



KANGAROO ISLAND WILDLIFE NETWORK: FOUNDER & PRESIDENT KATIE WELZ

The KI Wildlife Network is a not for profit volunteer organisation dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of Kangaroo Island's unique wildlife. By protecting and restoring our natural environment, we hope to prevent wildlife trauma and keep wildlife in the wild. One of our key roles is to connect our community to the natural world around them. By helping to facilitate this relationship between humans and their surrounds, we hope they will start to care about what is around them. Our two key projects at the moment are creating and repairing habitats for the endangered Glossy Black Cockatoo and the threatened Little Penguin (in South Australia).

Key feeding habitats for the Glossy Black Cockatoo were lost in the 2019/2020 bushfires. We are now seeing the birds in areas where they have not been previously recorded. This is due to individuals planting sheoak forests where this habitat once existed but was destroyed when the land was cleared. Some trees were planted 30 years ago and this is the first time they have been used by the Glossies!!!

Little Penguins habitats have been changing throughout time on Kangaroo Island. Although nationally they are considered a species of least concern, in South Australia, they have been upgraded to threatened. There are many factors leading to their decline but unfortunately the species is data deficient, so identifying some of the reasons for decline has been difficult.

Research has been happening at the Emu Bay penguin colony for around 10 years now by Dr. Diane Colombelli-Negrel from Flinders University. She has found this particular group of penguins to be genetically unique, having a distinct language as well as a different foraging strategy to other colonies on KI. Other research is being conducted on foraging pressures as well as the seal / penguin relationship by Sarah-Lena Reinhold from Adelaide University.

Some of the penguin's immediate challenges are terrestrial predation by feral cats and goannas, heat stress in their burrows due to rising air temperatures and invasive weed species choking the habitat.

KIWN is working towards weeding out invasive plant species and planting appropriate coastal vegetation to assist with providing nesting materials and helping to provide natural cover over existing and new burrows to reduce heat stress.

BIG PICTURE COLLECTIVE: FOUNDER RICHARD TIPPETT ARTIST JULIE PATERSON

Setting up The Big Picture Collective is our contribution to raise both money and awareness to help save threatened native species.

The vision is pretty simple. We have commissioned our artist friend, Julie Paterson, to paint portraits of species at risk. We produce small limited-edition runs of these artworks and sell them to art-lovers who care about preserving these amazing creatures. We aim to sell out each edition to support community groups to help fund their conservation work. Our website will amplify their message and tell their stories. It will make more people aware of what's at stake, what's being done, and how they can get involved.

We've got faith in the power of art to draw our attention to what matters. Julie's paintings are a way to make people feel something, to really connect with these species that we are at risk of losing.



By spreading the word or buying a print, you will be helping to make a difference.

Thank you to our partner Gastronomo for assisting KIWN to raise much needed funds.