



Opening of a New National Office

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The Australian Wildlife Society held the official opening of its new national office on Tuesday 1 December 2020 to help cope with its expanding work in wildlife conservation across Australia. The new national office at 29B/17 Macmahon Street, Hurstville was officially opened by the Mayor of Georges River Council – Councillor Kevin Greene. Guests were welcomed with music from the Mason Trio and, after the formal proceedings took place, were invited to mingle over canapés and a cup of tea.

The Mayor, a local to the Georges River Area for over fifty years, welcomed the Society to the region and was excited that, after 111 years, our Society had selected Hurstville as its home. The President of the Society, Suzanne Medway, who was born in Hurstville, said “the newly established national office is situated in a tree-lined street and will provide

a permanent office for the Society’s two staff members, and ten volunteer directors. The team works together to achieve wildlife conservation outcomes and is dedicated to the conservation of Australia’s national programs for the conservation of wildlife through environmental education, advocacy, and involvement of the community.”

The Mayor is looking forward to a strong relationship between the Society and Georges River Council and expressed his commitment to the environment and the local community. The Mayor highlighted that Council would continue to encourage native wildlife to the local area, with another revegetation project expected to be implemented shortly, along Forest Road. Wrapping up his speech, the Mayor congratulated the Society again on such a wonderful and prosperous achievement and emphasised that he is dedicated to providing an environment that people can enjoy and be comfortable in.

Above: L to R: Ken Mason, Wayne Greenwood, Suzanne Medway, Kevin Greene, Julie Old, Patrick Medway, Philip Sansom, and Stephen Grabowski.

The Society is delighted to occupy a region where its local Council values the environment, as seen in the leading statement of their 2050 Vision: "A progressive, environmentally and culturally rich community enjoying a unique lifestyle." The Society is also looking forward to a strong relationship with Georges River Council and its Senior Environmental Officer, Lachlan Prentice, working together to protect Australia's precious wildlife for future generations.

Of particular interest, is the conservation of Georges River Koala Reserve and grey-headed flying-fox colony, which is using Myles Dunphy Reserve as a camp and roosting site. Unfortunately, both species are threatened, and their populations are in decline due to habitat loss and extreme heat events. Leading up to summer, and on days over 40 degrees Celsius, young flying-foxes can become heat-stressed and fall from trees, and koalas can venture across busy roads in search of water. The Society asks the community to please keep an eye out for wildlife. If you see an injured or dead animal, please report it to Georges River Council on 02 9330 6400 and WIRES on 13 000 WIRES.

We are excited to see what the future will bring and what achievements the Society will accomplish. If you are in the local area, we welcome you to visit the new national office and initiate a conversation about wildlife. We also encourage everyone to become a member of the Society to keep up to date on the collective work being promoted nationally. By becoming a member, you are also helping to conserve Australia's unique and precious wildlife for future generations.



Suzanne Medway, President, with Councillor Kevin Greene, Mayor of Georges River Council, unveiling the official plaque of the new national office.



L to R: Ken Mason, Suzanne Medway, Kevin Greene, Philip Sansom, and Patrick Medway.



L to R: Paul, Noel, and Ken Mason trio performing an ensemble for the official opening.