

In it to win it

Nature Conservation Council of NSW Annual Conference 2023

NSW Teachers Federation Conference Centre, 23 - 33 Mary Street, Surry Hills and online
Saturday 11th November

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| 8:45am | Aunty Rhonda Dixon-Grovenor, Gadigal, Bidjigal and Yuin Elder
Welcome to Country |
| 9:00am | Nature Conservation Council Annual General Meeting
Heritage Room // Zoom |
| 11:25am | Member group updates and excerpt of documentary The Koalas by Film Projects |
| 11:55am | Morning tea |
| 12:15pm | Penny Sharpe MLC, Minister for Environment, Heritage, Energy, and Climate Change
Heritage Room // Zoom |
| 12:30pm | Jacqui Mumford, CEO Address and Launch of the Environment Awards
Heritage Room // Zoom |
| 12:40pm | Kellie Sloane MP, Shadow Minister for the Environment
Heritage Room // Zoom |
| 12:55pm | Sue Higginson MLC, Greens Spokesperson for the Environment and Climate Change
Heritage Room // Zoom |
| 1:10pm | Lunch and networking |
| 1:50pm | Keynote Plenary: In it to win it: planning, running and winning campaigns for good
Heritage Room // Zoom <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alex Greenwich MP, Member for Sydney• Sandy Greenwood, Gumbaynggirr Custodian• Jack Gough, Invasive Species Council• Felicity Wade, Labor Environment Action Network |

2:50pm	Afternoon tea
3:10pm	<p>Option A: Panel: Endgame: Securing an end to Native Forest Logging in NSW</p> <p>Heritage Room // Zoom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandy Greenwood, Gumbaynggirr Custodian • Stuart Blanch, WWF-Australia • Joslyn van der Moolen, Friends of the Forest Mogo • Susie Russell, North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) <p>Option B: Workshop: Water: landing wins for rivers and wetlands</p> <p>Workshop Room</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mel Gray and Sam Johnson, Nature Conservation Council
4:00pm	<p>Plenary: Climate, coal and gas: how will we win on climate?</p> <p>Heritage Room // Zoom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nirvana Talukder, School Strike for Climate • Justin Page, Hunter Jobs Alliance • Naomi Crystal Hodgson, Rising Tide • Marie Flood, Sydney Climate Coalition
4:50pm	Conference learning, actions and wrap-up of conference business
5:00pm	<p>Conference drinks and nibbles</p> <p>Held at the Teachers Federation</p>
6:00pm	Event ends
6:30pm	Optional conference dinner at Dove & Olive - 156 Devonshire St, Surry Hills

Presenter Biographies

Aunty Rhonda Dixon Grovenor - Welcome to Country

Aunty Rhonda is a Gadigal, Bidjigal and Yuin elder. Aunty Rhonda works tirelessly for human rights and social justice. She is a disability advocate and leading force in climate justice, as well as a daughter, mother, grandmother, mentor, elder and friend to many. Aunty Rhonda works diligently to heal Mother Earth and redress power and wealth inequities across society, and is currently completing her Masters at UTS in decolonising methodologies and how to respectfully engage with traditional custodians. Aunty Rhonda's mission in life is to live as a powerful, passionate and outspoken woman and to share her knowledge and skills to educate and empower others

Peter Stevens

Peter joined the WCPS committee in 2001 after the success of the Society's campaign against the above ground M5E. He has subsequently occupied at one time for another almost every position in the wholly volunteer organisation. A former bureaucrat, he has deployed the skills acquired there to maintain a decades long campaign to establish and complete the Wolli Creek Regional Park, culminating (for the moment) in the announcement in the recent State budget of \$13m for that completion.

Dr Ingrid Schraner, Research Coordinator - Coal-ash Community Alliance Inc

Dr Ingrid Schraner will introduce us to the Taskforce on Nature-based Financial Disclosures TNFD, that has developed a set of disclosure recommendations and guidelines for corporations to report and act on to shift global financial flows away from nature negative outcomes and toward nature positive outcomes. This international accounting tool was launched by the UN in September 2023 to measure actual progress and call out greenwashing. Ingrid is the research coordinator of the Coal-ash Community Alliance that works towards using the framework in their work with businesses.

Georgia Wallace-Crabbe

Georgia Wallace-Crabbe and Gregory Miller (Film Projects) have produced many documentaries in a 30-year career, including- CULTIVATING MURDER (2018) on the murder of OEH compliance officer Glen Turner by Moree farmer Ian Turnbull and documents the wind-back of NSW's Native Vegetation Act. They have teamed up again to produce a 90 minute documentary - "The Koalas".

Penny Sharpe MLC

Penny Sharpe is the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment and Minister for Heritage. First elected to NSW Legislative Council in 2005, Penny has held a variety of Government and Opposition portfolios including Heritage, Transport and Planning, Family and Community Services, as well as Disability Inclusion. Penny is passionate about the care of our environment and making sure that NSW takes serious action to tackle climate change.

