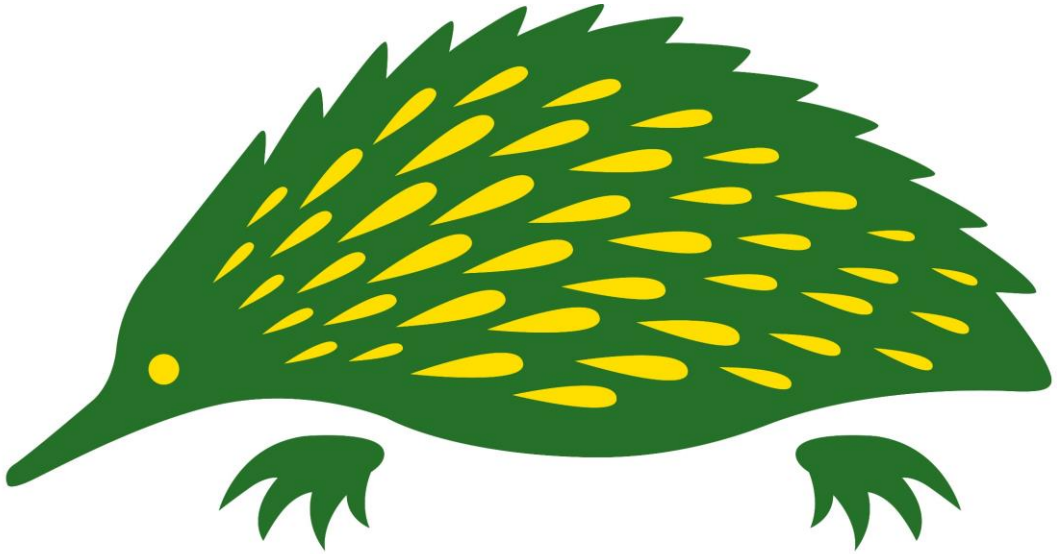

Australian Wildlife Society

Conserving Australia's Wildlife since 1909 ®

Megan Fabian

Acting Company Secretary| Editor *Australian Wildlife*

Australian Wildlife Society

Australian Wildlife Society

Conserving Australia's Wildlife since 1909 ®

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.

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In The Beginning

Image: Ngorongoro Crater, Tanzania, Africa.

- 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.

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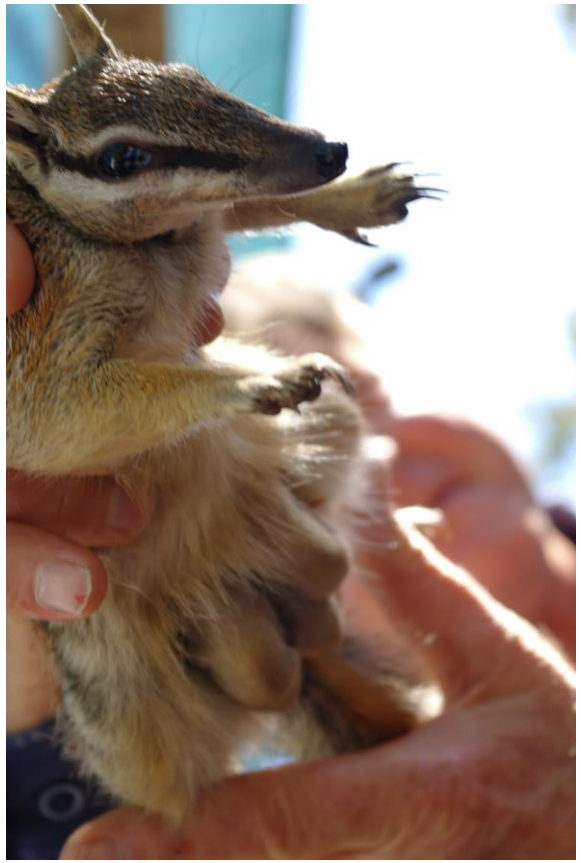
During Univeristy

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



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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.

