

## Australian Wildlife Society

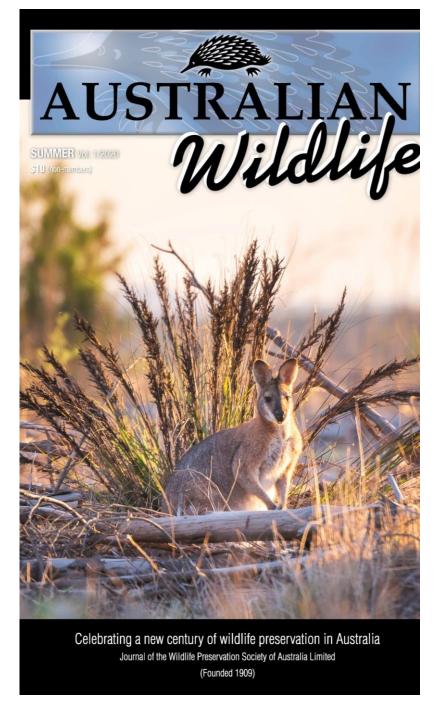
Conserving Australia's Wildlife since 1909

## We are 112 years old

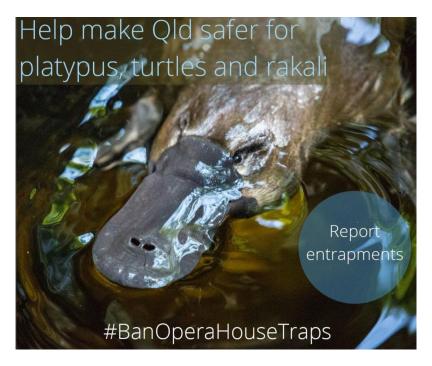




We protect native wildlife







Did you know: the mountain pygmy-possum is a critically endangered noctural marsupial found in NSW and VIC





We fund important projects



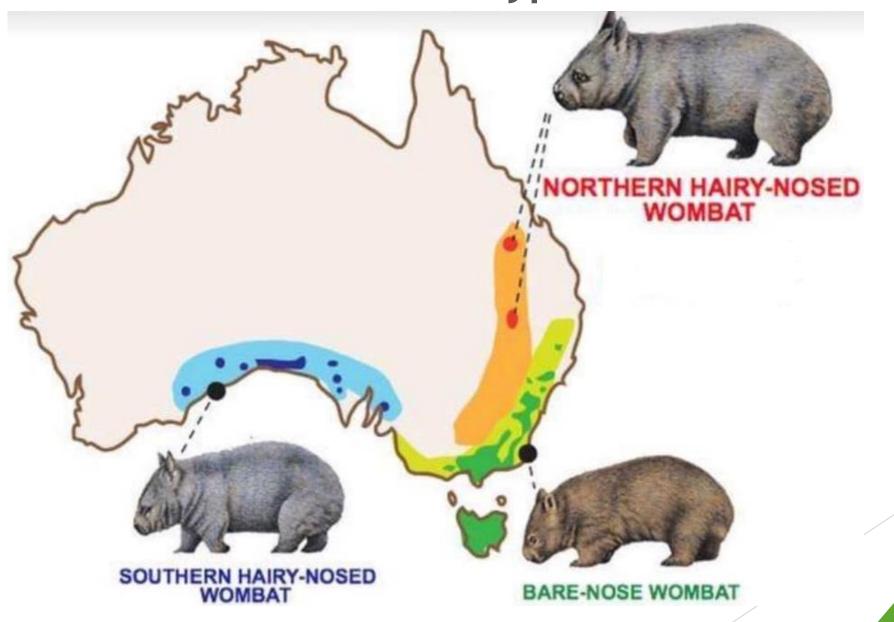
## Did you know:

- Wombats have backward-facing pouches
- ► Their teeth don't stop growing
- Wombats live in burrows
- ▶ What other animal lives in a burrow?

