

## **Review of SWIFFT (State Wide Integrated Flora & Fauna Teams)**

**1 December 2023 to 30 November 2024**

This update provides an overview of SWIFFT activities including SWIFFT Seminars and the SWIFFT website over a 12-month timeframe.

This update builds on the previous annual review updates in 2015, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2023.

### **Financing of SWIFFT**

Over the past 12 months SWIFFT has operated on a very tight budget with minimal expenditure.

There has been no new funding, operating expenses comprise:

- **Website hosting and development** – continued in-kind support from CeRDI (Centre for eResearch and Digital Innovation, Federation University).
- **Website content** – funding of \$7,000 from CeRDI to support website content hours (187 hrs supported and 193 unfunded voluntary hours).
- **Moth Tracker and WhaleFace** – part of SWIFFT but run as separate in-kind projects supported by CeRDI and with support from Zoos Victoria (Moth Tracker) and DEECA (WhaleFace).
- **SWIFFT Seminars**

Managing SWIFFT e-mail contact list - In-kind support from CeRDI (Centre for eResearch and Digital Innovation, Federation University). Note: support from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) was withdrawn which meant management of the SWIFFT contact list was transferred from DEECA to CeRDI.

#### Organising seminars

Organising speakers, running technical side of seminars – transition from DEECA to in-kind support from CeRDI, SWIFFT Committee and special guest chairing for each seminar.

SWIFFT Advisory group – In-kind support from 6 members comprising CeRDI, Zoos Victoria and community member.

External revenue - Treloar Roses at Portland donated \$1392 from the sale of their 'Tangles Rose' in support of Southern Right Whale Research (total revenue from Treloar Roses \$13,052 since 2019).

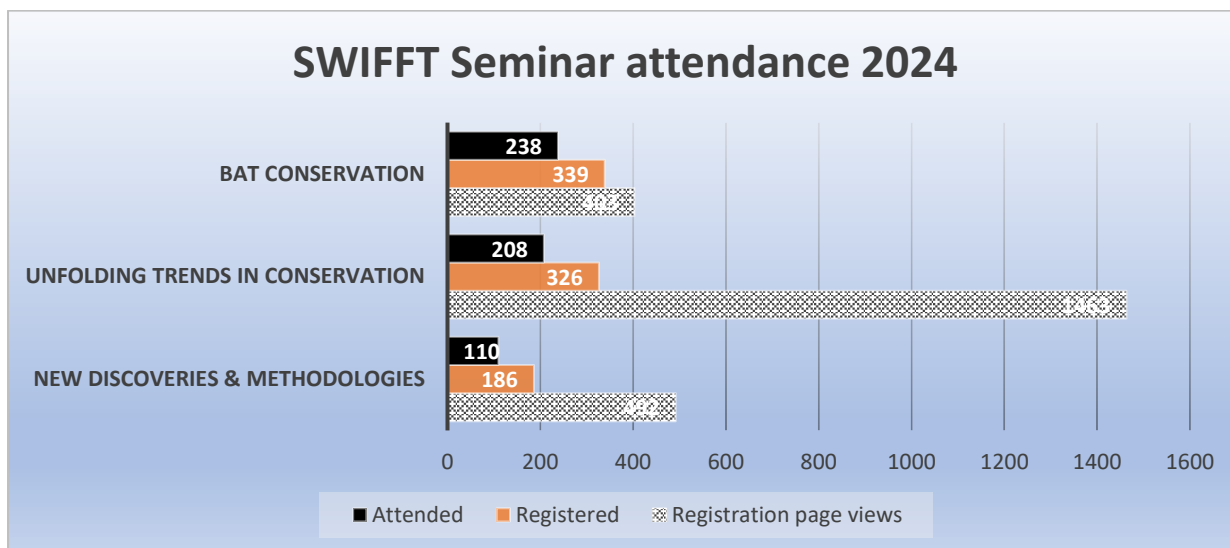
## SWIFFT Seminars 2024

There have been 47 SWIFFT seminars since 2005, supported by DEECA and its previous entities. However, DEECA indicated it would not provide support for the 2024 SWIFFT seminars apart from some transitioning support for the first seminar. The withdrawal of support from DEECA meant the seminars could only proceed with in-kind support. Due to the time involved in organising each seminar it was decided to only run 3 seminars for 2024.

