# The Unzoo Sanctuary

## Giving Control & Competence Back to Animals while Enriching Visitors

**2023 Taipei Master Planning and Zoo Design Conference**
**Jon Coe**

Jon Coe

# Zoo =
# coerced animals, cages

## *Evolving to…*

# Unzoo =
# Attracted Animals, Choice, Control, Competence
# No Cages!

Jon Coe

# Think Differently!

## Zoo:

With "cages"

Physical barriers for animals

Display based upon coercion
  or limitation

Managed captive animals

Animals forced to human
  schedule

Large animal shows

Capital intensive

## Unzoo:

Without "cages"

Physical barriers for people

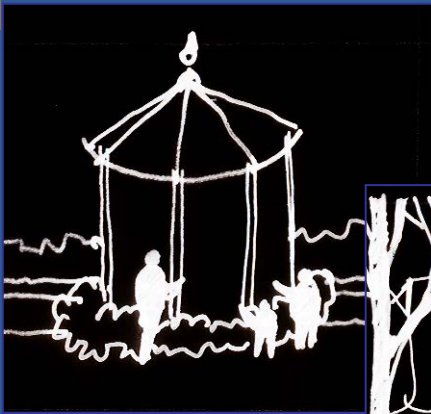Display based upon attraction,
  motivation, choice & control

Managed free-ranging rehabilitated
  and wild animals

People adapt to animal's schedule
  with animals trained to broaden
  schedule
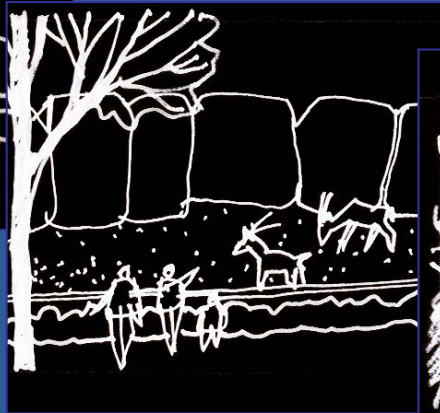
Small naturalistic Habitat Theatre.

Staff intensive

Jon Coe

# Zoos Evolving:



**VICTORIAN EXHIBIT**

- Humans dominate
- Cages
- Animals as objects

**HAGENBECK EXHIBIT 1907**

- Humans dominate
- Barriers "naturalistic"
- Zoo as model

**IMMERSION EXHIBIT 1976**

- Animals dominate
- Hidden barriers
- Nature as model

**UNZOO 2004**

- Animals & Nature Dominate
- Animals attracted rather than confined

Jon Coe

# Existing Unzoo Examples



People and birds exploit each other, creating vital and lasting bonds with 'nature'

These birds trained me to feed them

Jon Coe

# Existing Unzoo Examples





Dolphin swimming with people. Dolphin Controls the encounter.

