

Australian Wildlife Society

**Conserving Australia's Wildlife
since 1909**



Ms Megan Fabian
National Office Manager
Australian Wildlife Society



The Society

- Formerly known as WPSA, founded in 1909.
- The Swedish Consul-General for Australia, Count Birger Mörner, organised a preliminary discussion on the formation of a new preservation body in the Consulate on 11 May 1909.
- The Hon. F E Winchcombe MLC was the first president of the Society (*image*).
- The Society pioneered the recognition of the need for legal protection for Australia's flora and fauna.



The Society

- Australian Wildlife Society (AWS) is a national not-for-profit wildlife conservation organization.
- We are dedicated to the conservation of Australian wildlife through national environmental education, public awareness, advocacy, hands-on wildlife conservation work, and community involvement.



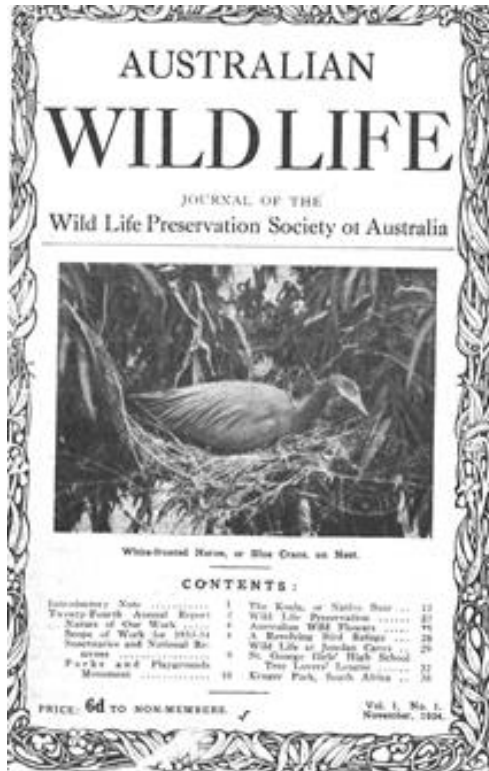
The Society

- Is registered with the ACNC.
- Holds regular monthly meetings.
- Is managed by an elected board of ten directors (*image*).
- Is funded through membership fees, sponsorship, partnerships, and donations.



Australian Wildlife Magazine

The Australian Wildlife magazine is the flagship of the Society.



1934



2021



Monthly E-Newsletter



AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Australian Wildlife Society E-Newsletters

Download to read previously released E-Newsletters.

AWS E-Newsletters

07/14/2021 - Manager's Messages - July 2021
06/10/2021 - Manager's Messages - June 2021
05/14/2021 - Manager's Messages - May 2021
04/15/2021 - Manager's Messages - April 2021
03/11/2021 - Manager's Messages - March 2021
02/17/2021 - Manager's Messages - February 2021
01/14/2021 - Manager's Messages - January 2021
12/16/2020 - Manager's Messages - December 2020
11/14/2020 - Manager's Messages - November 2020
10/15/2020 - Manager's Messages - October 2020





School Visits

Annual Awards

- Serventy Conservation Award.
- Wildlife Rehabilitation Award.
- Community Wildlife Conservation Award.
- Youth Conservation Award.



Grants/Scholarships

- University Research Grants.
- University Scholarships.
- Conservation Group Grants.



UNSW
SYDNEY



WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY



2021 University Research Grant Winners

The Australian Wildlife Society's University Research Grants are scholarships offered to honours or postgraduate students at Australian universities. Each year, ten grants of \$1,500 are awarded. Grants are available for research projects of direct relevance to the conservation of Australian wildlife (flora or fauna). Grants may be used to purchase equipment and consumables, travel expenses related to field research, or attendance at conferences at which you are presenting your work.

The Australian Wildlife Society is delighted to announce the winners of the ten grants of \$1,500 each to honours or postgraduate students conducting research that will contribute to the conservation of Australian wildlife. **The winners for 2021 are:**

GRACIE LIU

School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of New South Wales

Project Title:

How can we improve frog conservation in fragmented landscapes? Closing the gap with a novel genetic approach

GRANT LINLEY

Institute for Land, Water and Society, Charles Sturt University

Project Title:

The influence of landscape-scale fire refuges and pyrodiversity on mammal communities following an unprecedented megafire

KYLE BREWER

Clinical and Health Sciences, University of South Australia

Project Title:

pH-Responsive 1080 implants for the mitigation of the cat-astrophic predation of native animal populations

