

Australian Wildlife Society

Conserving Australia's Wildlife
since 1909 [®]



Megan Fabian

National Office Manager | Editor *Australian Wildlife*
Australian Wildlife Society

Contents

- A bit about me.
- Who is the Australian Wildlife Society?
- What is the Society's role in wildlife conservation?
- What projects and campaigns are in place?
- Summary.



In The Beginning

- Worked full-time as a Service Coordinator.
- Always had a passion for nature and wildlife.
- Entered university as a mature-aged student in 2012 at WSU.
- Bachelor Degree in Animal Science. Major: Zoology. Sub-Major: Cons. Bio.
- Six-month break. Travelled to Africa (*Image*).
- Masters of Research in Wildlife Conservation/Citizen Science to examine attitudes and behaviours towards wildlife conservation.



Image: Ngorongoro Crater, Tanzania, Africa.



During Univeristy

- Animal technician small native mammal and reptile facilities.
- Taught on Animal Science and Animal Welfare units.
- Travelled and volunteered my time:
 - Dryanda Woodlands, WA.
 - Mt Wellington, TAS.
 - Symbio Wildlife Park, NSW.
- Attended and presented at conferences.
 - First met the President and CEO.
- Became a member of several wildlife groups, including AWS.



The Society

- Formerly known as WPSA, founded in 1909, by bushwalkers.
- 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.



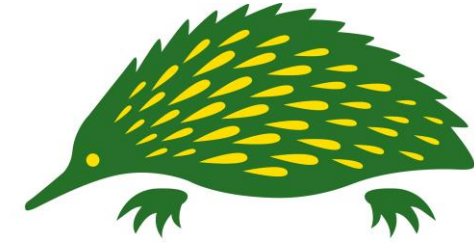
The Society

- Australian Wildlife Society (AWS) is a national not-for-profit wildlife conservation organisation.
- 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 up to ten directors (*image*).
- Is funded through membership fees, sponsorship, partnerships, and donations.
- To achieve our mission, we are dedicated and have many projects in place.



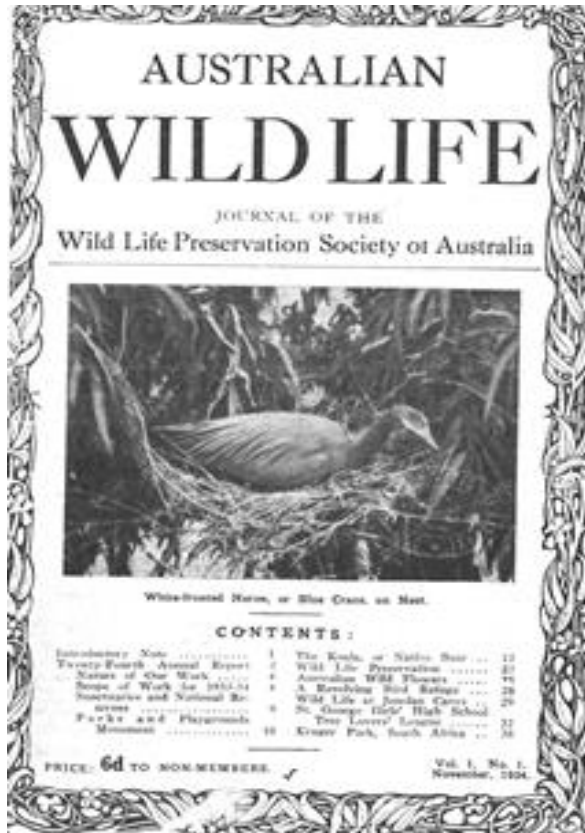
**Australian
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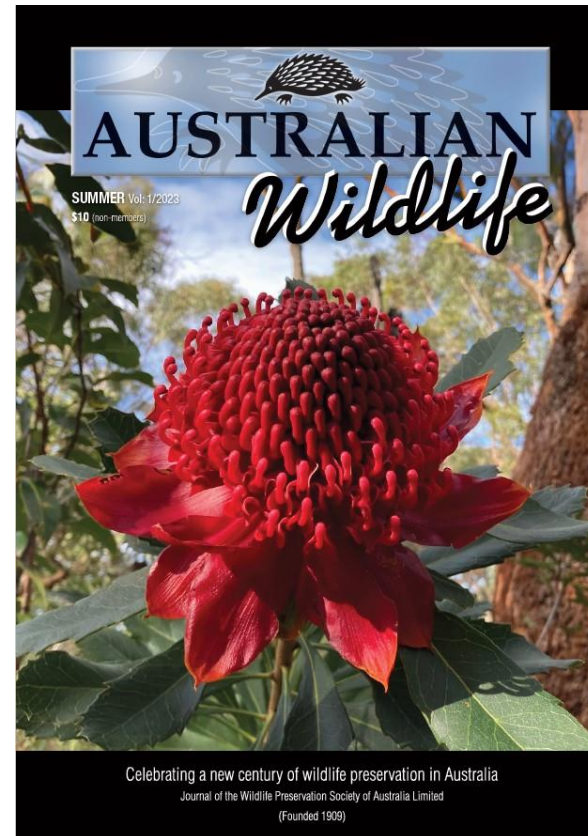


