SAVING OUR SPECIES

Threatened Species Day

Your guide to running a successful community event
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Preface

New South Wales has one of the world’s most diverse and beautiful natural environments, including its plants and animals.

Yet despite our natural wealth, New South Wales has nearly 1000 species at risk of extinction. This presents us with a considerable challenge.

The Saving our Species (SoS) is the NSW Government’s program to better manage threatened species. By taking a more strategic approach to management, working together and committing substantial investment in the program, SoS aims to maximise the number of species we can secure in the wild in New South Wales for 100 years.

We invite you to join us so together we can secure threatened species in New South Wales.

Figure 1  Buttercup doubletail *Diuris aequalis* – a threatened species of the southern tablelands (Photo: L Oliver/OEH)
About Saving our Species

The NSW Government is investing $100 million over five years in saving more threatened animals and plants from extinction. The funds are allocated from 2016 to 2021 to Saving our Species, New South Wales’s leading threatened species conservation program. The aim is to work with communities to find the best management practices which will maximise the number of threatened species that can survive in the wild in New South Wales.

There are currently more than 980 threatened species and over 100 threatened ecological communities in New South Wales. SoS staff and partners are working to save species and ecological communities through:

- initiating projects that improve habitat and control threats, such as weeding programs and fox baiting
- monitoring the effectiveness of these projects and the response of species and ecological communities to management activities
- supporting conservation projects in national parks and on private land.

Figures 2 and 3 Office of Environment and Heritage staff working on Saving our Species projects for the Wee Jasper grevillea (Photo: J Briggs/OEH) and the mountain pygmy-possum (Photo: D Nicholls/OEH)
About Threatened Species Day

On the night of 7 September 1936, the last Tasmanian tiger (*Thylacinus cynocephalus*) died in Hobart Zoo sending the species extinct.

In 1996, on the 60th anniversary of the last Tasmanian tiger’s death, 7 September was declared ‘National Threatened Species Day’ – a time to reflect on what happened to the thylacine and how similar fates could await other native plants and animals unless action is taken.

National Threatened Species Day highlights the past and how we can protect threatened species now and into the future, while also celebrating species success stories and ongoing threatened species recovery work.

*Figure 4* Volunteers at the Crossing Education Centre on the south coast making seed balls for koala habitat (Photo: D Hunt/OEH)
**Why host a Threatened Species Day event?**

Join other organisations around New South Wales who are passionate about conservation and the environment and who will be hosting threatened species events during September. *Saving our Species* is working with partners to increase awareness about the plight of threatened plants, animals and birds. Inspiring the community to care for the unique and at risk wildlife we often take for granted is vital to ensuring their survival into the future.

Hosting a threatened species event will not only contribute to statewide efforts as part of the NSW Government *Saving our Species* program, but it is also a great way for your organisation to reach out to new audiences and reinvigorate the interest of your existing members.

*Figure 5* Volunteers at Wandiyali near Queanbeyan, planting trees on Threatened Species Day 2016 to provide habitat for woodland birds. (Photo: D Hunt/OEH)
Running your event

Step 1  Choose a local threatened species

It can be overwhelming to know what to do about the nearly 1000 threatened species in New South Wales. However, if we think about the actions we can take to help just one species – particularly if it is a local plant, animal or bird – we are much more likely to act.

All you need to do is choose a threatened species local to your area that you think your community can be inspired to help save.

You can choose from the list on the following page or you can go to the OEH website to help you find a threatened species to feature at your event.

To access resources, contact savingourspecies@environment.nsw.gov.au

Figure 6  Boorowa’s finest with their Superb parrot stickers (Photo: D Oliver/OEH)
**Species with dedicated resources**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species common name</th>
<th>Scientific name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brush-tailed rock-wallaby</td>
<td>Petrogale penicillata</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buttercup doubletail</td>
<td>Diuris aequalis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glossy black cockatoo</td>
<td>Calyptorhynchus lathami</td>
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<tr>
<td>Koala</td>
<td>Phascolarctos cinereus</td>
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<td>Long-nosed potoroo</td>
<td>Potorous tridactylus</td>
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<td>Malleefowl</td>
<td>Leipoa ocellata</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plains wanderer</td>
<td>Pedionomus torquatus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scarlet robin</td>
<td>Petroica boodang</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sloane’s froglet</td>
<td>Crinia sloanei</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smoky mouse</td>
<td>Pseudomys fumeus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spotted-tailed quoll</td>
<td>Dasyurus maculatus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Squirrel glider</td>
<td>Petaurus norfolcensis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Superb parrot</td>
<td>Polytelis swainsonii</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Shorebirds</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hooded plover</td>
<td>Thinornis rubricollis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sooty oystercatcher</td>
<td>Haematopus fuliginosus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pied oystercatcher</td>
<td>Haematopus longirostris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Little tern</td>
<td>Sternula albifrons</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Shoalhaven plants</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pterostylis vernalis</td>
<td>Pterostylis vernalis</td>
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<td>Pterostylis ventricosa</td>
<td>Pterostylis ventricosa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jervis Bay leek orchid</td>
<td>Prasophyllum affine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pretty beard orchid</td>
<td>Calochilus pulchellus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bomaderry zieria</td>
<td>Zieria baueuernii</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nowra heath myrtle</td>
<td>Triplarina nowraensis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ettrema mallee</td>
<td>Eucalyptus sturgissiana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Banksia vincentia</td>
<td>Banksia vincentia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Albatross mallee</td>
<td>Eucalyptus langleyi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thick lip spider orchid</td>
<td>Caladenia tessellata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bauer’s midge orchid</td>
<td>Genoplesium baueri</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biconvex paperbark</td>
<td>Melaleuca biconvexa</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>South west wild orchids</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Crimson spider orchid</td>
<td>Caladenia concolor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sand-hill spider orchid</td>
<td>Caladenia arenaria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oaklands diuris</td>
<td>Diuris sp. (Oaklands, D.L. Jones 5380)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

To find out which species lives near you, use the [threatened species search page](https://www.environment.gov.au)
Step 2  Ask for help

If you are an individual running an event, ask a friend, family member or colleague to help you plan and run your event. This helps reduce the workload and makes the experience much more enjoyable.