BETHANY NORDSTROM

School of Biological Sciences, University of Western Australia

Project Title:

Assisted colonisation of the western swamp turtle

BIANCA KEYS AND KARLI MYLIUS

Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies, University of Tasmania

Project Title:

Assessing microplastic exposure through non-invasive examination of guano in resident Tasmanian shorebirds

ERICA DURANTE

Future Industries Institute, University of South Australia

Project Title:

Investigating the age and growth of an endemic octopus species

GOD'SPOWER OKOH

Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, James Cook University

Project Title:

Investigating herpesvirus infections in Australian wildlife

PATRICK FINNERTY

School of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Sydney

Project Title:

Strategically exploiting plant odours to manipulate mammalian herbivore foraging behaviours as a conservational tool

SHAE JONES

School of Earth, Atmospheric and Life Sciences, University of Wollongong

Project Title:

Do arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi help grasses in heat waves?

JENNA DRAPER

School of Biological Sciences, University of Adelaide

Project Title:

Conservation utility of *Pimelea microcephala* subsp. *microcephala* to arid zone frugivores and pollinators

Threatened Wildlife Photographic Competition



The Platypus

Image: Candice Bartlett



The Platypus (*Ornithorhynus anatinus*)

- Semi-aquatic egg-laying mammal (monotreme).
- Endemic to eastern Australia, including TAS.
 - Image: platypus distribution (shaded area)
- The breeding season October-March in NSW.
- Live in burrows near rivers and creeks.
- Average lifespan of around 7 years.
- Predominantly nocturnal and crepuscular.
- Carnivorous: worms, insect larvae, freshwater shrimps, and yabbies.
- Their bill surfaces are packed with thousands of receptors.

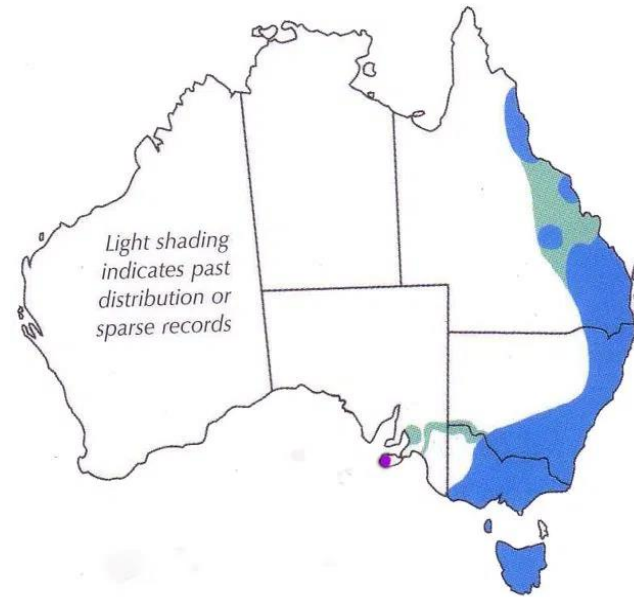
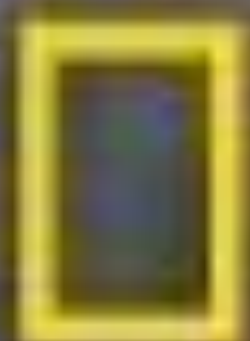


Image: Platypus distribution map.
Credit: Map adapted from R. Strahan
and S. van Dyck. (2008). The
Mammals of Australia, 3rd edition.
(New Holland: Sydney).



WORLD'S DEADLIEST

Ecological Significance

- Freshwater carnivore: keeps the populations of species in lower levels of the food chain in check.
- Ecosystem engineer: construction of burrows increases habitat quality, soil movement, modifies nutrient cycling, and provides refuge for smaller species.

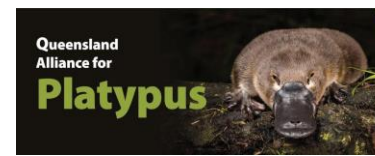


Threats to Platypus

- Predators: dogs and foxes.
- Flooding and riverbank erosion.
- Reduced river flows due to fire and drought.
- Dams and river regulation.
- Human activities:
 - Habitat destruction from agriculture and urban development.
 - Entanglement in fishing gear such as enclosed yabby traps.
 - Pollution and litter.