Each seminar was chaired by a guest organisation leading the seminar theme with four speakers/seminar.

Given the very limited in-kind resources available the seminar program was still very successful.

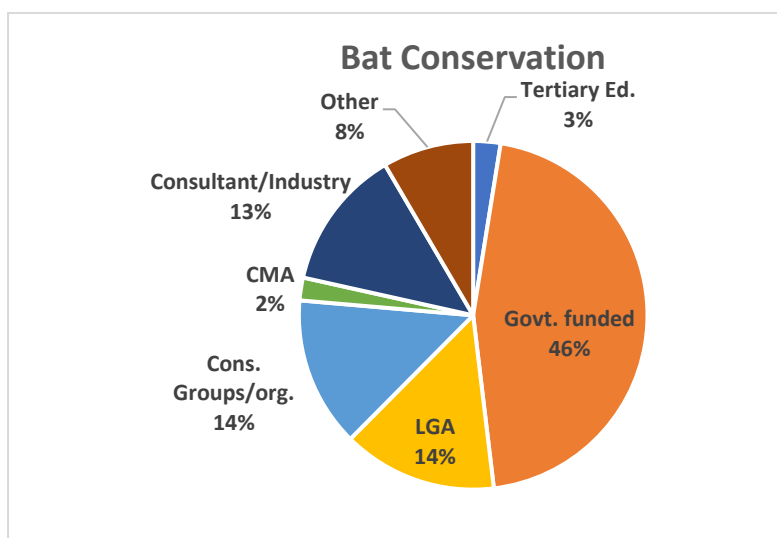
### Seminar attendance



Total attendance for SWIFFT Seminars – 556

### Attendance by sector

The following charts provide an overview of the attendees alignment with various conservation sectors.



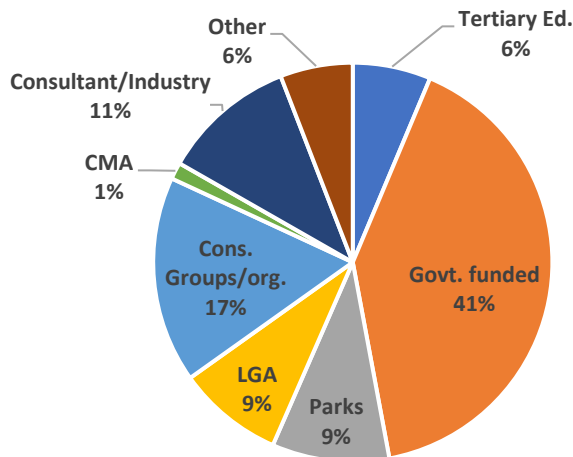
Chaired by: Lindy Lumsden, Arthur Rylah Institute

24 March 2024, 238 attended

#### Guest Speakers

- Dr Lindy Lumsden - Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research
- Dr Emmi van Harten – DEECA
- Dr Rodney van der Ree - Assoc Prof, National Technical Executive: Ecology School of Biosciences, University of Melbourne
- Dr Leila Brook - Statewide Wildlife Advisory Services, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)

## Unfolding trends in conservation



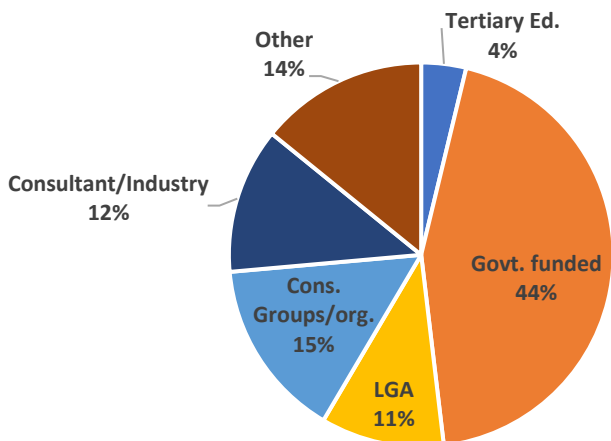
Chaired by: Sarah Bekessy, RMIT University

23 May 2024, 208 attended

### Guest Speakers

- Natasha Ward, Research Officer and Educator RMIT University
- Dr Fiona Fraser, Threatened Species Commissioner - Australian Government, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
- Dr Jody Gunn, CEO, Australian Land Conservation Alliance (ALCA)
- Professor Sarah Bekessy, RMIT University