Australian Wildlife Magazine

- The quarterly magazine is the flagship of the Society.
- Promotes conservation work achieved on a national scale.



1934



2023



Monthly E-Newsletter



AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Australian Wildlife Society E-Newsletters

Download to read previously released E-Newsletters.

04/13/2023 - Wildlife Wisdom - April 2023

03/14/2023 - Wildlife Wisdom - March 2023

02/09/2023 - Wildlife Wisdom - February 2023

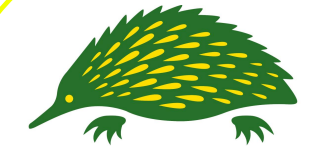
01/16/2023 - Wildlife Wisdom - January 2023



Encourages conservation action.

Promotes the work of the Society.

Highlights news from our members.



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Education Days & School Visits



Annual Awards

Serventy Conservation Award

Established in 1999 to Honour the conservation work of the Serventy family. Awarded to a dedicated volunteer.

Wildlife Rehabilitation Award

Awarded to an individual and group working to rescue, rehabilitate, and release native wildlife.

Community Conservation Award

Awarded to a wildlife group contributing to wildlife preservation in Australia.

Youth Conservation Awards

Inspire young people to have a stake in wildlife conservation by rewarding their efforts.



Due 31 Dec

Grants & Scholarships

University Research Grants

- Australian Honours and Postgraduate students.
- For research projects directly relevant to conserving Australia's flora and fauna.

University Scholarships

- Postgraduate students at UNSW, UTS, UoN.
- For research projects directly relevant to conserving Australia's flora and fauna.

Conservation Group Grants

- The Board considers request from groups that place a special emphasis on wildlife preservation.



UNSW
SYDNEY



Due 31 May

2022 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 \$3,000 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 to attend conferences at which you are presenting your research.

The Australian Wildlife Society is delighted to announce the winners of the ten grants of \$3,000 each to honours or postgraduate students conducting research that will contribute to the conservation of Australian wildlife.

The winners for 2022 are:

ADAM YANEY-KELLER

School of Biological Sciences, Monash University

Project Title: Disentangling the long-term effects of marine debris on Australian fur seals

CLAIRE BUTLER

Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies, University of Tasmania

Project Title: Comparative effects of ocean warming on kelp-herbivore interactions on Australian temperate reefs

ELISE OAKMAN

School of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Sydney

Project Title: Does restoration return insect pollinators to our endangered ecosystems?

ERICA CSEKO NOLASCO

School of Biological Sciences, Queensland University of Technology

Project Title: Social-ecological drivers and outcomes of conservation in private lands

JACLYN HARRIS

School of Biological Sciences, Monash University

Project Title: Fire and Reptiles: An investigation into threatening processes and potential management solutions

JAVIERA OLIVARES-ROJAS

School of Biological Sciences, Monash University

Project Title: What is required to recover Australian threatened ecosystems?