Sue Higginson MLC

Sue Higginson is a Greens member of the NSW Legislative Council and is an environmental law expert who has practiced as a public interest environmental lawyer. She was the Principal Solicitor and CEO of the Environmental Defenders Office, which is Australia's leading public interest environmental law centre. Sue is responsible for high profile environmental litigation in Australia and has represented communities challenging mining giants and has delivered environmental legal services to rural, remote, and regional communities, as well as First Nations communities across the state.

Sue holds a Bachelor of Laws, with First Class Honours, and has lectured and taught environmental law in universities across NSW. Sue is also a farmer, and with her partner on their farm on the Richmond Floodplain in the Northern Rivers, focuses on biodiverse management and conservation regarding farming practices. Sue's farm is also home to koalas, whom she has planted thousands of trees for, in a strive to secure their future

Kellie Sloane MP for Vacluse

Kellie Sloane is the Liberal Member for Vacluse and was elected at the March 2023 State Election. Kellie is also the Shadow Minister for the Environment.

Prior to entering politics Kellie was the CEO of Australia's largest provider of preventative health education to Australian children – Life Education. She started her career as a journalist, working across the ABC and commercial TV networks.

Sandy Greenwood, Gumbaynggirr Conservation Group

Sandy Greenwood is an award-winning Actor and Writer from the Dunghutti, Gumbaynggirr and Bundjalung clans/nations of NSW. Raised on Bowraville Mission and the eldest child of a stolen Generations survivor, Sandy is the first person in her family to go university, graduating with a First-Class Honours degree in Theatre from Queensland University of Technology in 2002.

Sandy has worked for Australia's Leading Theatre Companies including Sydney Theatre Company, Melbourne Theatre Company, Belvoir Theatre and tread the boards Internationally for the Atlantic Theater Company in New York City and the Seattle Children's Theatre Company in Washington. Best known for Critically Acclaimed One Woman Show "Matriarch" about Four Generations of Gumbaynggirr Women, Sandy won the award for Best Writing and Best Actor in Independent Theatre at the Prestigious Green Room Awards and produced a highly successful national tour. Founder and Director of Jinda Productions, a First Nations Production and Consultancy Company, Sandy aims to tell stories from a female Indigenous perspective.

As a Gumbaynggirr custodian and native title holder, Sandy was raised on her traditional homelands, speaking her language, practising her culture and advocating for the protection of her land.

In 2020, Sandy became the First Aboriginal woman in history to take NSW Forestry Corporation to the Land and Environment Court and won, protecting significant Gumbaynggirr Cultural Heritage. Sandy was instrumental in two successful campaigns to halt logging in both Nambucca and Newry State Forest on NSW's Mid North Coast. Sandy is making her directing debut with film "Murrumbidgee" about the Nambucca and Newry States Forest Campaigns and the historical alliance between Gumbaynggirr Custodians and Allies.

Jack Gough, Invasive Species Council

Jack Gough is an experienced campaigner, policy analyst and environmental advocate who is passionate about the intersection between agriculture and conservation. Jack is alarmed about the loss of biodiversity across Australia and believes that harnessing the commitment and knowledge of those who live and work on the land is essential to meet our conservation challenges, particularly when it comes to invasive species. Jack previously worked as the National Pastoral Conservation Manager for the Pew Charitable Trusts, leading negotiation and advocacy on law reform, policy development and funding for conservation on pastoral and other private land. He was the policy and government relations lead for the NSW Nature Conservation Council and for many years worked in the NSW Parliament as a senior advisor to a number of cross-bench MPs, focussed on natural resource management issues including environment, agriculture, water, biosecurity, forestry and mining reform. Prior to this, Jack was a livestock and biosecurity policy advisor for the NSW Farmers Association. Jack works on the land of the Dharawal people.

Felicity Wade, Labor Environment Action Network

Felicity Wade is the National Co-convenor of the Labor Environment Action Network, LEAN the Labor party's internal environment lobby. She likes trees, nature and community and is a life long campaigner. She was the Campaign Director for wilderness society in NSW through the 90s and early 2000s.

Thea Ormerod, Move Beyond Coal

Thea Ormerod is a prominent Australian environmental activist and for 15 years has been the president of the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC), a multi-faith advocacy organisation that works for a more sustainable and just society. Thea believes that climate change is a moral and religious issue that affects the most vulnerable people in the world, and that people of faith have a responsibility to act on it. She has been vocal in opposing the expansion of coal mining in Australia, including the controversial Whitehaven coal project in New South Wales, and the Carmichael coal mine in central Queensland.

