In 1999, the Royal Zoological Society of NSW ran a symposium on the dingo. The papers from the day were published by the Society in 2001 as *A symposium on the dingo* (edited by Chris Dickman and Dan Lunney). All the papers from that symposium are freely available on the website of the Royal Zoological Society of NSW. Now, 20 years after the initial symposium, we are taking the opportunity to bring together much of the large body of research and ideas that have advanced our understanding of the dingo since 1999.

The day has been structured around a sequence of broad topics that both update key themes from the earlier forum and introduce new ideas. Given that there is a wide range of views on how to manage dingoes, and wild dogs, the day’s program has been arranged so that the papers reflect the divergent views on this controversial carnivore. The very term “dingo” is evocative. For some people, dingoes are to be admired, but for others, they are to be feared. This creates a dilemma as to how we, as a nation, should manage the dingo. The options include culling this carnivore, especially where it preys on stock, or containing dingoes with fences, or at the other end of the spectrum, conserving the dingo because of its role as an apex predator that has recognisable benefits for managing ecosystems, including suppressing the invasive alien carnivores – the cat and the fox. There is also the argument as to whether the dingo is a native species, and if yes, whether it qualifies for listing as threatened. Where such tensions exist, there is a pressing need to review how and why we manage dingoes. This debate requires many voices, and in our opinion, the science of zoology has much to contribute. Hence this forum being a program of the Royal Zoological Society of NSW.

There will be ample opportunity for discussion and debate from the audience in the plenary sessions that are a key point of the structure of the day – in fact, a good proportion of the day is devoted to debate across the room. These plenary sessions will be recorded and form part of the publication that will follow the day. The day will be lively: do come and listen, and participate in the plenary sessions.
Program

**Session 1**

**Welcome**
*Pat Hutchings – President RZS NSW*

**A brief history of the debate**
*Chris Dickman – University of Sydney*

**What is a dingo – origins, hybridisation and identity**
*Kylie Cairns – UNSW*

**Does introgression even matter when talking about the dingo?**
*Mathew Crowther – University of Sydney*

**A dog’s breakfast: The human-dingo-environmental nexus through time**
*Melanie Fillios (UNE) and Loukas Koungoulos*

**TBC**

**Plenary 1**

**Morning tea**

**Session 2**

**Dingo removal has congruent effects on mammal assemblages at a continental scale**
*Mike Letnic – UNSW*

**Contributions of the Pelorus Island project to understanding dingo’s ecological roles**
*Benjamin Allen – University of Southern Queensland*

**Monitoring and management: some lessons from a decade with dingoes**
*Lou Ballard – NSW DPI*

**Predation by dingoes or cats: which is the greater threat to mammal reintroduction programs?**
*Katherine Moncel – Arid Recovery/UNSW*

**How legislation facilitates control and conservation of dingoes: 20 years after Davis 2001**
*Peter Fleming – NSW DPI*

**Plenary 2**

**Lunch**

**Session 3**

**Dingo water knowledge**
*Justine Philip - UNE*

**Whose dingo? Exploring diverse stakeholder perceptions of Australia’s canid**
*Lily van Eeden – University of Sydney*

**Dingoes: managing the unmanageable**
*David Pollock – Wooleen Station*

**Dingo/wild dog conservation, control, management**
*Warren Schofield – ACT Parks*

**Non-lethal methods for dingo management**
*Brad Smith – Central Queensland University*

**Plenary 3**

**Afternoon tea**

**Session 4**

**Dingo-human conflict - lessons from K’gari Fraser Island**
*Linda Behrendorff – Queensland Parks*

**Dingoes, wild and domestic dogs: implications for disease spread**
*Michael Ward – University of Sydney*

**Trophic cascades in the Strzelecki dunefield: shrub communities either side of the Dingo Barrier Fence**
*Charlotte Mills – UNSW*

**TBC**

**Looking to the future – what role for the dingo?**
*Thomas Newsome – University of Sydney*

**Plenary 4**

**Posters:** Posters will be on display and form part of the published conference proceedings. We welcome more posters.

The RZS NSW will publish a theme edition of the Society’s journal *Australian Zoologist* to capture the papers and posters from the forum, as well as the plenary sessions during the day of the forum.

**RZS NSW Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting of the Royal Zoological Society of NSW will be held at 5.05 pm, directly after the forum.