WILDLIFE PRESERVATION SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

Australian Wildlife Society

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The Society

- Australian Wildlife Society (AWS) is a national not-for-profit wildlife conservation organisation.

- We are dedicated to the conservation of Australian wildlife (flora and fauna) through national environmental education, advocacy, and community involvement.




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REGISTERED CHARITY
acnc.gov.au/charityregister

The Society

- Is registered with the ACNC.
- Is managed by an elected board of up to ten volunteer directors (*image*).
- Holds regular monthly meetings.
- Is funded through membership fees, sponsorship, partnerships, and donations.
- To achieve our mission, we are dedicated and have many projects in place.

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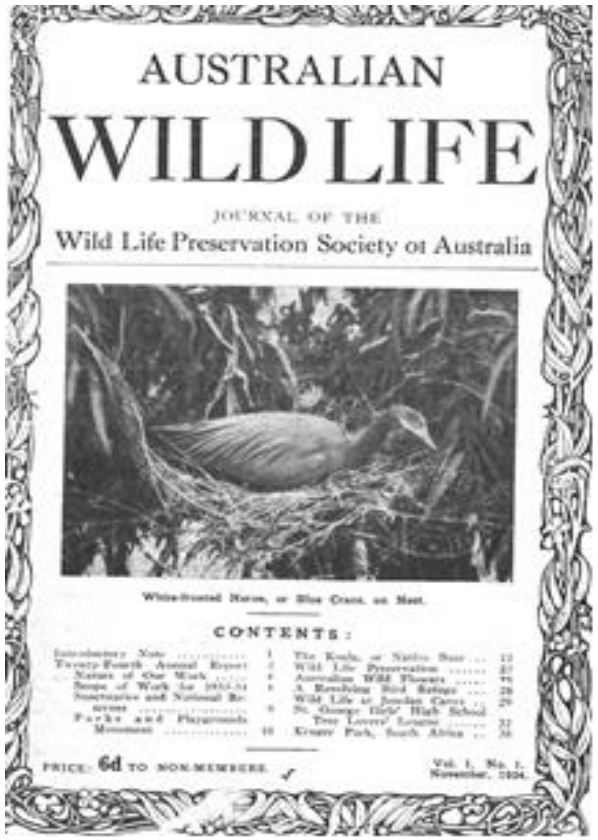
Australian Wildlife Magazine

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



1934

2023

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Monthly E-Newsletter

AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Australian Wildlife Society E-Newsletters

Download to read previously released E-Newsletters.

07/13/2023 - Wildlife Wisdom - July 2023
06/15/2023 - Wildlife Wisdom - June 2023
05/16/2023 - Wildlife Wisdom - May 2023
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

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- Promotes the work of the Society.
- Highlights news from our members.
- Encourages conservation action.

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.

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Due 31 Dec

Grants & Scholarships

Univeristy Research Grants

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

Univeristy 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.

Due 31 May

UNSW SYDNEY UTS THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE AUSTRALIA

2023 University Research Grant Winners

The Australian Wildlife Society's University Research Grants are offered to honours or postgraduate students at Australian universities conducting research that contributes to the conservation of Australian wildlife (flora or fauna). Ten grants are awarded each year: one $5,000 scholarship and nine $3,000 grants.

The Society is proud to have awarded our very first Dr Clive Williams OAM Memorial Wildlife Conservation Scholarship in honour of former Director Dr Clive Williams. The scholarship is awarded to the highest-ranked applicant of all our University Research Grants.

Grants may be used to purchase equipment and consumables, travel expenses related to field research, or attend a conference where the student presents their research.

The Australian Wildlife Society is delighted to announce the winners for 2023:

JACK BILBY (Dr Clive Williams OAM Memorial Wildlife Conservation Scholarship Recipient)
School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of New South Wales.

Project Title: Beating the Heat: How do Bandicoots Respond to Extreme Heat in Burnt and Unburnt Habitat?

ANNE IBBOTSON
School of Biomedical Sciences and Pharmacy, The University of Newcastle.

