

ACN: 134 808 790  
29B/17 Macmahon Street  
Hurstville NSW 2220

Email: [manager@aws.org.au](mailto:manager@aws.org.au)  
Tel: 0424 287 297  
[www.aws.org.au](http://www.aws.org.au)



## MEDIA RELEASE

# Australian Wildlife Society Youth Conservation Award Winner

Wednesday 4 March 2021

Congratulations to a Green Hero, eight-year-old Charlie Cairncross from Fingal Head, New South Wales, who was invited to New South Wales Parliament House yesterday to receive an award for his contribution to wildlife conservation. Upon accepting the Australian Wildlife Society Youth Conservation Award, Charlie became the youngest recipient to receive the Youth Award. After his volunteer efforts during the 2019-2020 summer bushfires and Green Heroes Wildlife Adoption Program, which engaged over 170 classrooms across Australia in native species conservation, Charlie's commitment to wildlife conservation was recognised. Charlie is dedicated to preserving and protecting native Australian wildlife and is currently working on a second project and short film to be released in a few months.

The **President of Australian Wildlife Society, Associate Professor Julie Old**, said, "The youth of Australia make significant contributions to the wildlife conservation movement through innovative projects and ideas. The Youth Conservation Award aims to inspire young people to have a stake in wildlife conservation by recognising and rewarding their efforts. Charlie's speech was very inspiring – he had the whole room in tears. Given the opportunity to be part of the wildlife conservation movement, Charlie is a real example that the youth of Australia will rise to the occasion and protect Australia's native wildlife".



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Youth Award Winner Charlie Cairncross with Australian Wildlife Society CEO Patrick Medway AM

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

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

