



# The Myall Koala & Environment Group Inc.

## Presidents Report 2024

As usual it has been a busy year for MKEG. Following is a brief summary of key activities.

**Koalas** – A lot is starting to happen in the area for Koalas. MCC has been working on their Koala Safe Spaces Program. Our Vice President Ian Morphett is on MCC's Koala Reference Group. A draft MidCoast Koala Conservation Strategy has been on display and will be adopted mid-2024 .

At our last meeting in February we had a presentation by MCC's Koala Project Manager, Caitlin Orr. about the MCC Koala Safe Spaces Program. It was encouraging to hear that although we no longer have Koalas in HN/TG we do have them in surrounding areas. MCC has been conducting surveys in Pindimar and other parts of south MCC. There are many pockets of healthy Koala populations.

**Dingoes** – Last November we had a presentation by Dr Neil Jordan from UNSW about the Myall Lakes Dingo Project. This project is a collaboration between the Centre for Ecosystem Science at UNSW, Taronga Conservation Society, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, MidCoast Council, and the Taree Indigenous Development and Employment organisation. The MLDP's objective is to further our collective understanding of dingoes, and to facilitate the uptake of evidence-based management, resulting in improved outcomes for dingoes, communities and Country. This will feed in to MCC's dingo management plan in the future.

**Bird Monitoring** - The group's annual survey of little terns (and other birds) was carried out from October to February in conjunction with MidCoast Council, National Parks & Wildlife Service and DPIE. It was a poor breeding season this year as very few little terns arrived and quickly moved to other areas. Some Pied Oyster Catchers did nest and breed on Corrie Island and the Winda Woppa Sand Stockpile. A full report prepared by Trish Blair is attached.

**Bitou Busters** - The Bitou Busters sessions are always well attended and I thank all participants for their enthusiasm and hard work. The weather at the end of 2023 and start of 2024 was mixed but lot was achieved along the Boulevard at Wind Woppa, along Moira Pde near the HN boat ramp and the dunes at the end of Sanderling Ave. Thanks to Trish Blair, Adrienne Ingram and Sharon Taylor for their efforts in co-ordinating the group. A full report prepared by Trish Blair is attached.

**Pindimar Market Day and Tree Give Away** - Last October we had a stall at the Pindimar Market Day. We used this event as a tree give away and also had information on weeds and our other activities in general. Koala masks, stickers and other give aways were a good attraction and our stall was well attended. Katy, our big stuffed Koala, attracted a lot of attention as well as the sound of Koalas screeching over our PA system.. We were privileged to have Mat Bell, Senior Ecologist for MidCoast Council in attendance. Thanks to everyone who helped on the stall.

**Hawks Nest Nature Walk** – This project has council approval and is progressing, although at a slow pace. We have approval for the route of the walk and have information ready for signage. Glen Henry is working on layouts of key signs and we can hopefully get these approved and printed soon.

**Autumn Raffle** – This year we ran an Autumn raffle and raised around \$1,000. Many thanks to Peter and Jill madden, Christian Patteson and Benchmark who donated the prizes. Also thanks to all those who volunteered their time to sell tickets

**Ann Woods** – On a sad note, our group was devastated with the passing of our cherished member Ann Woods. Ann passed away after a long battle with cancer but during this continued to check on birds at the Winda Woppa sand stockpile as well as working hard at Bitou Busters. Ann is missed by all of us and she will be fondly remembered for years to come.

Finally I want to thank all our members, volunteers, our committee and the executive for all their hard work. Without this we would not exist as a group.

We look forward to a great year ahead and hope we can have a positive influence on things happening in our town.

Richard Streamer

President

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