140 1052 515 1155">“Possum Pete” Crowcroft Moths & Nocturnal Creatures</p> | <p data-bbox="544 642 1463 1106">Pete Crowcroft (iNaturalist profile: possumpete) studied Science and somehow completed an Honours project on Ringtail Possums. It was Murphy's Law - with everything that could possibly go wrong, going wrong! The exciting stories from that year of nocturnal surveying, and follow-up years looking for Sugar and Squirrel Gliders along the Hume Highway, have been an amazing tool for engagement and education in his role as an environmental educator on the Surf Coast in Victoria. He is always making new exciting stories too, as an obsessive bioblitzer - travelling to multiple places in Australia each year to photograph the unique and amazing biodiversity that lives there. Cooloola is a new place, so join him on a nature walk and you can get excited together about meeting new creatures, and probably hear a story or two along the way.</p> |
|  <p data-bbox="215 1621 432 1691">David Flack Frogs & more</p> | <p data-bbox="544 1189 1463 1435">David Flack is the Bundaberg Area Coordinator for the Queensland Frog Society. David has 15 years of experience in native and exotic wildlife management, both captive and wild. Diversified skills include capture and restraint of a range of wildlife including venomous snakes and crocodiles, wildlife identification skills, field data collection, leadership of small teams, and public education with a focus on wildlife conservation.</p> |

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|  <p>Dr Andrew Franks Bryophytes - mosses, lichens & hornworts</p> | <p>Andrew Franks is a principal botanist, consulting arborist and technical director with GHD. He is a passionate bryologist, specialising in the group of land plants including the mosses, liverworts and hornworts. Bryophytes are the second most diverse terrestrial plant group after the Angiosperms (flowering plants). Presently he is on the council of the International Association of Bryologists.</p> <p>Andrew has undertaken bryophyte surveys across Queensland and is reasonably confident that he is the only consulting arborist to specialise in moss.</p> |
|  <p>Shelley Gage Plants especially Wildflowers</p> | <p>Shelley Gage has had a lifelong passion for plants. Her work as a research assistant has led her to many interesting habitats within Cooloola National Park. Since her retirement from Primary School teaching, she has been working on attaining a PhD in Science through the University of Queensland. Her research project involves investigating the susceptibility of macadamias to particular nut predators. i</p> |
|  <p>Ally Hayes-Hatten Botanist, especially Wildflowers</p> | <p>Ally Hayes-Hatten runs the Wildflower Appreciation Association. She teaches botany to her Certificate I & III Conservation and Ecosystem Management Trainees.</p> |

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|  <p data-bbox="221 754 422 828">Jono Hooper Frogs</p> | <p data-bbox="547 199 1335 302">Jono Hooper Past President and now Events & Initiatives Coordinator for the Queensland Frog Society.</p> <p data-bbox="547 309 1436 555">Jono has many years' experience across a broad range of environmental disciplines, with a particular focus on ecology and passion for frogs, gained through university studies, extensive volunteer experience with catchment groups and the Department of Environment and Science (DES) and most recently over the last five years working full-time at environmental consultancy Future-Plus Environmental.</p> <p data-bbox="547 595 1453 842">His specialist area of frogs includes lead roles in implementing and undertaking on-ground monitoring and surveys, frog identification and frog/tadpole capture and relocation. He also provides specialist advice and recommendations to clients regarding the management of threatened frog species on construction sites, including development of species management plans; this currently includes managing Acid Frogs at a large airport expansion on the Sunshine Coast.</p> |
|  <p data-bbox="221 1339 422 1435">Sam Mitchell Trees</p> | <p data-bbox="547 911 1442 1055">Sam Mitchell is the new Manager of the National Register of Big Trees Australia. A recent grant has provided tools, including a drone, for the surveying and measuring of big trees and an update to the website.</p> |
|  <p data-bbox="221 1821 422 1854">Jessie Oliver</p> | <p data-bbox="547 1494 1420 1597">Jessie Oliver has been exploring the intersections of Citizen Science, Wildlife Conservation, Nature Engagement, & Technology Design.</p> <p data-bbox="547 1603 1445 1850">Throughout her career, Jessie Oliver, has been passionate about avian ecology and public engagement. In recent years, this led her to contribute to a wide variety of projects with the U.S. Geological Survey (Hawai'i), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Hawai'i), Point Blue Conservation Science (California), and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (New York). Upon return to Australia, Jessie worked with University of Queensland's Environmental Decisions Group.</p> <p data-bbox="547 1890 1442 2101">Jessie has also been heavily involved in co-founded the Australian Citizen Science Association since 2014 and is currently serving as International Liaison of ACSA. Through her variety of roles Jessie came to appreciate the potential for technology support engaging people with nature and citizen science, which led her to join the QUT Design Participation Lab as a PhD student.</p> |