Sea lions took over San Francisco's Pier 39, creating a tourist attraction.
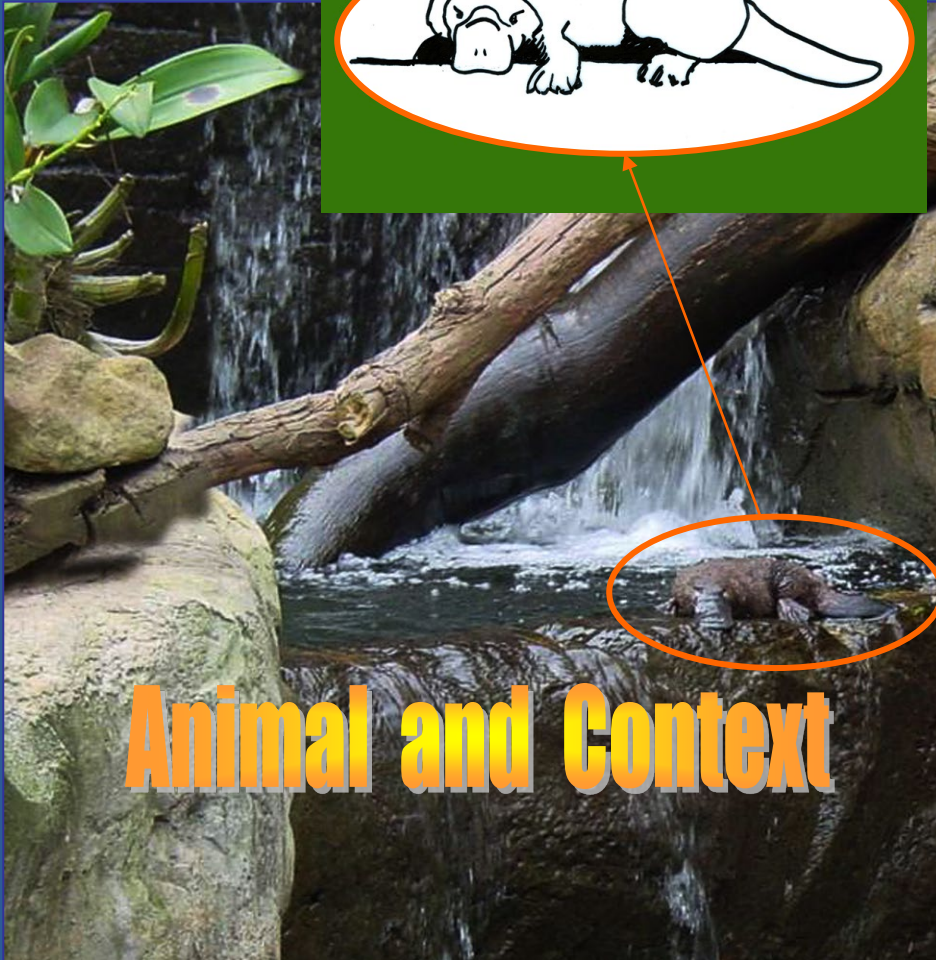
Jon Coe

# Existing Unzoo Examples



Trainer Joshua Bassett

Conditioning Free-Ranging Water Dragon at Currumbin Sanctuary

Jon Coe

# *Tools of Change:* **Immersion**

**Immersed in**
- **Sights,**
- **Sounds,**
- **Smells,**
- **Nature's Landscape**

 **… The complete ecological picture.**

**Animal and Context**

**Looking Up**

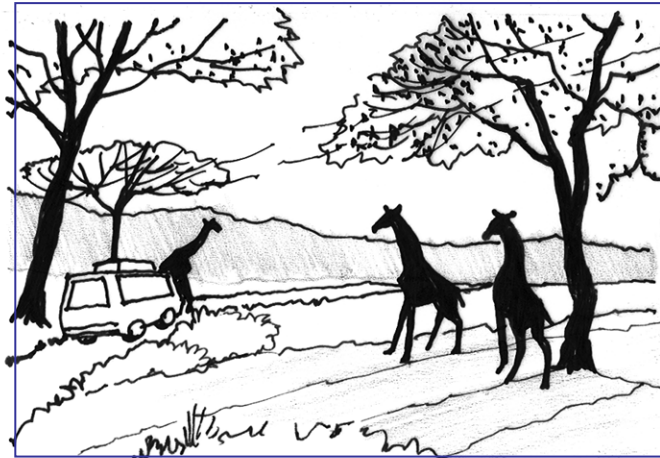© L. Sammons

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# Tools of Change:
# Controlling People



Walk Through

Boardwalk

Drive Through

Sky Walk

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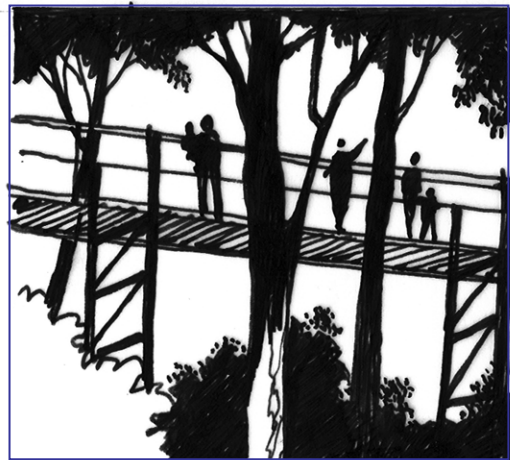
# *Tools of Change:*
# Animal Training



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# *Tools of Change:*
# Habitat Theatre



