



SCIENCE | TECHNOLOGY | ENGINEERING | MATHEMATICS

# EXPLORING STEM IN THE MARY RIVER

Empowering Minds, Nurturing Scientific Curiosity

A National Science Week Forum

**Saturday 12 August 2023**

**9am-4pm**

Mimburi, Belli Park

Bookings essential.  
\$10 per person.  
Morning tea and lunch provided.

# FORUM PROGRAM

**9:00am** ● **Welcome to Country**  
*Presented by Kabi Kabi Traditional Owners*

**9:10am** ● **STEM in the Mary**  
Science in the Mary River Catchment.  
*Presented by Ian Mackay, Chair, Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee*

**9:45am** ● **Living with floods**  
Cultural and historical precedents in the Brisbane River, attitudes towards and mitigation strategies for flooding.  
*Presented by Dr Margaret Cook, Research Fellow, Australian Rivers Institute, Griffith University and LaTrobe University*

**10:20am** ● **Morning tea**

**10:45am** ● **Bouncing back from extreme events**  
Discover how a suite of actions will address catchment resilience and threatened species recovery in Moonaboola (Mary River) through a 3-year National Environmental Science Program project.  
*Presented by Prof. Mark Kennard, Australian Rivers Institute, Griffith University*

**11:20am** ● **Identifying nature's signatures**  
eDNA technology offers a sensitive and cost-efficient alternative to traditional methods of species monitoring which can be expensive and challenging.  
*Presented by Tom Espinoza, Director Of Research, Burnett Mary Regional Group*

**11:55am** ● **Teeny Weeny Science**  
A high powered microscope will reveal the smallest aquatic creatures at the bottom of the food chain. Identification keys will reveal sensitivities and functional groups.  
*Presented by Eva Ford, Threatened Species Officer, MRCCC*

**12:30pm** ● **The guts of gully repair**  
Sediment from eroding gullies is one of the greatest threats to the ongoing health of the Mary River and Great Barrier Reef. A string of calculations is needed to successfully stop a gully eroding.  
*Presented by John Day, Soil Conservation Specialist*

**1:00pm** ● **Lunch**

**2:00pm** ● **Eyes in the skies**  
The use and benefits of drones for threatened species koala monitoring including an overview of the Wildseek program, and our journey to be able to undertake this work (training and licensing).  
*Presented by Rachel Lyons and Jen Coleman, Noosa & District Landcare*

**2:40pm** ● **We are not alone!**  
Monitoring cameras for survey work and data collection have come a long way. So many cameras, so many applications!  
*Presented by Steve Burgess, Director of Data Management, MRCCC*

**3:20pm** ● **The adventures of water**  
The implications of water quality and run-off for land and water use.  
*Presented by Brad Wedlock, Operations Manager, MRCCC*

**4:00pm** ● **Close**

## Mary River Catchment

