

HELLO KOALAS
FESTIVAL

P R E S E N T S

An Important Conference for Environmental Scientists, Wildlife Carers
and Community Members with a special interest in Koalas

Caring for our **KOALAS**
& OUR ENVIRONMENT
• C O N F E R E N C E •

THURSDAY 7 JUNE 2018, 9AM TO 5.30PM | SAILS, PORT MACQUARIE NSW



Hello Koalas
sculpture Jimmy,
Port Macquarie
Koala Hospital,
photo Lindsay Moller

CONFERENCE
EXCURSIONS

Koala Hospital, Sea Acres Rainforest
Centre and Old Bottlebutt in
Burrawan State Forest

FRIDAY 8 JUNE 2018,
9AM TO 12.30PM

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

Cheyne Flanagan, Koala Hospital, Port Macquarie and Koala Preservation Society of Australia.
Trish Harrup, A/Director, Public Land and Aquatic Ecosystems Branch, Policy Division NSW Office for Environment and Heritage **Mike Roache**, Threatened Species Conservation Programs, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage. **Associate Professor Damien Higgins**, Koala Health Hub, Sydney School of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney. **Nick Boyle**, Conservation, Health and Welfare, Taronga Zoo.
Dr Brad Law, Forest Science Centre, DPI NSW. **Chris Slade**, Forestry Corporation NSW.
David Rowlinson, Make It Wood Campaign, Planet Ark. **Adriane Boag**, Program Producer, "Wellness and the Environment", National Gallery of Australia, Canberra. **Denis Mamo**, White Space Concepts, Sydney
Margret Meagher, Hello Koalas Sculpture Trail. **Rebecca Montague-Drake**, Development and Environment, Port Macquarie-Hastings Council, **Rolf Schlagloth**, Research Fellow, School of Health, Medical and Applied Sciences, Central Queensland University.



Caring for our **KOALAS** & OUR ENVIRONMENT

**1st Annual Caring for Our Koalas and Our Environment Conference,
7 June 2018, Sails Hotel Port Macquarie**

Speakers

1. Cheyne Flanagan
2. Damien Higgins
3. Trish Harrup
4. Mike Roache
5. Brad Law
6. Chris Slade
7. Adriane Boag
8. David Rowlinson
9. Rebecca Montague-Drake
10. Denis Mamo
11. Rolf Schlagloth
12. Margret Meagher
13. Nick Boyle



Caring for our **KOALAS** & OUR ENVIRONMENT

**1st Annual Caring for Our Koalas and Our Environment Conference,
7 June 2018, Sails Hotel Port Macquarie**

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

8am - Coffee and Tea served

9am - Conference Opens

9am - Welcome by Conference Convenor **Margret Meagher**, Project Director Hello Koalas Sculpture Trail and Executive Director The Australian Centre for Arts and Health

9.10am - Acknowledgement to Country

9.15am - **Cheyne Flanagan**, -

9.40am - **The Koala Health Hub: An Update**

Damien Higgins, Director Koala Health Hub and Associate Professor Pathobiology and Wildlife Health

10am - **NSW Koala Strategy**

Trish Harrup, Acting Director of the Public Land and Aquatic Ecosystems Policy Branch, NSW Office of the Environment and Heritage

10.20am - **The Saving Our Species Iconic Koala Project**

Mike Roache, Senior Team Leader - Threatened Species Issues Management, Office of Environment and Heritage

10.40am - General Discussion

11am Morning Tea (25 mins)

11.30am - **Mayor Peta Pinson** welcomes delegates

11.45am - **Exploring the Role of a Modern Zoo in Koala Conservation**

Nick Boyle, Manager Conservation, Health and Welfare Taronga Conservation Society Australia

12.15pm - **Why Is It Important to Use Flagship Species in Community Education? The Koala as a Case Study**

Rolf Schlagloth, Researcher with Koala Research Central Queensland

12.45pm - **Why Wood Is Good**

David Rowlinson, Make It Wood Campaign Manager, Planet Ark Environmental Foundation

1.15pm Lunch (55 mins)

2.15pm - **Koala Habitat and Biodiversity Management in State Forests**

Chris Slade, Senior Ecologist, Hardwood Forests, Forestry Corporation of NSW

2.35pm - **Acoustics Provide New Insights on Koala Status** and Response to Timber Harvesting in North-east Forests

Brad Law, Principal Research Scientist, Forest Science Unit NSW Department of Primary Industries

3pm - **Koalas in the Port Macquarie-Hastings Local Government Area:** Threats and Opportunities

Rebecca Montague-Drake, Ecologist, Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

3.30pm Afternoon Tea

4pm - Speaker 11: Adriane Boag

4.20pm - **Koala Cut-Through**

Denis Mamo, Marketing Director Hello Koalas Sculpture Trail and CEO White Space Concepts

4.40pm - **Title?:**

Margret Meagher, Project Director Hello Koalas Sculpture Trail and Executive Director The Australian Centre for Arts and Health

5.00pm Wrap-up - Moderator?

