



Australian Government

GSG STEM Expo

Great Hall, Australian Parliament House
15 August 2024 | 10am – 4pm

This event is hosted by the

Government Scientists Group



speaker program

Dr Cathy Foley

Australia's Chief Scientist

Dr Foley became Australia's ninth Chief Scientist in January 2021 after a lengthy career at Australia's national science agency, the CSIRO, where she was appointed as the agency's Chief Scientist in August 2018.

While working at CSIRO, Dr Foley made significant contributions to the understanding of nitride semiconductors and superconducting electronics. Dr Foley and her team's most successful application is the LANDTEM sensor system used to locate valuable deposits of minerals deep underground, such as nickel sulphide, silver and gold.

Dr Foley's scientific excellence and influential leadership have been recognised with numerous awards and fellowships, including being elected to the Australian Academy of Science in 2020, being named an Officer in the Order of Australia in 2020 for service to research science and the advancement of women in physics, receiving the Clunies Ross Medal of the Australian Academy of Technological Science and Engineering in 2015, and receiving the Australian Institute of Physics Medal for Outstanding Service to Physics in 2016. She was elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Science and Engineering in 2008.



10:15am

GEOSCIENCE AUSTRALIA

Dr Steven Hill, Chief Scientist of Geoscience Australia

Dr Verity Normington, Director, Strategic Science

Dr Steven Hill has been the Chief Scientist at Geoscience Australia since 2018. As Chief Scientist, Steve is responsible for the strategic science leadership, influence and external engagement as outlined in Geoscience Australia's decadal Science Strategy and its science principals.

For two years he was also the acting Chief of Geoscience Australia's Place and Communities Division, responsible for the delivery of the Digital Atlas of Australia, Geoscience Australia's earthquake and other community safety services, and marine and Antarctic geoscience.

Prior to this he worked as South Australia's Chief Government Geologist and Director of the Geological Survey of South Australia from 2013 to 2018. He was a student, researcher and lecturer for over 20 years at the University of Melbourne, the Australian National University, the University of Canberra and the University of Adelaide.

Steve was an active member of four Cooperative Research Centres that brought together university-government-industry sectors. He is widely recognised for his passion and knowledge of geoscience and team leadership, especially for geoscience driving our connection to our country and how we best live with it.



Dr Verity Normington is a “rock chick” who passionately shares her knowledge and insight by telling the stories of rocks. Verity is a geoscientist that applies her STEM knowledge, skills in communicating and engaging with stakeholders and implementing policies in her work. Combining her passion for geoscience communication and stakeholder engagement, she is the Director, Strategic Science for Geoscience Australia's Office of the Chief Scientist.

Verity is a 2024 WILD for STEM Program participant, 2020 Australian Science Policy Fellow and a 2019-2020 Superstar of STEM. Verity is passionate about supporting early Career scientists to remain in science community and is dedicated to sharing her story of overcoming chronic illness to follow her dreams of becoming a scientist.

10:30am

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE

Professor Selina Stead, Marine Biologist and CEO of AIMS

Professor Selina Stead is a marine biologist and environmental scientist with expertise in coral reef ecosystems, aquaculture, fisheries, environmental governance and science policy. She has enjoyed an active dual career in academia and government.

Selina's last roles have been as Executive Dean for the Faculty of Environment at the University of Leeds and the UK Government's Chief Scientific Adviser for the Marine Management Organisation.

Her research focuses on biodiversity conservation, climate change, food insecurity and sustainability, which spans the Caribbean, East Africa, Europe, Middle East, SE Asia and the UK.

She has a Personal Professorship of Marine Governance and Environmental Science from Newcastle University where she acted as Dean of Research and is a Fellow of the Alan Turing Institute. Previously she has served as Chair and Non-Executive Director of the Scottish Government's Science Advisory Board and Ministerial Appointed Scientific Fisheries Advisor.

