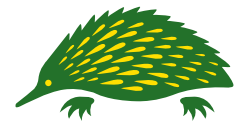


Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia, Trading as Australian Wildlife Society



**Australian
Wildlife Society**

Megan Fabian - National Office Manager

In this issue of Australian Wildlife, I wanted to provide new and existing members with a summary of the ongoing efforts of the Society for the past 111 years. Firstly, to those of you who are new members of the Society, welcome! I really do hope that you obtain a sense of satisfaction and increased knowledge on the collaborative work being promoted nationally, through our magazine, social media platforms and website. To our ongoing and loyal members, thank you for your continued support. We hope that you all feel valued and rewarded, knowing that you are implementing action to make a positive change and are contributing to the preservation of Australia's wildlife.

The Wild Life Preservation Society of Australia was founded in 1909 by a group of enthusiastic bushwalkers. Our founders suggested the need for such a group in a talk with the Naturalists' Society of New South Wales. The Swedish Consul-General for Australia, Count Birger Mörner, organised the first preliminary discussion in the consulate on 11 May 1909. As an outcome of this discussion, it was decided to call a public meeting on the formation of

such a Society. Fifty people attended and were enrolled as the first members of the Society. Within one week, the newly formed Wild Life Preservation Society of Australia had grown to more than 100 members. The provisional committee worked hard and in the same year, the inaugural meeting adopted a constitution and elected the first chairman, the Honourable Frederick Earle Winchcombe MLC. The Society pioneered the recognition of the

need for legal protection for Australia's animals and plants.

Today, we are known as the Australian Wildlife Society (AWS). We are a national not-for-profit wildlife conservation organisation. Our mission is to conserve Australia's wildlife (flora and fauna) through national environmental education, political lobbying, advocacy, hands-on conservation work and involvement of the community. AWS is a registered company limited by guarantee with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and is responsible for complying with all its regulations. The Society is funded through membership fees, sponsorship, partnerships and donations, and managed by an elected board of ten volunteer directors. We hold regular monthly meetings to discuss important wildlife conservation matters and make many significant decisions upon which we act.

Directors



Suzanne L Medway AM - President and Australian Wildlife Editor

Suzanne has been a member of the Society since 1988 and was elected as Secretary/Executive Director in 2002. For the past ten years, Suzanne has served as the Society's National President. Since that time Suzanne has modernised the office administration, created and maintained the website, increased the membership base and raised the standard of the *Australian Wildlife* magazine to a very professional

level, along with the new wildlife email newsletter. Suzanne was awarded Life Membership of the Society in February 2009. Suzanne has edited three books for the Society – *Conserving Australia's Wildlife*, *Conservation Victories and Battles Yet to Win* and *100 Years of Saving Australia's Wildlife*. Suzanne has overseen many major achievements during her tenure, including the implementation and completion of the Towra Beach Restoration Project in Botany Bay. Suzanne also introduced an Australian Wildlife Society scholarship program, which to date has awarded more than 150 scholarships to university students. Suzanne was awarded Environmental Volunteer for 2010 in the prestigious NRMA Helping People Awards and was named Rockdale 2019 Local Woman of the Year.



Associate Professor Julie Old - Vice President

Associate Professor Julie Old is a wildlife biologist, who is passionate about educating future wildlife researchers and helping to conserve the natural environment. She completed her PhD in 2002 in marsupial immunology and worked as a postdoctoral research fellow at Macquarie University before commencing her teaching position at Western Sydney University in

2006. Julie's research expertise combines immunology, developmental biology, molecular biology, anatomy, microscopy, ecological techniques and citizen science to solve important issues in wildlife health and disease, especially marsupials. Julie is also the Chief Investigator of the Citizen Science project, WomSAT, which aims to educate the wider community about wombats and sarcoptic mange. Julie joined the Society as a Director in 2018 and became Vice President in 2020. Julie founded the 'Youth Conservation Award' for AWS – an annual prize of \$500, which is awarded to a young individual or small youth organisation who contributes to the conservation of Australian wildlife.



Stephen Grabowski - Vice President

Stephen was appointed as a Director on the board in 2016 and was re-elected as Vice President in 2020. Prior to Stephen's involvement in the Society, the return on our investments was negligible. Under Stephen's stewardship, the Society's investments grew considerably. We feel that the Society's investments are in safe hands and we have no hesitation in endorsing Stephen as a trustworthy and competent financial manager. Stephen is a lifetime member and his future goals for the Society are to expand its membership base and social media profile and establish as a "go-to" peak conservation organisation.