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|  <p>Davina Paterson Insects</p> | <p>Davina Paterson is an undergraduate student at the University of Queensland studying zoology and entomology with a particular interest in science communication and education. She began her business 'Insects and Me' in the beginning of 2021 for this reason; providing students with hands-on and up-close experiences with a range of live invertebrates.</p> <p>As well as starting her own business she also works with Prof. Don Sands as a research assistant, working towards the conservation of some of Australia's most critically endangered butterflies as well as investigating moth-plant pollination relationships, though she specifically works with butterflies and moths.</p> |
|  <p>Dr Hilary Pearl</p> | <p>Dr Hilary Pearl has been fascinated with the coastal heathlands for decades! After a career in high school teaching, she completed her PhD at the University of Sunshine Coast last year examining the diversity values of the heathlands from Cooloola to Bribie Island. She now runs botany workshops across the coast, and leads the Wallum and Coastal Heathland study group of the Australian Native Plant Society of Australia.</p> |
|  <p>Robert Raven</p> | <p>Robert Raven is an Australian arachnologist, being the Head of Terrestrial Biodiversity and the Senior Curator (Arachnida) at the Queensland Museum. Dr Raven has described many species of spider in Australia and elsewhere, and is spider bite consultant to the Royal Brisbane Hospital, leading to much work on spider toxins.</p> |
|  <p>Ben Revell Frogs +</p> | <p>Ben Revell Past Vice president of the Queensland Frog Society. Ben is an environmental science graduate and amateur photographer. He has a passion for frogs, reptiles, spiders and other invertebrates.</p> |

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|  <p>Ollie Scully</p> | <p>Ollie Scully is a freshwater ecologist with a background in threatened species monitoring and conservation, particularly in Southern and South-East Queensland. His main obsessions are with frogs, crayfish, small-bodied fishes, and reptiles.</p> |
|  <p>Helen Schwencke Biologist & Ecologist Insect Interactions</p> | <p>Helen Schwencke is a Biologist & Ecologist interested in insect interactions. Helen will be accompanied by her daughter Amelia Pasieczny. Together they will be investigating the insect interactions between plants and insects.</p> |
|  <p>Dr Jennifer Sanger Canopy Ecologist And Steve Pearce Giant Tree Photographer & Filmmaker</p> | <p>Dr Jennifer Sanger and Steve Pearce are a husband and wife team that create engaging information-rich content to aid in public education and the conservation of giant trees and their forests. They are based in Tasmania where they run The Tree Projects.</p> <p>Dr Jennifer Sanger is a passionate forest ecologist and science outreach coordinator. She has spent over a decade studying forests and the charismatic plant species which inhabit them. Jennifer is the co-founder for The Tree Projects, an environmental outreach organisation which educates people about the world's most notable trees. She is an active member of the Tasmanian Climate Collective.</p> <p>Steven Pearce is an award-winning photographer and filmmaker and is the creative director for The Tree Projects. Willing to push the boundaries and embrace the latest technologies, Steve is able to deliver content that is unique, beautiful and inspiring. As an avid tree climber and a passionate naturalist, he has spent over 10 years documenting trees and forests.</p> |

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|  <p>Greg Tasney Ecologist</p> | <p>Greg Tasney is an ecologist who started out as an enthusiastic and very experienced amateur naturalist who spends many weekends in the bush across Southeast Queensland and has made over 62000 observations in iNaturalist. Greg's primary focus is plants and he has a good knowledge of snakes, frogs, gliders and invertebrates.</p> |
|  <p>Sandra Tuszyńska Fungi</p> | <p>Sandra Tuszyńska is an environmental mycologist (fungal biologist) who is passionate about biodiversity conservation and soil restoration. Sandra is also a Myco-Restoration Research Biologist experimenting with developing myco-remediation technologies to restore soil and water. Sandra is keen to explain why over 90% of terrestrial plant species rely on fungi. Her consultancy is called Giving Soils.</p> <p>Sandra and other enthusiastic mycologists participating in the Cooloola BioBlitz are keen to explain why over 90% of terrestrial plant species rely on fungi.</p> |
|  <p>Jacob White Botany</p> | <p>Jacob White is a recent environmental science graduate hailing from the Gold Coast. He has worked as a botanist and bush regenerator and has a particular interest in threatened species and rainforest plants of Queensland. In the past Jacob has led several bioblitzes around the Gold Coast and Scenic Rim.</p> |
|  <p>Ethan Yeoman Spiders +</p> | <p>Ethan Yeoman has developed as an expert enthusiast in Australian spiders under the tutelage of Robert Whyte (Co-author of A Field Guide to Spiders of Australia).</p> <p>Ethan says, "For a few years now I have had a great interest in spiders and scorpions. Under the guidance of the 'Roberts' (Raven and Whyte who is co-author of A Field Guide to Spiders of Australia) I have developed an unhealthy obsession, spending most weekends 'out bush' collecting, I have acquired a decent amount of knowledge regarding spiders; specialising in the lesser known groups such as Hahniidae (dwarf sheet web spiders) and Theridiidae (comb-footed spiders)."</p> |