

The Future of the Murray Darling Basin Lessons from History 2021

Conference Themes

- **The Murray Darling Basin Plan: Triumph or Tragedy? Murray River History.**
- **Murray River Histories.**
- **Indigenous perspectives of water and wetlands.**
- **NAPREC themes Murray Darling Basin from a socio-ecological perspective reconciling ecological and economic priorities.**
- **Regional Development.**
- **The Murray Darling Basin and Federation.**
- **The role of regional development in Post-Covid reconstruction in Australia.**
- **Riverina perspectives.**

The aim of this conference is to generate a national discussion through an examination of policies, environmental studies, communities and histories of the Murray Darling and River systems. It aims to understand the Murray Darling Basin system from historical perspectives that align with the ecological and hydrological views. There are two main streams the Murray Darling Basin and regional histories of south-eastern Australia.

This conference offers perspectives and educate us about what has happened on the Murray-Darling system in the past 170 years. The system has been impacted, the climate has changed and the recent crisis, variability and degradation. This conference seeks to longitudinally understand the variability and the holistic pathways to change in the system. The conference also examines the history of the river system and role of communities and regional development in long-term socio-ecological strategies for Murray Darling Basin. This conference has assembled experts in the environment, Basin policy, regional studies, historians and stakeholders to better understand how the Murray Darling system functions. It's worth remembering that the system and its governance has changed over the past hundred years and is not all a recent phenomenon.

Please note that due to Covid 19 guidelines and capacity constraints numbers at Tuileries numbers are limited and the event is registered and subject to change. Registration: k.reeves@federation.edu.au by the 16th of February. Early registrations welcome.

Venue: 13-35 Drummond Street, Tuileries Complex, Rutherglen, Victoria

Dates: 24, 25, 26th February 2021.

Format: 2 days plus added day of an optional Friday 26th field trip.



24 February 2021 Day 1 Histories

Morning

9.00 am Opening Keynote: The Importance of Regions Prof Duncan Bentley, Vice Chancellor and President, Federation University Australia.

9.20 am Keynote: Prof Peter Gell, “The Murray-Darling Basin” Federation University Australia keynote conference (Chair: Faith Coleman).

10 am Keynote: Phil Duncan “Aboriginal Voices in the Water Industry, We Can Be Better Together” (Chair: Prof Peter Gell).

10.45 am – 11 am: Morning tea

11 am Keynote: Prof Susan Lawrence, La Trobe University (Chair: Prof Charles Fahey).

12 pm Keynote: Emeritus Prof Charles Fahey, “Long run perspectives of Murray Darling agriculture” La Trobe University (Chair: Prof Andrew Reeves).

12.45 pm – 1.30pm: Lunch



Afternoon

1.30 pm Keynote: Prof Max Finlayson – climate change adviser in the STRP to RAMSAR; Past President of the Society of Wetland Scientists and Chair of the Winton Wetlands Environmental Science Advisory Panel (Chair: Faith Coleman).

