



## SPECIES ON THE MOVE 2016 CONFERENCE

<b>DESTINATION:</b>	Hobart, Tasmania
<b>DATE:</b>	10 - 13 Feb 2016
<b>DELEGATES:</b>	277 delegates. 60% Australian, 40% International, 40+ countries
<b>VENUES:</b>	Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart, Mona, Government House Hobart, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG)

Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) and the School of Biological Sciences (Zoology and Plant Sciences) at the University of Tasmania (UTAS) combined for the inaugural Species on the Move Conference held at the Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart. The event gathered 277 attendees from over 40 countries who contributed to a great showcase of research and knowledge on the contentious issues in conservation science and management in a rapidly changing world.

### EVENT BACKGROUND

Initiated and hosted by Professor Gretta Pecl from IMAS, the conference was the first of its kind to discuss the impact of climate change on all species, compared to past conferences, where topics were restricted to specific areas of interest.

Delegates ranged from geneticists, modelers, medical researchers, lawyers, communicators, managers, scientists, and policymakers from various disciplines including global change, biogeography and evolution, natural resource management, biodiversity management and conservation, and theoretical ecology.

### EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Hobart provided an ideal backdrop for the conference. Held at one of Hobart's premier conferencing venues; Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart, the Species on the Move Conference included plenary sessions, a free public forum, poster sessions, and social events. The four-day event kicked off with pre-conference workshops and a field trip to Tasmania's Northern Midlands. Delegates enjoyed a welcome reception at Government House hosted by Her Excellency the Honourable Professor Kate Warner, Governor of Tasmania. Supported by The Climate Council, organisers also held a public forum featuring international speakers from the conference, attracting over 450 attendees.

The main conference was held over 3 days with 12 convention themes and a host of local, national and international speakers. Delegates enjoyed several social functions including a barbeque at Australia's second-oldest museum; TMAG, located directly opposite the Hotel Grand Chancellor. The official conference dinner was held at Mona, a short 20-minute fast ferry ride along the River Derwent from the port aside the Hotel Grand Chancellor.

## LASTING LEGACIES

### *Industry & Community*

A first of its kind, the Species on the Move Conference was successful in bringing together professionals from a wide range of areas to discuss, debate and collaborate on the research and management of global conservation issues.

A pre-conference video competition was held to encourage and reward scientists for showcasing their research to the public and colleagues outside their own field.

The conference led to a series of writing workshops. Academic papers delivered at the conference were later published in the prestigious *Science* journal.

The Species on the Move team won the national 2017 Peer Prize for Women in the category Earth, Environment and Space. The award was voted online by researchers from around the world and is designed to accelerate open knowledge exchange and cross-disciplinary innovation among women in science.

The free public event further gave local Tasmanians the opportunity to learn from international experts. Organisers ran a mentor matching program for students and early career researchers to connect with experienced researchers during the conference. An invaluable opportunity for students in their home state.

More broadly, the conference created collaboration opportunities that are ongoing today. A number of strong professional networks were built among the delegates.

Given the success of this initial conference, the event is now held triennially. The 2019 conference was held in Kruger National Park, South Africa, and the third one is scheduled for Florida, U.S. in 2023.

### *BET Ambassador*

Gretta, as a key organiser of the event, has achieved significant career advancement as a result of her involvement in the conference and is now regularly invited to present key notes at national and international conferences. The extensive network developed through the conference has served as a conduit for her extended teams' research, highlighting their national and international leadership in setting the research agenda for understanding the climate-driven redistribution of life on Earth. Gretta was recently awarded the lifetime achievement award from the Australian Society of Fish Biology, and was a finalist in the Tasmanian Australian of the Year Awards 2021.

*'Developing and hosting an international conference from scratch was quite nerve-racking.'*

*'However, we had a great extended team here in Tasmania to draw on, fantastic conference support, and ultimately, climate impacts on species in our natural world is such an important area for Tasmania, and a research area that we lead the world on, and so I thought it was worth the risk - and it was!'*

*--- Gretta Pecl*

## WORKING WITH BET

As Gretta experienced, hosting a business event raises your profile and provides a platform to showcase your research to your industry peers, creating opportunities for future collaboration and investment. BET can help with coordinating the bid, securing state funding and connecting you with professionals to manage the logistics of the event, leaving you to focus on what you do best.