Platypus Alliance



Secret Creek Sanctuary



Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW

Promoting sustainable fishing

VICTORIAN ALLIANCE FOR PLATYPUS
SAFE YABBY TRAPS



Nature Conservation Council
The voice for nature in NSW



Local Land
Services
Greater Sydney



Australian
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UNSW
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The
Australian
Mammal Society

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY





Open-top yabby net



**Australian
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Enclosed yabby trap

Aim to change the rules to protect native wildlife

Enclosed Yabby Traps

STATE	POSITION	ACTION
ACT	Banned	17 September 2019
TAS	Banned	Prohibitions in place
VIC	Banned	1 July 2019
NSW	Banned	30 April 2021
SA	Not Banned	Predicted mid-2023
NT	Not Banned	TBA
WA	Banned	Prohibitions in place
QLD	Not Banned	Discussions occurring



Conservation Status

STATE	POSITION
ACT	Protected
TAS	Protected
VIC	Vulnerable
NSW	Protected
SA	Endangered
NT	<i>Not present</i>
WA	<i>Not present</i>
QLD	Protected



Platypus Conservation Action



- Dispose of litter appropriately.
- Fish responsibly.
- Keep rivers clean and healthy.
- Reduce water consumption.
- Responsible pet ownership.
- Household chemicals.
- Safe use of pumps.
- Educate yourself.
- Sign petitions #SnipRingsforWildlife.
- Report sightings of platypus and entanglements.



This week we launched [iNaturalist Australia](#), the Australian node of iNaturalist, the world's leading global social biodiversity network.

We now encourage you to use [iNaturalist Australia](#) to record your individual plant, animal and fungi sightings. You can still upload sightings using our Record a Sighting function, but we will be phasing it out.

How to record an observation with iNaturalist Australia

You can record observations with [iNaturalist Australia](#) on your desktop and by using the [iNaturalist app](#) on your iPhone or Android device. Uploading an observation to iNaturalist Australia on your desktop is very similar to using the ALA's Record a Sighting function.

1. First, go to [iNaturalist Australia](#) and click **Sign up** to create an account.
2. Log in to iNaturalist Australia and click **Upload**.
3. Drag and drop your image file or choose the file from your device.
4. Click in the species name box, then select from the list of suggested species.
5. Enter date and location details.
6. Click **Submit 1 observation**.
7. Your record will appear on the **Your observations** page, where you can see all your records in a list or on a map. On this page, you can sort and search your observations by date, taxonomy or location.

All iNaturalist Australia observations are loaded into the ALA regularly.



Environment
& Heritage



Home ☐ BioNet

NSW BioNet

■ gateway to NSW biodiversity information



NSW BioNet is the repository for biodiversity data products managed by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

BioNet aims to improve biodiversity outcomes by enabling the community and government to proactively manage and enhance biodiversity in NSW through comprehensive, credible and robust information.

Getting started

BioNet is made up of a number of data collections. Refer to the links under 'Data collections' for more information. These collections are mostly contained within two core applications; [BioNet Atlas](#) and [BioNet Vegetation Classification](#).

In addition to these applications, biodiversity information can also be accessed via:

- an Open Application Programming Interface (API). [Learn more about BioNet Web Services](#)
- [SEED](#) environmental data portal.

You can submit your own sightings records to BioNet Atlas. [Learn more about contributing](#).

How to access BioNet Atlas

Report Sightings of Platypus



To Access Entangled Wildlife Australia

Please visit bit.ly/3q1EHPH,
scan the QR code, or
email entangledwildlifeaustralia@ihug.com.au



Report Sightings of Wildlife Entanglement

Kinder Partnership

- The Society has partnered with Kinder to fund vital projects and save endangered wildlife across Australia.
- In 2020, five wildlife conservation programs were selected:
 - Cedar Creek Wombat Hospital – NSW
 - Save the Bilby Fund – QLD
 - Friends of the Western Ground Parrot – WA
 - Tasmania Wildlife Rehabilitation Council – TAS
 - Australian Ecosystems Foundation - NSW