JESSICA KEEM

School of Ecosystem and Forest Sciences, University of Melbourne

Project Title: Refuges are vital for the survival and persistence of fauna in the wake of disturbance events

NICHOLAS MACDONALD

School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Deakin University

Project Title: Investigation of the immune response of the Tasmanian devil (*Sarcophilus harrisii*) to cancer and altered environmental conditions

NICOLE LYNCH

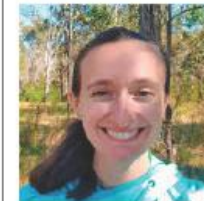
School of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Sydney

Project Title: Spot the quoll: Tactical use of olfactory information to improve detection and conservation of a rare, native carnivore

SHAWN SCOTT

UniSA STEM, University of South Australia

Project Title: Post-fire population recovery and chytrid occurrence in frogs of the Mount Lofty Ranges, South Australia



Threatened Wildlife Photographic Competition

A national competition that promotes threatened Australian wildlife through the medium of photography.



Due 30 June

The Platypus



Work with wildlife groups to protect the platypus across states and territories.

Work to reduce waste, e.g., litter and enclosed yabby traps, from entering their environment.

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 (up to 20).
- Predominantly nocturnal and crepuscular. Forage dawn and dusk.
- Carnivorous: worms, insect larvae, freshwater shrimps, and yabbies.
- Their bill surfaces are packed with thousands of receptors.

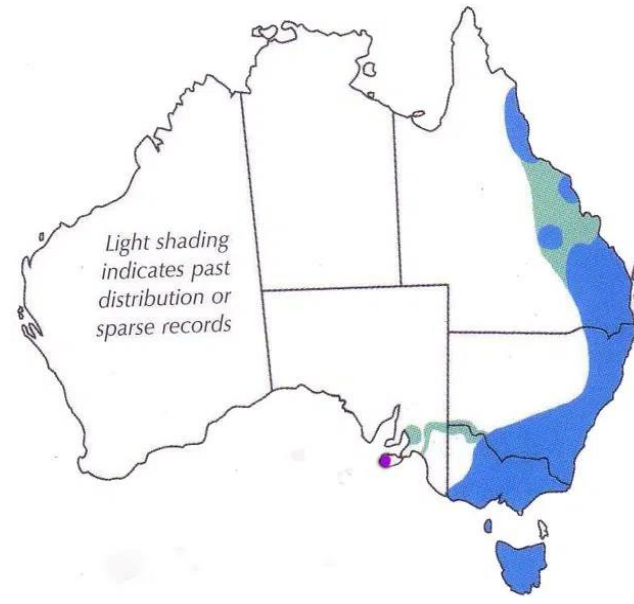
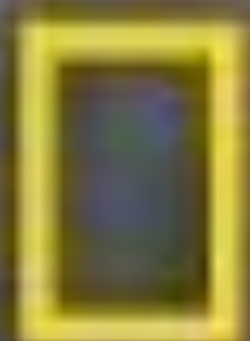


Image: Platypus distribution map.
Credit: Map adapted from R. Strahan
and S. van Dyck. (2008). The
Mammals of Australia, 3rd edition.
(New Holland: Sydney).



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 and 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

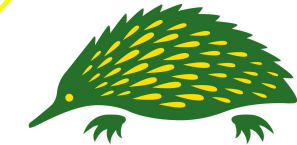
VICTORIAN ALLIANCE FOR PLATYPUS
SAFE YABBY TRAPS



Nature Conservation Council
The voice for nature in NSW



Local Land
Services
Greater Sydney



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UNSW
SYDNEY



Australian
Ecosystems
Foundation Inc.



The
Australian
Mammal Society





Open-top yabby net



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Enclosed yabby trap

Changing the rules to protect native wildlife

Banned in NSW from 30 April 2021

National Overview

Conservation Status

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

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

Platypus Conservation Action



What can you do?

- Dispose of litter appropriately.
- Fish responsibly.
- Keep rivers clean and healthy.
- Reduce water consumption.
- Responsible pet ownership.
- Educate yourself.
- Start or sign petitions to protect wildlife.
- 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

Report sightings to iNaturalist or NSW BioNet (which regularly passes state records on to ALA).
Help understand the distribution and conservation needs of these animals.