5.30pm Conference Closes

6pm - Drinks in the foyer and bar

7pm Dinner

7.15pm Entrée

7.45pm Main

8.20pm Dessert

9pm close

PROGRAM PRESENTERS

NICK BOYLE

*Manager Conservation, Health and Welfare Taronga
Conservation Society Australia*

Exploring the Role of a Modern Zoo in Koala Conservation

Nick Boyle has 16 years of experience working in the zoo and aquarium industry. He has worked across multiple disciplines, including conservation, animal health and husbandry, regulation, compliance, research and education. In his current role, he is responsible for Taronga's strategic focus areas Conservation Outcomes and Animals in Our Care, including oversight for Taronga's conservation programs and partnerships, wildlife hospitals, nutrition department and animal population and welfare team.

Nick holds a Bachelor of Law and a Bachelor of Science (Communication). He is an Advisory Board Member to the Conservation Centres for Species Survival (C2S2), sits on the NSW Schools Animal Care and Ethics Committee, and is a member of the Australasian Species Management Program Committee.

Nick is passionate about creating strong links between wildlife and communities. With over 700 million visitors a year, zoos, wildlife parks and aquariums are in a prime position to influence the relationships between people and wildlife.

Each year Taronga welcomes around two million guests. Connecting guests with animals and demonstrating a clear and simple individual call to action has seen powerful results. This presentation will consider the role that zoos like Taronga have played in species recovery, research, formal education and shaping behaviour change, while recognising that there is a lot more the industry could do for koala conservation. Ultimately, the presentation questions, 'what is the one action that individual Australians should take for koalas, and how can zoos influence this?'

TRISH HARRUP

*Acting Director of the Public Land and Aquatic
Ecosystems Policy Branch, NSW Office of the
Environment and Heritage*

NSW Koala Strategy

Trish Harrup is Acting Director of the Public Land and Aquatic Ecosystems Policy Branch with the NSW Office of the Environment and Heritage. The branch leads on policy, strategy and legislative reforms for public protected areas including National Parks, public land management, and water management issues. It also leads on marine estate management reforms. Trish supported the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer during her review into the decline of koalas in NSW in 2016. The Public Land and Aquatic Ecosystems Policy Branch also led the development of the NSW Koala Strategy released by Premier Gladys Berejiklian and Minister for the Environment Gabrielle Upton on 6 May 2018.

The NSW Government's Koala Strategy - the biggest commitment by any state government to secure koalas in the wild - will provide more natural habitat for koalas, tackle diseases, improve research and fix roadkill hotspots. The NSW Government will commit \$45 million to the strategy.

Koala populations are under increasing pressure and have declined in NSW by an estimated 26% in the last 15-20 years. The NSW Government has an ambitious goal of securing threatened species in the wild for the next 100 years. The NSW Koala Strategy sets out the first phase of actions to stabilise priority koala populations in NSW, with the longer-term goal of increasing koala numbers across the state.

The strategy identifies a set of actions that will be committed to over the next three years, working with the whole community, under four pillars:

- koala habitat conservation,



- conservation through community action,
- safety and health of koala populations, and
- building our knowledge and education.

DAMIEN HIGGINS

Director Koala Health Hub and Associate Professor Pathobiology and Wildlife Health

The Koala Health Hub: An Update

Damien Higgins (BVSc, MVetStud (Wild An Med Hub), PhD) integrates pathology, immunology, and disease ecology in his research program to define impacts and drivers of disease emergence in wildlife, particularly those experiencing habitat fragmentation and degradation (our most prevalent threatening process).

His koala research areas have included diversity of chlamydial strains in fragmented habitat; koala immune gene diversity and association with disease; impact of eucalypt toxins on immune function; risk factors for koala morbidity based on hospital admissions; and evidence of koala retrovirus-associated changes in immune profiles of koalas. He is now working to integrate these into whole-of-system studies to determine disease drivers and impacts and inform disease risk assessment for koala management.

For the past four years Damien has directed the Koala Health Hub, which provides free diagnostic services and expertise to koala care groups and facilitates training, communication and collaboration among 200-plus academic, local, state and federal government bodies, koala care and community group representatives. His teaching covers general pathology and mechanisms of disease, laboratory disease investigation, wildlife disease ecology, surveillance and management, and threatened species management.

