

SHORT BIOGRAPHY for Lee Skerratt

Since completing his PhD in October of 2001 at the University of Melbourne Dr Skerratt has worked as a research associate at the University of Wisconsin in 2002/2003 and then as a senior lecturer at James Cook University (JCU) from 2003-2007. He is currently a part-time research fellow at JCU. The remainder of his time is spent sharing the care of his three young children with his wife Dr Lee Berger.

Dr Lee Skerratt is one of Australia's leading young wildlife epidemiologists and respected internationally. He has worked on a variety of invasive diseases affecting wildlife, including amphibian chytrid fungus in frogs, sarcoptic mange in wombats, echinococcosis in wallabies, enteritis in long-tailed ducks due to a novel adenovirus and recently has begun projects on avian influenza viruses in waterbirds, surra in Australian wildlife and the health of endangered Proserpine rock wallabies. He is known for demonstrating the effect of diseases on the dynamics of wildlife populations and working towards their management. He has used zoological and veterinary methods of study for the systematic study of wildlife diseases. This has provided a template to guide future researchers of wildlife disease in their research approach. In particular, he was the first person in Australia to use knowledge gained from laboratory work to undertake experimental infections in native animals in the wild. He has used knowledge gained from his studies to make recommendations for the management of diseases in wildlife.

Specifically, he has demonstrated that the spread of the amphibian chytrid fungus has caused the global decline and extinction of frogs (Skerratt et al. 2007) which was recently accepted at the conference "Amphibian Declines & Chytridiomycosis: Translating Science into Urgent Action" at Tempe, Arizona, November 2007. He has shown that sarcoptic mange is an important disease in common wombats, *Vombatus ursinus* that may cause the extinction of small isolated wombat populations (Skerratt 2005). He has identified pathogens that may be contributing to the decline of 10 of the 15 species of sea ducks in North America (Skerratt et al. 2005). He was the co-chair of the 11th International Wildlife Disease Association Conference: Wildlife Health in a Shrinking World, Ecology, Management and Conservation.