



**SEFS News**

**Edition 11 / October 2018**



### **Welcome to Visiting Academic - Cristina Montiel Molina**

Cristina Montiel is a Full Professor of Geography and Chair of the Research Group on Forest Geography, Policy, and Socioeconomics at the Complutense University of Madrid (UCM), Spain. She has served as Head of the Department of Regional Geographical Analysis and Physical Geography at UCM from July 1st 2010 to November 7th 2017.

During her three months research visit with SEFS (from 1 October to 31 December 2018), Prof Cristina Montiel will work with Prof Ruth Beilin and her team on the theoretical perspectives of fire management in social sciences, and in the applied research on the social-ecological dimension of wildfires from a systemic and multi-scale approach. In particular, she will conduct a research project entitled "New governance mechanisms for fire risk management: community preparedness and landscape resilience" under the sponsorship of the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport. The main aims of this research project are (i) to understand the interactions between landscape dynamics and fire regime changes in the State of Victoria, and (ii) to investigate the governance mechanisms for bushfire

management, considering the landscape diversity and fire history at the regional and local scales. The expected outcomes of this visiting scholarship are to strengthen the theoretical basis and learning of new methods for the scientific research on human aspects of wildfires, and also to set the basis for a future collaborative framework between the research group on Forest Geography, Policy and Socioeconomics at the University Complutense of Madrid and the Landscape and Environmental Sociology at the University of Melbourne research group.

For more info: [cristina-montiel-molina](mailto:cristina-montiel-molina)

## Grant Win for 2019 SEFS Postgraduate Student Conference

This month, PhD students Tegan Brown, Jasmine Thom, and Ben Wagnor, with support from Prof Tim Fletcher and the Graduate Student Association, were awarded \$9000 from the Student Services and Amenities Fund to support the next postgraduate student conference in 2019. Last year's conference took place over three days at the Burnley campus in November, preceded by a conference held at Creswick in 2017.

Continuing the tradition of circulating student-led research training across our three campuses, the next conference will take place at Parkville in April 2019. The main aims of the conference are to connect students across campuses outside their day-to-day research life and provide students with tools to get through their theses, while fostering networking and collaboration among peers and fellow academic colleagues.

The grant will be used to provide accommodation for research students traveling from Creswick (and other regional areas) and provide the catering and operational funds for conference activities. The organising committee are still looking for additional volunteers, especially from Parkville and Creswick campuses, so if you would like to get involved, or you would like to encourage your students to get involved, and gain valuable project management experience, please contact: [Tegan Brown](mailto:Tegan.Brown).



Trying a non-timber forest product! From left: HL Son, from the Vietnam Academy of Forest Sciences and Prof Rod Keenan

## Fourth International Congress on Planted Forests, Beijing

This congress addressed the many dimensions of planted forests around the world, with China being a fitting host, having the largest area of planted forests of any country and having achieved remarkable forest planting efforts over the last 50 years. SEFS academics, Rod Keenan and Thu Ba Huynh convened a successful session at the conference on 'policies for improved contributions of planted forests to



economies, societies and the environment' with eight presenters from six countries. The session was sponsored by an ACIAR funded project that has been operating for three years with partners in Lao PDR and Vietnam. The congress was held from the 23rd - 26th October 2018.

## SEFS Successes

- Dr Luba Volkova received a highly competitive Visiting Scientist Fellowship with CSIRO. For the next two years, Luba will work closely with Stephen Roxburgh, from the Land and Water Division of CSIRO, to model greenhouse gas emissions from forest fires in south-eastern Australia. Luba will work to develop complex models that integrate emissions, uptake and redistribution of carbon under a range of fire conditions and future climates for emissions abatement strategies.
- Dr Luba Volkova and Dr Chris Weston have secured a project, 'Improving capacities towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions from peat swamp forest fires in Indonesia', working in close collaboration with the Indonesian and Australian Governments. Luba and Chris, along with Indonesian partners, will work in degraded peat swamp forests of Kalimantan collecting data for improving emissions estimates from peatland fires.



## Land Your Career in Ecosystem Science

Recently, the SEFS Teaching and Learning team hosted the 'Land Your Career in Ecosystem Science' event with the aim of launching the new Ecosystem Science major within the Bachelor of Science, and to engage and inspire students to study with SEFS, as part of the faculty's next steps program. The Next Steps program provides current and prospective students a chance to find out more about further study opportunities at both the undergraduate and graduate level. This event took place in the well-appointed Yasuko Hiraoko Myer Room where students joined in on a panel discussion with past graduates of SEFS related programs. In total, about 30 students attended and partook in discussion with staff and graduates about career opportunities, study pathways and graduate skill and knowledge needs. There was plenty of energy and enthusiasm from the students who attended, and we hope to see many of them in our courses and subjects soon!

Thanks goes out to panel members Daniel Foot-Connolly, Michael Pescott, Megan Graham, Michelle Freeman and Vanessa Lucy, SEFS staff Dr Antanas Spokevicius, Dr Claire Farrell, A/Prof Kirsten Parris, A/Prof John Rayner, Madeleine Jenkins and Chantelle Linnett and Faculty of Science Staff, Remy Dovers and Casey Hollway for their help in organising and hosting the night.



