

Dr PAUL SUNNUCKS

With Andrea Taylor, Paul Sunnucks co-runs the Molecular Ecology Research Group at Monash University, associated with the Australian Centre for Biodiversity. The research of the group is highly collaborative and encompasses population biology of a large range of Australian animals including mammals, reptiles and diverse invertebrates, in natural and human-impacted situations. Projects have spanned investigations of the fundamental biology of organisms, patterns and processes in biodiversity, and studies of species responses to human impacts including forestry, agricultural systems and urban infrastructure. Much of the research is centred on the questions of how organisms move through and utilize landscapes, and what are the demographic and biological consequences of reduced mobility. Some projects are single-species ones, but most examine suites of species to compare species-specific responses to similar environmental contexts and changes.



Paul's first degree was in Zoology at Oxford University, where he did no genetics whatsoever. However, during his PhD at the University of London on rabbit sociobiology, it became clear that even the primitive population genetics approaches of the 1980s were indispensable for studying population biology. That was cemented by a postdoctoral position at the Institute of Zoology, London, where he first worked with Andrea Taylor, who was pioneering important advances in molecular ecology. Following two postdoctoral positions in Sydney, he has held a lectureship in Genetics, and is currently Senior Lecturer in Zoology, in the School of Biological Sciences at Monash. Paul has an editorial role for journals *Molecular Ecology*, and *Evolution*. Paul has also published 76 peer-reviewed papers in population biology and genetics since 1993.

Happily his family, Andrea, Alice and Ruby, tolerate and even support his interest in creatures that inhabit decomposing logs.