

# THREATENED WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

## Winners Announced

The Australian Wildlife Society Threatened Wildlife Photographic Competition is a national competition that awards and promotes endangered Australian wildlife through the medium of photography.

The Australian Wildlife Society invited photographers to raise the plight of endangered wildlife in Australia. Our Society aims to encourage the production of photographs taken in Australia, by Australians, which reflects the diversity and uniqueness of endangered Australian wildlife.



**The annual judge's prize of \$1,000 was won by Native Animal Rescue of Western Australia (Mike Jones, Black Cockatoo Coordinator).**

The winning entry was a photo of a forest red-tailed black cockatoo named Makuru.

The forest red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksia naso*) is listed as Vulnerable; only two of the five subspecies of black cockatoo are listed as Threatened on account of habitat destruction and competition for nesting hollows.

The photograph was taken in Native Animal Rescue's Black Cockatoo Facility (opened 2011 thanks to a generous grant from Lotterywest), which allows them to receive and care for injured or ill black cockatoos.

Makuru (a Nyungar word meaning The First Rains or Fertility Season) was the first captive-born black cockatoo at the facility in July 2016. The photo depicts the young cockatoo emerging from its breeding hollow at two months and 15 days.

**Thank you to all the contributors to the Society's inaugural Threatened Wildlife Photographic Competition – please enter again next year.**





### **The annual people's choice prize of \$500 was won by Matt White**

Matt's entry was a photo of a greater glider (*Petauroides volans*). He photographed the glider in Brisbane, Queensland.

The reason Matt photographed the greater glider is that they are Australia's largest glider species and are at great threat of disappearing due to land clearing. The thing he likes about these animals is not one animal is the same and all have various colours. They range from standard black forms to the rare white colour. Their diet consists of eucalypt leaves, similar to the koala, which is also facing big challenges, especially in South East Queensland. Matt believes that our state and federal governments need to do more to stop habitat loss as gliders need hollows which are only found in trees hundreds of years old.

Matt Wright lives on the Gold Coast in Queensland and is an avid wildlife photographer. He spends most of his free time out amongst nature looking for wildlife to learn about and photograph. He enjoys the challenges of trying to find the animals in the specific habitats they live in and even more trying to get a beautiful image of them.



### **Greater bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*)**

Photo by Jasmine Vink

A greater bilby, listed as Vulnerable, from the Arid Recovery reserve in South Australia. Bilbies used to be found on 70 percent of mainland Australia, but a combination of cats and foxes saw drastic reductions in population through the early to mid-1900s. A small number of bilbies persist with feral predators, but most are found in predator-free reserves. These reserves are extremely important to create sustainable and self-sufficient populations of endangered species until we can figure out how to manage cats effectively.



### **Collared delma (*Delma torquata*)**

Photo by Jasmine Vink

Reptiles are overlooked, and this is especially true for species such as the collared delma. This tiny legless lizard lives under rocks, logs and in the thick leaf litter of South East Queensland. Its habits makes it extremely elusive and not easily found. Extensive land clearing through this region has led to this species being classified as Vulnerable under the EPBC Act. Jasmine hopes to bring awareness to our less charismatic species which are equally deserving of our attention and support.



### **Rosenberg's monitor (*Varanus rosenbergi*)**

Photo by Matthew Higgins

Rosenberg's monitor (also called the heath monitor) is listed as Threatened throughout most of its range in Australia: in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. Matthew has been studying these goannas in the Australian Capital Territory, where he discovered a population on Mt Ainslie almost in the centre of the national capital. During January–February 2016 he took the first photos of breeding activity by this species ever taken in the Australian Capital Territory. Matthew witnessed the female laying eggs in a termite mound, then the female guarding the mound against predation including by other monitors (she was joined by her male partner for some of this time). Eight months later, in September–October, he recorded the hatching of the eggs and emergence of the young and their dispersal into the bush, which is the subject of the photo. The hatchling, therefore, represents a new generation of a threatened species going forth. The adults grow to 1.5 m; the hatchlings are about 25 cm. The project received substantial media coverage by the Canberra Times newspaper and ABC television news.







**Orange-bellied parrot**  
(*Neophema chrysogaster*)

Photo by John French

While spending the Christmas--New Year period with his son in Melbourne, John took the opportunity to visit Healesville Sanctuary. The Sanctuary has a breeding program for the orange-bellied parrot -- one of only two species of migrating parrot in Australia, the other is the swift parrot. Both these species are listed as Threatened. The orange-bellied parrot is on the verge of extinction in the wild -- there are thought to be currently less than 20 birds. John stayed in the walk-in aviary at Healesville for ages -- transfixed by the exquisiteness of these little parrots. The joy of seeing their beauty for the first time was levelled by the thought that he (and anyone else) would probably never get to see a flock of these gorgeous birds in their native habitat.



