

Professor. Stephen Hopper

Biography

I am a conservation biologist, trained and widely published in evolution, ecology and taxonomy. My research and teaching interests are broad, with specialist expertise in eucalypts, the plant family Haemodoraceae (containing kangaroo paws), orchids, plants of granite outcrops, rare plants and pollination by vertebrates.

I have worked in the Western Australian Government, at UWA, and been Director of two world class botanic gardens, while maintaining an active field research program right up to the present day. I have broad interests in biodiversity and in devising ways for people to live sustainably with biodiversity on old, climatically-buffered infertile landscapes.

I was born on the north coast of New South Wales in 1951, and moved west as a teenager, attending John Curtin Senior High School in Fremantle before enrolling as a science undergraduate at UWA in 1969.

I graduated from UWA with a BSc (Hons 1st class) in botany and zoology in 1973 and a PhD on speciation in kangaroo paws (*Anigozanthos*: Haemodoraceae) in 1978. My PhD supervisor was the late Associate Professor Sid James, an inspirational teacher and original thinker.

I was employed as Western Australia's first Flora Conservation Research Officer in 1977, and promoted to Senior Principal Research Scientist and Officer in Charge of the Western Australian Wildlife Research Centre, Department of Conservation and Land Management from 1988-1992. In 1990 I was Fulbright Senior Scholar at the University of Georgia (USA) and Miller Visiting Research Professor at the University of California, Berkeley, working on granite outcrop plant life, which continues as a research interest.

I joined Kings Park and Botanic Garden as the Director in 1992, and from 1999 to 2004 served as Chief Executive Officer of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority (which manages Kings Park and Botanic Garden and Bold Park), leading the delivery of improvements to programmes and infrastructure to world-class standards. At the same time I held Adjunct Professorships at UWA (Botany Department) and Curtin University of Technology (School of Biology).

While Foundation Professor of Plant Conservation Biology at The University of Western Australia from 2004-2006, I developed new theory on the evolution and conservation of biodiversity on the world's oldest landscapes (OCBIL theory), and led the establishment of new degrees in conservation biology.

I joined the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew in London, a World Heritage site and global plant science powerhouse of 800 staff, in October 2006, and led the organisation through celebrations of its 250th anniversary in 2009. I was honoured to be the first non-British Director (CEO and Chief Scientist) to hold that august post. I led the development and implementation of a forward 10 year Breathing Planet Program for Kew and its global partners. This collaborative Program aimed to make an urgent and necessary step change in the application of science-based plant diversity solutions towards sustainable living and a reasonable quality of life in the face of accelerating climate change and the loss of biodiversity. The Millennium Seed Bank Project was a key part of this program.

In October 2012, I stepped down as Director (CEO & Chief Scientist) of Kew to become Winthrop Professor of Biodiversity at the University of Western Australia, based in Albany at UWA's Centre of Excellence in Natural Resource Management, with a joint appointment at the School of Plant Biology.

Employment

Research outputs

Aboriginal-constructed lizard traps on Western Australia's south coast create reptile habitat and teach principles of granite outcrop conservation

Cramp, S., Knapp, L., Paterson, H., Speldewinde, P., Lullfitz, A. & Hopper, S., 24 Feb 2025, In: Pacific Conservation Biology. 31, 2, PC25004 .

A new vegetation classification for Western Australia's Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve and its significance for fire management

Hopkins, A. J. M., Williams, A. A. E., Harvey, J. M. & Hopper, S. D., 6 Jun 2024, In: Pacific Conservation Biology. 30, 3, 35 p., PC24036.

The Cultural Ecohydrogeology of Mediterranean-Climate Springs: A Global Review with Case Studies

Pascual, R., Piana, L., Bhat, S. U., Castro, P. F., Corbera, J., Cummings, D., Delgado, C., Eades, E., Fensham, R. J., Fernández-Martínez, M., Ferreira, V., Filippini, M., García, G., Gargini, A., Hopper, S. D., Knapp, L., Lewis, I. D., Peñuelas, J., Preece, C. & Resh, V. H. & 11 others, Romero, E., Samraoui, B., Samraoui, F., Segadelli, S., Skoulikidis, N.

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Plant diversity on the edge: floristics, phylogeography, fire responses, and plant conservation of Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve in the context of OCBIL theory

Hopper, S. D., Harvey, J. M., Hopkins, A. J. M., Moore, L. A. & Smith, G. T., 20 May 2024, In: *Pacific Conservation Biology*. 30, 3, 27 p., PC24024.

Coastal dwarf variants of the red swamp Banksia (Proteaceae) represent parallel ecotypic evolution rather than a divergent evolutionary lineage of single origin

Robins, T. P., Binks, R. M., Byrne, M. & Hopper, S. D., May 2024, In: *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society*. 142, 1, p. 8-20 13 p.

A Merningar Bardok family's Noongar oral history of Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve and surrounds

Knapp, L., Cummings, D., Cummings, S., Fiedler, P. L. & Hopper, S., 29 Apr 2024, (E-pub ahead of print) In: *Pacific Conservation Biology*. 30, 3, PC24018.

