

When I was a child, every year we would head to Croajingolong National Park to soak up the wilderness. We swam in the lagoon and on the surf beach, hiked through the forests and spent countless hours sitting silently and watching the local wildlife.

Six years ago I took my children camping for an entire year. The thing they wrote about constantly on our blog were the animal encounters that they had. From whales, to rufus bettongs to the tiniest skinks. They were fascinated by them all.

I wonder, when they are grown up and taking their own children to Croajingolong, what will be left for them to discover.

We can't claim we didn't know what was happening with our extinction crisis.

We know that Victoria is the most cleared state in Australia.

We know that many of our species are under threat of extinction.

We know that the recent Australian bushfires wiped out over a billion animals.

We also know that we can do something about it.

We can put a stop to illegal logging.

We can kick start the post-pandemic economy by employing people to replant our lost vegetation.

We can follow NSW's lead and start a 'Save our Species' program.

There are so many things we can do before it's too late. Things we **must** do before it's too late. Things that need to be done so that our wildlife remains a living force, not a distant memory.

So, I have a simple request. Please do them.

Katherine Addis

Nature lover, parent, future possible grandparent.