**Southern brown bandicoot**  
(quenda) (*Isoodon obesulus*)

Photo by Joanne Brazier

Gooseberry Hill in Western Australia has a native vegetation corridor that allows the quenda to freely roam this beautiful hills location. Bandicoots are mistaken for rats and mice then poisoned and trapped because of this misidentification. Joanne would love to be able to save these beautiful native marsupials by sharing the wonder of them through photographs and education. With gestation as little as 12 days, even Google is not aware of the wonder of our beautiful native marsupial -- it's about time we changed that.



## **Richmond birdwing butterfly** **(*Ornithoptera richmondia*)**

Photo by Ross Coupland

The Richmond birdwing butterfly is threatened by habitat loss and degradation – now restricted only to the remnant rainforest patches in South East Queensland and northern New South Wales. The larvae are susceptible to poisoning from feeding on introduced Dutchman's pipe vine, which resembles their only two endemic native food plants. It is a spectacular species, large and colourful and a joy to see in the wild.

This individual was photographed while Ross was away on Christmas holidays at Springbrook National Park in South East Queensland. It was readily feeding on buddleja flowers around the guesthouse throughout the day, but Ross only managed one good photo. He wanted to get a photo as it is such a rarely seen and spectacular species which needs to be saved.



## **Green-thighed frog** **(*Litoria brevipalmata*)**

Photo by Ross Coupland

This is a species of frog Ross hoped to find and photograph one day, and after many failed attempts he managed to locate one south of Brisbane in city council bushland. It is a beautiful ground-dwelling tree frog that can be hard to find due to its small size and particular habitat requirements. The frogs are also very specific about which weather conditions they will appear in, preferring extremely wet nights in areas prone to flooding. Their distribution has become extremely fragmented due to urban and highway development. This has destroyed suitable habitat and has led to the restriction of movement between populations, therefore reducing genetic diversity and in turn increasing the risk of disease. It is listed as Endangered by the IUCN and there is currently no management plan in place for the recovery of this species.



## **Fleay's barred frog** **(*Mixophyes fleayi*)**

Photo by Amy (Kit) Prendergast

Fleay's barred frog is classified as Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Like many anurans, it has suffered declines due to the devastating emergent infectious disease chytridiomycosis, caused by the chytrid fungus *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*. Sharing a similar fate with other frogs across the globe, and indeed in Australia, it has suffered from habitat loss and is now restricted to small, isolated pockets of rainforest in New South Wales. This photo was taken on a bamboo property near Bonalbo, close to the biodiverse Northern Rivers region of New South Wales.

Kit discovered it on a night-time biodiversity hunt near a small dam and was enamoured by this large charismatic patterned frog. Further research following the discovery revealed its dire conservation situation but also provided hope: monitoring has revealed that this species has undergone a degree of recovery in numbers.







**Western ringtail possum**  
*(Pseudocheirus peregrinus occidentalis)*

Photo by Robert McLean

The western ringtail possum is now listed as Critically Endangered in Western Australia. Habitat loss, predation by feral animals and car strikes are taking their toll on this native, and drastic steps need to be taken to ensure its survival into the future. Robert managed to spot this possum in a stand of sheoak on a recent trip to Albany.



**Dingo (*Canis lupus dingo*)**

Photo by Nicole Manteit

The dingo is listed as Vulnerable. The photo of this dingo pup was taken at the Dingo Discovery and Conservation Centre in Toolernvale, Victoria, which is an important sanctuary where people can learn more about these beautiful animals. Nicole photographed the dingo pup because she wants people to realise dingos are an important part of the Australian ecosystem, not a pest. She wanted to capture their unique personalities and natural beauty.



**Broad-shelled turtle**  
**(*Chelodina expansa*)**

Photo by Claudia Santori

This photo is of a juvenile broad-shelled turtle, which is a very rare Australian freshwater turtle living along the Murray River. Out of the three species that live in the river, the broad-shelled turtle is found in the lowest numbers, and because of this, it is listed as Vulnerable under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* and as Endangered under the *Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*. These turtles suffer from a variety of different threats, including fox predation of their eggs and vehicle collisions.



