

## Kark Group 2014 summary



Biodiversity  
Research  
Group

Dear all,

This past year, 2014, was a busy, productive and active year for our research group. We have established our lab at UQ's School of Biological Sciences and as part of EDG, with exciting research activity, new students, group members, publications, grants and outreach.

So what have we done this year?

- We have created a **new web page** for the Kark Group, in which we have information about our members, research and publications: [karkgroup.org](http://karkgroup.org) (please add to your signature and send to your friends and colleagues...) many thanks to Tim for working on this.
- We have **published and are advancing a range of new publications** on collaboration in conservation in marine and terrestrial systems, conservation prioritisation, alien species, urban areas, agricultural landscapes and more...  
see: <http://karkgroup.org/index/publications/>
- **Tessa Mazor has submitted** and received very positive comments on her PhD, congratulations! She has already been accepted and started a postdoc at CSIRO in Boggo Rd so is still in the area.
- We have been fortunate to **welcome six new PhD students** to our group from six countries and four continents...Welcome Andrew, Ruben, Hernan, Ed, Steve and Francoise (who is based in NSW with Andrea).
- We had two **Honours students** join our group (with Laura completing, well done!) and several students are expected to begin their Honours in 2015 (welcome Damien)...
- We have advanced our research with the help of four **outstanding RAs**, thanks Carla, Tim, Matt and James.
- We have been joined by several keen **interns and volunteers** who have helped advance our computer work, field work and a range of projects (thanks Isabella, Camille, Matt P, Gabriel and all others).
- We have contributed to **EDG, CEED and NERP** research, workshops and science, to help advance this outstanding team.
- We are part of a **newly approved Commonwealth hub called NESP**, where 30 m AUD have been awarded to work on projects relating to threatened species recovery (and threatening processes) in the upcoming 6 years (together with many other colleagues), led by Hugh (thanks!).
- Salit has enjoyed **teaching** several new courses for her, Applied Ecology in semester one for Year 3 students and Wildlife & Conservation Biology (Masters ij Conservation Biology program) with positive student feedbacks, as well as the BAdvSci course for excellent Year 1 BIOL students.
- We have had **press releases, Decision Point** and media coverage of our work, including one coming out next week on invasive birds and urban exploiters, see web page.

- We have advanced Salit's **ARC Future Fellowship** project, advancing the database of alien birds and mammals in Australia, and have started examining, factors and processes shaping the success and failure of invasive species, as well as spatial and temporal patterns.
- We have been granted and have begun the first year of our **ARC Discovery** project on interactions between the Indian myna, noisy miners and other birds and their impacts on the establishment of the alien mynas, comparing source and front populations in NSW and QLD in collaboration with the University of Newcastle. We have put up **120 nesting boxes** (in Brisbane and Gatton with a similar number in NSW) and have started working on field experiments with model birds, playbacks, and more.
- We have advanced our work on **collaboration in conservation in marine, freshwater, and terrestrial systems**, publishing several papers in this area.
- We have developed excellent collaborations towards a new project we have begun about alien and threatened species on **Australian islands** and **prioritisation** for conservation, working closely with Helen Smith, who will hopefully join our group soon.
- We have attended and presented our work in **international and regional scientific conferences**, including the SCB international marine meeting, the Australasian Vertebrate Pest Conference, the ESA annual congress and others.
- We have **led several workshops** to which we invited both Australian and international colleagues, including a NERP/CEED workshop on **island prioritisation** of invasive and native species at UQ in November 2014, a planning workshop on **mynas and bird interactions** in October 2014 for our ARC Discovery project, a NERP/CEED workshop on invasive birds in Canberra in June and a CEED workshop on **collaboration in conservation in the Western Indian Ocean** in May.
- We are leading and advancing the **third International Workshop on Conservation Planning in the Mediterranean Basin**, which will take place in April in Italy, in continuation to the two first workshops we led in 2012 and 2013, creating a tradition and bringing together an amazing group of experts working on marine conservation in the region.
- We have built a small **interdisciplinary team** working on **collaboration in big rivers**, with colleagues from several research groups from countries such as Brazil and Kenya, working on the Amazon, the Nile and more.
- We have **hosted and built collaborations with a wide range of guests** from around the world visiting the School of Biological sciences and EDG, scientists, managers, policy makers and practitioners.
- We have **built ties with primary schools, high schools, the UQ Sustainability Office, a range of Local Councils in Queensland, State Governments, the Commonwealth Dept of Environment** and other organisations and individuals relating to our cavity nesting project, providing outreach and conservation impact.
- We have aimed to **make a difference** for science, conservation and nature with international impact and have hopefully contributed to this area.

**Thanks everyone for the great teamwork, and in advancing together all our activity this year. Have a great holiday and happy New Year,**

**Wishing us all a wonderful 2015 !!!**



Photo: Steve Grey, Oxley Creek Commons, Brisbane, Oct 2014