

# Matthew Rees

Applied Ecologist

## Curriculum Vitae

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## About me

I conduct research on predator ecology, invasive animal management and native mammal conservation. To do so, I use quantitative methods which incorporate uncertainty and socio-economic constraints to improve management and decision-making. In particular, my strengths lie in statistical models which estimate animal density, occupancy, spatio-temporal interactions and the integration of different data sources. I'm also passionate about collaborative, open science that incorporates the knowledge and needs of First Nations people. I am currently finishing up my PhD with the QAECO lab on the impact of fox control in south-west Victoria, while tackling the occasional, related contracting job.

## Education

2017-present	<b>PhD (Conservation Biology)</b> Melbourne, Australia	University of Melbourne
2013-2016	<b>Bachelor of Environmental Science (1st class Honours)</b> Brisbane, Australia	Queensland University of Technology

## Professional Experience

- 2020-2020 **Research assistant**, University of Melbourne, Designing fox density surveys for DELWP knowledge acquisition grant.
- 2019-2020 **Ecologist**, Winda-mara Aboriginal Corporation, training Indigenous rangers in fauna monitoring protocols.
- 2018-2020 **Demonstrator**, University of Melbourne, Conservation Biology, Environmental Risk Assessment subjects.

## Publications

### Peer-reviewed

1. Rees, M, J Pascoe, B Wintle, M Le Pla, E Birnbaum, and B Hradsky (2019). Unexpectedly high densities of feral cats in a rugged temperate forest. *Biological Conservation*.
2. Rees, M, J Carwardine, A Reeson, and J Firn (2020). Rapidly assessing cobenefits to advance threat-management alliances. *Conservation Biology*.

### In peer-review

1. Davies, H, Tiwi Land Rangers, M Rees, D Stokeld, A Miller, G Gillespie, B Murphy. Variation in feral cat density between two large adjacent islands in Australia's monsoon tropics. *Biological Invasions*.

## Reports

1. Rees, M (2020). Monitoring and managing critical weight range mammals in the indigenous protected areas of the world heritage Budj Bim cultural landscape. *A report prepared for the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning*.

## Awards

2017	Australian government RTP PhD scholarship	\$98K
2017	DELWP PhD top-up scholarship	\$15K
2016	CSIRO honours top-up scholarship	\$10K
2015	University of Wollongong undergraduate research scholarship	\$7.2K

## Grants

2020	Hosloworth research endowment	\$7.5K
2019	Hosloworth research endowment	\$6.75K
2018	Conservation Ecology Centre student scholarship	\$5K
2017	Victorian Environmental Assessment Council Bill Borthwick scholarship	\$2K
2017	Parks Victoria research partners program	\$20K
2017	DELWP research grant	\$15K

## Presentations

- International Statistical Ecology Conference (virtual), June 2020. *Using spatial mark-resight and GAMs to infer predator interactions.*
- Guest lecture, University of Melbourne, Australian Wildlife Biology subject, May 2020, *Invasive mammals in Australia.*
- Ecological Society of Australia, Launceston, November 2019, *Does fox control increase feral cat population density?*
- Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar, Rupanyup, September 2019, *Interactions between invasive predators and threatened native mammals in south-west VIC.*
- Otway Threatened Species Forum, Geelong, August 2019, *Interactions between invasive predators and threatened native mammals in the Otway Ranges.*
- Victorian Biodiversity Conference, Melbourne, February 2019, *Prioritising invasive animal management in the Lake Eyre Basin to benefit both threatened species and agriculture.*
- Ecological Society of Australia, Brisbane, November 2018, *Modelling invasive predator density in mesic forests.*
- Otway Threatened Species Forum, Geelong, August 2018, *How many feral cats are there in the Western Otway Ranges?*
- Mathematics of Biological Systems Symposium, Melbourne, April 2018, *Integrating co-benefits into the cost-effective prioritisation of conservation strategies.*
- Victorian Biodiversity Conference, Melbourne, February 2018, *How many feral cats are there in the Western Otway Ranges?*
- Environmental Institute of Australia & New Zealand conference, Brisbane, August 2017, *Building alliances between the agriculture and conservation sectors.*

## Media

09/12/2019	Radio interview	ABC Melbourne	Invasive predators interactions
08/08/2019	Radio interview	3AW	Invasive predators in south-west VIC
08/08/2019	Newspaper article (front page)	Geelong Advertiser	Invasive predators in south-west VIC
07/08/2019	Radio interview	ABC South West Victoria	Invasive predators in south-west VIC
13/03/2019	Newspaper article	Colac Herald	Feral cat density in the Otway Ranges
11/03/2019	Radio interview	ABC Melbourne	Feral cat density in the Otway Ranges
11/03/2019	TV interview	ABC news	Feral cat density in the Otway Ranges
10/03/2019	Online news article	ABC news	Feral cat density in the Otway Ranges
10/03/2019	Radio interview	ABC Ballarat	Feral cat density in the Otway Ranges

## Service

- **Treasurer**, Biosciences Postgraduate Society (2019-2020).
- **Peer-reviewer**, *Wildlife Research* and *Conservation Biology* journals.
- **Award judging panel member**, Ecological Society of Australia (2020).
- **Social media manager**, QAECO lab.

## Referees

- Dr Bronwyn Hradsky, PhD supervisor, [bronwyn.hradsky@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:bronwyn.hradsky@unimelb.edu.au)
- Prof. Brendan Wintle, PhD supervisor, [b.wintle@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:b.wintle@unimelb.edu.au)
- Dr Alan Robley, PhD supervisor, [alan.robley@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:alan.robley@delwp.vic.gov.au)
- Dr Jack Pascoe, Collaborator, [jack@conservationecologycentre.org](mailto:jack@conservationecologycentre.org)