To Access Entangled Wildlife Australia

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



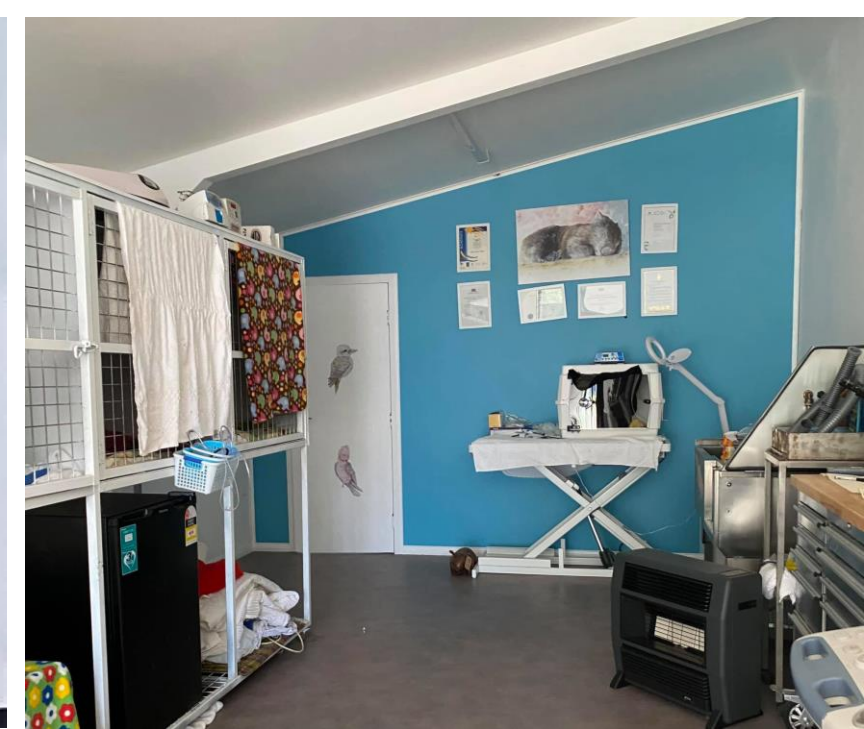
Report Sightings of Wildlife Entanglement

Australian-wide citizen science project and database that wildlife groups or the public can use to record sightings of entangled wildlife.

Previously Supported Projects

- Cedar Creek Wombat Hospital – NSW
- Save the Bilby Fund – QLD
- Friends of the Western Ground Parrot – WA
- Tasmania Wildlife Rehabilitation Council – TAS





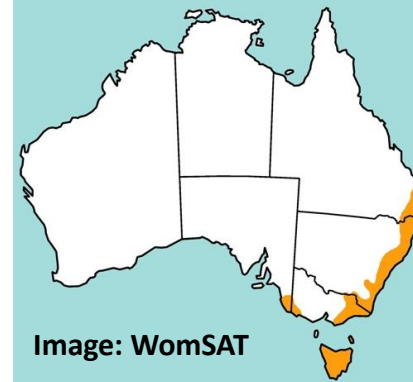
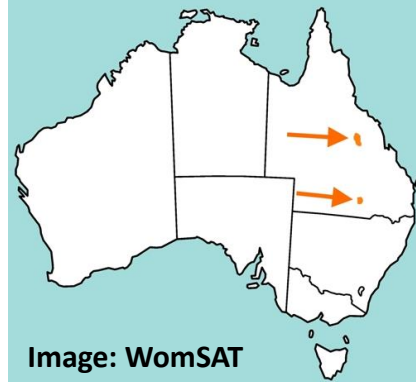
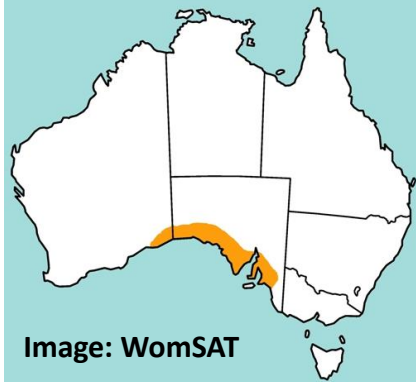
The Wombat

- 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.
- Can 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.