## New discoveries and Methodologies



Chaired by: Craig Whiteford - Zoos Victoria

31 October 2024, 110 Attended

### Guest Speakers

- Nick Rutter - Wildlife Detection Dog Officer, Zoos Victoria
- Andre Messina - Botanist, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria
- Daniel Ohlsen - Botanist, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria
- Nick Clemann – Senior Biologist Herpetology, Zoos Victoria

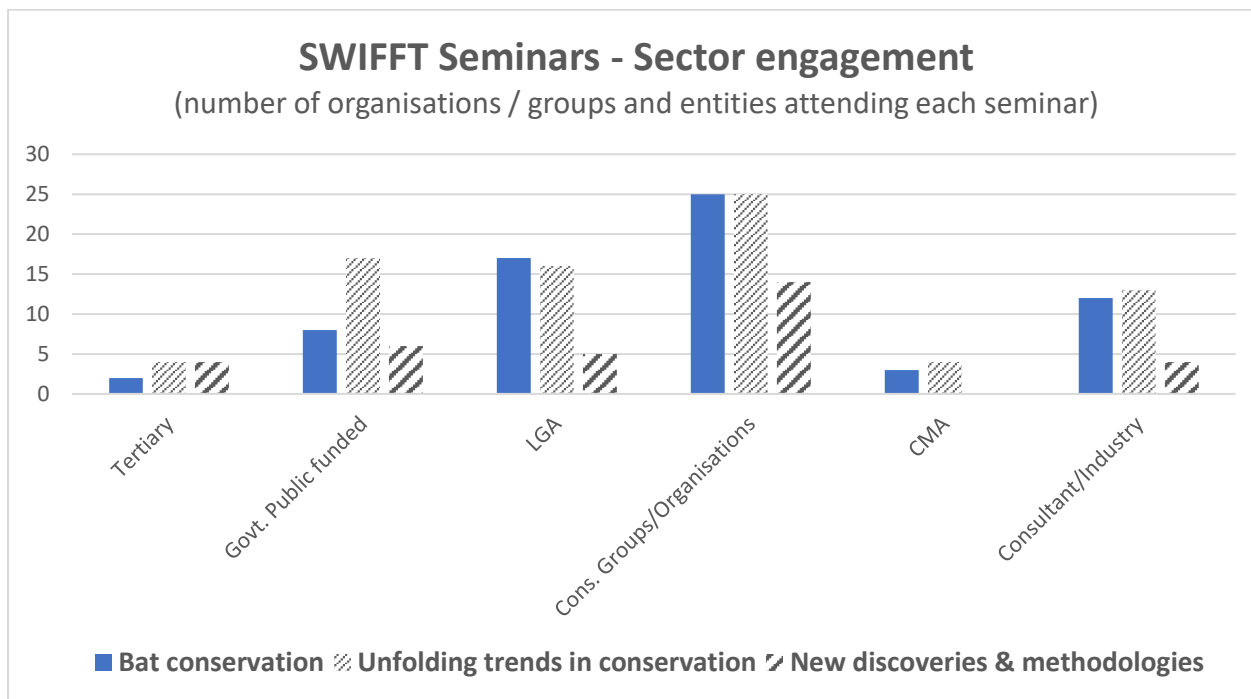
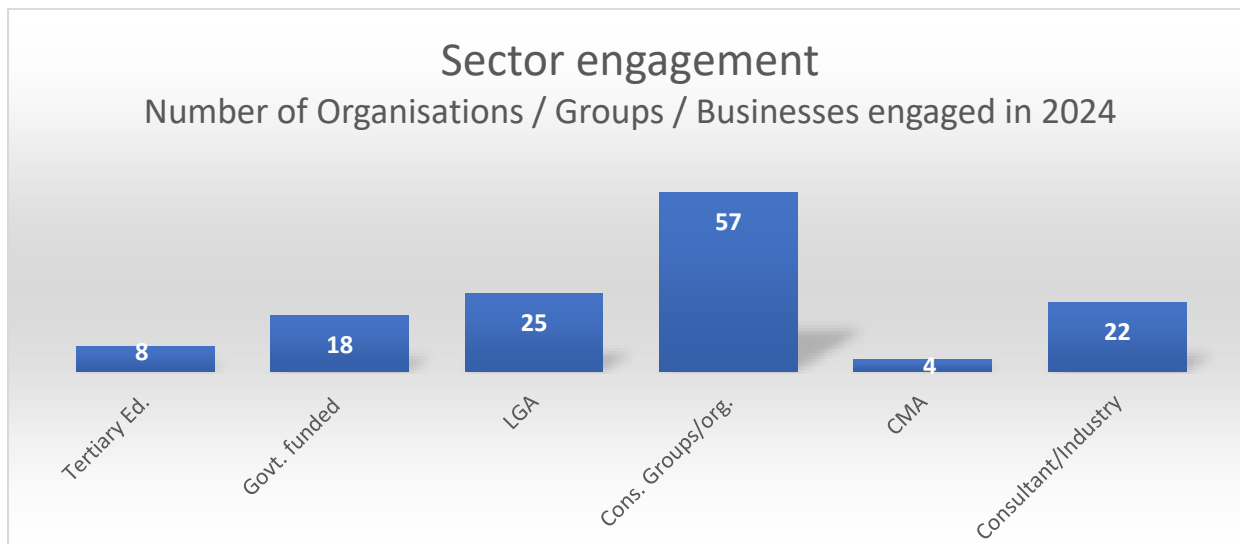
*Govt. funded may include: Parks Victoria, DEECA, Agriculture Vic., Royal Botanic Gardens, Vic., Zoos Vic., Arthur Rylah Inst., Dept. Transport & Planning and some other Govt. agencies.*