Selina was President of European Aquaculture Society and her research on climate-smart seafood and conservation was recognised with their highest honour, the Distinguished Services Award. Selina is a member of Science Advisory Panels for Australia's Blue Economy Cooperative Research Centre and the Plant and Food Forum, New Zealand.



She holds a BSc in Marine Biology and Oceanography, MSc in Fisheries Biology and Management and a PhD in Zoology.

10:45am

NATIONAL PETROLEUM SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Dr Cam Sim, Chief Environmental Scientist of NOPSEMA

Pauline Goh, Well Integrity Engineer

Dr Cam Sim is the Chief Environmental Scientist for NOPSEMA, which also delivers the functions of the Offshore Infrastructure Regulator (OIR).

Dr Sim has over 25 years' experience working in areas of marine environmental impact assessment, environmental regulation, environmental policy, oil spill response and applied marine science. Dr Sim has been involved in on-going regulatory oversight and the assessment of many of Australia's largest marine-based projects. He has extensive experience in both the development and implementation of marine environmental policy frameworks that underpin assessments, approvals and management processes at State and Commonwealth levels.

Dr Sim also has experience planning, carrying out and coordinating the delivery of strategic marine science programs in support of policy implementation. As NOPSEMA's Chief Environmental Scientist, Dr Sim leads the agency's work developing strategic approaches to current and emerging regulatory priorities in areas of environmental and cultural heritage management.

Dr Sim also represents NOPSEMA and the OIR in environmental management and marine research at a national and international level, providing strategic advice on priorities and identifying opportunities to enable the continuous improvement of Australia's environmental regulatory systems. Dr Sim has a Bachelor of Science (1st class Hons) and PHD in marine botany from The University of Western Australia.



Pauline Goh is a Well Integrity Engineer at NOPSEMA, Australia's independent regulator. As a technical expert, well integrity engineers play a key role in ensuring the safety of workers, the environment and regulatory compliance.

Pauline has more than ten years of experience in the oil and gas resources sectors, notably working in Australia and internationally as a Field Engineer in drilling and well abandonment prior to joining NISEMA. Pauline's qualifications include a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering (Mechanical Engineering, Hons) from Curtin University.

Dr Duncan Grove, Deputy Director-General, Digital and Technology

Dr Duncan Grove joined the Office of National Intelligence as Deputy Director-General – Digital and Technology in May 2024. In a multifaceted role, Duncan oversees and delivers the transformation of ONI's digital and data capability, while leading the drive to harness innovative technology solutions for the National Intelligence Community. He also represents ONI on a range of senior committees across Government, and supports important government and private-sector partnerships.

With more than two decades working in the Defence and wider national security community, he has extensive experience leading technology-focused research, capability development, service delivery and innovation teams.

Prior to joining ONI, Duncan was Chief Mission Data Officer at the Australian Signals Directorate. After starting his career as a research engineer at the Defence Science and Technology Organisation working on a variety of computer security and artificial intelligence projects, he joined DFAT where he held a number of senior positions leading ICT, Data and Innovation functions.

Duncan has a Bachelor of Computer Systems Engineering (First Class Honours) and PhD in Computer Science from the University of Adelaide, an MBA from UNSW, and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



11:15am

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Grace Sun, Molecular Biologist

Joel Willis, Principal Director – Detection Capability, Biosecurity Operations Division

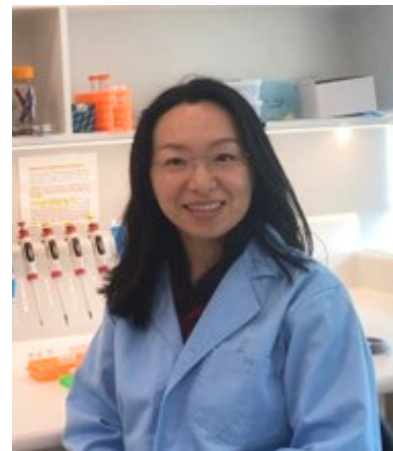
Grace Sun is a dedicated professional with 11 years of expertise in molecular biology and plant pathology. She holds a master's degree in biotechnology from China and began her career as a passionate plant pathologist at an esteemed international seed breeding company in Australia. Through her work, Grace has made significant contributions to disease resistance screening trials in vegetable crops and has played a key role in diagnostics of fungal, bacterial, and viral diseases.

