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Western wildlife researcher to become new President of the Australian Wildlife Society



Western Sydney University wildlife researcher Associate Professor Julie Old has been appointed the new President of the Australian Wildlife Society.

A lecturer and researcher in wildlife biology and zoology with the University's School of Science, Associate Professor Old has long been committed to engaging the community in issues of conservation and wildlife protection.

She has been instrumental in establishing the University's highly-successful citizen science projects such as WomSAT, which has recorded more than 21,000 wombat sightings across Australia to date.

Associate Professor Old says she plans to build on the success of the Society and explore further innovative methods for learning, education and outreach.

"My goals are to bring together the community of wildlife researchers in Australia and regionally to protect, conserve and inform the future of our unique wildlife," said Associate Professor Old.

"As the threats to our wildlife increase from a range of pressures, the role of the Society will become much more important and prominent in advocating for better connections between research and conservation policies. I am proud to lead the next phase of the Australian Wildlife Society."

Associate Professor Old joined the Society as a Director in 2018. She became Vice-President in 2020, and founded the 'Youth Conservation Award' – an annual prize of \$500, which is awarded to a young individual or small youth organisation contributing to the conservation of Australia's wildlife.

Associate Professor Old steps into the role following the successful twelve-year tenure of current President Suzanne Medway AM. She begins her new role on March 3rd 2021.

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