Stuart Blanch, WWF-Australia

Stuart grew up on the NSW Mid-North Coast in a banana farming family. For two decades he worked for Australian and international community environmental organisations across the Murray-Darling Basin, Northern Australia and Hunter Region. He has had stints working in river management for the

NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service, and in restoration ecology in France's Camargue wetlands. He led the Environment Centre of the Northern Territory from 2009 to 2014, and then Hunter Wetlands Centre Australia until 2018. Stuart currently works in forest conservation policy for WWF-Australia seeking to halt forest loss and native forest logging. He has a degree in ecology, a doctorate of philosophy in the ecology of water plants in the Murray River, and a postgraduate degree in environmental law. He has authored and co-authored research papers and reports in river and wetland ecology and conservation, koala habitat conservation, hydrology, renewable energy, marine and freshwater protected areas, and sustainable development.

Joslyn van der Moolen, Friends of the Forest Mogo

Joslyn van der Moolen is a forest conservationist who thrives on community engagement. Growing up in Canberra, she moved to the beautiful south coast of NSW, 6 years ago. Shocked by the logging of local spotted gum forests, she started a Facebook group - Friends of the Forest (Mogo) with Nick Hopkins. Together, they implement digital citizen science surveying techniques, and have saved forest due to logged in both Mogo and Boyne State Forests. They work formally with government through the Coastwatchers Forest Working Group and on World Environment Day 2023 she launched a local Knitting Nannas for Native Forests - South Coast loop. Joslyn wants to see NSW join WA and Victoria and announce the end of native forest logging and move 100% to softwood plantations on marginal agricultural land to supply the domestic construction sector.

Susie Russell, North East Forest Alliance (NEFA)

Susie Russell's passion for forest protection was sparked in 1992 when she first visited an old growth forest, was awed by its magnificence and shocked that we could be so stupid as to still be destroying living beings hundreds of years old. Since then she has volunteered for the North East Forest Alliance and been active in spreading awareness and taking action towards seeing our precious forests saved. There have been some successes along the way but there is much to do. So there is no retiring in the foreseeable future.

Mel Gray

Mel has been voluntarily running local grassroots groups and community led campaigns in the Murray Darling Basin since 2017. Mel has been with the Nature Conservation Council NSW as a water campaigner since 2021. She has brought her strong local connections and community relationships to the role.

Sam Johnson

Sam has been working with NCC since early 2022, focusing on multiple projects including the federal election Climate Action Now campaign, NCC's first Picnic for Nature event in 2022, and most recently working to deliver the Bushfire Program's 13th biennial Bushfire Conference and field day. Sam has recently started as a Community Organiser focusing on NCC's newly launched coastal wetlands advocacy campaign. He is also currently engaged in research regarding urban biodiversity and rewilding in Sydney's Northern Beaches with the University of Sydney.

Nirvana Talukder, School Strike for Climate

Nirvana Talukder is a 16-year-old senior at Sydney Girls High School. Nirvana is a climate justice and gender equality advocate whose work primarily focuses on the intersection between the climate crisis and gender inequality. Nirvana is an organiser from School Strike for Climate Sydney and Australia, the organisation behind the Fridays4Future movement in Australia, and is the Australian Global Teen Advisor for the UN Foundation's Girl Up. Her work in advocating for a sustainable and equitable future extends to participating in other climate committees such as AYCC and organising with countless communities both across the country and the globe to resolve issues surrounding gender equality and climate justice. Through her cooperation with grassroots organisations led by PoC and female activists at the forefront of these movements, Nirvana launched her youth-powered organisation, Our People's Aid, a digital forum for storytelling amplifying the narratives of women across the world.

Justin Page, Hunter Jobs Alliance

Justin Page is the coordinator for the Hunter Jobs Alliance. Justin has extensive experience in leading and developing strategy, marketing, governance & stakeholder engagement within member focused organisations and has practical knowledge of government policy and industrial relations. Justin was previously Secretary of the ETU NSW & ACT. The Hunter Jobs Alliance aims for full employment, with

good union jobs, a thriving and healthy living environment, an equitable society, a stable climate, and renewable prosperity in the Hunter region.

Naomi Hodgson, Rising Tide

Naomi Hodgson is a seasoned climate justice organiser and campaigner, who cut her teeth in the successful grassroots campaigns of the North-East Forest Alliance (NEFA) before going on to become a core member of the Newcastle-based Rising Tide in 2005. She has been a grassroots leader in her own right since 2008, when she led the organising work for Australia's first Camp for Climate Action, which featured nonviolent direct action of hundreds of participants. Naomi has lived on numerous frontline campaigns across the country. Between 2014-2019, she worked with the Wilderness Society and a diverse alliance to delay the Santos' CSG project in the Pilliga. Last year, she co-founded the current iteration of Rising Tide with its ambitious new agenda

Marie Flood, Sydney Climate Coalition

Marie Flood is a member of the Sydney Climate Coalition, which is an alliance of groups and individuals campaigning to build the climate movement in Sydney. Marie is a knitting Nana from the Sydney Knitting Nana group.