Patrick W Medway AM - Honorary Secretary and Chief Executive Officer

Patrick joined the Society in 1985 and was awarded Life Membership of the Wildlife Preservation Society in 1988. He has been an active member serving as the Honorary Secretary and Executive Director of the Society since 1995. Patrick was elected as National President on the retirement of Dr Vincent Serventy AM in 2002 and served for eight years in that capacity before nominating Suzanne Medway to the position of President of the Society in 2010. With his professional qualifications, experience and expertise he has been actively involved in many conservation, zoological, botanical and educational associations across Australia. He co-authored *Conservation Victories* with the late Dr Vincent Serventy AM and commissioned two other publications, *Conserving Australia's Wildlife* and *100 Years of Saving Australia's Wildlife*, to mark the centenary of the Society in 2009. Patrick's current ambition is to establish a sustainable and commercially viable national headquarters for the Society over the next year or two.



Alice Suwono - Treasurer

Alice is a Certified Public Accountant with over 20 years' experience in the accounting and finance departments, with a particular focus on improving business process efficiencies. Alice has extensive experience in cash management, has completed multiple system transfers and has a deep understanding of the system work as an integration of various modules. Alice was appointed as a Treasurer of the Australian Wildlife Society in 2018.



Philip Sansom - Director

Philip has formal qualifications in visual arts and creative and performing arts as well as extensive experience on various board appointments, committees and in local government. Philip was a Councillor on Hurstville City Council from September 1991 to May 2016, Mayor on three occasions and received the title of Emeritus Mayor in 2016. Philip was chair of the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority (2008 - 2011) and served for 15 years on the Metro Southwest National Parks and Wildlife Service Regional Advisory Committee (2000 - 2015). Philip was appointed as a Director of the Australian Wildlife Society in March 2018. Philip's future goals for the Society are to: 1. Protect and conserve Australia's native wildlife; 2. Continue to support wildlife conservation research; and 3. Provide the opportunity for our community to be more informed about Australia's native flora and fauna.



Ken Mason - Director

Ken became a Director on the board in March 2012. Ken was appointed Vice President in 2014 and held this position for six years. Ken has strived to ensure that the Society is financially secure and commercially equipped to be able to promote and support wildlife conservation programs across Australia and provide university student grants for bright young people to study wildlife conservation issues. His commitment to the board of directors is to continue to work for the successful future of the Society.



Trevor Evans - Director

Trevor joined the Society in 2001 and became a Director on the board in 2016. Trevor holds a Bachelor of Applied Science (Ecotourism and Ecosystem Management) from Charles Sturt University New South Wales. Trevor is General Manager of Secret Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, Lithgow and has wide experience in wildlife management, wildlife conservation, environmental education programs and hands-on experience in breeding rare and endangered species. Trevor represents on many government and agency threatened species programs/projects. He was awarded Conservationist of the Year in 2010 and Australian Ecosystems Foundation, of which Trevor is Secretary, was a recipient of the Wildlife Preservation Society Community Conservation Award in 2009.



Wayne Greenwood - Director

Wayne joined the Society in 2009 and became a Director on the board in 2016. He has a long-term interest in wildlife conservation with strong family connections in the country. He is very committed to helping to save Australia's native wildlife and to promote Land for Wildlife projects. Wayne expects to retire to Kangaroo Valley and will have more time to devote to helping the Society and its projects. Wayne and his wife Jeanette's property is part of the Greater Eastern Ranges Wildlife Initiative and, over the past few years, he has been actively remediating areas of their property, which has enabled wildlife like lyrebirds, echidnas and wombats to return in number to their property. Wayne's future goal for the Society is to promote wildlife conservation in all schools for future generations of children.



Brian Scarsbrick AM - Director

Brian is an innovator and strong networker within government, industry, corporate sector and research/academic communities. Brian has held senior positions throughout his career, from Regional Director of Agriculture, to leading a small professional multi-disciplinary team at Landcare Australia Ltd., to his most recent position as Chief Executive Officer of The National Trust of Australia New South Wales (2012 - 2017). Brian was appointed as a Director of the Australian Wildlife Society in March 2020. Brian's future goals for the Society are to: 1. Provide assistance and advice to help facilitate the recovery of biodiversity, with a particular emphasis on wildlife following the devastation from the Australia-wide bushfires; 2. Bring an enhanced botanical and habitat perspective to the activities of the Society; and 3. Help promote the importance of enhancing flora biodiversity (in particular, trees) in reducing carbon emissions.

