

# 2021 Community Wildlife Conservation Award

The Community Wildlife Conservation Award is awarded to a community group contributing to wildlife preservation in Australia.

The award for 2021 was presented to the Wombat Protection Society of Australia of Tomerong, New South Wales.

This group has operated for more than twenty years to protect wombats. Through its regular workshops and seminars, it educates schools, communities, and wildlife groups on the conservation and care of wombats. It has partnered with several universities to support research into wombats and their conservation. One of its significant achievements has been developing the burrow flap method to treat wombats with mange. Wombat Protection Society of Australia provides burrow flaps to interested groups and constantly researches the best ways to treat mange. Its education programs encourage people to coexist with wombats and not view them as pests.

## Acceptance Speech from the Wombat Protection Society of Australia

The Wombat Protection Society of Australia is delighted and honoured to be named the recipient of the 2021 Community Wildlife Conservation Award by the Australian Wildlife Society. In our twenty-fifth year, we are fortunate to have the tireless work of our Board, both past and present, and our dedicated members and supporters recognised and rewarded. This award will assist the Wombat Protection Society in promoting Australia's wonderful wombats and those who care for them. The recognition also reaffirms that some of the best conservation of our precious wildlife comes from people who care. The Wombat Protection Society undertakes all its work from donations, and all people involved are unpaid volunteers.

Since our inception, the 'big issue' has continued to be the prevention and treatment of mange – the devastating parasitic infestation that kills our wombats. Our conservation work with wombats covers the broad areas of harm mitigation, education, care and facts, mange and disease, and assisting government, researchers, and carers in developing the best policies and promoting ideas. A large focus of our work, and the area in which the award funds will be used, is to understand the pharmacokinetics of moxidectin, a treatment modality for mange. In partnership with Charles Sturt University and overseen by Dr Howard Ralph of Southern Cross Wildlife Care, we aim to develop the best practice treatment guidelines for wombats. At Jarake Wildlife Sanctuary, we will be using a non-harmful research methodology that does not involve trapping, containing, or misusing our wombats.



L to R: Philip Sansom, Shirley Lack, Dr Julie Old, and Patrick Medway AM.