



## **K2C Dieback Forum Introduction**

**Rainer Rehwinkel, Chair, K2C Executive Committee**

**18 November 2016**

### **9:15 -9:30 – Introduction**

My name is Rainer Rehwinkel, and I am the Chair of Kosciuszko to Coast. Before we start today's Forum, I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we are holding our event today, and, on behalf of all those here today, pay respects to the indigenous elders, past and present.

Dieback is a widespread and very concerning issue. Today's forum not just about the dieback problem, but also about the many current positive efforts to restore woodlands across our region.

And the forum is not just about restoring the tree layer, but also the grassy groundlayer, with its diversity of forbs, a fundamental element of diversity in our woodlands.

Fauna, of course, will not be ignored today, with Chris Allen's discussion of dieback and the potential effects on our koala populations.

I acknowledge other researchers in our region who are looking at the dieback and woodland restoration issue, particularly Geoff Kay from the ANU, who would have liked to present today but was unable to, because of another commitment.

I also acknowledge others in region who are restoring woodlands, people also not present today, particularly Friends of Grasslands' work at Stirling Ridge and elsewhere, and Peter Saunders of Bush Heritage Australia, whose work at Scottsdale with Greening Australia is forging new ways of thinking about woodland restoration.

I also acknowledge some of the private initiatives of some of the people in the region, some of whom are present today, though unfortunately also not presenting, particularly Fiona Hamer, and others not present like Carolyn Larcombe and undoubtedly many, many others doing their bit for the environment.

I extend a special welcome to all the private landholders who have made the effort to come along today, some from afar, from the region most affected by dieback – the Snowy River region of the Monaro.

I also welcome the many, many ACT government staff who have come along. Clearly this is a very concerning issue in the ACT.

I'd like to particularly acknowledge Tim Wong, who sowed the seeds for this Forum!

Today's attendance epitomises one of the roles of K2C, namely to bring people together to discuss and share issues of environmental concern in our region.

Dieback is an issue too big for any single organisation to tackle. We won't be solving any of the problems of dieback today, but my hope is that new partnerships will be forged, and in time, we can go ahead and more effectively tackle the issue of dieback and other confronting issues in a more coordinated way.

**NOTE:** while not in the program, because of the non-attendance at the Forum of Hannes Botha due to family reasons, there was an opportunity to tie-up the Forum with a mini-workshop and the development of a Draft Action Plan for Dieback. Dr Jasmyn Lynch from the University of Canberra presented Hannes's talk in his absence and Tim Wong and Anna Van Dugterren facilitated the workshop to develop a Draft Action Plan.

### **Forum program**

#### **9:30 – 10:00 - Cris Brack - Monaro Dieback**

Associate Professor Christopher Brack is at the Australian National University where he undertakes teaching and research roles in the Fenner School of Environment and Society. He has published a number of papers on the dieback issue on the Monaro, in collaboration with his former student Catherine Ross, who is also here today.

#### **10:00 – 10:30 - Jacqui Stol - Introducing some key management principles for restoring woodlands**

Jacqui Stol is a Senior Experimental Scientist in the Biodiversity, Ecosystem Knowledge and Services Program at CSIRO and has been working in vegetation ecology and biodiversity for over 20 years focusing on how native woodlands interact with grazing and agricultural systems and how best to manage to maintain and restore their biodiversity.

#### **10:45 -11:15 Nicki Taws - Monaro Tree Comeback - NSW Environmental Trust funding for action**

Nicki Taws is a Project Manager with Greening Australia Capital Region. Nicki has a general interest in the conservation and restoration of woodlands and grassy ecosystems, and is

currently managing the Monaro Tree Comeback project aiming to address the dieback of Manna Gums on the Monaro.

**11:15 – 11:45 - Lauren Van Dyke -Woodland Restoration following Dieback on the Monaro**

Lauren Van Dyke has been the Upper Snowy Landcare Dieback Project Manager since March 2015, a role that involves working with land managers to establish native revegetation plots in the dieback zone of the Monaro. Lauren's project has also teamed up with Greening Australia Bush Connect project.

**11:45 – 12:15 - Sue McIntyre - Restoration of Native Forbs in the Grassy Groundlayer**

Dr Sue McIntyre is a plant ecologist who has researched native vegetation management in agricultural landscapes in eastern Australia for 34 years, including 23 years with the CSIRO. Her publications include many aspects of ecosystem management, including weed ecology, landscape design, plant functional ecology, grassland dynamics, grazing responses and restoration ecology.

**12:15 – 12:30 - Mike Thompson NSW National Parks Association – K2C Partner, who will give a brief update on the Great Eastern Ranges initiative**

12:30 – 1:30 LUNCH

**1:15 – 1:45 - Susannah Power - Mcleods Creek Nature Reserve Woodland Restoration Program**

Susannah Power has worked as a ranger with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service since 2001. She is currently based in Queanbeyan and manages seven reserves that primarily protect small remnants of endangered ecological communities, such as box-gum woodland, natural temperate grassland and tablelands snow gum woodland.

**1:45 – 2:15 - John Briggs - North Watson Woodland Restoration**

John Briggs has worked with the OEH Ecosystems and Threatened Species Team at Queanbeyan for the past 21 years. John lives in north Canberra and for the past 18 years has spent some of his spare time as a ParkCare volunteer involved in efforts to restore a patch of Box-Gum woodland at north Watson. John will talk in his volunteer capacity about the challenges encountered in the restoration work and some lessons learnt.

**2:15 - 2:45 - Chris Allen - Dieback and Potential Implications for Koalas**

Chris Allen has been involved with koala conservation in SE NSW since 1990. He is a Senior Threatened Species Officer with OEH and the winner of the OEH Executive's Exceptional Performance Award 2016.

**2:45 – 3:00 - Hannes Botha's** talk on mapping of dieback in the ACT was presented by **Dr Jasmyn Lynch** from the University of Canberra

**3:00 – 3:30 Mini-workshop and the development of a Draft Action Plan for Dieback,** facilitated by **Tim Wong** and **Anna Van Dugteren**.