Bryophytes of Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve, Western Australia

Wyatt, R., Stoneburner, A. & Hopper, S., 29 Apr 2024, In: *Pacific Conservation Biology*. 30, 3, PC24020.

Eucalyptus sweedmaniana subsp. noongaring, a new four-winged mallee (E. series Tetrapterae: Myrtaceae) endemic to boylya (granite outcrops) of the kwongkan east of Esperance, Western Australia

Hopper, S. D., 22 Mar 2024, In: *Nuytsia*. 35, p. 225-232 8 p.

A new weed for Western Australia from Torndirrup National Park: Plecostachys serpyllifolia (Asteraceae)

Hopper, S. D., 2024, In: *Nuytsia*. 35, p. 137-140 4 p.

Yannow Boonark: Slow Moving Trees

Broomhall, S. (Producer), Gibbard, P. (Performer), Pickering, G. (Producer), Taylor, M. (Performer), Garlett, B. (Performer), Thomson, C. (Performer), Yarran, G. (Performer), Warall, M. (Performer) & Hopper, S. (Performer), 14 Nov 2023

Remnant peat deposit provides clues to the inundated cultural landscapes of Kepa Kurl, southwestern Australia

Ward, I., Guilfoyle, D., O'Donnell, A., Byrne, C., Macphail, M. & Hopper, S. D., Jun 2023, In: *The Holocene*. 33, 6, p. 671-684 14 p.

Ocbil Theory as a Potential Unifying Framework for Investigating Narrow Endemism in Mediterranean Climate Regions

Hopper, S. D., Feb 2023, In: *Plants*. 12, 3, 645.

Talking Mungee – a teacher, provider, connector, exemplar: what's not to celebrate about the world's largest mistletoe, Nuytsia floribunda

Lullfitz, A., Knapp, L., Cummings, S., Woods, J. & Hopper, S. D., 2023, In: *Plant and Soil*.

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Rodrigues, U., Lullfitz, A., Coyne, L., Dean, A., Eades, A., Flowers, E., Knapp, L., Pettersen, C., Woods, T. & Hopper, S. D., Oct 2022, In: *Human Ecology*. 50, 5, p. 963-980 18 p.

Plant mating system dynamics in restoration: a comparison of restoration and remnant populations of Hakea laurina (Proteaceae)

Fernandes, R. E., Millar, M. A., Coates, D. J., Byrne, M., Krauss, S. L., Williams, M. R. & Hopper, S. D., Sept 2022, In: *Restoration Ecology*. 30, 7, 12 p., e13609.

First Nations' interactions with underground storage organs in southwestern Australia, a Mediterranean climate Global Biodiversity Hotspot

Lullfitz, A., Knapp, L., Cummings, S. & Hopper, S. D., Jul 2022, In: Plant and Soil. 476, 1-2, p. 589-625 37 p.

Modelling the impact of canker disease and fire regimes on the population dynamics and extinction risk of the Critically Endangered and granite endemic shrub *Banksia verticillata* R.Br.

Yates, C. J., Barrett, S., Dilly, M., Hopper, S. D., Stewart, B. & Williams, M. R., Aug 2021, In: Australian Journal of Botany. 69, 5, p. 274-284 11 p.

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Robins, T. P., Binks, R. M., Byrne, M. & Hopper, S. D., 1 Jun 2021, In: Biological Journal of the Linnean Society. 133, 2, p. 449-463 15 p.

Inselberg floristics exemplify the coast to inland OCBIL transition in a global biodiversity hotspot

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OCBIL theory examined: Reassessing evolution, ecology and conservation in the world's ancient, climatically buffered and infertile landscapes

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Out of the OCBILs: New hypotheses for the evolution, ecology and conservation of the eucalypts

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Soil and plant outcomes of harvesting a Noongar staple geophyte in south-western Australia

Lullfitz, A., Pettersen, C., Knapp, L. & Hopper, S. D., 1 Jun 2021, In: Biological Journal of the Linnean Society. 133, 2, p. 418-431 14 p.

The Noongar of south-western Australia: a case study of long-term biodiversity conservation in a matrix of old and young landscapes

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Ayre, B. M., Roberts, D. G., Phillips, R. D., Hopper, S. D. & Krauss, S. L., 16 Aug 2019, In: *Annals of Botany*. 124, 3, p. 423-436 14 p.