Phenology Commission meeting attendees

## Phenology 2018

SEFS was a sponsor of [Phenology 2018](#) – the fifth in the series – which was successfully held in Melbourne from September 23rd to September 27th. The specialised conference attracted 99 delegates from 30 countries. Themes included:

- Phenological Methods
- Agricultural Phenology
- Remote Sensing
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge
- Phenology & Conservation Biology
- Tropical Phenology
- Phenology & Citizen Science
- Aerobiology
- Urban Phenology

The School was well represented at the conference. It was chaired by Dr Marie Keatley (Senior Adjunct Fellow) and included an oral presentation by Dr Craig Nitschke (Senior Research Fellow), and poster presentations by Marie and former Masters student, Mr Brendan Nugent. Craig and Marie each chaired one of the sessions. Prof Stefan Arndt and Dr Nina Hinko-Najera also conducted a post-conference tour at the Wombat Flux Research site.

In addition to the Conference proper, there were three associated events. These included *Seasons out of sync: Vital signs of a warming city*, *Trail Walk* at the Royal Botanic Gardens run by ClimateWatch (of which SEFS is a founding partner) and the *International Society of Biometeorology's Phenology Commission Meeting*: a general meeting of the Phenology Commission (the first time ever held in Melbourne).

## Forests For Healthy Cities, Farms and People, Canberra

SEFS was well represented at this joint conference of Institute of Foresters of Australia and Australian Forest Growers held at historic University House at the ANU from 2 - 5 September, 2018. A/Prof Kath Williams provided a keynote address in the plenary session on Forests for Healthy People. The Next Generation Plantation Investment research team led by Prof Rod Keenan organised a discussion panel on future plantation investment involving Nerida Anderson and SEFS honorary fellows, Lyndall Bull and Braden Jenkin. About 15 SEFS coursework students attended the conference with the support of the Leadership in Agricultural Industries Fund from Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.

Bachelor of Forest Science alumna, Anne Geary was presented with the IFA's highest award, the NW Jolly medal and Master of Forest Ecosystem Science alumna, Erin Hodgson was presented with the Prince of Wales Award for Sustainable Forestry.

## In Pursuit and The Conversation

Prof Tim Fletcher, Vaughn Grey, A/Prof Stephen Livesley and Dr Chris Szota discussed the need to [redirect storm water to street trees to help urban forests survive.](#)

Research by PhD student Tom Sayers and Dr Rebecca Miller on the chemical ecology of pollination in Australia's hot and stinky arums featured in a pursuit article about the Herbarium collections: [the biodiverse stories from australia's botanical past](#)

A/Prof Nick Williams, with Georgia Garrard and Sarah Bekessy at RMIT, have an article published in *The Conversation*: [Here's how to design cities where people and nature can both flourish](#)



From left: Peter Somerville, Dr Camilo Ordóñez and Mariana Baptista on Vancouver Island, BC, Canada

## International Urban Forest Conference, Vancouver

PhD students Peter Somerville, Adrian Marshall, and Mariana Baptista (RMIT), as well as Dr Camilo Ordóñez, members of the Green Infrastructure Research Group (GIRG) and Urban Biodiversity, Ecology and Conservation (Urbec) at SEFS Burnley campus, convened at the International Urban Forest Conference (IUFC) in Vancouver, Canada, from 30th September to 3rd October. The group presented critical research related to urban trees and urban greenspace, showcasing the quality work that's being done at SEFS, in close collaboration with City partners across Melbourne. Keynote speakers included: Prof Chris Bains, on the importance of backyard habitats; Dr Suzanne Simard, on inter-tree communications and the concept of a "mother tree"; and Dr John Gathright, who enticed laughter and tears in a moving talk about developing an all-abilities tree climbing program in Japan. Melbourne's Ian Shears and Meg Caffin also waxed lyrical about Melbourne's urban forestry program. The overarching theme of IUFC was diversity. However, there was a distinct lack of diversity during the concluding panel session. Five men (all eminently qualified), and Susan Day, discussed lessons learnt from the conference. It was a bit of a shame that such a worthwhile conference ended on a non-diverse finish.

The conference left the impression, on a global level, that Melbourne is the leader on urban forestry.

## SEFS PhD Completions

Congratulations to the following students for successfully completing their PhD:

**Kiran Paudyal**, thesis entitled, Quantification and payment for ecosystem services from community-managed forests in Nepal.

**Julia White**, thesis entitled, The effects of urban land use, riparian forest cover, and instream habitat complexity on macroinvertebrate assemblages.

**Manuela Fischer**, thesis entitled, Living in a human-modified landscape: Resource selection, road



behaviour and herbivory impact of *swamp wallabies*.

**Kate Parkins**, thesis entitled, Edge effects in fire-prone landscapes: ecological importance and implications for fauna.