© Joe Sebo

Jon Coe

# *Tools of Change:*
# Attracting Animals



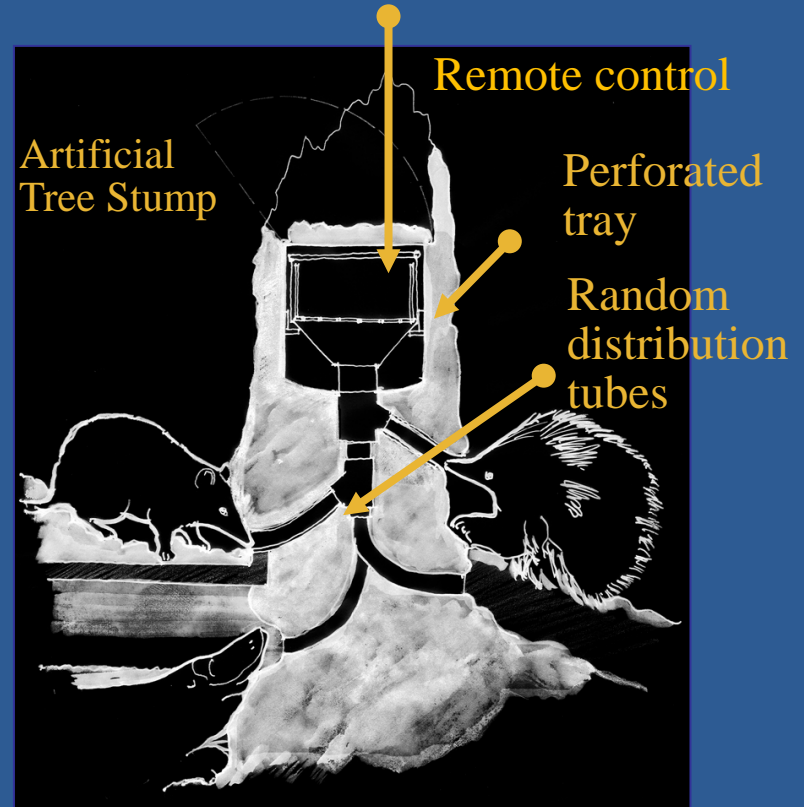Feeder can be lowered for service

Nest cavity

**Arboreal Level**

**Terrestrial Level**

**Aquatic Level**
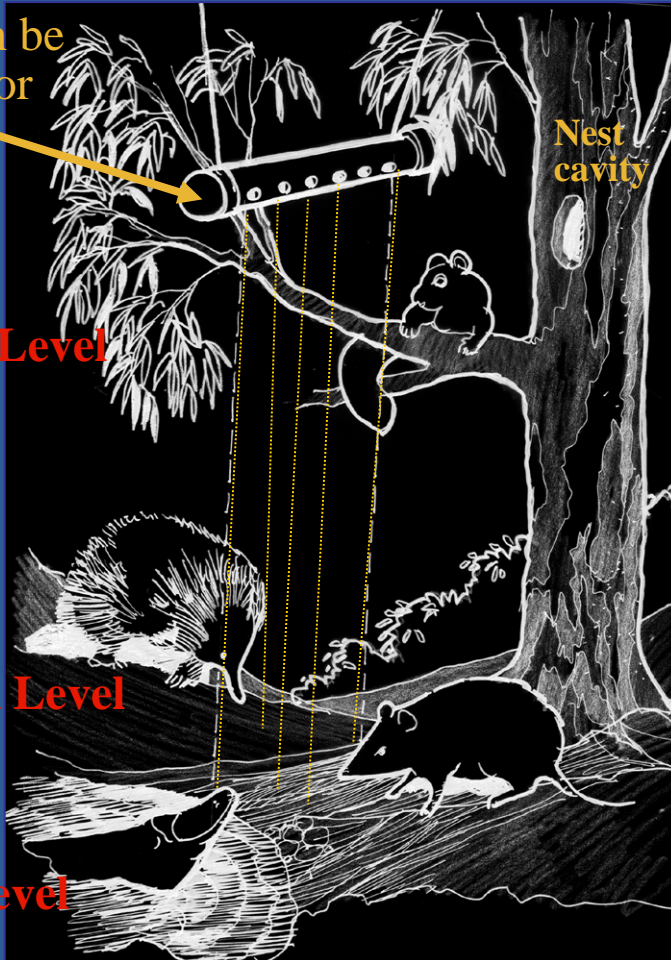
**PVC Pipe Feeder**

Place refrigerated meal worms, crickets etc. in removable food hopper

Remote control

Artificial Tree Stump

Perforated tray

Random distribution tubes

**Low Provisioning Station**

Jon Coe

# *Tools of Change:*
# Close Encounters



© Philadelphia Academy of Science

Jon Coe

