

JENNIFER GORRINGE

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**Organisation:** N/A

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**Location:** *New South Wales*

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**Supporting materials uploaded:** N/A

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**Topic 5. The role of State Forests in maximising the delivery of a range of environmental, economic and social outcomes and options for diverse management, including Aboriginal forest management models**

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In 2003 my husband and I moved to a beautiful coastal area of NSW inhabited by koalas, Port Stephens. We were thrilled to find koalas frequently walking along our road in Lemon Tree Passage and feeding in their favorite trees. It doesn't happen anymore: koala sightings are a very rare sight in our village now.

When we came here we were recently retired and looked for ways to involve ourselves in the community. We joined the Tilligerry Habitat Association, an organization which manages 13 hectares of land which is a koala corridor on the edge of Tanilba Bay. This land, once sand-mined and left devastated, has now been lovingly nurtured back into a beautiful recreational and tourist attraction by a succession of dedicated volunteers. It is owned by Crown Lands but it is the community involvement that has caused it to flourish and from this Tilligerry Habitat Association many have been encouraged to take a more active part in protecting and monitoring the native flora and fauna of the area.

For example, I and some like-minded friends have regular nature walks on the Tilligerry Peninsular and have documented flora and fauna of the area. We have had a particular interest in native orchids and now have a good record of the 65 species we have found here.

This sort of citizen science is, I believe, a wonderful way to help protect our environment and should also be valued for its social outcomes.