## SEFS Engagement

- A/Prof Nick Williams attended the [Urban Biodiversity and Design Conference](#) in Cape Town South Africa where he presented the paper 'Designing and Testing a Plant Palette for biodiverse streetscapes' which reports on work with A/Prof John Rayner, Dr Caragh Threlfall, Jess Baumann and Lee Harrison for the City of Melbourne. He then travelled to the Northwest University in Potchefstroom where he gave a departmental seminar. There was a lot of interest in SEFS Green Infrastructure and WSUD research, in particular as a means of improving the environment in the townships, and it will be featured in a podcast on South African radio by Juanee Cilliers Professor of Urban and Regional Planning.
- WERG's Dr Matthew Burns and Jeremie Bonneau presented their latest research at the 11th International Conference on Urban Drainage Modelling in Palermo, Italy (23-26 September).
- WERG's Dr Matthew Burns and Daniel Xu hosted a workshop session on rainwater harvesting at 15th Specialized Conference on Small Water & Wastewater Systems in Haifa, Israel (14-17 October).

## November is Movember

We're raising funds and awareness this Movember for all the dads, brothers, sons and mates in our lives. We need your help. Please donate to support men's health.

If you would like to join the club, grow a mo this Movember and raise funds for mens health then please join our SEFS Movember team here: <https://moteam.co/grow-a-mo-burnley?mc=11>

Every Thursday throughout Movember our regular morning tea at Burnley will become a Mo-Rning tea at Burnley 10.30 am. So come along, enjoy tea or coffee and cakes or bikkies and admire the growing mo's of our team members.

Of course we would love your donations. So if you can spare a few bob for a good cause please click here: <https://moteam.co/grow-a-mo-burnley?mc=1>



## Footy Tipping Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the SEFS AFL footy tipping competition for season 2018. The tipping dominance of WERG continued with Joe Greet ("Riolilicious") taking first place with 145 tips, ahead of Matt Burns (139 tips). Pete Somerville ("Octopete") snuck in for 3rd place on 138 tips. Special mention to Gerry Fahey who finished last (again!), and who received a rediscovered old trophy for the wooden spoon. Also, long overdue recognition and congratulations to Julio Najera for winning the SEFS World cup tipping competition earlier in the year!

## Digital Literacy Show and Tell Event

Following on from the highly successful inaugural event in 2017, the Melbourne Graduate School of Education and Scholarly Services are hosting another 'Digital Literacy Show and Tell' event on Monday 12 November 1.30pm - 3.40pm, in the studioFive learning space at 234 Queensberry Street. The afternoon will include 15 demonstrations. Attendees will move between demonstration stands to view and experience learning activities. There will be opportunities to ask questions, explore challenges and make connections with colleagues, as they share their inspiring examples of developing digital literacy skills within curriculum.

Register to attend this free event <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/qf76>

Enquiries: Joanne Blannin | 8344 1565 | [blanninj@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:blanninj@unimelb.edu.au) | Kat Frame | 8344 4865 |

## SEFS Publications

Adhikari S, Baral H, Nitschke CR. 2018. Identification, prioritization and mapping of ecosystem services in the Panchase Mountain Ecological Region of Western Nepal. *FORESTS* 9:554.

Grey V, Livesley SJ, Fletcher TD, Szota C. 2018. Establishing street trees in stormwater control measures can double tree growth when extended waterlogging is avoided. *LANDSCAPE AND URBAN PLANNING* 178: 122-129.

Nguyen N, Ozarska B, Fergusson M, Vinden P. 2018. Dyeing of Eucalyptus globulus Veneers with Reactive Dye Using Sequential Vacuum and varied Pressures. *BIORESOURCES* 13: 8690-8708.

Robinson SA, King DH, Bramley-Alves J, Waterman MJ, Ashcroft MB, Wasley J, Turnbull JD, Miller RE, Ryan-Colton E, Benny T, Mullany K, Clarke LJ, Barry LA, Hua Q. (2018) Rapid change in East Antarctic terrestrial vegetation in response to regional drying. *NATURE CLIMATE CHANGE* 8: 879–884.

Russell KL, Vietz GJ, Fletcher TD. 2018. Urban catchment runoff increases bedload sediment yield and particle size in stream channels. *ANTHROPOCENE* 23: 53-66.

Sullivan AL, Surawski NC, Crawford D, Hurley RJ, Volkova L, Weston CJ, Meyer CP. 2018. Effect of woody debris on the rate of spread of surface fires in forest fuels in a combustion wind tunnel. *FOREST ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT* 424: 236-245.

Uddin S, Parvin S, Low M, Fitzgerald GJ, Tausz-Posch S, Armstrong R, Tausz M. 2018. The water-use dynamics of canola cultivars grown under elevated CO<sub>2</sub> are linked to their leaf area development. *JOURNAL OF PLANT PHYSIOLOGY* 229: 164-169.



Spring blossoms at Burnley campus

The SEFS Ezine is a monthly newsletter and welcomes contributions from staff and students. Send your submissions to Madeleine Jenkins: [sefs-hos@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:sefs-hos@unimelb.edu.au)