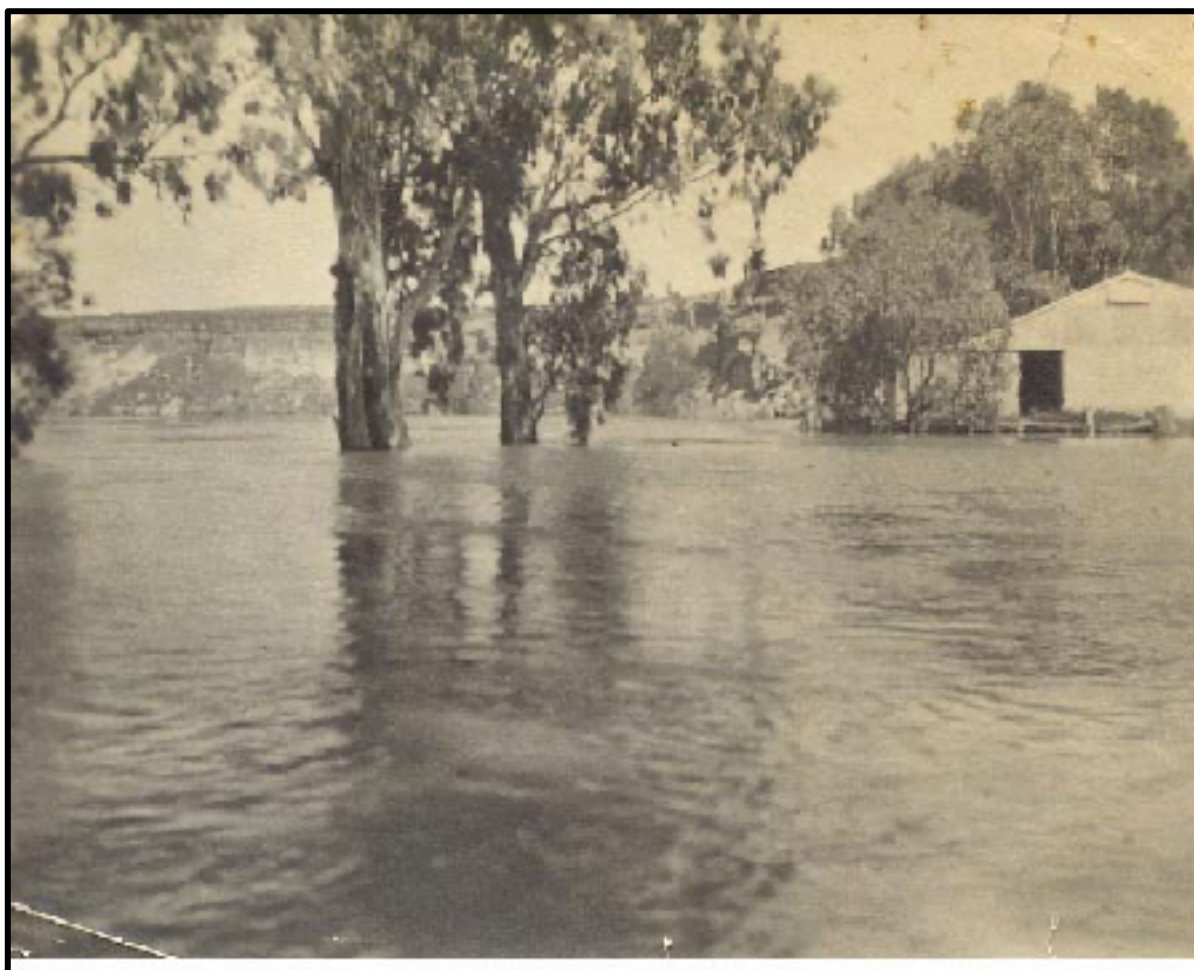
2.30 pm – 3.30 pm Postgraduate Rapid Fire Five Slide Shoot-out (Chair: Keir Reeves)
Faith Coleman – Federation University Australia.
Neeraj Mall – Federation University Australia.
Peter Taylor – Federation University Australia.

3.30 pm – 3.45 pm Afternoon tea

4.30 pm – 5.30 pm Hans Sipp – Aboriginal Exhibitions Gallery floor talk and canapes.

6.30 pm Dinner Welcome

Keynote Dinner Speaker: Dr Emily O’Gorman, Macquarie University.



25 February 2021
Day 2 Policies and Solutions

Morning

9.15 am Prof Martin Thoms **Water Quality and the Murray Darling system.**

10am Murray-Darling Region heritage, history and tourism (Chair Dr Emily O’Gorman)

Dr Brad Duncan, Murray River Heritage, Adjunct University of New England.

Prof Keir Reeves, Wine Heritage, History and Tourism Federation University Australia.

Associate Prof Jennifer Frost and Prof Warwick Frost La Trobe University Post-Covid Regional Tourism.

Mandy Jones, Jones Winery and Vineyard.

10.50 am Morning Tea

11.00 am Matthew Toulmin **Socio-economic impact on the Murray Darling system** (Chair Associate Prof Jennifer Frost, La Trobe University).

11.30 am Keynote Industry Regional Development session

Darren de Bortoli, Dr Fabian Chevlin, David Farley, Prof Tim Harrison CEO Ararat.

12.45 pm Lunch

Afternoon

1.30 pm – 3 pm Keynote Panel on Murray Darling Basin Plan: Has it achieved a better, more sustainable future for the Basin economy, community and the environment?

Suzanna Shead MP for Shepparton, Helen Dalton Member for Murray, Prof Sharman Stone former Member for Murray and Monash University, and regional industry representatives and activists Louise Burge, Debbie Buller and Jodie Hays. (Darren de Bortoli moderator).

Shelley’s Block Field Event: Marc Scalzo CEO and Chief Winemaker, De Bortoli Wines Rutherglen Estates.



26 February 2021

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Day 3 Historical Beechworth Field Trip

Friday morning 10am (meet at Bourke Museum Loch St, Beechworth).

Beechworth mining history town walk visit with historian Professor Keir Reeves and friends. Contact Keir on 0400721161 or k.reeves@federation.edu.au for any information.

(Please note that you will require your own transport and this is a self-catered event. Please wear a pair of sturdy shoes, bring a hat and water bottle).

This event will conclude in Beechworth in the early afternoon.



Notes