A critical, contemporary environmental issue is the relentless loss of our native fauna. This forum will examine the value of protected areas, such as national parks, nature reserves, marine parks, private conservation reserves and multiple-use reserves, for fauna conservation. What makes the subject of protected areas for this year’s forum so topical is the fact that the IUCN World Congress on Protected Areas, which is held only every 10 years, is being held in Sydney in 2014, starting only 4 days after this forum. The objective of this forum is to throw a spotlight on the value of protected areas for conserving fauna. Despite their evident benefits, protected areas are sometimes criticized for being too small, too many of one type, protected in name only, too few in the fertile lands or wetlands, or only applicable to charismatic megafauna. A crucial element in that debate is the historical context in which protected areas were dedicated; for example, was fauna considered in the process of identifying and protecting areas? This matter of both protected areas and fauna conservation is not just academic, it involves many other interested parties. The word "value" is part of the title, because the concept of setting aside large tracts of land or sea for nature conservation, and adequately managing them, remains contested. The subject needs to remain in the public arena, where the case for new and better managed protected areas is won or lost. As in each year’s forum, there will be plenary sessions to enable audience participation, which will be recorded and included in the publication to follow.

Information including registration forms: Website - rzsns.org.au: RZS office (Wednesdays10am – 4pm): Phone 9969 7336: Email office@rzsnsw.org.au.

Rates: RZS members: earlybird registration $65, otherwise $75; students $25. Non-members: earlybird registration $110, otherwise $145.00; students $35. You may apply to join the RZS at the time you register, thereby obtaining the members’ discount. See RZS website or contact the office for application forms (membership fees: Scientific and Ordinary Members (3 publication options) hard copy publications $120, e-publications $75.00, without publications $55.00; Students $55.00 (e-publications only); Juniors $30.00). All members receive a free annual pass to Taronga and Western Plains Zoos. (The Australian Museum venue has a limited capacity, so it may be a good idea to book early.) Registration fees include lunch, morning and afternoon tea. Advance registrations at earlybird prices close 29 October 2014. You may also register on the day.

For program details: contact Dan Lunney at dan.lunney@environment.nsw.gov.au or dan.lunney@sydney.edu.au; Pat Hutchings at Pat.Hutchings@austmus.gov.au; Chris Dickman at chris.dickman@sydney.edu.au If you are interested in presenting a poster, or a paper in the publication to follow, contact one of the above contact organisers. All submissions will be reviewed.

Program as of 12 September 2014 detailed on back.
8.55 am  Welcome – Martin Predavec (President)

9.00-9.15  Mat Vanderklift (CSIRO Perth): Designing and managing for successful Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).


9.45-10.00 Pat Hutchings (Australian Museum) & Richard Kenchington (CSIRO Coastal Cluster Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security University of Wollongong): MPAs - a 2.5D solution to a 4D problem.

10.00-10.30  Plenary

10.30 - 11.00  Morning tea

11.00-11.15  Mike Calver (Murdoch University, Perth): Social conflict, protected areas and fauna conservation: Historical lessons from Western Australia's South Dandalup Reserve.


11.30-11.45  Peggy Eby (ecological consultant) and Brad Law (DPI): Bias in reserve selection for migratory species: a case study of flying-foxes.

11.45-12.00  Harry Recher (Australian Museum): Two examples of political and ideological constraints in identifying areas for reservation; the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service scientific committee during the era of mineral sands mining in the late ‘60s and Western Australia’s Great Western Woodlands in 2014.

12.00-12.30  Plenary

12.30 – 1.30  Lunch

1.30-1.45  Ayesha Tulloch (UQ/ANU): Accounting for cost-effectiveness and uncertainty to design better protection strategies for threatened and nomadic wildlife.

1.45-2.00  James Brazill-Boast and Alison Curtin (Office of Environment and Heritage NSW): The Saving our Species program: targeting and prioritising threatened species management at the landscape scale.

2.00-2.15  Liz Tasker (Office of Environment and Heritage NSW): The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area: the links between biodiversity, pyrodiversity and conservation.

2.15-2.30  Chris Dickman (University of Sydney): Risks to fauna in protected arid environments.

2.30-2.45  Plenary

2.45-3.15  Afternoon tea

3.15-3.30  Scott Burnett (University of the Sunshine Coast): When ecology, behaviour and life history strategy collide. The inadequacy of the protected area estate for the long-term viability of the spotted-tailed quoll Dasyurus maculatus.


3.45-4.00  Chris Slade and Brad Law (DPI NSW): The other half of the State Forest estate; what can informal forest reserves add to conservation?

4.00-4.15  Dieter Hochuli (University of Sydney): Hidden values: how protected areas in urban landscapes enhance conservation.


4.30-5.00  Plenary

Posters
Dan Lunney and Ben Hope (Office of Environment and Heritage NSW): Fauna research in national parks and nature reserves in NSW

5.05 pm  AGM of the RZS. All members are encouraged to stay for a short AGM.