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Grants (ROAP awards)

Kinjarling Djinung Maat – Albany's Lookout Trail

Hopper, S. (Investigator 01), Lullfitz, A. (Investigator 02), Cummings, S. (Investigator 03), Cramp, S. (Investigator 04) & Rodrigues, U. (Investigator 05)

City of Albany: A\$200,000.00

1/09/24 → 31/12/27

Grants (ROAP projects)

Caring for Country, people and communities through Noongar Cultural Burning

Lullfitz, A. (Investigator 01) & Hopper, S. (Investigator 02)

Department of Fire and Emergency Services (Western Australia)

1/11/22 → 31/10/24

Collecting the West: How collections create Western Australia

Paterson, A. (Investigator 01), Witcomb, A. (Investigator 02), Coles, A. (Investigator 03), Lydon, J. (Investigator 04), Hopper, S. (Investigator 05), Gregory, J. (Investigator 06), Konishi, S. (Investigator 07), Van Gent, J. (Investigator 08) & Burrows, T. (Investigator 09)

Art Gallery of Western Australia, ARC Australian Research Council, State Library of WA (J S Battye Library of WA History), Western Australian Museum

14/10/16 → 30/06/23

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Decmil - Contribution to Heritage Studies

Hopper, S. (Investigator 01), Lullfitz, A. (Investigator 02) & Cramp, S. (Investigator 03)

Decmil Group Limited

26/08/21 → 31/12/23

Evolution and conservation consequences of promiscuity in plants pollinated by honeyeaters

Bezemer, N. (Investigator 01), Hopper, S. (Investigator 02) & Krauss, S. (Investigator 03)

Ecological Society of Australia

1/01/15 → 31/12/16

Genetic consequences of insect pollination in a bird-adapted tree

Bezemer, N. (Investigator 01) & Hopper, S. (Investigator 02)

Ecological Society of Australia

1/07/18 → 30/06/19

Healing Land Healing People: Novel Nyungar Perspectives

Kickett, D. (Investigator 01), Hopper, S. (Investigator 02), Haebich, A. (Investigator 03), Dowling, C. (Investigator 04) & Shellam, T. (Investigator 05)

ARC Australian Research Council

1/01/20 → 31/12/24

Is restoration working? An ecological genetic assessment

Hopper, S. (Chief Investigator), Coates, D. (Chief Investigator), Krauss, S. (Chief Investigator) & Byrne, M. (Chief Investigator)

ARC Australian Research Council

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ARC Australian Research Council , Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (Western Australia)
1/01/15 → 31/12/19

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Hopper, S. (Chief Investigator), Coates, D. (Chief Investigator), Krauss, S. (Chief Investigator) & Byrne, M. (Chief Investigator)
ARC Australian Research Council
1/01/15 → 31/12/17

Kinjarling Connect GSDC Albany Waterfront Master Plan. Stage 1

Hopper, S. (Investigator 01), Lullfitz, A. (Investigator 02), Cramp, S. (Investigator 03), Rodrigues, U. (Investigator 04) & Cummings, S. (Investigator 05)
Great Southern Development Commission
10/09/24 → 31/12/25

Kinjarling Djinung Maat – Albany’s Lookout Trail

Hopper, S. (Investigator 01), Lullfitz, A. (Investigator 02), Cummings, S. (Investigator 03), Cramp, S. (Investigator 04) & Rodrigues, U. (Investigator 05)
City of Albany
1/09/24 → 31/12/27

Noongar Knowledge and Aspirations in Contemporary Fire Mitigation Planning

Hopper, S. (Investigator 01), Lullfitz, A. (Investigator 02) & Rodrigues, U. (Investigator 03)
Shire of Denmark
15/10/20 → 30/06/21

PEAT | Protecting peatland ecosystems and addressing threats in Southwestern Australia

Mitchell, N. (Investigator 01), Hopper, S. (Investigator 02), Skrzypek, G. (Investigator 03), Catullo, R. (Investigator 04), Lullfitz, A. (Investigator 05), McCallum, J. (Investigator 06), Dortch, J. (Investigator 07), Knapp, L. (Investigator 08), Webb, W. (Investigator 09), Horwitz, P. (Investigator 10), Blake, D. (Investigator 11), Islam, S. (Investigator 12), Edmonds, D. (Investigator 13), Miller, B. (Investigator 14), Liddelow, J. (Investigator 15), McGrath, G. (Investigator 16), Densmore, V. (Investigator 17), Harvey, M. (Investigator 18), Tatarnic, N. (Investigator 19) & Durrant, B. (Investigator 20)
The Ian Potter Foundation
21/10/22 → 21/10/26

Protecting the Safe Havens - Will Granite Outcrop Environments Serve as Refuges for Flora Threatened by Anthropogenic Climate Change

Hopper, S. (Investigator 01)
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (Western Australia)
23/04/13 → 31/12/13

Shallow-Soil Endemics - Do Differences in Root Foraging Behaviour Explain Species Rarity

Hopper, S. (Chief Investigator)
The University of Western Australia
1/01/06 → 31/12/06

The evolution and conservation consequences of promiscuity in plants pollinated by vertebrates

Hopper, S. (Investigator 01), Krauss, S. (Investigator 02) & Phillips, R. (Investigator 03)
ARC Australian Research Council
1/01/14 → 31/12/17

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Almuna Morales, R. (Investigator 01), Speldewinde, P. (Investigator 02), Hopper, S. (Investigator 03) & Estima Ramalho, C. (Investigator 04)
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2/01/23 → 30/11/23

Walking Together; applying Noongar traditional ecological knowledge to modern natural resource management
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6/04/20 → 5/04/24

Datasets

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CV Professor Stephen D. Hopper AC May 2024 UWA Albany Centre and School of Biological Sciences

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