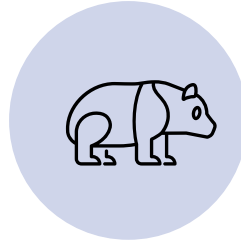




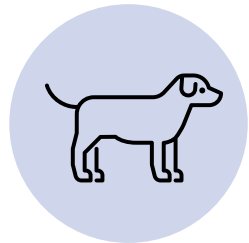
Wombat Conservation Action



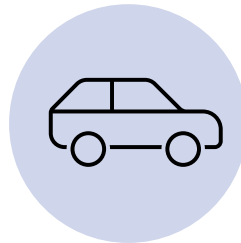
WomSAT - an online tool to report wombat and burrow sightings.



Become a member of your local wildlife rescue group.



Responsible pet ownership.



Drive safely.





**TASMANIAN WILDLIFE
REHABILITATION COUNCIL INC.**



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, and 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 various 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 strikes.
- 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 at Entangled Wildlife Australia.
 - Install microbat boxes and monitor them to ensure wasps and ants don't take up residence.





Snip Rings for Wildlife

Est. 2020



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.

Snip Rings for Wildlife



Each year, thousands of birds and semi-aquatic wildlife are strangled, obtain significant injuries, and often die horrific deaths from ring-shaped items.

Snip Rings for Wildlife



Native wildlife becomes entangled in these items that wrap around their beak or muzzle, preventing them from eating.

Snip Rings for Wildlife



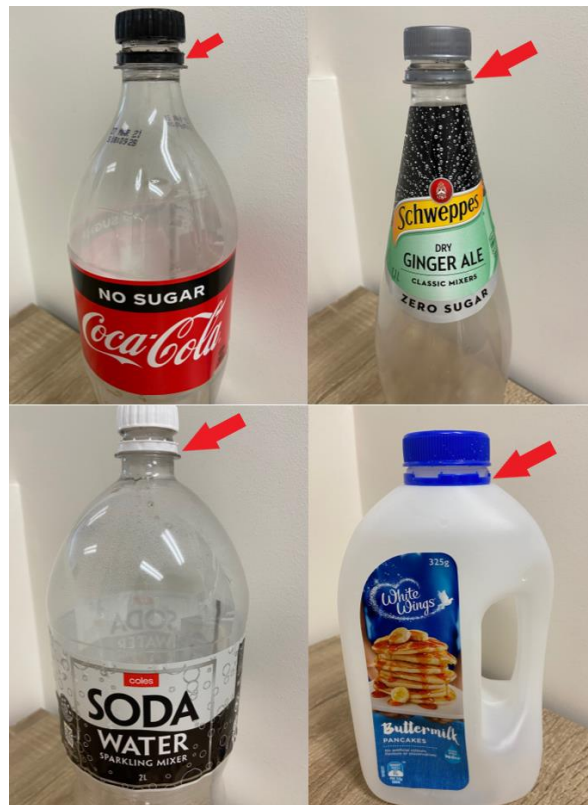
These items can also tangle up their feet, wings, or fins, limiting their movement.

Snip Rings for Wildlife



Young animals can become entrapped in these items, and as they grow, these items cut into their flesh, sometimes amputating limbs or killing the animal.

Snip Rings for Wildlife



Despite contacting numerous manufacturers, the issue persists.
Jars and bottles come with a plastic ring that snaps apart from the lid upon opening
or a peel-off seal under the cap.



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 facemasks, 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



Community-Level

- Engage with and educate children and members of the community through:
 - Our social media platforms,
 - Our magazine *Australian Wildlife*,
 - Our newsletter *Wildlife Wisdom*,
 - Our website aws.org.au, and
 - In person at education days and school events.



Snip Rings for Wildlife



Organisational-Level

- Write to manufacturers and businesses to encourage them to improve the design of their products to protect native wildlife.
- Encourage members of the community to do the same by providing a template letter (*Left*).