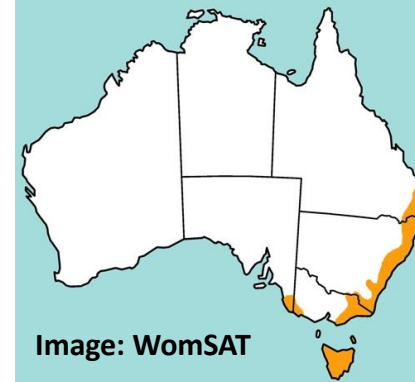
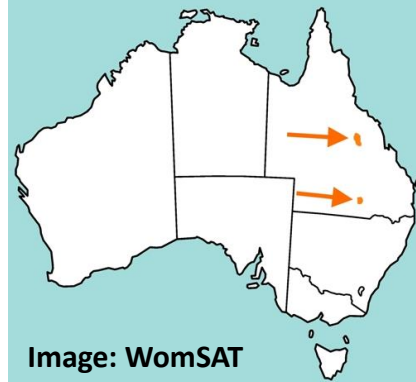
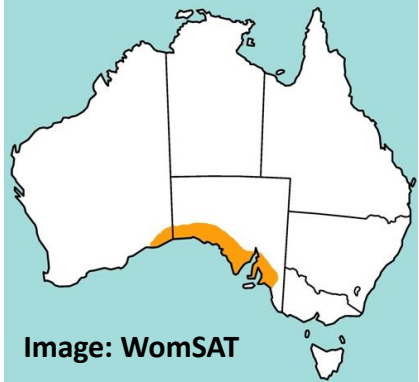
The Wombat

- Herbivorous, burrowing marsupial.
- Females have a backward-facing pouch.
- Closest living relative is the koala.
- Polygamous: breed with more than one mate.
- A reinforced rump protects them from predators.
- Can move at speeds up to 40km/h.
- Cn live for up to 14 years in the wild and 26 years in captivity.
- Wombats produce cubic faeces.



The Wombat

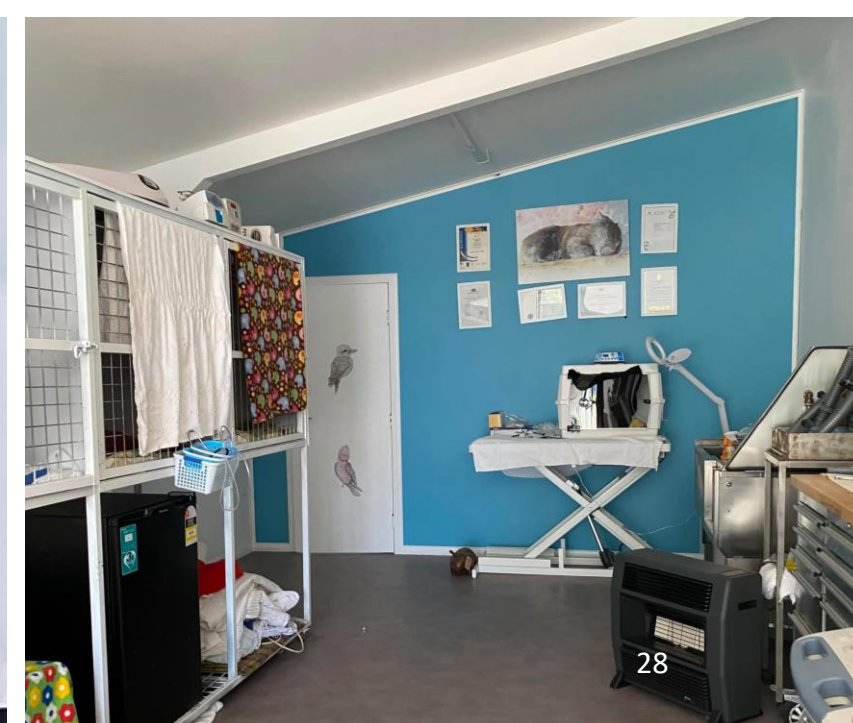
- There are three species of wombat:
 - Southern hairy-nosed wombat (*Lasiorhinus latifrons*) (1)
 - Northern hairy-nosed wombat (*Lasiorhinus krefftii*) (2)
 - **Bare-nosed wombat (*Vombatus ursinus*) (3)**



Wombat (*Vombatus ursinus*) Conservation

- Distributed across southeast Australia (QLD, VIC, SA, TAS).
- Their main habitat is woodland. They also occur in scrubs and coastal heath.
- Mainly feed on native grasses, tussocks, and sedges.
- Solitary and territorial.
- Tunnel system (2 – 20 m in length).
- Threats to this species include sarcoptic mange, habitat loss, predation by feral dogs, and vehicle collisions.