Our Projects

The *Australian Wildlife* magazine is the flagship of the Society and has proved to be extremely popular amongst all of our members. We invite members to distribute copies to family and friends and to invite them to become members also. The magazine has developed over time since the 1930s, largely due to the efforts of the current President and CEO, and went from black and white to colour. We also produce a monthly e-newsletter to help convey the importance of wildlife conservation, the work of the Society and news from our members. You can become actively involved in the newsletter and magazine by sending photos and written articles for inclusion.

The Society offers four prestigious awards – the Serventy Conservation Award, Community Wildlife Conservation Award, Wildlife Rehabilitation Award and Youth Conservation Award. Our Society is aware that many organisations, individuals and thousands of volunteers are working tirelessly to save Australia's native wildlife and the precious habitats in which they live. We are very proud to acknowledge and reward these individuals or conservation groups and encourage them to continue their good work on behalf of the whole community.

Another highlight is the awarding of our ten university scholarships offered to honours or postgraduate students at Australian universities. Each year, ten grants of \$1,500 are awarded. Grants



Meeting with the Minister for the Environment, Matthew Kean MP, on behalf of the New South Wales Platypus and Turtle Alliance, at Parliament House on Wednesday, 13th November 2019. L to R: Philip Sansom, Stephen Kamper MP (Member for Rockdale), A/Professor Julie Old, Matthew Kean (Minister for the Environment), Patrick Medway, Suzanne Medway, Wayne Greenwood, Ken Mason, Professor Richard Kingsford, Megan Fabian.

are available for research projects of direct relevance to the conservation of Australian wildlife and applications are due by 31 May.

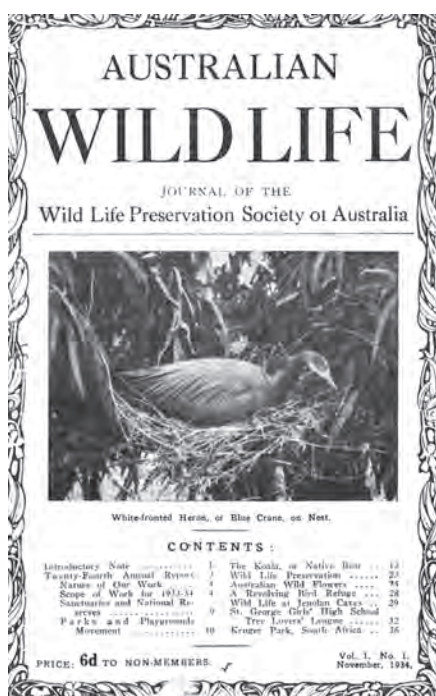
We also award three special university scholarships at University Technology Sydney, University of New South Wales and Western Sydney University. The Wildlife Ecology Research Scholarship is open to postgraduate research students undertaking a research project of direct relevance to the conservation of Australia's wildlife. Scholarships are valued at \$5,000 for one year, a payment of \$2,500 each semester.

The Society also offers conservation group grants. The board of the Society carefully considers all requests for grants from conservation groups that place a special emphasis on wildlife preservation. A grant application form is available on the website, should you be interested in applying.

The Society selects a threatened species each year to feature as its 'wildlife of the year'. The Society allocates funds toward the conservation of this species to ensure its preservation for future generations. This year's wildlife of the year is the mountain pygmy possum (*Burramys parvus*). You can read more about what the Society is doing to preserve this species on the home page of our website.

The Society holds a Threatened Wildlife Photographic Competition, which is a national competition that rewards and promotes the conservation of threatened or endangered Australian wildlife through the medium of photography. The Society invites photographers to raise the plight of threatened or endangered wildlife across Australia and aims to encourage the production of photographs taken in Australia that reflect the diversity and uniqueness of Australia's wildlife. The closing date for entries is 30 June and online voting is from 1 to 31 July.

The colouring-in competition is designed to inspire the younger generation to learn about Australia's native wildlife via visual art and creativity. We hope that the experience provides participants with the opportunity to explore and develop a deeper understanding of environmental and wildlife-related issues. Entries are due by 30 November.



The *Australian Wildlife* Magazine, in black and white, in 1934.



The *Australian Wildlife* Magazine, in colour, in 2020.



2019 colouring-in competition entry from 7yo Savannah Henderson of New South Wales.

