

Media release: Monday, February 28 2022

Conservation changemakers join forces to inspire female leadership

Womens' leadership is the topic on the table this week at the annual *Celebrating Women in Conservation Breakfast* hosted by environmental not-for-profits Trust for Nature and Bush Heritage Australia, back for its 11th consecutive year.

The event coincides with International Women's Day on March 8 and has become a favourite for the conservation sector, with in-person tickets selling out months ago.

Two guests Victoria McKenzie-McHarg and Linh Do will share stories from their decades of experience in climate action and advocacy to champion how women are effective, powerful changemakers in conservation.

Victoria is the Strategic Director of Women's Environmental Leadership Australia (WELA). She has led climate strategy and campaigns for over fifteen years and is dedicated to empowering, supporting, funding and diversifying women's leadership to respond to environmental crises.

Linh is the Director of Leaders for Global Sustainability at the University of Melbourne and Director of National Partnerships at Climate Catalyst. She is passionate about climate justice and social inequality and was part of a global team to localise and humanise stories from the UN climate change negotiations.

Together, they will join MC Tanya Ha and hundreds of women and men from across the conservation sector in recognition of the United Nations International Women's Day and this year's apt theme **Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow**.

It has been a tumultuous period globally with the COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with an increase in extreme weather events, and the time is nigh to discuss what gender equality means in the context of ongoing climate change and environmental natural disasters.

"Australians are realising how diverse women's leadership can help provide the answers we need as we face the challenges of 2022 and beyond," Victoria says.

"By supporting diverse leadership, specifically diverse women's leadership, organisations will see changes across the board. International evidence is clear that having women at the decision-making table improves environmental outcomes."

Trust for Nature CEO, Victoria Marles, said it will be great to have the Breakfast in person again.

"I am thrilled that we are able to gather together in person to celebrate the work of women leading the charge to address extinction and climate change. It's an opportunity to recognise the essential role that women are playing, whether they are out in the field or working behind the scenes.

"Trust for Nature celebrates its 50th year this year and to be able to mark the occasion at the Breakfast will be wonderful."

Both organisations are excited to see the event back up and running in-person this year, after 2021's event was held online due to the COVID-10 pandemic.

The eleventh *Celebrating Women in Conservation* Breakfast, jointly hosted by Trust for Nature and Bush Heritage Australia, will take place on **Thursday 3 March at 7-9:30am AEDT** at ZINC in Federation Square and online.

This year it is generously supported by Principal Event Partner NAB and Supporting Event Partner Lord's Mayor's Charitable Foundation.

Tickets to the event at Zinc are sold out. Virtual tickets are available at [Humanitix](#)

Further information

For 50 years Trust for Nature has been working with private landholders to protect important habitat, forever. Sixty per cent of land in Victoria is privately owned.

As a not-for-profit we have partnered with more than 1,500 Victorians to protect their land and, together with our reserves, we have protected almost 110,000 ha across Victoria. [Our vision is a future in which Victoria's nature is valued, protected and thriving.](#)

Bush Heritage Australia is an independent not-for-profit that buys and manages land, and partners with Aboriginal people to protect our irreplaceable landscapes and our magnificent native species forever.

There are close to 2,000 animals and plants on Australia's threatened species list. Bush Heritage steps in where we're needed most, protecting all species on our reserves

We respect, listen and learn from working side-by-side with Traditional Owners, and by working in partnerships with pastoralists and other organisations to have the most impact

Together, we're returning the bush to good health.



Media enquiries

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Images

[Click here](#) for high-resolution photos of previous year's *Celebrating Women in Conservation Breakfast*