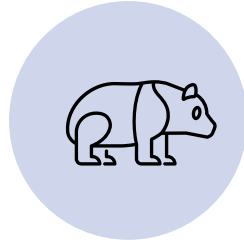




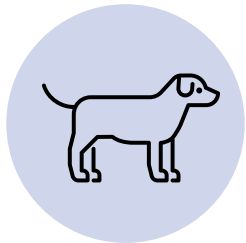
Wombat Conservation Action



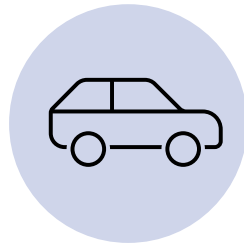
WomSAT - an online tool to report wombat and burrow sightings.



Become a member of your local wildlife rescue group.



Responsible pet ownership.



Drive safely.



The Greater Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*)

- Once found across 70% of Australia, today they are restricted to around 15%.

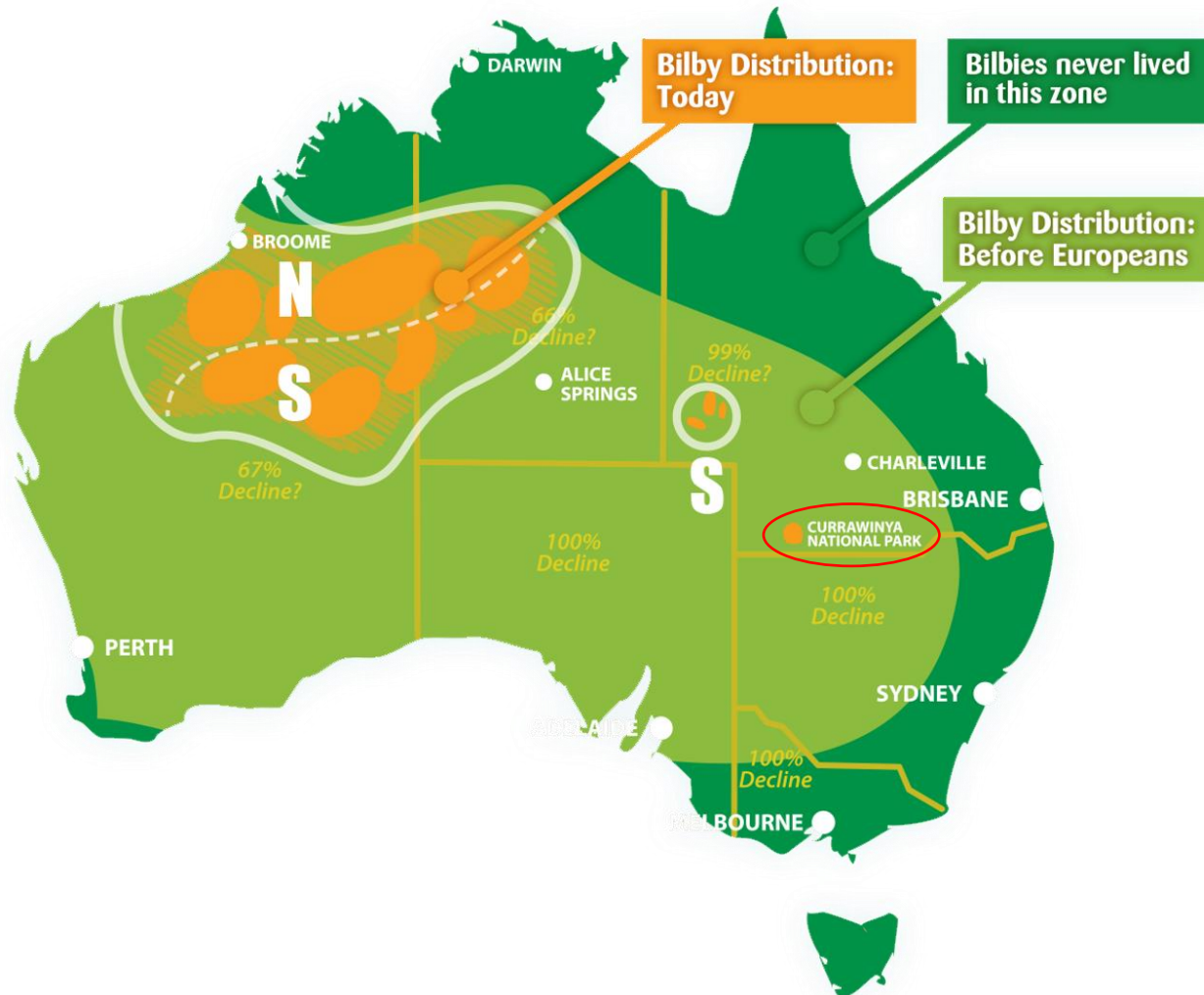


Image: Save the Bilby Fund

The Greater Bilby

- A nocturnal, omnivorous marsupial.
- Its diet includes bulbs, fruit, seeds, fungi, insects, worms, termites, small lizards, and spiders
- 'Macrotis' means big-eared in Greek.
- Bilbies' natural habitats are spinifex grasslands and mulga scrublands in arid and semi-arid areas of Australia.
- They live in the wild in remote parts of western QLD, NT, and WA.



