

# Australian Wildlife Gala Ball

On Saturday 7 July the Society held its second annual gala ball in the Western Suburbs Leagues Club, Campbelltown. It was an outstandingly successful evening, with some 250 guests enjoying the food and festivities. Our theme this year was koala conservation.

A special thank you goes to all our sponsors who contributed to the fundraising for the evening, and to Damion Stirling (Environmental Education Office, Wollondilly Council) for being our guest speaker, highlighting the plight of the koalas in the Wollondilly region and Trevor Evans for bringing along the gorgeous dingo pups, snake and koala.

The Society works continuously to promote awareness of wildlife conservation issues, such as the declining population of koalas close to the Sydney region. Wollondilly Shire Council's Koala Conservation Project has grown over the last two years with recent surveys proving that there is a healthy colony of breeding koalas in the region which is part of the only population in the state that is disease free. Koalas are an iconic part of Wollondilly's natural history with the first recorded European sighting of a koala occurring near Bargo in 1798 by John Price, who wrote: "There is another animal that the natives call Cullawine, which much resembles the sloths in America."

Wollondilly Shire Council is partnering with the Office of Environment and



Suzanne Medway and Damion Stirling (Environmental Education Office, Wollondilly Council). Suzanne thanked Damion for being the guest speaker and presented him with a petition of over 500 signatures that the Society collected. The petition is asking the NSW Government to reconsider zoning plans that will impact the local koala population in the Wedderburn area.

Heritage (OEH), neighbouring councils, other organisations and the community to undertake valuable work that will help to protect the koalas. More research and information will inform future development planning and conservation management decisions in this area.

Damion decorated the ballroom with eucalyptus trees, which will be planted on National Tree Day as koala habitat. The presence and health of koalas are very much dependent on the eucalypt

species in an area and the types of soils they grow on. In the Wollondilly region there are two main vegetation types which contain these species and soils, Cumberland Plain Woodland and Shale Sandstone Transition Forest, and these are both endangered ecological communities.

We thank all our members and supporters for their fantastic turnout at our second annual gala ball.



L to R: Steven Wilson, Philip Sansom, Vanessa Wilson and Patrick Medway.



Helpers at the Ball. L to R: Olivia Grabowski, Cindy Aldridge, John Grabowski and Will Grabowski.



# PHOTOS FROM THE GALA BALL



Elise Tobin and Luke Murphy.



L to R: Louise, Jonathan and John Howart-Sparks (this is the person we gave access to Facebook).



L to R: Suzanne Medway, Robert Greenhill, Oliver Richardson, Margaret McGurgan and Deidre Greenhill.



# PHOTOS FROM THE GALA BALL



Suzanne Medway and Brett Murphy, who helped organise the photography with the dingoes, snake and koala.



L to R: Suzanne Medway, Colleen and Denis Keys.



L to R: Suzanne Medway, Julieanne and Trevor Evans.



L to R: Joanne and Brian Scarsbrick and Suzanne Medway.



Shane Sullivan and Danielle Sullivan. The painting is an original Danielle painted specifically for the Ball. Her website is <http://daniellematesullivan.com.au/>