# *Tools of Change:*
# Expand the Senses

**Local Expert**

Werribee Open Range Zoo

**Microchip**

**Telemetry**

trovan

SALES &
SERVICING
(03) 9706 ...

Werribee Open Range Zoo

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# *Tools of Change:*
# Ethnic Connections

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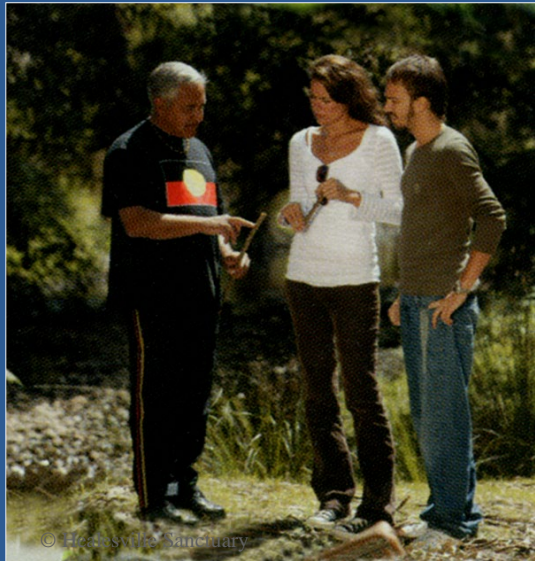
# *Tools of Change:* **Night Events & Encounters**

Ray Mendez

© Slumber Safaris
Werribee Open Range Zoo

Ray Mendez

Ray Mendez

Jon Coe
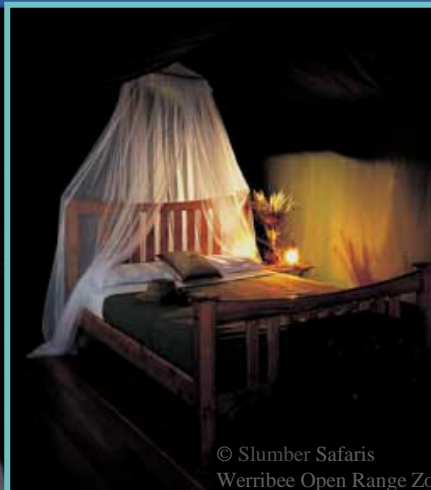
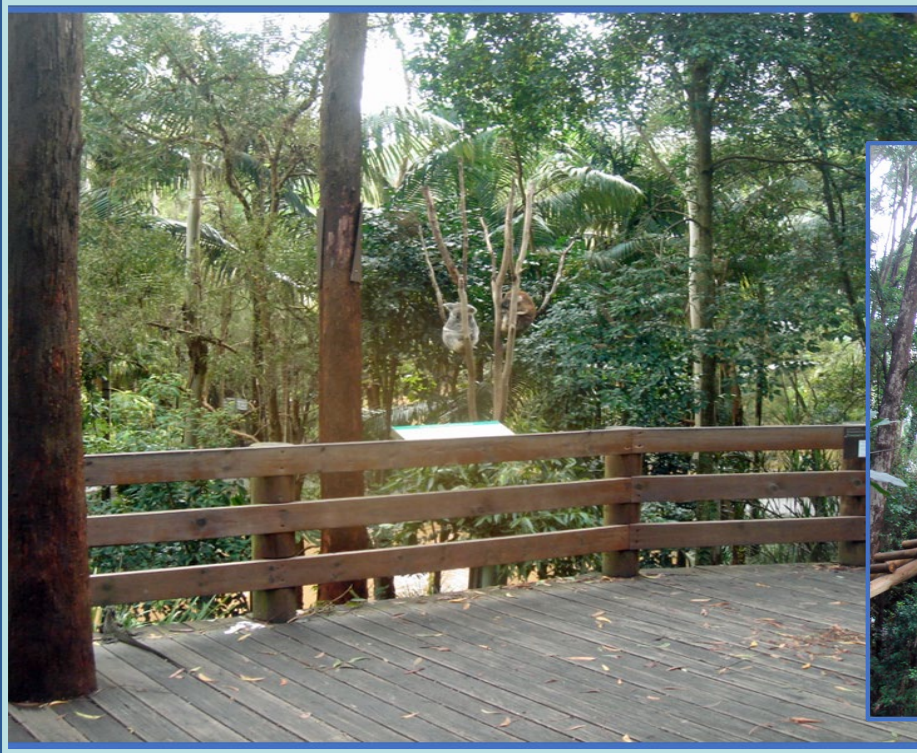# **Inspiring Images**
# Healesville Sanctuary