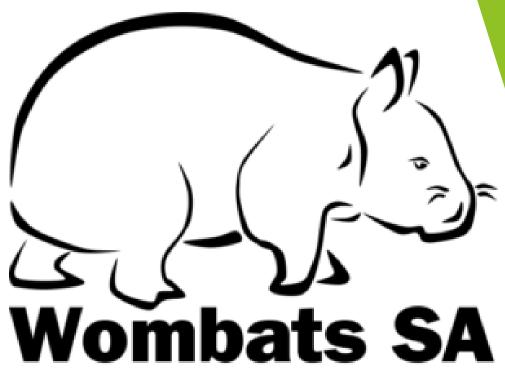


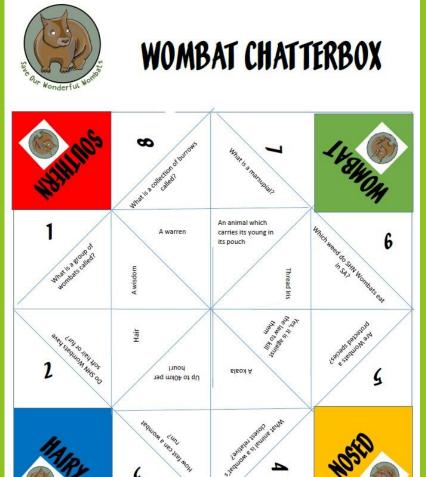


## There are three different types of wombats



Southern hairy-nosed wombat







1. What does the Australian Wildlife Society do?

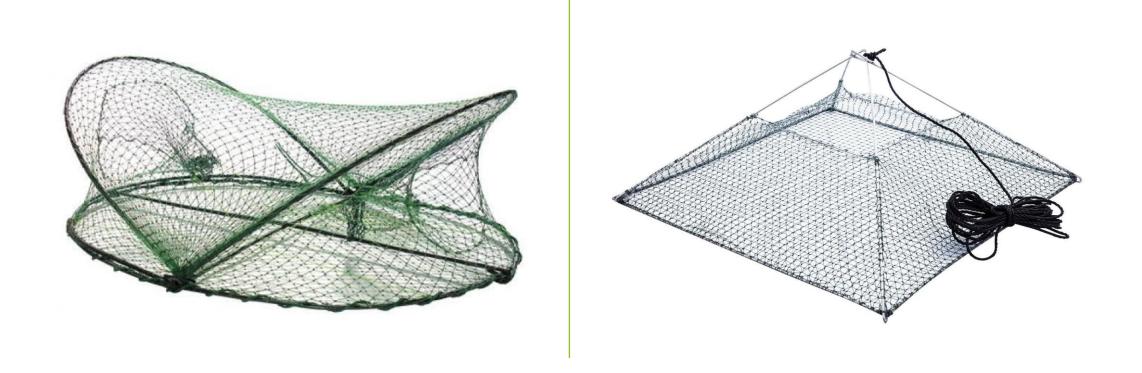
2. Which way does a wombat's pouch face?

3. Name one of the three types of wombats









Attempting to change the rules to protect native wildlife

## Did you know:

► A platypus lays eggs - monotreme

► A baby platypus is called a **PUGGLE** 

▶ Platypus eat worms, shrimp, insects

Platypus have no teeth



#### **INTERESTING FACTS**

#### **BUILT FOR AN AQUATIC LIFE**

Platyuses have a streamlined body, waterproof fur and webbed feet. They swim with their front feet and steer with their back feet and tail.



#### AN EGG LAYING MAMMAL

Unlike most mammals that give birth to live young, platypuses (and echidnas) lay eggs. Newborn platypuses are small and hairless.

#### THEY 'SEE' WITH THEIR BILL UNDERWATER

Platypuses swim underwater with their eyes closed. To find their food, they use their bill which is covered with thousands of sensors.



#### **VENOMOUS SPURS**

Males have venomous spurs on their hind ankles that they use to battle other males during breeding season. The venom is extremely painfull!

#### KEY THREATS

- Reduced river flows due to drought, dams, and human water use
- Climate change
- Habitat destruction from agriculture and urban development
- River bank erosion
- Pollution
- Entanglement in litter and fishing line

#### **HOW CAN YOU HELP THEM?**

USE LESS WATER The water we use in our homes and gardens can come from rivers where platypus live, so the less water we use, the more there is for platypus.

KEEP RIVERS CLEAN & HEALTHY Pick up plastic rings, rubber bands or hair ties – even those on the street. These can wash into rivers and entangle platypuses. Try to pick up one piece every day.

RESPONSIBLY

Don't use illegal opera house yabby nets. Let your parents know if you see any, as platypuses can drown in them. Also make sure you take all your fishing line and rubbish with you.

BE A PLATYPUS CHAMPION

Spread the word so other people can help platypuses. If you are lucky enough to see one, record it using the platypusSPOT app. The more we know about where they are, the better.

Produced by Doug Gimesy and Joshua Griffiths. Supported by a grant from the Australian Wildlife Society. Images: Doug Gimesy.



#### SWAP:







30-min shower

4-min shower



1. What is a baby platypus called?

2. Why is the platypus under threat?

3. What can we do to protect the platypus?



### **SNIP RINGS FOR WILDLIFE**



## Cut through ring-shaped items:

- ▶ Plastic rings
- Rubber bands
- ► Hair ties
- ► Loops of facemasks
- ▶ Plastic dome-shaped lids