SWIFFT's seminars reached beyond Victoria to included: Australian Govt. DCCEEW, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, NSW DCCEEW Saving our Species, Wingecarribee Shire Council (NSW and Otago Regional Council (NZ).

See Pages 7 – 9 for full lists of participants by category for each seminar

## Sector engagement

The 2024 SWIFFT Seminars reached out to a broad cross section of people involved with Conservation and Natural Resource Management. Overall, SWIFFT Seminars engaged with people from 134 different organisations & groups (*these are not necessarily representing groups/organisations*).



The above table shows the number of organisations/groups by sector for each seminar. (This is not the actual number of people from each organisation/group present. Also, it should be noted that attendance does not necessarily represent the particular groups/organisations).

For example; the seminar 'Unfolding trends in conservation' had a significantly higher number of Government related entities than other seminars. The number of Conservation Groups and organisations was highest across all 3 seminars.

See Pages 7 – 9 for full lists of participants by category for each seminar

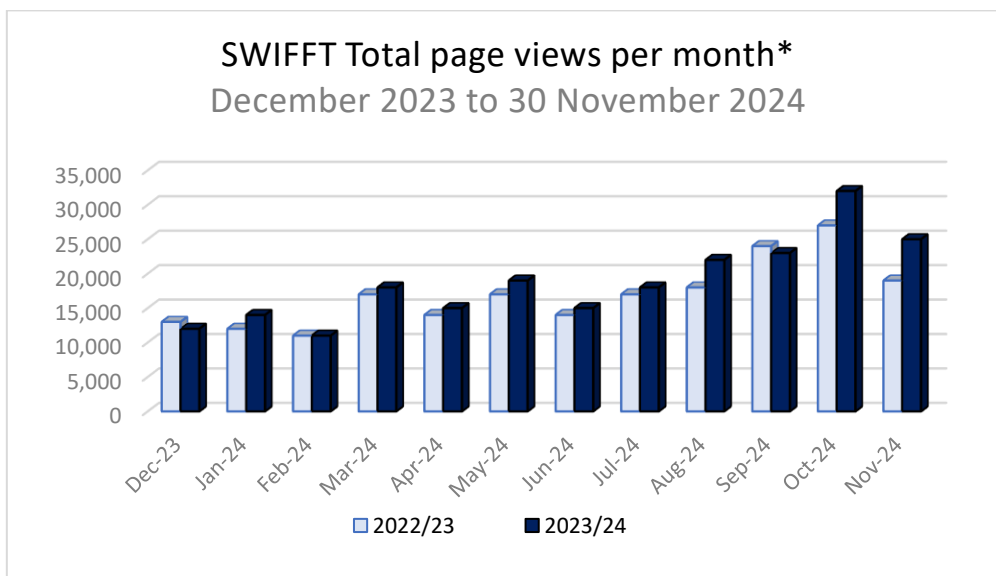
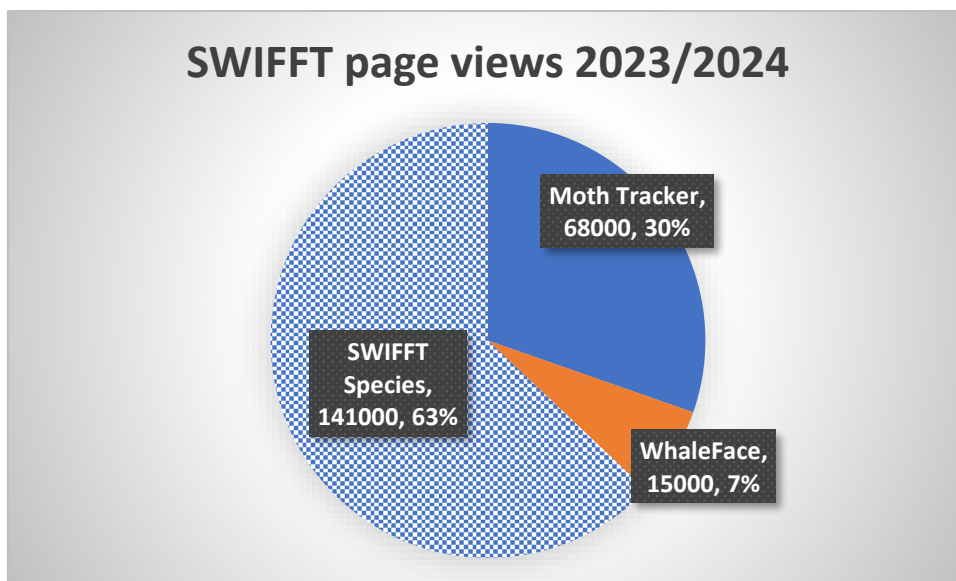
# SWIFFT website

Total pages – 383

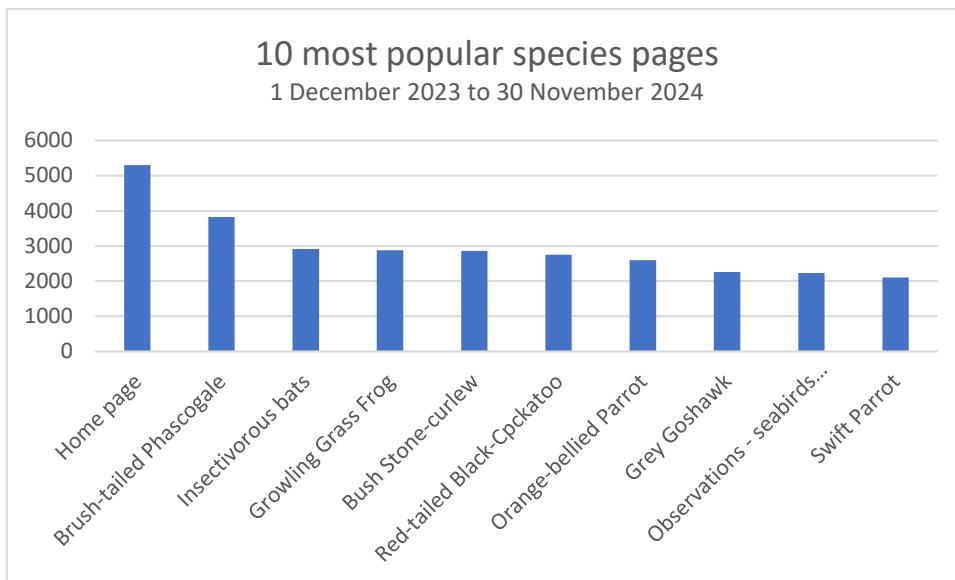
- Threatened species profiles – 82 pages
- Teams/projects – 26 pages
- SWIFFT Seminar Notes – 47 pages
- Nature observations – 17 pages
- Threatened fauna and flora x LGA - 119 pages
- Bio-calendar – 12 pages
- Other pages – 80 pages