Wade with
Platypus

Animal rescue & treatment focus

Jon Coe

# Inspiring Images
## Currumbin Sanctuary
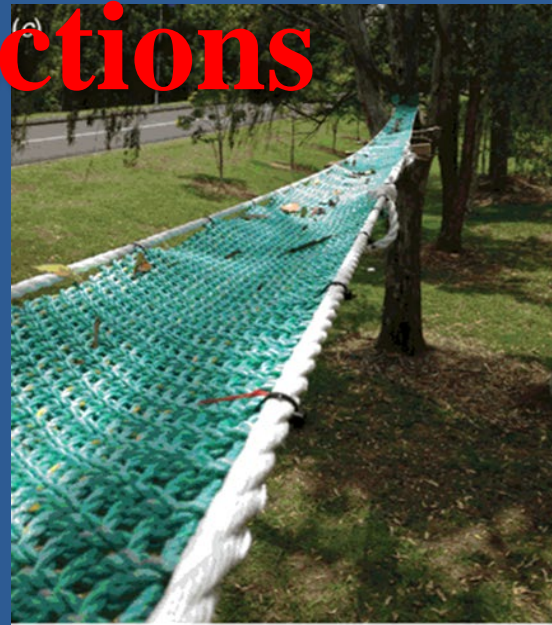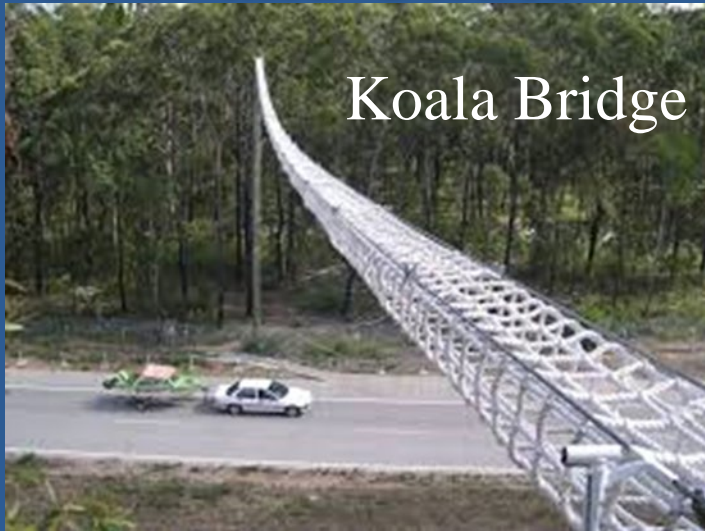


