

Threatened Wildlife Photographic Competition Judges' Choice Winner

The **Australian Wildlife Society Threatened Wildlife Photographic Competition** is a national competition that awards and promotes threatened Australian wildlife through photography. The Australian Wildlife Society invited photographers to raise the plight of Australia's threatened wildlife. The Society was delighted to receive a record number of entries, making it an extremely tough competition. Thank you to all our entrants.



Judges' Choice

The annual judges' prize of \$1,000 was won by **George Madani** for their photograph of a **Vulnerable eastern pygmy-possum (*Cercartetus nanus*)**. Eastern pygmy possums are tiny and appropriately whiskered for one primary purpose – raiding native inflorescences to get at that ambrosial sugary goodness! Sadly, being so small makes these bug-eyed nectar bandits prone to becoming snacks to marauding foxes and cats. While feral predators can identify these small animals easily, it is much harder for humans with conventional survey methods. As a part of his research, George focuses on the best ways to detect these banksia thieves. Knowing how to find them will help us gain new insights into their ecology and, hopefully, help to identify how best to protect them.

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People's Choice

The annual people's choice prize of \$500 was won by **Kynan Tang** for their photograph of a **helmeted honeyeater** (*Lichenostomus melanops cassidix*). Acting as the bird emblem for Victoria, the beautiful, helmeted honeyeater is Critically Endangered, with fewer than two hundred individuals remaining in the wild. Once found in areas around Healesville to South Gippsland, the population of helmeted honeyeaters has dramatically declined due to deforestation and habitat loss, with their range now reduced to just three swamp forest areas to the east of Melbourne. Fortunately, since 1989, Zoos Victoria has coordinated a recovery program for these endangered birds through captive breeding to help increase their numbers in the wild. As of this year, they have successfully managed to breed more than 370 honeyeaters and release more than 250 into the wild, helping to triple the native population. This photograph was taken at Healesville Sanctuary in Victoria.