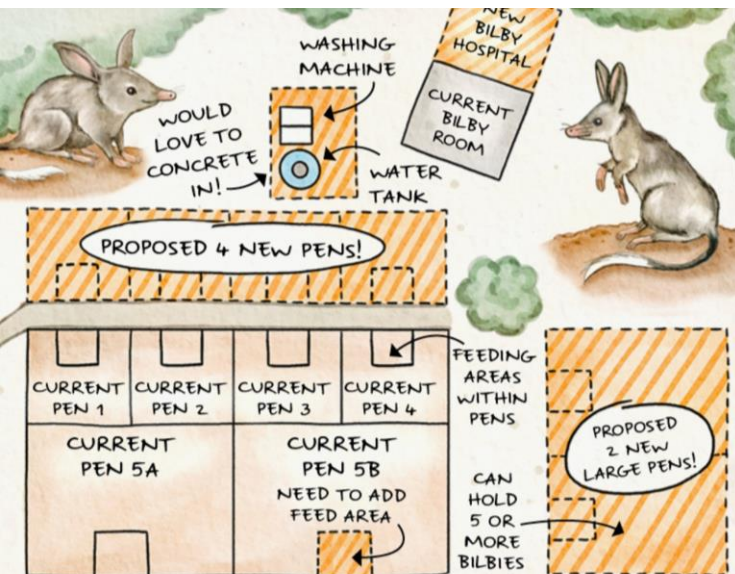
Greater Bilby Conservation

- They live in spiralling burrows (2m deep).
- Digging breaks up the soil and helps with composting.
- There is estimated to be fewer than 10,000 individuals.
- The bilby is listed as Vulnerable under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. Its conservation status in NSW is Extinct.
- The two main threats are competition for food from livestock and introduced species such as rabbits, and predation by foxes and feral cats.



Image: Save the Bilby Fund





Western Ground Parrot (*Pezoporus flaviventris*)

- The western ground parrot is one of the world's rarest birds.
- Kyloring is its Noongar name.
- The parrot is a medium-sized ground-dwelling bird with a rather long tail.
- It inhabits coastal heathlands with a diverse range of low-growing shrubs.
- Its diet consists of seeds, flowers, green fruit, and leaves.
- It is listed as Critically Endangered with less than 150 birds remaining.
- Restricted to Cape Arid National Park and Nuytsland Nature Reserve in WA.
- Under threat from bushfires, feral predation, and climate change.





Microbats

- There are two main groups of bats:
 - Mega (large) bats such as flying foxes.
 - **Micro (small) bats.**
- There are eight species of microbats occurring in TAS:
 - Little forest bat (*Vespadelus vulturnus*).
 - Southern forest bat (*Vespadelus regulus*).
 - Large forest bat (*Vespadelus darlingtonia*).
 - Chocolate wattled bat (*Chalinolobus morio*).
 - Goulds wattled bat (*Chalinolobus gouldii*).
 - Lesser long-eared bat (*Nyctophilus geoffroyi*).
 - Tasmanian long-eared bat (*Nyctophilus sherrini*).
 - Eastern false pipistrelle (*Falsistrellus tasmaniensis*).



Microbats

- Nocturnal, insectivorous mammals.
- Feed on moths, beetles, caterpillars, mosquitos.
- They help control the number of insects and pests including mosquitos.
- Use echolocation to locate their food in the dark.
- Microbats hibernate during winter.
- They occur in a range of forest types and live in old hollow trees.
- Some bats roost in rock crevices or buildings.
- The lesser long-eared bat is urbanised and found in the roofs or walls of houses and sheds.