After working as a technical officer at the Queensland Government Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Grace enhanced her diagnostic skills and actively participated in disease management projects.

In her current role at DAFF, she continues to make valuable contributions to diagnostic and innovation projects in plant pathology and molecular biology, particularly over the last five years.

Joel Willis leads the Detection Capability Section, Biosecurity Operations Division, within DAFF. Joel and his team are responsible for delivery of the DAFF Detector Dog Program and a range of detection technologies deployed at Australia's international border.

This includes a particular focus on the department's 3D x-rays and trials of auto-detection algorithms for biosecurity risk material.



In previous roles, Joel led several teams within the Office of Health Protection at the Commonwealth Department of Health including border health, emergency response, pandemic planning and immunisation. Joel is an experienced leader of people, with a passion for making a difference at Australia's frontline.

11:30am

BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY

Dr Luigi Renzullo, Senior Research Scientist

Luigi has over 20 years of experience using satellite observations to study things that happen on the land, like vegetation change and water run-off.

His university studies in mathematics and physics enabled him to turn satellite pictures into information products that help government agencies and the agricultural industry make better decisions about our natural resources.

As a Senior Research Scientist at the Bureau of Meteorology, Luigi explores ways in which satellite data can be combined with land surface models to improve water resources predictions and weather forecasts across Australia.

The Bureau provides an exciting workplace where Luigi can see his research make a real-world difference for the Australian community.



Dr Will Howard, Lead Scientist

Dr Will Howard is Lead Scientist at the Commonwealth Government Climate Change Authority, working across climate science and adaptation, climate policy, negative emissions and other issues.

He got a PhD in Geological Sciences from Brown University in the USA, was a U.S. Department of Energy Global Change Distinguished Postdoctoral Fellow at Columbia University, a lecturer in oceanography at the Sea Education Association in Woods Hole USA, a researcher at the Antarctic Climate & Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre.

He worked at the Office of the Chief Scientist in Canberra from 2010 to 2017, serving as Head of Science there in 2016-17. In 2013-14, he initiated the Sedimentary Basin Management Initiative at University of Melbourne School of Earth Sciences, an integrated approach to understanding and managing sedimentary basins.

He is a member of the National Committee for Earth System Science.

He continues to research marine climate change, with particular emphasis on ocean acidification and its impacts on the past, current, and future ocean, through affiliation at Australian National University.



Katherine Bennell-Pegg, First Female Australian Astronaut and Director of Space Technology

Katherine Bennell-Pegg is an Australian astronaut and space systems engineer. She is the first person qualified as an astronaut under the Australian flag.

Katherine works for the Australian Space Agency, where she has contributed to growing Australia's space capability as technical lead on scoping the nation's first Moon rover mission, developing plans to capitalise on Australia's space strengths, and managing the Access to Space Team.

She has more than a decade of experience developing space programs and strategies, technologies, and missions across Europe, the UK, the US and Australia. These include the Orion vehicle that is taking humans back to the Moon, space station facilities, earth observation missions and robotic satellite capture technologies.

In 2023, Katherine took the giant leap to achieving her childhood dream of becoming an astronaut, when she began training with the European Space Agency in Germany. She graduated in April 2024 and is qualified for missions to the International Space Station.

Katherine holds four degrees across science (physics major), space and aeronautical engineering. She is passionate about using human spaceflight and space to unlock opportunities for researchers and industry, as well as to inspire the next generation.



Katherine is married, with two young children. She's a keen volunteer, having worked with the Australian Army Reserves, Surf Life Saving, State Emergency Service, and Engineers Without Borders Australia. Her hobbies include scuba diving, flying, reading, backyard astronomy, surfing, sailing, basketball, netball, tennis, hiking and cycling.