If you are a community group, organisation or business running a threatened species event, speak to other community groups about supporting your efforts or running a joint event. Partnering with other community groups, government agencies, businesses or education providers is a great way to reach out to new audiences and amplify the message of Saving our Species.

Ask your guests to bring a plate of food to share. People are generally more than happy to do this. It saves the organiser a whole lot of work and it helps to make sure you have the right amount of food for those attending.

Step 3  Choose the type of event

The type of event you choose to host is only limited by your imagination, whether you run a simple morning tea, a Saving our Species trivia night or a picnic in the park, the aim of Threatened Species Day is to bring people together, to share information, discuss the issues and, importantly, think about the ways in which your community can act to help your locally threatened species survive in the wild for at least the next 100 years.

The key to hosting a successful activity is making your event fun and easy to take part in. This will help with starting new conversations with people who perhaps aren’t aware of the plight of threatened plants and animals in New South Wales. It is a great way to get them inspired to be part of the solution.

Some suggestions for events include:

- Host a Threatened Species Day trivia lunch or evening using the Saving our Species trivia game and trivia event planner provided in the resources pack.
- Organise a display and presentation at a community venue such as a hall or local library.
- Arrange a nature walk at a local reserve or park and discuss the habitat needs of your chosen feature species.
- Have a workplace threatened species bake off, using the fridge magnets and stickers provided in your resources pack as prizes.

Some suggestions of things you can do at your event:

- Use the trivia questions, poster and resources to start a conversation about your chosen threatened species and the role you think your community has in ensuring its survival.
- Watch one of the Saving our Species videos to get people thinking, talking and inspired about taking action.
- Get the local school children to help with designing a banner or a sculpture that can be used to promote your chosen species to the community.

If you are a registered charity you can also fundraise as part of your event. We strongly encourage that the funds that are raised contribute to on-ground actions for your chosen species.

Enjoy the day.
Step 4  Date, time and location
Once you have decided on the type of event you want to host, now is the time to decide on when and where you will have your event.

Morning or afternoon tea, lunch or dinner – choose a time that will be convenient for you and your guests.

Your event can be an hour to a whole day depending on what activities you will be doing on the day.

We are asking groups to host their event on or as close to Threatened Species Day (7 September) as possible as this will help amplify the message of the plight of threatened species in New South Wales.

However, if that is not possible, we encourage you to host your event on any day during the month of September (biodiversity month).

Step 5  Invites and promotion
For smaller private events, it is nice to be invited personally, so wherever possible, speak to guests, either in person or over the phone to invite them along prior to sending your email invite or written invitation.

It is also best to remind friends, family and work colleagues that your event is happening a day or two prior to the event.

Spread the word using social media. Let people know that your event is happening on local community Facebook pages and local community notice boards and ask people to share your event on their social media pages. If you want to attract big numbers of people to your event, try using Facebook advertising to help. Facebook ads can be targeted by location or by area of interest and are a very cost-effective form of advertising compared to print options.

If you are supplying food for the event and need an idea of how many people will be coming you can set up a Facebook event page or Eventbrite page. These online tools can help you manage the numbers of people attending.

Another cost-effective way to promote your event is to write a letter to the editor at your local newspaper about your chosen species with details of your upcoming event.

Step 6  The day of the event
To make sure your event runs smoothly plan a run sheet for the event, allow adequate time to set up your venue and test any equipment you will be using on the day.

It is always a good idea to start by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land where the event is being held.

Play one of the Saving our Species videos for some inspiration, or use the trivia questions and resources to get people thinking about your feature species.

Ask your guests to share their local knowledge. Start a conversation by asking some of the following questions:

• Have you seen the species in the local area? Do you know anyone who has?
• Where would we find them and at what time of year?
• Do we know if anyone is already working on the species locally?
• What role could you and your community play to help ensure the long-term survival of the species?

Take plenty of photos of your event and share them with your friends and networks via social media outlets. Please use the following hashtags:

#threatenedspeciesday or #SavingourSpecies.

Use @OEHmedia on Twitter

Use @nswenvironmentandheritage on Instagram

We will share your efforts with our networks and amplify the message around the plight of NSW threatened species.
Suggested actions and pledges

Things you can do to help with threatened species survival:

**Pledge 1**
I pledge to raise awareness in my community about the plight of threatened species in my local area.

**Result of your actions**
As more people come to understand the importance of local threatened species and can see that this is something that you and your community cares about, the more people are likely to act in a way that will assist these precious species to survive.

**Pledge 2**
I pledge to actively support a local group that works to protect local threatened species.

**Result of your actions**
Locally based conservation groups undertake vital work that contributes to the protection of local native plants, birds and animals. Making a commitment to help these groups, with your time, money or resources, means that they will be able to continue their efforts to save species at risk of extinction.

**Pledge 3**
I pledge to contribute to local research by participating in, or establishing, an online project that assists with research for threatened species.

**Result of your actions**
The information you collect playing this game helps give our scientists up-to-date data about our threatened species, which enables us to ensure that our efforts are being placed in the right location. This research also helps us to know if the actions taken in the past have had a positive impact or not.

Existing projects can be accessed via the volunteer page of the Atlas of Living Australia:

New research projects can be set up very simply and targeted to your local community and species using Questagame, which is also great for education and data collection.