Microbat Conservation

- Seven of the eight species also occur on mainland Australia.
- All of the TAS bat species are fully protected. It is illegal to collect or harm them in any way.
- Threats include logging of old-growth forests, domestic and feral cats, habitat loss, barbed wire, and vehicle strike.
- To help conserve Australia's microbats:
 - If you come across a microbat in need, contact your local wildlife rescue group.
 - If the animal has been entangled, record your sighting Entangled Wildlife Australia.
 - Install microbat boxes and monitor them to ensure wasps and ants don't take up residence.





**TASMANIAN WILDLIFE
REHABILITATION COUNCIL INC.**



Mountain Pygmy-Possum (*Burramys parvus*)

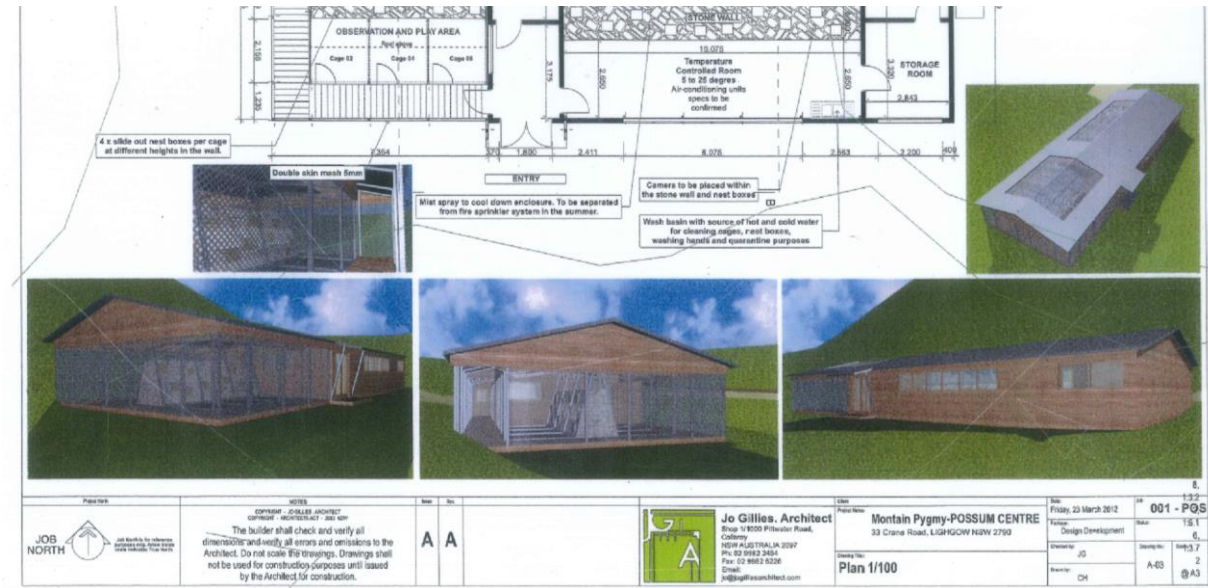
- A small nocturnal marsupial, endemic to the alpine regions of Australia.
- Found in highly elevated boulder fields and dense alpine rock crevices of southern VIC and Kosciuszko National Park in NSW.
- Its diet consists of insects, particularly the bogong moth (*Agrotis infusa*), fleshy fruits, nuts, nectar, and seeds.
- Only marsupial in the world known to hibernate.
- It survives winter by hibernating for up to seven months and is dependent on the insulation provided by snow for its survival.



Mountain Pygmy-Possum Conservation

- It is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
- In New South Wales, it is listed as Endangered.
- Threats include habitat destruction and fragmentation, a warming climate (loss of snow cover), predation by feral cats and foxes, and threats to their prime food source (warmer temperatures and light).
- Hibernation, the insulation provided by snow, and the migratory patterns of the bogong moth, play a key role in the pygmy-possum's survival.
- To protect the pygmy-possum we must:
 - Reduce fossil fuels and prevent deforestation - the drivers of climate change.
 - Turn off outside lights and modify streetlights to shaded and down facing.







Snip Rings for Wildlife



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 native wildlife.



Image: Wildlife Rockhampton.



13 rubber bands along ~200 meters of gutter!
#snipringsforwildlife
@australian_wildlife_society





Image: Unknown





Image: Mary Caporal Prior





Image: Wendy Wallin





Image: WIRES Northern Rivers





Snip Rings for Wildlife



What can you do to help protect wildlife from
the risk of entanglement and death?

Snip Rings for Wildlife



Snip through ring-shaped items before disposing of them.