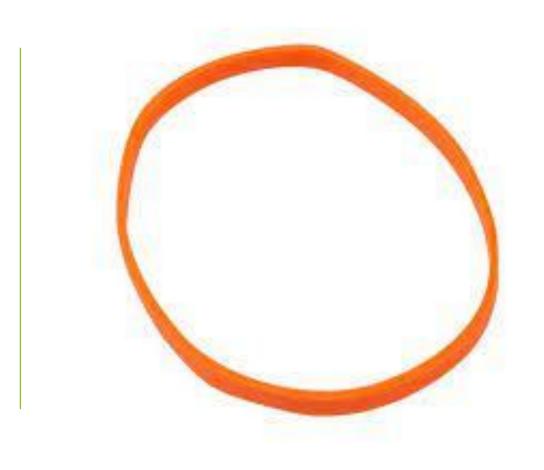






**BEFORE** throwing them away to protect wildlife

































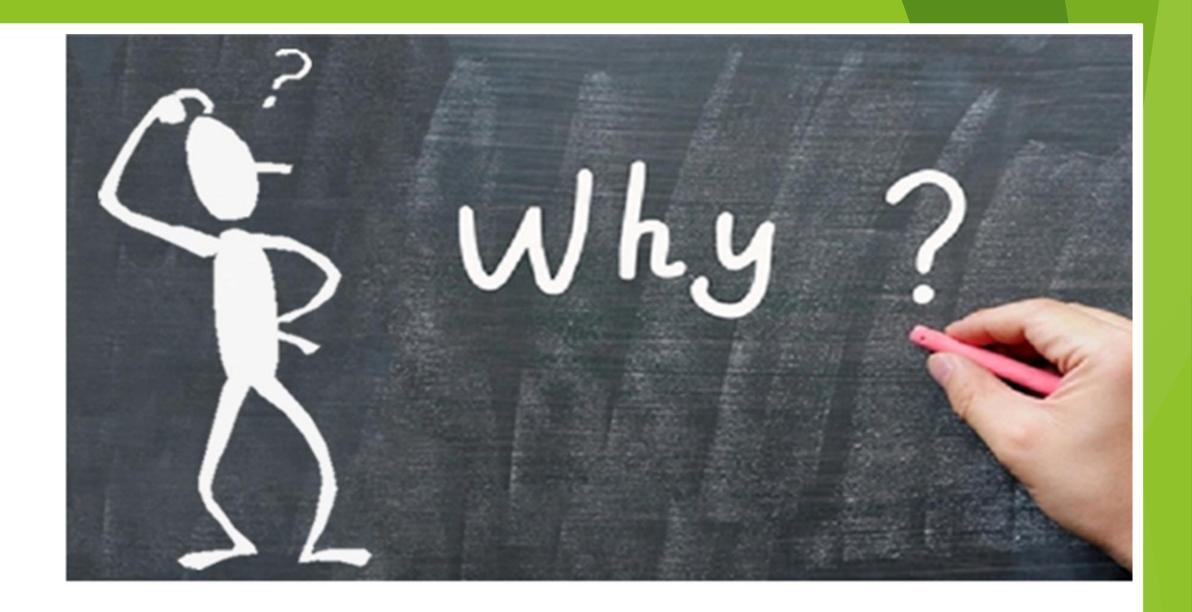




# What must we do before throwing away a ring-shaped item?

# Ask an adult to help you cut through it







Protect native wildlife

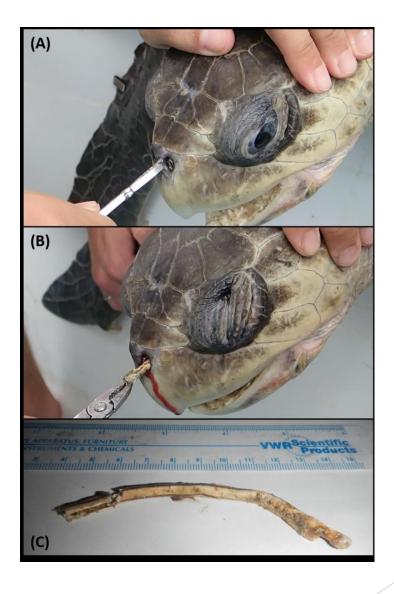




Plant a native tree



► Use less plastic e.g., no straws





Save water e.g., take shorter showers



Learn about the wildlife in your backyard



Put rubbish in the bin



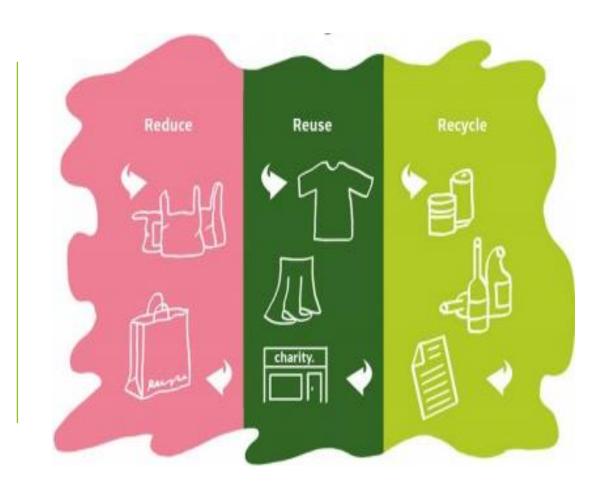
Don't forget to eat fruits and vegetables



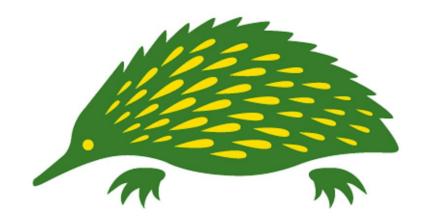
Ask an adult to help you cut through ring-shaped items before throwing them away











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