BRAD LAW

Principal Research Scientist, Forest Science Unit NSW Department of Primary Industries

Acoustics Provide New Insights on Koala Status and Response to Timber Harvesting in North-east Forests

Brad Law is a research scientist at the Forest Science

Unit of NSW Department of Primary Industries, based in Sydney. Brad has over 25 years of experience in forest wildlife ecology and has published more than 130 peer-reviewed papers.

Much of Brad's research has involved looking at the effects of forestry operations on wildlife, including bats, eucalypt nectar, pygmy possums and the Hastings River mouse. It was surveying bats using their echolocation calls that originally inspired Brad to think about using acoustics to survey for koalas in difficult to access forests where detection rates are low.

Koalas are surprisingly difficult to survey due to their low densities and cryptic nature, especially in tall remote forests. New acoustic technology has been used in a large-scale survey of koalas in forests of the hinterland, ranges and tablelands of north-east NSW to provide new insights into their response to timber harvesting and their current status.

DENIS MAMO

Marketing Director Hello Koalas Sculpture Trail and CEO White Space Concepts

Koala Cut-Through

Denis Mamo is a creative leader who has worked across just about every category in marketing, from soup to soap, cola to cars, and government to not-for-profits in agencies such as Ogilvy, Mojo and BWM. However, it is his 15 years as Group Creative Director and Partner of health agency Ursa that focused his skills in changing behaviours and moving markets in the health category.

Denis's campaigns have helped thousands of people lose weight, give up smoking, break free from Hep C, manage their diabetes, avoid heart attacks, prevent allergies and treat coughs. Now, as founder and CEO of agency White Space Concepts, Denis creates influential work across a diverse portfolio of companies including Medtronic, Westpac, ID Exchange and Spinal Cure Australia. However, the one achievement people seem most interested in is the fact that Denis was the first creative leader to win "The Pitch" twice on the Gruen Transfer!

As Marketing Director for Hello Koalas Sculpture Trail,

Denis has become involved in nature-based tourism and believes Hello Koalas has huge potential to not only bring joy but awareness, experience and action for the conservation of our vulnerable koalas.

DR REBECCA MONTAGUE-DRAKE

Ecologist, Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

Koalas in the Port Macquarie-Hastings Local Government Area: Threats and Opportunities

Rebecca Montague-Drake has over 25 years of experience working as an ecologist, for universities and government departments. Her background is primarily in wildlife research, and she has been fortunate to work in some beautiful and remote locations around Australia. Rebecca grew up on a rural property on the slopes of Middle Brother Mountain, Kendall, where she was lulled to sleep by the calls of koalas. She is pleased to be back in the area working with Port Macquarie-Hastings Council and other stakeholders to help protect the biodiversity of this beautiful region, including undertaking research and initiatives to draw attention to, and hopefully reverse, some of the threats that face koalas in this area, including road stroke, dog attack, habitat loss and inappropriate wildfires.

The Port Macquarie-Hastings Local Government Area has had a strong cultural association with koalas and is one of the remaining coastal 'strongholds' for the species. The koala population is also important to the local tourism industry and, therefore, the economy. Unfortunately, recent data including Population Viability Analysis demonstrates the troubles that local koalas are facing.

This talk outlines datasets underpinning the research undertaken by Council, the initiatives it is employing, and also outlines ways that the community can help to say "Hello Koalas" through improved education, consumer choices, citizen science and advocacy.

MIKE ROACHE

Senior Team Leader – Threatened Species Issues Management, Office of Environment and Heritage

The Saving Our Species Iconic Koala Project

Mike Roache has a state-wide role on koalas and

flying-foxes with the Office of Environment and Heritage. He has an ecology background and has worked for universities, non-profit and government organisations.

Mike co-ordinates the Saving Our Species Iconic Koala Project, which aims to secure the koala in the wild in NSW for the next 100 years. It is building on the valuable contributions made by individuals and groups across the state to reduce critical threats to koalas, and to ensure adequate protection, management and restoration of koala habitat. The project consists of a set of broad actions, the Action Toolbox, that provide a conservation guide for anyone interested in helping koalas.

Areas known to be occupied by significant koala populations are being prioritised for conservation action and investment. Some conservation actions have been funded by Saving our Species over the last two years and are underway. They include:

- State-wide spatial analysis of koala information.
- A profile of koala disease across NSW.
- Development of an app that can feed koala information into NSW BioNet.
- Establishment of a community koala web portal that will highlight existing programs, local activities and best practice case studies.

DAVID ROWLINSON

Make It Wood Campaign Manager, Planet Ark Environmental Foundation

Why Wood Is Good

David Rowlinson studied Architecture and Building Engineering in the United Kingdom, and also has an MBA and a Masters of Marketing. He manages the Make It Wood campaign for Planet Ark, which aims to increase the use of responsibly sourced wood as a building material. Wood is the only major building material that helps tackle climate change, is naturally renewable and allows users to practice 'ecological footprinting'. It also stores carbon and consumes much less energy in its production than other materials.