**Numbat**  
**(*Myrmecobius fasciatus*)**

Photo by Robert McLean

This photo is of a litter of young numbats sunning themselves at the entrance to their burrow in Dryandra Woodland, Western Australia. Robert watched this family grow until they eventually dispersed to find territories of their own. Numbats are listed as Endangered, their main threats being predation by introduced predators and habitat destruction. Robert came across this female numbat with pouch young late one afternoon and managed to get a few photos before she disappeared into the bush.



**Green and golden bell frog**  
**(*Litoria aurea*)**

Photo by Leesa (Lisa) Pratt

The green and golden bell frog is a large, stout frog, approximately 45–100 millimetres long. It features a gold or cream/white stripe along its side, with a narrow, dark-brown stripe beneath it. It is blue or bluish-green on the inside of the thighs. Its body is vivid pea-green, splotched with metallic brassy brown or gold. The backs of some individuals may be entirely green, while in others golden-brown markings dominate. Since 1990 there have been approximately 50 recorded locations in New South Wales. Large populations in New South Wales are located around the metropolitan areas of Sydney, Shoalhaven and the mid-north coast. There is only one known population on the New South Wales Southern Tablelands. This photo was taken at Australian Reptile Park at Gosford.







### **Grey-headed flying-fox** **(*Pteropus poliocephalus*)**

Photo by Marcia Riederer

The grey-headed flying-fox is considered Vulnerable in Australia, mainly due to lack of suitable habitat. In Melbourne, the animals roost along the Yarra River and fly overnight foraging. This particular individual visited Marcia's backyard apple tree regularly. It created the perfect opportunity to observe and take a photo of the bat eating.



### **Spotted-tailed quoll** **(*Dasyurus maculatus*)**

Photo by Amber Gillett

This photo was taken in Maryland National Park on the border of New South Wales and Queensland. These endangered quolls exist in very low densities in this very small and isolated park, which is surrounded by farmland, and appear to have undergone significant declines over the past ten years. Amber is a wildlife veterinarian and an ecologist who has conducted two surveys in the park. She has radio-collared and monitored a small number of quolls during the past two years to determine how they use the national park and surrounding farmland, and to see if there are important areas of habitat to protect. 'Evan' (featured in this photo) was one of the few collared quolls helping to find out more about these rare, endangered and amazing animals. Amber took the photo at his release. It is extremely hard to capture images of spotted-tailed quolls in New South Wales and Queensland as their numbers are much lower than in Tasmania, where they are more commonly seen.



**Southern cassowary**  
**(*Casuarus casuarius*)**

Photo by Lyndal White

The southern cassowary is evaluated as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. It is estimated that less than 2,200 cassowaries remain in their habitat situated between Mission Beach, Cooktown and Cape York in northern Queensland. The low numbers are due mostly to loss of habitat, road traffic and vehicle strikes, dogs attacking and killing adults and chicks, and feral pigs damaging habitat and killing chicks. Only 20--25 percent of their natural habitat remains, and this is under pressure. This photograph was taken just outside Millaa, Atherton Tablelands, Queensland.



**Swift parrot**  
**(*Lathamus discolor*)**

Photo by Beau Jordan Meney

In winter 2016, Beau visited a local suburban street north-west of Melbourne scanning flowering roadside yellow gums for the critically endangered swift parrot, which had recently begun arriving on the mainland in its annual migration from Tasmania. Beau managed to capture this brief moment of a juvenile swift parrot pausing from feeding on nectar in the setting sun. The rare nature of this species and its vibrant plumage were the main motives for capturing this photograph.

The swift parrot is at high risk of extinction, with wild population estimates believed to be less than 2,000 mature birds. The decline of this species is largely due to habitat loss throughout its mainland and Tasmanian range. Observing such a highly threatened species existing on people's doorsteps highlights the importance of both retaining and enhancing existing native habitat within our urban landscapes by planting locally native vegetation.



**New Zealand fur-seal**  
**(*Arctocephalus forsteri*)**

Photo by Leesa (Lisa) Pratt

The New Zealand fur-seal is an otariid seal which preys predominately on fish and cephalopods both in shallow inshore waters and around the continental shelf. The species utilises rocky habitats as breeding and haul-out sites. In Australian waters, the species has been reported from Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, Tasmania, New South Wales and Queensland (south of Fraser Island). The seal population suffered a severe decline as a result of commercial sealing from 1798 until protection measures were introduced in Western Australia in 1892 and in South Australia in 1919.

It is only recently that the species has shown signs of comeback. The New Zealand fur-seal is threatened by commercial and recreational fishing operations, particularly through bycatch mortality. The species also is threatened by entanglement in or ingestion of plastic debris. This beautiful photograph is of 'Benny', resting on location at the Opera House in Sydney.