The Society founded the New South Wales Platypus and Turtle Alliance. We met with New South Wales Minister for the Environment, Matthew Kean MP, on behalf of the New South Wales Platypus and Turtle Alliance, at Parliament House on Wednesday, 13 November 2019. The Alliance asked the Minister to implement a complete ban on opera house nets across the state, and implement a net exchange program to help save platypus and other air-breathing aquatic wildlife from drowning in New South Wales rivers. The Society is pleased to announce that our efforts have been recognised, with a complete ban on opera house nets to be implemented in New South Wales, effective from the end of 2020. We would like to recommend an immediate embargo pending the final announcement. We are indebted to the strong support from the New South Wales Platypus and Turtle Alliance members, all of whom are dedicated to the conservation of Australia's unique wildlife. We are now asking the Queensland Government to follow the lead of other states in Australia and implement legislation to ban enclosed yabby traps in all Queensland waters.

In 2019, the Society accepted a significant sponsorship from family-owned confectionery brand, Ferrero as part of their new Kinder Natoon series which aims to help save endangered native wildlife. The Society selected one wildlife conservation program in each state of Australia and one in New Zealand as recipients of conservation funding as part



Magazine

Receive the quarterly issue of *Australian Wildlife* via email and/or post. Keep up-to-date with the collective work being promoted nationally by the Society.



E-Newsletter

Receive the monthly **newsletter** via email. Keep up-to-date with news from our members and on the work of AWS. You can also become actively involved in the newsletter by sending photos and written articles for inclusion in the newsletter.



AWS Portal

Access to the **Members' Resource Centre** which will provides you with current information, resources and wildlife photographs.



Social Media

Be part of and receive the opportunity to **contribute to our social media platforms:** Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube channel and our Website.

Benefits for members.

of this partnership. We are continuing to collaborate with Kinder, with details of our projects available on our website.

The Society wanted to do more to help wildlife affected by the recent bushfires sweeping the country and, as a result, the Society decided to establish an initiative to raise much-needed funds for bushfire-affected wildlife and those groups on the frontline caring for them. One hundred percent of donations raised were distributed to nine wildlife rescue groups in total across New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria. The treatment and rehabilitation of native wildlife is an intensive and long-term process and recovery can take up to six to nine months.

The Society founded Australian Wildlife Week, which is commemorated across the country during the first week of October to encourage a positive relationship between humanity and nature. We hope to raise awareness and inspire all Australians to explore and develop a deeper understanding of environmental issues, gain the necessary skills to make informed decisions and take action to improve the environment, by offering 50 percent off one-year and three-year membership subscriptions during the week of 1 to 11 October.

The Society's newly established student blog page provides students with the opportunity to publish and promote their work, whilst providing new and interesting perspectives for the broader AWS community. Podcasts and vlogs are also welcome.

Kinder®



The Society is active on four social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube). We aim to keep our followers up to date with important actions of the Society and the collective work being promoted nationally. Our followers continue to grow each month and we welcome you to join us. The Society continually updates the website to accurately reflect its current projects and work. We welcome you to access the website for further information.

Membership

The Society offers a variety of membership options and there are many benefits to becoming a member. Membership is divided into one-year and three-year categories. You will receive benefits according to the membership category that you select. For example, an individual membership includes a hard copy of the magazine and an e-mag membership includes an electronic copy of the magazine. Further information regarding our membership options is provided on page 54. In 2019, the Society introduced free membership for students. To activate the membership, we ask that you email us a copy of your current student ID or university transcript detailing the expiry date of your enrolment. We invite you to join/renew directly with the Society and welcome everyone on board to help preserve Australia's native wildlife.

The benefits of membership include:

- An electronic or hard copy of the quarterly issue of *Australian Wildlife*;
- A copy of the monthly e-newsletter;
- Access to the Members' Resource Centre;
- The opportunity to publish and promote your work on the Society's newly established student blog page;
- The opportunity to be part of and contribute to our social media platforms;
- Reduced ticket prices for AWS events;
- The opportunity to apply for grants including our annual awards and scholarships;
- The opportunity to interact and network with others in the field of wildlife conservation; and
- The opportunity to have a say on topics that concern the Society, such as environmental legislation, climate change and land clearing.

Thank you for your support! Please do not hesitate to get in touch should you have any questions. We look forward to the vital wildlife conservation work of the Society in 2020 and beyond.



Right to vote

You have the **right to vote** on important matters at Society general meetings (financial members only).



Other Benefits

Awards and Scholarships, the opportunity to **network** with others in the field and attend AWS events at **members' rates**.