# Canopy trails for animals & visitors

Jon Coe

# Morris Arboretum Tree House



Canopy trails for animals & visitors

Jon Coe

# Wildlife Connections

## Over and Under



Koala Bridge

Koala Tunnel

Jon Coe

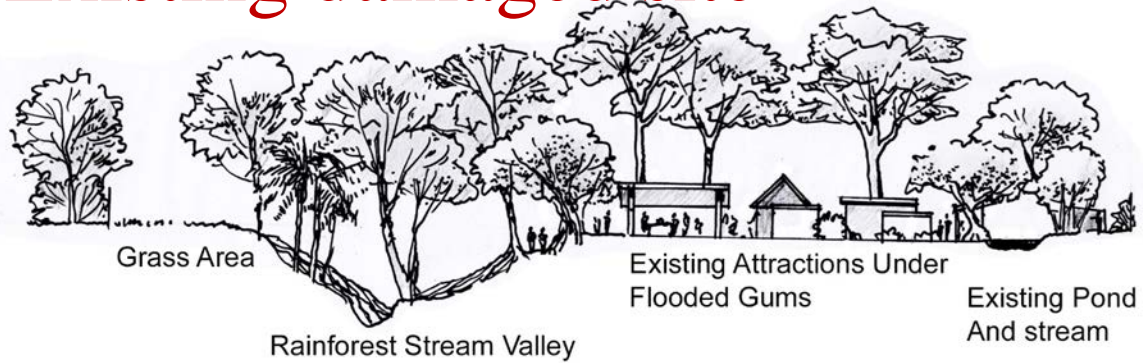# *Tools of Change:*
# Exotic to Native Animals

- From exotic to native animals & habitats.
- From breed & release to heal & release.
- From many small expensive exhibits to fewer, larger mixed-species natural areas.
- From  bring outside looking in: to walk-through experiences.
- From passive to guided experiences.
- From emphasis on built facilities to focus on staff & animal training and abilities.