SNIP RINGS FOR WILDLIFE



Date: / /

Name/Company:

Address:

Suburb: State: Postcode:

Re: plastic rings, rubber bands and hair ties pose danger to Australia's native wildlife

Dear

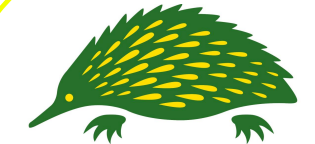
Each year, thousands of birds and air-breathing aquatic wildlife such as platypus, turtles and water dragons are strangled, obtain significant injuries and often die horrific deaths from discarded litter. Wildlife often becomes entangled in plastic rings, rubber bands and hair ties that wrap around their beak or muzzle, preventing them from eating. These items can also tangle up their feet, wings, or fins, limiting their movement. Young animals can become entrapped in these items, and as they grow, these items cut into their flesh, sometimes amputating limbs or killing the animal. Other animals mistake these items for food and ingest them.

Some manufacturers produce jars, bottles, and tetra packs with plastic lids that come with a plastic ring that snaps apart from the lid upon opening or a peel-off seal under the cap. If a plastic ring is not snipped before disposal, by a particularly environmentally aware person, then it enters our waste or natural water systems as a whole ring. This ring has the potential to cause a slow and painful death to a variety of Australia's native wildlife through strangulation, starvation, deformation, or infection.

I write to urge your company to change the design of your product and tetra packs to a peel-off seal under the cap or ring that snaps apart easily upon opening, to prevent the needless suffering of Australia's precious native wildlife.

Thank you in advance for your time and I look forward to your response.
My details are provided below.

Yours sincerely



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since 1909 ®

Snip Rings for Wildlife



Government-Level (National)

- Meet with and write to Ministers, state and federal, to advocate for a ban on ring-shaped items to protect native wildlife from the risk of entanglement and death.



Australian Wildlife Week

Held During the First Week of October Each Year

- The Society launched Australian Wildlife Week in 2019.
- To encourage a positive relationship between humanity and nature.
- We hold different events each year and encourage community members to participate in conservation action, for example:
 - An Online Webinar,
 - Art Display, and
 - Video Competition



