

Guardians of Hope - Oceania Documentary Premiere

Filmed during a 94,000km solo expedition through Oceania, Amanda Dudgeon's documentary 'Guardians of Hope' offers a rare and powerful glimpse into the lives, challenges, and resilience of rangers who devote themselves to protecting the natural world.

In 2022-2023, Amanda travelled through eight countries - Australia, New Zealand, Tonga, Samoa, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, and Timor Leste – on a 12-month trek to raise awareness of the vital conservation work rangers do.

"From remote islands to rainforest interiors, these unsung guardians reveal what it truly means to protect not just land and natural heritage - but hope itself," Amanda said.

"Rangers across Oceania are on the frontlines—leading incident and fire response, enforcing conservation laws, caring for wildlife, educating communities, and combining traditional knowledge with modern methods," said Amanda. "We're building inclusive, community-led conservation that transforms how we protect the environment."

Amanda interviewed over 150 rangers, gathering insights into the professionals responsible for protecting nature in an uncertain future. She visited over 20 islands in Oceania, travelling by four-wheel drive, by boat and plane, as well as by helicopter and quad bike, and meeting with ranger teams and visiting the remarkable vestiges of pristine nature and wilderness they protect.

As a practicing ranger, Amanda's perspective captures the many challenges rangers face across the changing land and seascape.

"While, on most days, it's the best job in the world, it's also one of the toughest jobs out there," she said. "In terms of climate change and degradation of ecosystems in reserves and national parks, rangers confront enormous challenges across the Pacific region."

"The work that Samoan and Tongan youth rangers are doing is directly focused on this issue; they're planting mangroves to prevent the danger and impact of tsunamis and cyclones, as well as rising sea levels," Amanda said. "Witnessing the rapid impact of climate change is something that really affects rangers' mental health."

During her Oceania expedition, Amanda also walked over 1600km in honour of over 1,000 rangers who have died on duty across the world in the last decade. The International Ranger Federation records about two to three fatalities every week, globally.

The documentary is being launched in Sydney on World Ranger Day, 31st July.

"World Ranger Day honours the brave people who dedicate their lives to protecting our planet's precious wildlife and natural habitats," said Amanda. "It's also a day to remember rangers who lost their lives while on duty. From the dense forests to the expansive savannas, rangers are the frontline heroes in the fight against poaching, habitat destruction, and human-wildlife conflict."

“This year’s theme is **‘Rangers, Powering Transformative Conservation’** — recognising how rangers are central to global biodiversity goals, in particular, the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) goal to protect 30 percent of Earth’s land and oceans by 2030.”

“The work of rangers is vital to safeguard biodiversity, combat climate change, and ensure sustainable ecosystems for future generations through global collaboration, as well as to support the United Nations’ broader Sustainable Development Agenda.”

Tickets for the ‘Guardians of Hope’ premiere at Palace Cinemas Moore Park are available at:

<https://events.humanitix.com/guardians-of-hope>

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Ranger Amanda Dudgeon works full-time for the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, based in northern NSW. She is available for interview on 0431 690 977.

Please see her bio below.



The Protected Area Workers Association is proud to co-host this event. <https://protectedareaworkers.org/>



Thin Green Line is proud to support the premiere of ‘Guardians of Hope’.

Biography: Amanda Dudgeon – Championing Oceania’s Rangers

Amanda Dudgeon is an Australian park ranger whose career has taken her from the turquoise blue coast of South Australia to the broad red deserts of Central Australia and now the subtropical rainforests of Australia’s East Coast.

She loves the challenges and the diversity of a job where she gets the opportunity to fight fires, monitor threatened species, use chainsaws and heavy machinery (a.k.a. fun toys), audit and hike long distance trails, occasionally fly across the landscape in a helicopter, and (the greatest privilege of all) work with Traditional Owners looking after Country.

Amanda had trained to be a fine-dining chef. Influenced by her teacher, and the Slow Food movement, she continued her culinary studies in Italy. There, she helped launch the Youth Food Movement.

As part of that group, Amanda was approached to run a workshop about food production for the Women’s and Children’s Group of the United Nations Commission of Sustainable Development. On the back of that workshop, and despite working in a job she loved, Amanda asked herself, ‘Am I really making a difference in the world?’

She studied Natural Resource Management at the University of Queensland. On one field trip she went to Airlie Beach where the ranger – Barry Nolan - inspired the class.

“Barry feels that rangers need to understand the community along with the conservation objectives and tasks,” Amanda said.

Amanda knew from the week she started working as a graduate ranger in South Australia, that ‘I was meant to be a ranger.’

Amanda is qualified as a geographical scientist. She was inspired by her father’s work in geospatial science.

Now she has an honours degree in paleoecology - the study of interactions between organisms and their environments across geologic timescales. As a discipline, paleoecology is linked to a variety of fields including paleontology, ecology, climatology and biology.

Amanda is the International Ranger Federation’s Regional Representative for Oceania.