



SAVING OUR SPECIES

Threatened Species Day

**Your guide to running a successful
community event**



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www.environment.nsw.gov.au

CONTENTS

Preface	1
Saving our Species program	2
What we do	3
About Threatened Species Day	4
Why host a Threatened Species Day event?	5
Running your event	6
Step 1 Choose a local threatened species	6
Step 2 Ask for help	8
Step 3 Choose the type of event	8
Step 4 Date, time and location	9
Step 5 Invites and promotion	9
Step 6 The day of the event	9
Suggested actions and pledges	11
Pledge 1	11
Pledge 2	11
Pledge 3	11
More information	12

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 1,000 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.



Photo 1 Buttercup doubletail (*Diuris aequalis*) – a threatened species of the southern tablelands. L Oliver/DPE

Saving our Species program

With the State at risk of losing a thousand of our native animals and plants, the NSW Government established Saving our Species, NSW's flagship threatened species conservation program.

Saving our Species is one of the biggest conservation commitments ever undertaken in New South Wales. It is a movement involving volunteers, scientists, businesses, community groups and the NSW Government, all coming together to secure the future of Australia's unique plants and animals.

The main objectives of Saving our Species are simple: increase the number of threatened species that are secure in the wild in New South Wales for 100 years and control the key threats facing our threatened plants and animals.



Photo 2 Mountain Pygmy-possum (*Burrhamys parvus*). Alex Pike/DPE

What we do

We are working to secure a future for NSW threatened species. We protect, monitor and conserve threatened species in different ways, taking into account what we know about their ecology and threats.



1000+ species and ecological communities (TECs) at risk



39 key threatening processes (KTPs)



400+ species, TECs and KTPs under management



Working across **850+** sites in NSW

As part of the Saving our Species program, we:

- consult extensively with experts and apply independent peer reviewed science to our projects
- provide targeted conservation projects that set out the actions required to save specific plants and animals
- regularly monitor the effectiveness of projects so they can be improved
- encourage partnerships with community, corporate and government in threatened species conservation.

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.



Photo 3 Volunteers at the Crossing Education Centre on the south coast making seed balls for koala habitat. D Hunt/DPE

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's 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.



Photo 4 Volunteers at Wandiyali near Queanbeyan, planting trees on Threatened Species Day 2016 to provide habitat for woodland birds. D Hunt/DPE

Running your event

Step 1 Choose a local threatened species

It can be overwhelming to know what to do about the nearly 1,000 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 our website to help you find a threatened species to feature at your event.



Photo 5 Boorowa's finest with their Superb parrot stickers. D Oliver/DPE

Species with dedicated resources

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

To find out which species lives near you, use the [threatened species search page](#)

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 event
- 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.

Some suggestions of things you can do at your event:

- 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 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 before 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 before 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 large numbers of people to your event, try using Facebook advertising to help. Facebook ads can be targeted by location or area of interest and are a 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 number 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 ensure 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 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 species' long-term survival?

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 [@nswenviromedia](#) on Twitter

Use [@nswenviromedia](#) 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 understand the importance of local threatened species and can see that this is something that you and your community care 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, enabling us to ensure that our efforts are 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.

More information

- [Atlas of Living Australia](#)
- [*Crinia sloanei*](#)
- [Questagame](#)
- [Threatened species](#)
- [Threatened species: Search by region](#)