

The Biodiversity & Ecosystem Research Group invites to a **guest lecture** on
22 August 2016, 16:00 h in room 513 (GEO1 building, Heisenbergstr. 2):

Scaling the benefits of large-scale conservation programs in agricultural landscapes

Geoffrey Kay

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Agricultural expansion and intensification are major causes of biodiversity loss. To mitigate this, billions of dollars are committed by governments annually to land-stewardship conservation programs. These aim to engage landholders, often at large scales, in sustainable farming practices. Evidence for the effectiveness of these programs is growing, but remains lacking in many parts of the world, and for important taxonomic groups (e.g. ground-dependent vertebrates) most at risk in agricultural landscapes. Recent studies have demonstrated that the effectiveness of programs is influenced by a number of scale-dependent factors and management actions that may influence biodiversity response, but these remain poorly understood.

In his talk, Geoff presents results from his PhD research identifying local- and landscape-scale factors that influence biodiversity within one of the world's largest land-stewardship programs. Set within south-eastern Australian woodlands, the work highlights opportunities for advancing the effectiveness of land-stewardship programs for conserving biodiversity in agricultural landscapes.

