

Professor Ralph Mac Nally



Ralph Mac Nally is Professor of Ecology at Monash University Melbourne. He is Director of the Australian Centre for Biodiversity and Theme Leader for Biodiversity and Ecological Processes in the Monash Sustainability Institute. His areas of expertise are landscape ecology, conservation ecology and quantitative ecology. He holds a PhD and DSc (both University of Melbourne) and has postgraduate qualifications in computer science.

Ralph was awarded the prestigious David Syme Research Prize in 1998, and was a co-winner of the David Ashton Biodiversity Prize (DNRE, 2000) and a Cambridge Scientific Abstracts Biocomplexity Prize in 2003. He has served on more than 20 advisory panels (national and Victorian) including the 2nd Birds Australia Atlas statistical advisory panel, and currently serves on the monitoring advisory panels for the Living Murray and Sustainable Rivers Audit.

Ralph has published more than 110 peer-reviewed scientific papers including all major international journals (Ecology, Journal of Animal Ecology, Conservation Biology, Ecological Applications). He serves on the editorial boards for the journals Diversity & Distributions and Austral Ecology, and is on the organizing committee for INTECOL X to be held in Brisbane in 2009.

His work on the ecological importance of fallen timber on floodplains has led to guidelines for loads being incorporated into management of river red gum systems. He currently has four ARC Linkage Grants with industry partners (Victorian Departments of Primary Industry and Sustainability and Environment, the northern CMAs), which has formed a specialist group interested in future landscapes (Landscape Futures Alliance, http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/lwm_biodiversity_lfa).

These projects are designed to provide methods and tools for future landscape planning for biodiversity improvements over 50-100 year time horizons. One project is providing assessments and models for dealing with the decline in river red gum health at whole-of-Murray River scales. A previous alliance in the late 1990s focusing on box-ironbark ecosystems provided critical inputs into the ECC's deliberations for that region, including protection of areas of old growth trees and forested drainage lines and streams. He also works with American colleagues on whole-landscape planning for the Great Basin region in Nevada.