**Tasmanian devil**  
**(*Sarcophilus harrisii*)**

Photo by Leesa (Lisa) Pratt

The Tasmanian devil is a carnivorous marsupial. While it was once native to mainland Australia, today it is only found in Tasmania. It became the largest carnivorous marsupial in the world following the extinction of the thylacine in 1936. It has a stocky and muscular build, black fur, pungent odour, is extremely loud, has a keen sense of smell and is ferocious when feeding. The devil's large head and neck allow it to generate among the strongest bites per unit body mass. It hunts prey and scavenges carrion. Usually solitary, it sometimes eats with other devils and defecates in a communal location. The devil thermoregulates effectively and is active during the middle of the day without overheating. Despite its rotund appearance, it is capable of surprising speeds and endurance, plus it can climb trees and swim across rivers.



**Bridled nail-tail wallaby**  
**(*Onychogalea fraenata*)**

Photo by Linda Dennis

This species is listed as Endangered in Queensland (*Nature Conservation Act 1992*) and nationally (*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*). In the mid-nineteenth century, the bridled nail-tail wallaby ranged from the Murray River in the south to Charters Towers in the north and was common over part of the range. Today, it is restricted to a small pocket near Dingo in central Queensland. This photo was taken at Safe Haven AACE in Mt Larcom, Queensland, where a successful breeding program is in place for the species.



### **Powerful owl (*Ninox strenua*)**

Photo by Laura Ainsley

The powerful owl is listed as Threatened in Queensland. This photo was taken in Bunyaville, Queensland. The Powerful Owl mates for life (over 30 years in some cases) and pairs defend an all-purpose territory year-round. The male prepares the nest, which is usually a vertical hollow in a large old tree, and provides the female and young with a constant supply of food during the early part of the nesting period. The female incubates the eggs and broods the young, emerging later in the nesting period to hunt for food as well. Young birds remain with the parents for several months after fledging and may stay within their parents' territory for over a year.



### **Ghost bat (*Macroderma gigas*)**

Photo by Kymberly Robinson

The ghost bat has just been upgraded to the status Endangered in Queensland. The ghost bat is the only carnivorous bat in Australia. Mt Etna National Park is one of few places where ghost bats roost and use the cave as a maternity ward. Kymberly chose this photo because bats are not often a well-loved animal and this photo shows their cute and unique features. The photo was



### **Megachile (Austrochile) rotnestensis**

Photo by Kit Prendergast

Evidence (mainly from Europe and America) demonstrates declines in distribution and abundance of bees, leading to listing some species as threatened with extinction. There have been virtually no assessments of the conservation status of Australia's native bees; their diversity and ecological requirements are woefully unknown. As they share some factors known to threaten bees elsewhere on Earth (e.g. habitat destruction and fragmentation, pesticides, climate change), it is likely some Australian bees warrant being listed as Endangered too. This bee was photographed at Shenton Park in Western Australia, an area of remnant bushland threatened by urban expansion. Kit is studying native bees in the urbanised south-west Western Australia biodiversity hotspot to help inform management decisions to protect our native pollinators and identify bees of conservation concern. Like this bee, Kit hopes Australia's native bees are 'holding on' and will continue to do so into the future, despite the threats they currently face.







**Hawksbill turtle**  
**(*Eretmochelys imbricata*)**

Photo by Marcia Riederer

The hawksbill turtle is listed as Vulnerable in Australia, mainly due to damage to coastal habitat, over-fishing and predation of nests. Lady Elliot Island in the Great Barrier Reef is a turtle refuge, where sea turtles of different species come to breed and feed. The clear and shallow waters created the perfect opportunity to observe and take a photo of the curious turtles that like to check out the snorkellers.



**Square-tailed kite**  
**(*Lophoictinia isura*)**

Photo by Danny McCreadie

Listed as Endangered in South Australia, there are estimated to be fewer than ten square-tailed kites in the state. In the 2016 breeding season, only one known nest was successful, resulting in one chick fledging. Historically they have experienced decline from habitat loss because of their preference for woodland habitat, which in South Australia has been cleared for agriculture. In addition to habitat destruction, records from the 1950s reveal square-tailed kites having been shot and nests raided by egg collectors. The kite photographed is one of a pair that has returned to the same nesting area for several years and has been recorded as raising two chicks most years. As little is known about the kites' feeding requirements and the ecosystem which supports them, Danny has been providing researchers with photographs of their behaviour around the nest area. Here they take a break from nest-building to mate.