Zane McMillan, Data Graduate

Zane McMillan is a young data professional excelling in the STEM field at the ABS.

Currently a Mathematical Statistics Specialist in the Data Access and Confidentiality Methods Section, Zane is part of the next generation of ABS methodologists, whose expertise and commitment to methodological and statistical quality are paving the way for innovation and future thinking at the ABS.

Starting his career with a strong foundation in physics and mathematics, Zane has quickly emerged as a future expert amongst the talented STEM professionals at the ABS. He is passionate about sharing his knowledge and experiences to inspire the next generation of STEM professionals.

At the GSG STEM Careers Expo, Zane's presentation will dive into where a career in data science can take you. He will provide practical insights and advice for students and young professionals interested in pursuing careers in data science and technology.

He is dedicated to promoting STEM fields, encouraging individuals from all backgrounds to explore opportunities in data science.



12:30PM

QUESTACON

Dr Bobby Cerini **General Manager, Science** **and Learning**

Dr Bobby Cerini is the Deputy Director and General Manager of Science and Learning at Questacon. She is responsible for the quality and creative direction, national strategic engagement and impact of Questacon's activities to deliver successful exhibitions and programs throughout Australia.

Bobby has recognised expertise in science communication and STEM engagement, gained over the last 20 years in leading initiatives for government, cultural and academic organisations in Australia, the United Kingdom and New Zealand.

Bobby represents the Department of Industry, Science and Resources on a variety of STEM program boards and committees including the Intergovernmental Committee for Diversity in STEM. Bobby is also actively involved in national and international networks, as a member of the Executive Council for the Asia Pacific Network of Science and Technology Centres, as well as an International Advisory Board member for the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for All Sky Astrophysics in 3 Dimensions.

Bobby holds a PhD in science communication from the Australian National University, with research into the influence and impact of contemporary science heroes.



12:45PM

AUSTRALIAN PESTICIDES AND VETERINARY MEDICINES AUTHORITY

Emi Schutz, Regulatory Science Network

Emi joined APVMA as a graduate in 2019 and now works in the permits team. The APVMA is the national regulator of agricultural and veterinary chemical products. Emi has a master's degree in biochemistry and enjoys using her science background at work to keep the food we eat and products we use safe.

Emi is speaking on behalf of the Regulatory Science Network, a forum for Australian government agencies responsible for regulating chemicals to discuss regulatory scientific issues. This talk will discuss the differences between regulatory science and 'regular' science and explore careers in regulatory science



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF SPORT

1:00PM

Dr Paolo Menaspà, Chief Science Officer

Dr Paolo Menaspà, Chief Science Officer at AIS, has two decades of international experience in the field, working across Olympic, Paralympic, and professional sports. He has been embedded in National Teams preparing for the Beijing 2008, London 2012, Rio 2016, and Tokyo 2020 Games.

To support evidence-informed decision-making, his role requires engaging with a diverse range of stakeholders, including Olympians, Paralympians, coaches, engineers, medical doctors, PhD students, quantum scientists, AI researchers and Chief Scientists of other Government agencies.



1:15PM

COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

Melanie McGrath, Researcher in CSIRO's Collaborative Intelligence and Responsible Innovation Future Science Platforms

Melanie is a researcher in CSIRO's Collaborative Intelligence and Responsible Innovation Future Science Platforms. Melanie's work addresses the integration of human and AI capabilities at the individual, group, and organisational levels.

She specialises in the role and implications of human trust in AI, and how this understanding can be harnessed to develop and deploy responsible AI solutions. Her research expertise is coupled with a strong commitment to translating scientific concepts into actionable insights, and she has experience delivering workshops and presentations to industry, government, and academic audiences.