Updated pages - 80

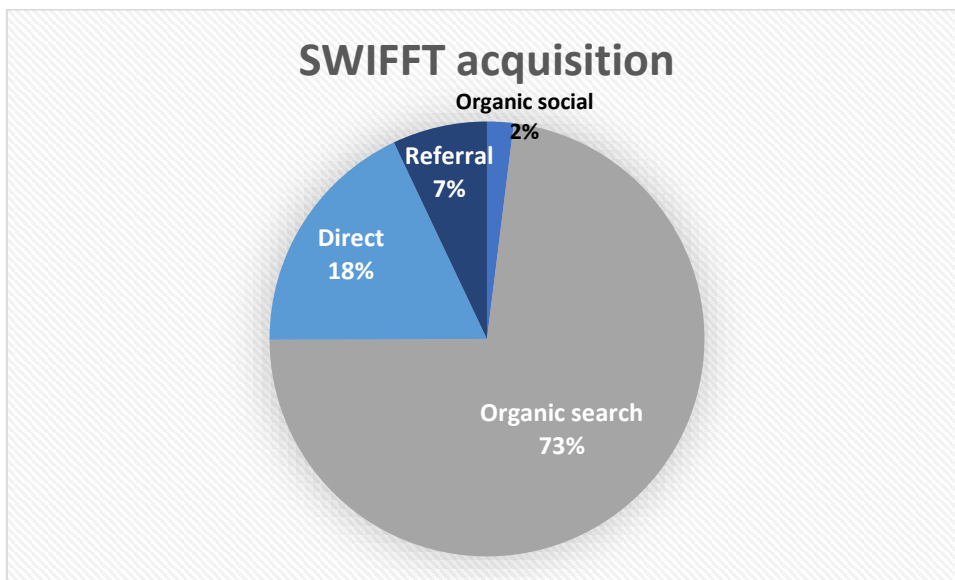
## SWIFFT website page views



\*Includes Moth Tracker, WhaleFace and SWIFFT pages



## How people find SWIFFT



## Subscribers to SWIFFT

At the start of 2014 there were 2163 people on the SWIFFT e-mail subscription list but due to the transition from DEECA to Federation University, registered people had to re-register which meant a large number of people became disengaged. The new subscription list now contains approx. 470 people. These subscribers receive newsletters and notice of seminars.

## SWIFFT Contact Us feature

This feature of SWIFFT enables people to send in requests for information or share projects.

A total of 91 Contact Us responses were provided, predominantly enquiries related to species observations, land management and projects.

**Participation at SWIFFT Seminars 2024**

**Bat Conservation 24 March 2024**

<b>Tertiary</b>	<b>Govt. Public funded</b>	<b>LGA</b>	<b>Conservation Groups/Organisatioir CMA</b>		<b>Consultant/Industry</b>
Federation University	Parks Victoria	Wyndham City Council	Ballarat Field Naturalists	Wimmera CMA	Wildlife & Ecology
Bendigo TAFE	DEECA	Hume City Council	Nature Glenelg Trust	Corangamite CMA	Stantec
2	Dept. Transport and Planning	Greater Geelong City	Merri Creek Management Com'te	North Central CMA	Coliban Water
	Royal Botanic Gardens	Frankston City Council	G4W Hume	3	Marcus Hoskin consulting
	Zoos Victoria	Bayside City Council	Avon Plains Banyena L/c		Nature Advisory
	DPE NSW	Macedon Ranges Shire	Turtles Albury Wodonga		Wildlife Unlimited Ltd
	Solar Victoria	Yarra Ranges Shire	Upper Golburn L/c		WSP
	Conservation Regulator (DEECA)	Greater Bendigo City	Friends of Bannockburn Bush		Biosis
	8	Ballarat City	St Arnaud Field Naturalist Club		Vegetation Link
		Whittlesea City	Friends of Errinundra		AWARE
		Nillumbik Shire	Friends of Bats and Bushcare Geelong		Ecology and Heritage Partners
		Colac Otway Shire	Little Wing Bat Haven		NGH Consulting
		Maroondah City	Wildlife Victoria		12
		Warrnambool City	Geelong FNC		
		Albury City Council	Wombat Forestcare Inc		
		Wingecarribee Shire Council (NSW)	Ballarat Botanical Gardens		
		Melton City	Reef catchments		
		17	Wedderburn CMN		
			Upper Deep Creek L/c		
			Wildlife Cares for protection of habitat		
			Wallabia Wildlife Shelter		
			Flying Fox rescue and rehab. Centre		
			Werribee River Assoc.		
			WIRES		
			Wild days wildlife shelter		
			25		