Australian Wildlife: A journey through time

Australian Wildlife Society

24 September - 23 October 2022

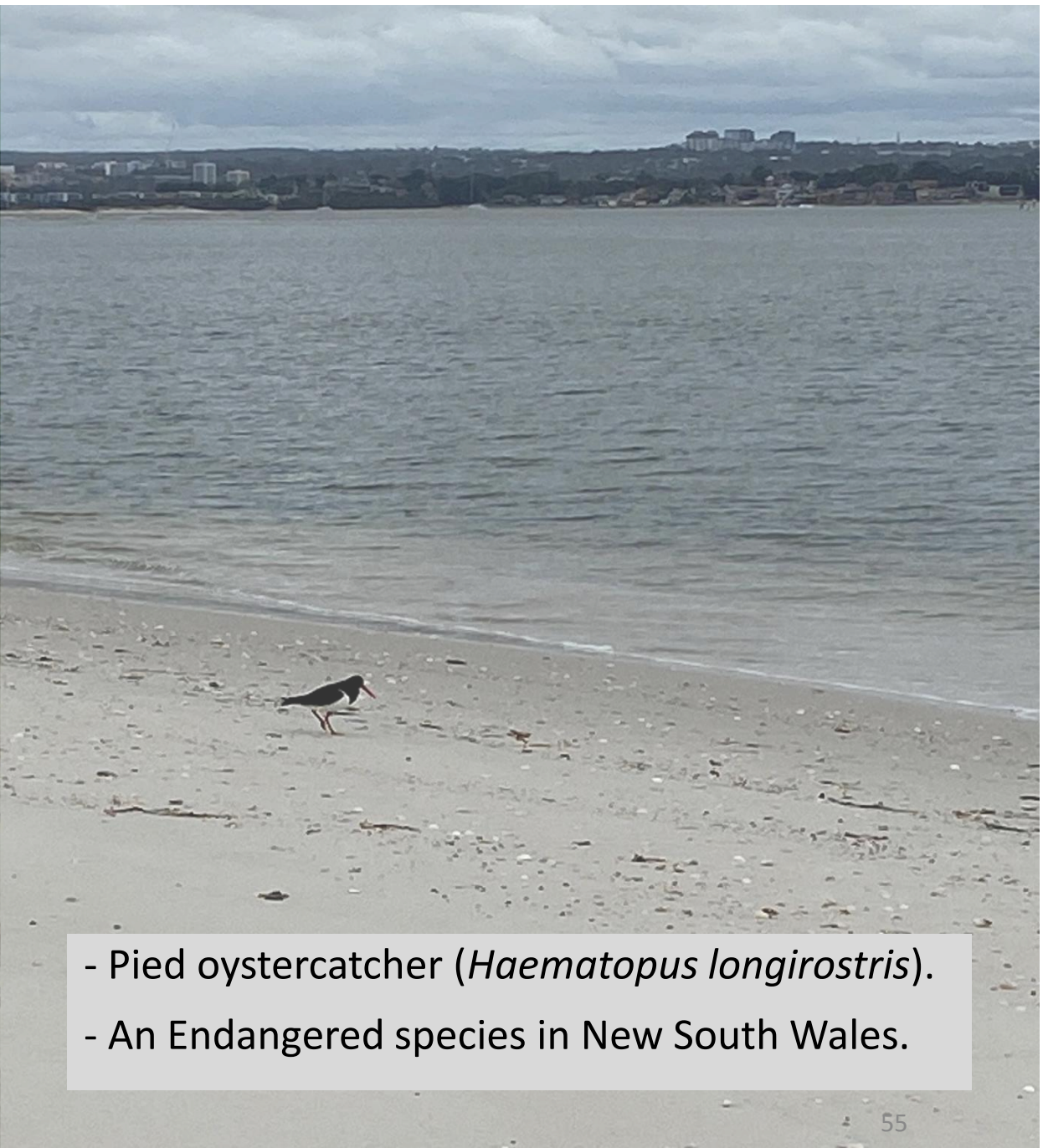
Dragon's Lair Gallery, Hurstville Museum & Gallery





- AWS restored TPNR in 1997 and revisited the site in 2020.
- Inhabited by Endangered shorebird species.
- Important habitat for breeding and nesting.
- Unauthorised vehicles are prohibited,

Why?...



- Pied oystercatcher (*Haematopus longirostris*).
- An Endangered species in New South Wales.

WILDLIFE EMERGENCY CONTACTS

STATE	WILDLIFE GROUP	CONTACT
National	Wildlife Rescue Australia	1300 596 457
ACT	ACT Wildlife	0432 300 033
TAS	Bonorong Wildlife Rescue	0447 264 625
VIC	Wildlife Victoria	(03) 8400 7300
NSW	WIRES	1300 094 737
SA	Fauna Rescue SA	(08) 8289 0896
WA	Native Animal Rescue	(08) 9249 3434

Social Media Channels

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





Magazine

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



Social Media

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



E-Newsletter

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



Right to Vote

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



AWS Portal

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



Other Benefits

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

SAVE OUR WILDLIFE



Australian Wildlife Society

Conserving Australia's Wildlife
since 1909

JOIN NOW!

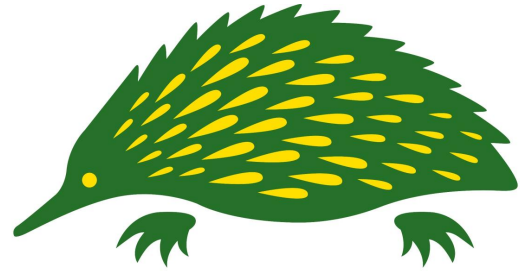
aws.org.au



Summary

- 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 wildlife by becoming a member of the Society.
- Don't forget to #SnipRingsforWildlife.





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Conserving Australia's Wildlife
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Contact

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

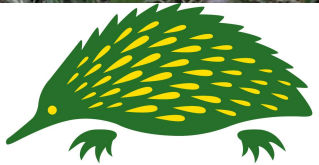


**Australian
Wildlife Society**

ing Australian



All the Best With Your Studies.
Thank you!



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