# Proposed Byron Bay Australia Wildlife Hospital & Sanctuary
## Case Study



Existing Renovated Macadamia Castle Attraction



Existing damaged site

Grass Area

Rainforest Stream Valley

Existing Attractions Under Flooded Gums

Existing Pond And stream



Proposed restored site

Grass Clearing

RainforestValley

Treehouse

Flooded Forest

Jon Coe

# Concept Plan

Remote service area

Wildlife Corridor

**Grassy Woodland**

Future Expansion

**Rainforest valley**

Canopy Walk

Tree House

**Flooded Gum Woodland**

Event Pavilion

Nature Play

Café Terrace

**Wildlife Hospital**

**Visitor Hub**

Future Expansion

P a r k i n g

# Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital & Sanctuary

Jon Coe
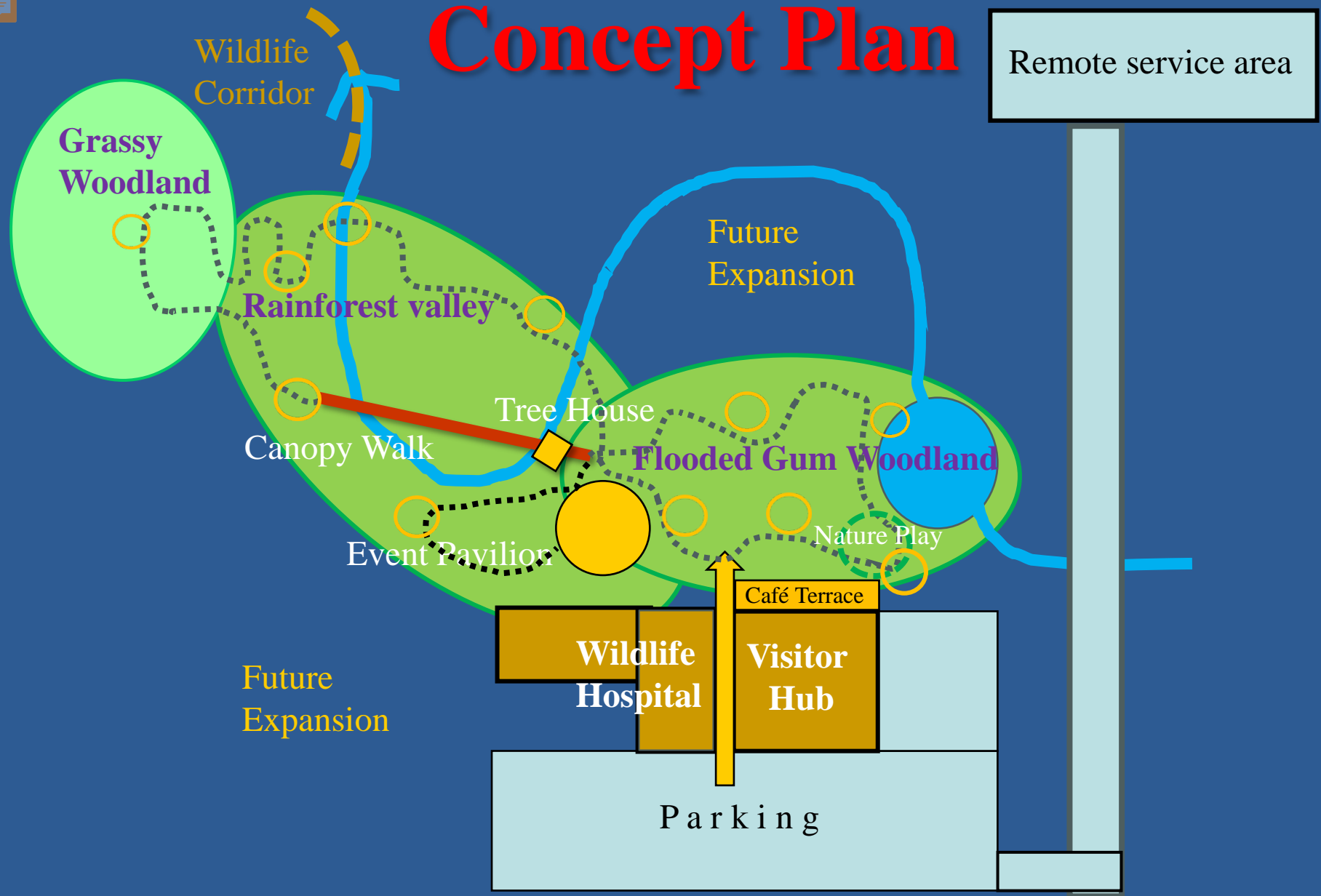
# Wildlife Hospital Concept



Exit Through Hub

**Wildlife Hospital & Visitor Hub**

Entry



Functional work areas



Public viewing of medical procedures
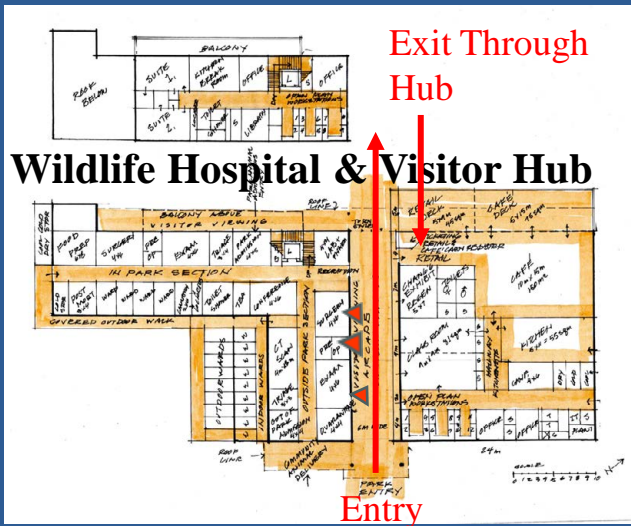
# The Unzoo Sanctuary Case Study

## Proposed Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital & Sanctuary

- Ecological restoration of a disturbed site.

- Wildlife hospital for rescue, treatment & release.

- Support some non-releasable wildlife in sanctuary.

- Connect to wildlife corridors.

- Condition local wildlife to accommodate visitors.

- Night experiences when wild mammals are active.

- Fewer visitors, "elite" experiences.

- Fewer buildings, more staff.

- Supporting events, conferences, retreats.

- Earned revenue to support hospital.

Jon Coe and Ray Mendez

# Strategic Concept: Will it work?

Based upon the novel proposition that visitors will be more satisfied discovering fewer **free-ranging** birds, mammals & reptiles trained to do natural behaviours, including semi-scripted "surprise encounters," throughout restored natural landscapes compared to seeing more contained animals in a traditional zoo.

Jon Coe

# Tools of Change Summary

- Immersion Design
- Positive Training
- Habitat Theatre
- Control People – Attract Animals
- Provide Close Encounters
- Expand the Senses
- Night Encounters
- Ethnic Connections
- Invest in People, Not Facilities
- Evolve!

Jon Coe

# The Unzoo Sanctuary

Jon Coe

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