

## PRACTITIONER PRESENTATION

### Teaching empathy not facts to save Australia's wildlife.

Dean Huxley, WA Wildlife

#### Abstract

Australia has the highest rate of species extinction in the world - now more than ever, wildlife conservation needs to be flagged as a priority in Australian education. But the education model we have used for decades is not working.

For decades, wildlife conservation has been seen as something that can only be achieved through science and research. And whilst science and research is important in our fight to preserving our precious flora and fauna, the strategies are not working. We are losing species at an alarming rate and the tried-and-true educational models we teach our children are falling short.

World renowned environmental lawyer and advocate, Gus Speth, is now sharing a similar message:

"I used to think the top environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and climate change. I thought that with 30 years of good science we could address those problems. But I was wrong. The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed and apathy...and to deal with those we need a spiritual and cultural transformation – and we scientists don't know how to do that."

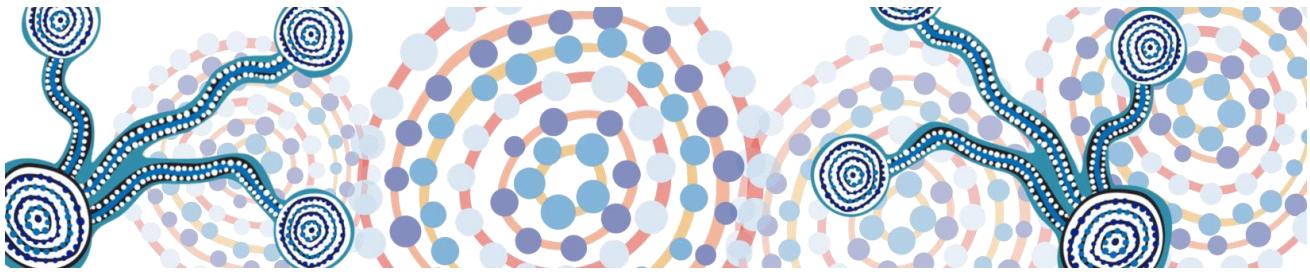
WA Wildlife has a new way of teaching students how to conserve our beautiful wildlife – and science has nothing to do with it!

#### Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet and pays respects to their Elders past and present.

#### Speaker Profile

Dean Huxley is WA Wildlife's Operations Director and holds a Graduate Diploma in Strategic Leadership. He was the Centre's Animal Care Coordinator from 2010 to 2017 and has almost 15 years experience working with wildlife. He was responsible for establishing Western Australia's first wildlife veterinary hospital (at WA Wildlife), sits on several advisory committees and is dedicated to wildlife conservation and climate awareness. Dean is a 'Climate Reality Leader' after participating in the 2019 Climate Reality Leadership Corps



training in Brisbane and served as a Mentor for new trainees in the 2020 Training. As well as his extensive experience in wildlife rehabilitation, Dean was previously involved at an Executive level with other wildlife organisations including Western Australian Seabird Rescue and the Western Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Council.

Dean is a proud animal rights advocate and promotes a waste free, cruelty free lifestyle.

## Website links