### Unfolding trends in conservation 23 May 2024

Tertiary	Govt. Public funded	LGA	Conservation Groups/Organisator	CMA	Consultant/Industry
Federation University	Parks Victoria	Mornington Peninsula Shire	Avon Plains Banyena L/c	Wimmera CMA	Nature Advisory
RMIT University	DEECA	Hume City Council	Upper Deep Creek L/c	Corangamite CMA	Wildlife Unlimited Ltd
South West TAFE	Dept. Transport and Planning	Greater Geelong City	Trust for Nature	North Central CMA	Coliban Water
Victoria University	Agriculture Victoria	Frankston City Council	Australian L/c Cons. Alliance	West Gippsland CMA	Vegetation Link
4	Zoos Victoria	Bayside City Council	Vic. Vol. Plains CMN	4	NGH Consulting
	Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria	Yarra Ranges Shire	Nature West		PF Olsen
	Conservation Regulator (DEECA)	Greater Bendigo City	Friends of Upwey South Reserve		Victorian Indigenous Nurseries Co-Op
	Education	Ballarat City	Mid-Loddon L/c		SEECA
	Australian Govt. DCCEEW	Whittlesea City	Friends of Lysterfield Park		Future in nature pty ltd
	Threatened Species Commissioner	Nillumbik Shire	WWF		Naturelinks Landscape Management
	Sustainability Vic. Res. Smart School	Wingecarribee Shire Council (NSW)	Entomology Society		Symbolix
	CSIRO	Melton City	Friends of Leadbeater's Possum		Cosultant (unspecified)
	Australian Alps National Parks	Casey City	Land Covenantors Victoria		Central Highlands Water
	V/line	Otago Regional Council (NZ)	Clarksdale Bird Sanctuary		13
	NSW Nat. Parks and Wildlife Service	East Gippsland Shire	Phillip Island Nature Parks		
	Arthur Rylah Inst.	Melbourne City	Vic. Wader Study Group		
	NSW DCCEEW, Saving our Species	16	Orbost Basketball		
	17		Biolinks Alliance		
			Bendigo & District Env. Council		
			Field Nat. Club Vic.		
			OzFish Unlimited		
			Threatened Species Conservancy		
			Bush Heritage Australia		
			Corowa District Landcare		
			Leigh Catchment Group		
			25		



### New discoveries and methodologies 31 October 2024

Tertiary	Govt. Public funded	LGA	Conservation Groups/Organisator	CMA	Consultant/Industry
Federation University	Parks Victoria	Yarra Ranges Shire	South Gippsland Cons. Society		DM Ecological
Melbourne University	DEECA	Melton City	Upper Deep Creek L/c		Ecology and Heritage Partners
Gippsland TAFE	Dept. Transport and Planning	Greater Geelong City	Trust for Nature		EcoArt Systems Australia
Charles Sturt University	Zoos Victoria	Whittlesea City	Leigh Catchment Group		Vegetation Link
4	Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria	Nillumbik Shire	Greater Dandenong Env. Group	0	4
	Sustainability Vic.	5	Nature Glenelg Trust		
	6		Portland Field Naturalists Club		
			Swan Bay Environment Assoc.		
			Friends of The Brisbane Ranges		
			Gardens for Wildlife Victoria		
			Ballarat FNC		
			Friends of the Maribyrnong Valley		
			Wombat Forestcare		
			Bairnsdale and District FNC		
			14		

SWIFFT Advisory Committee:

- Andrew Arnold - Federation University Australia
- Birgita Hansen – CeRDI, Federation University Australia
- Rob Milne – CeRDI, Federation University Australia
- Ian Smith - SWIFFT coordinator
- Craig Whiteford - Zoos Victoria
- Craig Briody – SWIFFT Seminar technical support, CeRDI, Federation University Australia

Report prepared by Ian Smith on behalf of SWIFFT 2 December 2024.

