



5 October 2020

RE: AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE WEEK: A NEW CAMPAIGN TO HELP PROTECT AUSTRALIA'S WILDLIFE

Australian Wildlife Week is commemorated across the country during the first week of October each year to encourage a positive relationship between humanity and nature.

Unfortunately, Australia's wildlife has suffered major declines since European colonisation, mainly through direct anthropogenic impacts. Land clearing, the introduction of invasive species, and climate change are major threats to wildlife ecosystems and are key contributing factors to the loss of Australia's threatened wildlife species.

Since the Society's inception in 1909, the Society has participated in many projects to ensure the conservation of Australia's wildlife. Some examples include:

1. NSW Platypus and Turtle Alliance – The Alliance advocated for a complete ban on opera house nets across the state to help save platypus and other air-breathing aquatic wildlife from drowning in New South Wales rivers;
2. Snip Rings for Wildlife campaign – The Society aims to raise awareness and encourage individuals to protect Australia's wildlife, by cutting through plastic rings, rubber bands, and hair ties before disposing of them; and
3. Mountain pygmy-possum breeding program – The Australian Wildlife Society is helping to fund this program to help save the mountain pygmy-possum from extinction.
4. Construction of a new Wildlife Animal Hospital at Cedar Creek for wombat rehabilitation – Through the support of the Australian Wildlife Society as part of the Kinder project, Cedar Creek is expanding and upgrading its wildlife hospital and adding additional intensive care unit pens, to ensure that Australia's native wildlife receives superior treatment and support.

The National President of the Australian Wildlife Society, Suzanne Medway AM, said "We hope to raise awareness of wildlife conservation issues across Australia 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. To do this, we are offering 50% off 1-year and 3-year membership subscriptions to the Australian Wildlife Society during the week of **5th - 11th October 2020.**"

"It is important to remind ourselves that we can still act, both as individuals and collectively, to bring about the changes ourselves. By making small but significant changes in our lifestyle, buying choices, voting preferences, and actions, we can create real change to ensure the sustainability of Australia's wildlife and their habitats for future generations of young Australians." Suzanne said.

The Australian Wildlife Society, formed in 1909, is a national not-for-profit wildlife conservation organisation. Their mission is to conserve Australia's Wildlife (flora and fauna) through national environmental education, political lobbying, advocacy, and involvement of the community.

For further enquiries, please contact Patrick Medway, AWS CEO, 0402 435 048