The Planet Ark report, Wood – Nature Inspired Design, has outlined the importance of connecting buildings with the natural world and how, with biophilic design and use of wood, we can bring nature indoors and provide a healthier, happier environment for all. A groundbreaking Australian study has recently concluded that natural-looking wooden surfaces in the workplace are strongly associated with increased employee wellbeing and satisfaction, affording potentially significant improvements to productivity

Prior to joining Planet Ark, David was CEO of a major Australian-based building products manufacturer. He is currently a Non-Executive Director of the Living Future Institute of Australia and was also a judge on the 2017 NSW Green Globe Awards.

ROLF SCHLAGLOTH

Researcher with Koala Research Central Queensland

Why Is It Important to Use Flagship Species in Community Education? The Koala as a Case Study

Since migrating from Germany nearly 30 years ago, Rolf Schlagloth (Cert IV Ecotourism; B Appl Sc, Dip Edu, Ma Edu St) has been fascinated by the koala. He researches the species from a conservation, education, ethics and historical point of view and has rescued many individual koalas after fires, collisions with cars, dog attacks and disease. Rolf teaches Mathematics and Science at secondary level and is also currently working as an adjunct researcher with Koala Research Central Queensland, based within the School of Health, Medical and Applied Science at Central Queensland University, where he is about to complete his postgraduate research on Modelling Koala Road-kill Blackspots.

Rolf was closely involved with the introduction of the Koala Plan of Management for Ballarat during a nine-year collaborative project between conservation, local government and the community. He strongly believes in the power of the koala as a flagship for many causes and has recently co-authored a paper on the topic (Schlagloth, R.; Santamaria, F.; Golding, B.; & Thomson, H., Animal Studies Journal, vol. 7 no.1, 2018, 127-148. <http://ro.uow.edu.au/asj/vol7/iss1/7>).

Educating the community to accept changes in planning laws aimed at protecting a single species, such as the koala, has never been easy. Rolf will outline the power of this iconic Australian mammal in promoting

conservation and changes in planning regulations, and highlights the flow-on conservation and educational benefits of flagship and umbrella species in a world where conservation is often overpowered by other interests and priorities.

CHRIS SLADE

Senior Ecologist, Hardwood Forests, Forestry Corporation of NSW

Koala Habitat and Biodiversity Management in State Forests

Chris Slade studied Applied Science at Western Sydney University (USW) Hawkesbury, and his Masters in Natural Resources Management Masters at the University of New England (UNE). His Masters project investigated the installation of grates at derelict mines to enable bats to continue to utilise these important roosting sites, while keeping people out.

Chris has a long association with the Forestry Corporation, commencing work at the Research Division Ecology unit. Chris then worked as Regional Ecologist in Eden for nearly 10 years, before moving to the Mid North Coast as the Regional Ecologist 11 years ago. He is now the Senior Ecologist for Hardwood Forests.

He has worked on various species, including micro-bats, southern brown bandicoots, long-nosed bandicoots, long-nosed potoroos, giant burrowing frogs, the smoky mouse, eastern pygmy possums and flying foxes, and has spent countless hours birdwatching, searching for threatened plants and looking for koala pellets. He was very excited to find koalas in his backyard when he moved to Port Macquarie. Chris and the ecology team across coastal NSW are currently supporting the translocation of pygmy possums, southern brown bandicoots, long-nosed potoroos and stuttering frogs from State Forest areas to sites where local extinctions have occurred.

HELLOKOALAS

FESTIVAL

7 - 11 June 2018

www.hellokoalas.com/festival

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FESTIVAL CARS
AND COFFEE
PICNIC DAY
DOUGLAS
VALE
HISTORIC
VINEYARD



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MUSIC AND
DANCE PARTY
PANTHERS
PORT
MACQUARIE



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MELBOURNE
CITY
BALLET THE
GLASSHOUSE



PERCIVAL
PROPERTY PORT
MACQUARIE
JUNIOR TOUR



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AT THE
FORESHORE
MARKETS



HASTINGS
LANDCARE
FARMGATE
TOURS



PORT MACQUARIE
MUSEUM
SPECIAL
BICENTENARY
EXHIBITION



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HIGH TEAS
WITH ZIGGY
AT ZEBU

Koala Hospital Tours Sea Acres Rainforest Centre Bush Tucker Tours Visit "Nulla" at Settlement City Guided tour of Old Bottlebutt at Burrawan State Forest, with a senior ecologist from Forestry NSW Hastings Co-op and Department Store Promotions Tea tastings at World Par Tea Delicious Degustation dinner at Cassegrain Winery and lots more!

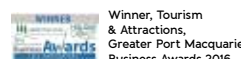
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