

Australian Wildlife Week: Connecting with Nature

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

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

The Society has established many projects over time help to safeguard Australia's wildlife. The New South Wales Platypus Alliance advocated for a complete ban on opera house nets across the state to help protect platypus and other wildlife from the risk of entanglement and death. #SnipRingsforWildlife aims to raise awareness and encourage individuals to protect Australia's wildlife by cutting through plastic rings, rubber bands, hair ties, the loops of face masks, and dome-shaped plastic lids before disposing of them.

The President of the Australian Wildlife Society, Doctor Julie Old, said "the Society founded Australian

Wildlife Week in 2019. We hope to raise awareness of wildlife conservation issues across Australia and inspire all Australians to explore and develop a deeper understanding of these issues, gain the necessary skills to make informed decisions, and implement wildlife conservation action where possible."

This year, to celebrate Australian Wildlife Week, we are hosting an online webinar. The webinar will showcase wildlife research and conservation projects across Australia. We will be joined by five keynote speakers, who will provide an overview of their projects. We will also be joined by six of the Society's University Research Grant winners, who will summarise their research and the importance of protecting Australian wildlife ecosystems.

Please keep an eye on our website, social media platforms, and newsletter for the most recent updates regarding the launch of the 2021 Australian Wildlife Week online webinar. The online webinar will take place during the first week of October. We hope you will join us, learn something new, and be inspired to take action to protect Australia's wildlife before it is too late. Please find below a draft program.

Speaker	Topic	Duration
President	Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, Housekeeping	10min
Student Talk	University Research Grant Winner	5min
Keynote Speaker	New South Wales	15min
Student Talk	University Research Grant Winner	5min
Keynote Speaker	Western Australia	15min
Student Talk	University Research Grant Winner	5min
Keynote Speaker	Queensland	15min
Student Talk	University Research Grant Winner	5min
Keynote Speaker	Victoria	15min
Student Talk	University Research Grant Winner	5min
Keynote Speaker	Tasmania	15min
Student Talk	University Research Grant Winner	5min
President	Conclusion	10min