Snip Rings for Wildlife



MAKE USE OF ALTERNATIVES & SWAP:



Plastic rings



Peel & seal lids



Make us of alternatives such as peel and seal lids or milk cartons.

Snip Rings for Wildlife



Swap disposable facemasks for a reusable facemask and don't forget to cut the loops.

Snip Rings for Wildlife



Ask for no dome-shaped lid (or straw) when ordering a drink.

Snip Rings for Wildlife



SIGN THE PETITION

TO PROTECT ME



bit.ly/SnipRing

Image: WIRES Northern Rivers



#SnipRingsforWildlife

Australian Wildlife Week

Held During the First Week of October Each Year

- The Society founded Australian Wildlife Week.
- To encourage a positive relationship between humanity and nature.
- In 2021, we are hosting an online webinar.



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

Social Media Channels

- The Society is active on five social media platforms.
- We welcome you to join us.



Membership

You can help preserve Australia's precious wildlife by becoming a member of the Society.

Student membership is FREE!



Magazine

Receive the quarterly issue of *Australian Wildlife* via email or post to keep up-to-date with the collective work promoted nationally.



E-Newsletter

Receive the monthly **e-newsletter**. Keep up-to-date with news from our members and on the work of the Society.



AWS Portal

Access the **Members' Resource Centre** - your destination for resources and materials on various wildlife-related topics.



Social Media

Contribute to our **social media platforms**: Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube, and Website.



Right to Vote

You have the **right to vote** on important matters at Society general meetings (financial members only).



Other Benefits

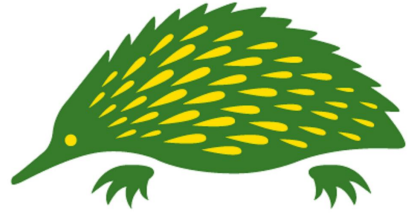
Awards, Scholarships, Grants, and the opportunity to **network** with like-minded people.



Recap

- Our mission is to conserve Australia's wildlife (flora and fauna).
- To conserve Australia's wildlife, we are dedicated and have many projects in place to help us achieve our mission.
- You can also help preserve Australia's precious wildlife by becoming a member of the Society.
- Don't forget to sign and share the #SnipRingsforWildlife petition with family and friends.





Australian Wildlife Society

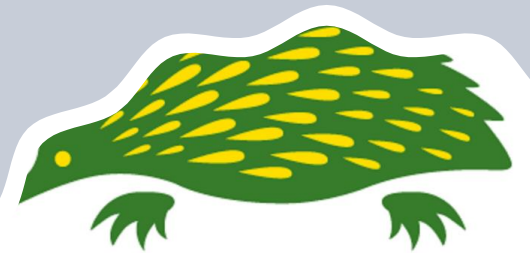
Conserving Australia's Wildlife
since 1909



Contact

- Email: info@aws.org.au
- Telephone: 0424 287 297
- Address: 29B/17 Macmahon Street, Hurstville NSW 2220
- Website: aws.org.au

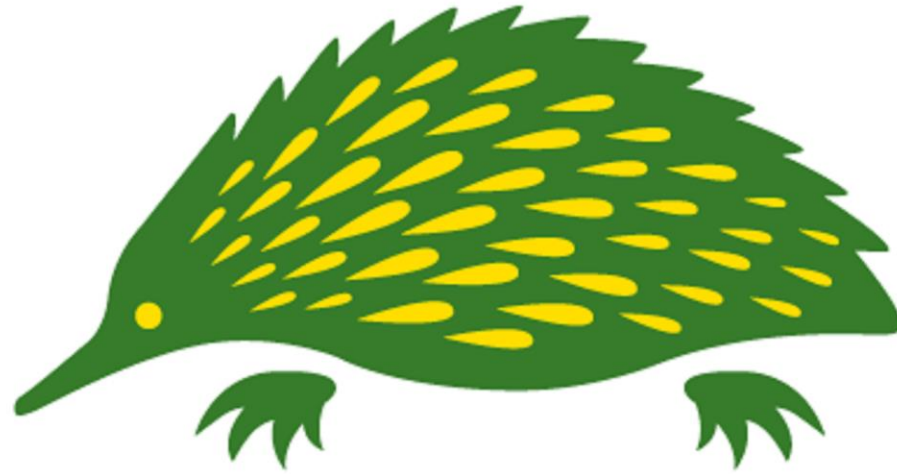
All the Best With
Your Studies and
Thank you!



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