Melanie has postgraduate qualifications in psychology from Monash University and a doctorate in social psychology from the University of Melbourne.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SCIENTIST



Dr Cathy Foley, Australia's Chief Scientist

1:30PM

1:45PM

AUSTRALIAN RADIATION PROTECTION AND NUCLEAR SAFETY AGENCY

Dr Ivan Williams, Australia's Chief Medical Radiation Scientist

Ivan Williams is the Chief Medical Radiation Scientist at the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency. He is an internationally recognised expert in medical physics and radiation protection.

In 2021, he was appointed to the International Commission on Radiation Protection's committee on medical radiation protection. This year he represented Australia at the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation.



2:00PM

AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Dr Kylie Jones, Principal Forensic Scientist

Dr Kylie Jones is the AFP's Principal Forensic Scientist, leading and managing the delivery of specialist capabilities that support the operational needs of the Australian Federal Police. From traditional forensic science services to emerging technology and technical intelligence, this role ensures that capability development is aligned to operational effectiveness, and that the foundations of those capabilities are robust.

Kylie joined the AFP after graduating from university in 2006, training to become a qualified Forensic Document Examiner. It was in this role that she commenced her PhD in 2010, operationalising Isotope Ratio Mass Spectrometry for the comparison of document papers and then polymers, a national and international first.

A leading expert in Forensic Document Examination and Forensic Chemistry, she has published book chapters, peer reviewed articles and presented at a wide range of international conferences and meetings over the past 15 years. As a practitioner, Kylie was the case-reporting officer for a large number of significant and high impact cases, most notably supporting significant counter terrorism investigations.



Over the past five years, Kylie has led the development of the Forensic Management System case management tool, enhancing her specialist knowledge with business analysis and software development experience. Leading change across forensics and ensuring that benefits are realised through this project, has led to a passion and drive in technological enhancement and transformation of forensic science. This is a key focus of the AFP Forensics Strategy 2026 and beyond and Forensic Strategic Outlook, which Kylie led the development of and delivered to the AFP in February 2024.

Kylie holds a Bachelor of Applied Science in Forensic Science and Medical Biotechnology from the Queensland University of Technology and was awarded a PhD in Science from the University of Technology Sydney in 2016. Kylie has been awarded a number of internal awards including the AFP Commissioner's Medal for Excellence and an AFP Commissioner's Medal for Innovation.

2:15PM

DEPARTMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY, THE ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

Dr Che Doering, Director of the Environmental Research Institute of the Supervising Scientist Andrew Jansen, Applied Scientist

Dr Che Doering is a Senior Principal Research Scientist and Director of the Environmental Research Institute of the Supervising Scientist. He joined the Office of the Supervising Scientist in 2011 and has a background in radiation physics.

Andrew Jansen is an applied scientist with over a decade of experience across academia and government. In his current role, Andrew supports the Office of the Chief Remote Pilot in the development of innovative applied science and research into operational tools and monitoring programs that align with the Department's strategic priorities. His work spans across Australia's landscape including iconic National Parks like Uluru-Kata Tjuta and Kakadu.

The Office of the Chief Remote Pilot undertakes operational science to conserve, protect, and sustainably manage Australia's natural environment through a nature-positive approach. We work on complex environmental problems that are high profile and often require collaboration from diverse backgrounds.

His presentation will showcase how they develop innovative methods using new technology (e.g., drones and artificial intelligence) that contribute to species survival, such as the vulnerable Rufous Hare Wallaby and Great Desert Skink.

Andrew's expertise extends to developing complex environmental monitoring solutions using advanced technologies.



His projects often involve remote sensing equipment, deep learning, and cloud computing to analyse big data. He has led the experimental design, method development, and execution of monitoring techniques aimed at assessing potential impacts on ecosystems.

His work includes innovative methods such as underwater videography for fish population surveys, multi-spectral drone data for wetland vegetation mapping, LiDAR surveys for terrain modelling, high-resolution photogrammetry for tree species classification, and thermal sensors on drones for wildlife population estimates.

Andrew chairs the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Community of Practice (CoP) at DCCEEW, which aims to promote a culture of innovation and collaboration to develop and operationalise business solutions using artificial intelligence. The CoP runs sprint projects that utilise AI to tackle environmental challenges.

2:45PM

DEFENCE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY GROUP

**Professor Tanya Monro,
Chief Defence Scientist**

**Dr Nigel McGinty,
Chief Technology Officer**

Professor Tanya Monro AC commenced as Chief Defence Scientist in March 2019. In this role she is head of Defence Science and Technology Group (DSTG) and Capability Manager for Innovation, Science and Technology within the Australian Department of Defence.

In June 2022, Professor Monro was awarded a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) in for eminent service to scientific and technological development, to research and innovation, to tertiary education, particularly in the field of photonics, and to professional organisations.

Other honours and awards include: the Bragg Gold Medal for the best PhD thesis by an Australian university student, Prime Minister's Malcolm McIntosh Prize for Physical Scientist of the Year, SA Australian of the Year, Eureka Prize for Excellence in Interdisciplinary Scientific Research, and ARC Georgina Sweet Laureate Fellowship.

Professor Monro obtained her PhD in physics from The University of Sydney, and was awarded a Royal Society University Research Fellowship at the University of Southampton.



Her previous roles include Deputy Vice Chancellor Research and Innovation at the University of SA and inaugural director of the Institute for Photonics and Advanced Sensing and the ARC Centre of Excellence for Nanoscale Bio Photonics at the University of Adelaide.

Professor Monro is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science, the Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering (ATSE), the Optical Society of America and the Australian Institute of Physics. She also sits on the board of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

Dr Nigel McGinty is the Chief Technology Officer – Science Strategy, Communications and International Engagement, within the Science Engagement and Impact Division of the Defence Science and Technology Group.

Dr McGinty is responsible for science strategy and policy direction and outcomes for DSTG. Ensuring One Defence alignment and the advocacy of science and technology across the department. Dr McGinty also leads the National Security Science and Technology program which coordinates and fosters the development of science and technology across Government to enhance Australia's national security. Supporting national security Dr McGinty created the Safeguarding Australia S&T Challenges which brings together the university and industry sectors to develop innovative capabilities.

Previously, Dr McGinty was the Program Leader Integrated Force with the responsibility of leading DST's contributions to the strategic centre including Force Design, joint concepts, whole-of-force experimentation and simulation, Force Integration and strategy. In supporting the development of the 2020 Force Structure Plan Nigel led a team of over 100 analysts and scientists supporting the planning and rigorous analytical foundations. Dr McGinty was the lead advocate for advancing Defence Science and Technology and the enhanced Defence Innovation ecosystem with the creation of the Capability Acceleration Fund.

Before this Dr McGinty led the Strategy and Joint Force Branch where he applied analytical approaches to shape strategic thinking in Defence and national security and capabilities to be joint and integrated by design to maximise Defence effectiveness. The branch also examines future operating environments and concepts, including emerging and disruptive technologies, and applies scientific analysis towards understanding the strategic context.



Previously, Dr McGinty led the Technology Forecasting and Futures Group which undertook to inform Defence's strategic planning to safeguard Australia against the strategic surprise of emerging and disruptive technologies. Prior to this position, Dr McGinty helped to shape the S&T landscape considered by DST Group and broader Defence in his position as Head of Future Strategies within Science Strategy and Policy Branch. In this role, he worked directly in support of the development of the 2015 and 2013 White Papers and the 2011 Force Structure Review. Dr McGinty was also responsible for managing DST Group's Technical Risk Assessments and certification of all major Defence capability projects.

Dr McGinty has received two Defence Gold Commendations, has a PhD in Telecommunications Engineering from the Australian National University and a Bachelor of Electronic Engineering from RMIT University. Nigel is a long term member of the IEEE.

3:00PM

GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY

Dr Roger Beeden, Marine Biologist, Chief Scientist of GBRMPA

Roger is the Reef Authority's Chief Scientist. He has held several senior management roles since he joined the Reef Authority in 2008 including positions in Climate Change, Reef Knowledge, Reef Interventions and Tourism and Stewardship.

His current role is the culmination of more than two decades working to protect the Reef, and focuses on communicating the Reef Authority's key management initiatives to the community and developing science collaborations with national and international research teams to better protect the Reef for future generations.

In recent years Roger has focused on the expansion and delivery of the crown-of-thorns starfish control work and coordination with the Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program. These initiatives are delivered in partnership with government, not-for-profit, industry, community and Traditional Owners, serving as frontline response actions that can be taken to protect the Reef for future generations. The demonstrated coral protection outcomes delivered by the Banksia Award winning COTS control program aid the implementation of the Reef 2050 plan, inform the five-yearly Outlook report, and underpin resilience-based management of the Great Barrier Reef as the climate changes.



Originally from the UK, Roger moved to Townsville in 2004 to complete an MSc degree in Marine Biology at James Cook University. Since then, he has combined this knowledge with 12 years of commercial marketing experience from the pharmaceutical industry to identify strategies to support the future of the Great Barrier Reef ecosystem under a changing climate. In partnership with a range of scientific, government and non-government organisations Roger has focused on improving Reef stewardship and building knowledge about the resilience of coral reef ecosystems to climate change.

Roger completed a PhD in 2014 that examined how individuals, industry and managers can jointly assess reef health to inform actions to support the resilience of the Great Barrier Reef.

Vimala Rajavelu, Chief of Plant Breeder's Rights

Lachlan Lo, Senior Patent Examiner

Brooke Larnach, Training Academy Team Leader in Trade Marks

With a career spanning more than 20 years across both the private and government sectors, Vimala began her career in STEM as a pharmacist. As a highly analytical and strategic operator, Vimala has utilised her practical skills in STEM to lead and deliver numerous high profile government programs and initiatives, as well as large scale, complex and innovative IT transformation and business improvement projects across a range of APS Departments and settings. She has also held a number of senior positions on government advisory committees, both domestically and internationally. IP Australia recently welcomed Vimala as the Chief of Plant Breeder's Rights.

Lachlan Lo is a Senior Patent Examiner with experience in medical device and mechanical patents. He studied at the University of Melbourne, achieving both a Bachelor of Science (physics) and a Master of biomedical engineering with Distinction. Lachlan has had experience working with the University of Melbourne's otolaryngology department and Biomedical Engineering department on research projects and has developed a healthy appreciation for medical device IP through this and his experience with IP Australia.



As a Patent Examiner, Lachlan has the opportunity to see and review the cutting-edge developments in technology, something he considers to be the best aspect of the job. In his spare time, Lachlan enjoys reading, tabletop games, and some boxing when he feels the need to be active.

Brooke Larnach is a Training Academy Team Leader in Trade Marks with a passion for education, particularly in helping curious individuals grasp the essence of trade marks. As a team leader, Brooke shares her expertise, supports colleagues, and mentors trainee trade mark examiners. She guides them through our competency based training programs, enabling them to become fully fledged examiners. Prior to her current role, Brooke was as a Senior Trade Mark Examiner and has a Bachelor of Science degree.

3:30PM

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

Emma Deaves, Strategic Reforms Officer, Laboratories Branch

Emma joined the TGA in 2018 as a Microbiologist for the Microbiology Section. She worked as a laboratory analyst as well as a secondary evaluator, responsible for the evaluation of manufacturing quality data for prescription medicines and biological products.

Before the TGA, she was a microbiologist in a clinical pathology laboratory where she worked to diagnose bacterial infections and determine antibiotic susceptibility. Emma also specialised in fungal and mycobacterial species identification.



AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION

3:45PM

Dr Madhura Manohar, Accelerator Scientist

Dr Madhura Manohar is an Accelerator Scientist at ANSTO's Centre for Accelerator Science.

With a PhD in medicinal chemistry, Madhura has a passion for science that impacts real world challenges for human and environmental health, such as air pollution and PFAS in food packaging.