Project Title: The Potential for Stress and Reproductive Hormones to Inform Conservation Decisions for Endangered Amphibians.

HANNAH GERKE
Fenner School of Environment and Society, The Australian National University.

Project Title: Measuring Movement Behaviour and Personality of Eastern Brown Snakes in Urban Areas: Snaking our Way Towards Successful Conflict-Driven Translocation.

HOLLY FARNAN
Centre for Tropical Environmental and Sustainability Science, James Cook University.

Project Title: Investigating the Effects of Insecticide Exposure and Pathogens on Bee Diversity, Abundance, and Health.

NATALIE GRASSI
School of Environmental and Conservation Sciences, Murdoch University.

Project Title: Faunal Assemblages and Ecology at Conservation Connectivity Areas Within a Fragmented Agricultural Landscape.

NATARSHA MCPHERSON
School of Biological Sciences, The University of Adelaide.

Project Title: Distribution and Density of the Southern Hairy-Nosed Wombat (*Lasiorhinus latifrons*) under the Influence of Future Climate Change and Invasive Rabbit Competition.

OCEANE ATTLAN
School of Biological Sciences, The University of Western Australia.

Project Title: Temperate Marine Ecosystems under Tropicalisation: An Insight of Species Reshuffling and Ecological Function Changes along the Western Australia Coastline.

OLIVIA JOHNSON
Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, University of Tasmania.

Project Title: Safeguarding Threatened Reef Species.

PAULA RUIZ
Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, University of Tasmania.

Project Title: Mechanisms of Stability for Degraded 'Turf-Dominated' Reef States.

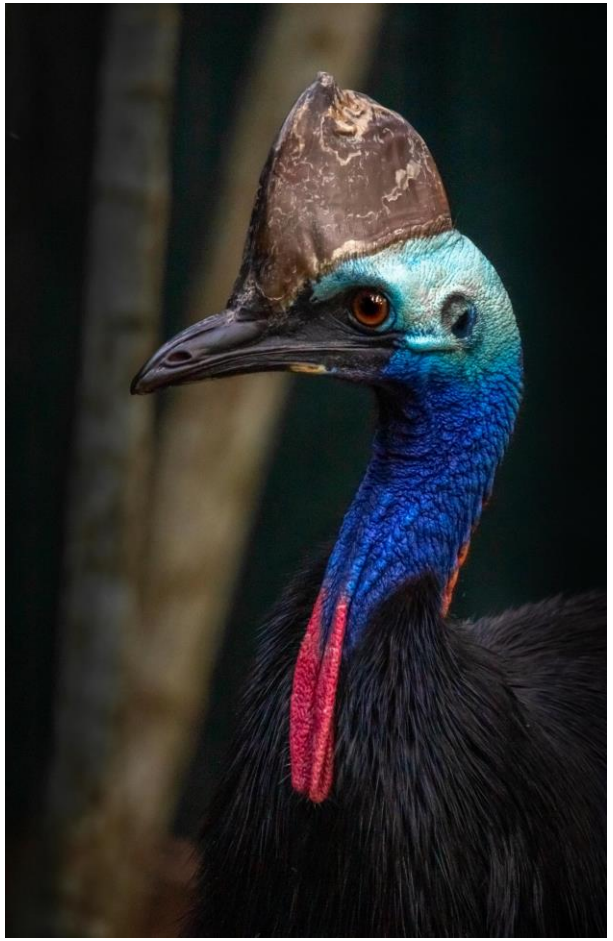
RAQUEL PARKER
School of Life and Environmental Sciences, The University of Sydney.

Project Title: Using Carcasses to Investigate Ecosystem Processes in Feral Predator-Free Fenced Areas, NSW.

Threatened Wildlife Photographic Competition

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







Due 30 June

The Platypus

The Platypus (*Ornithorhynus anatinus*)

- Semi-aquatic egg-laying mammal (monotreme).
- Endemic to eastern Australia, including TAS.
  - Image: platypus distribution (shaded area).
- Live in burrows along 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 electroreceptors.

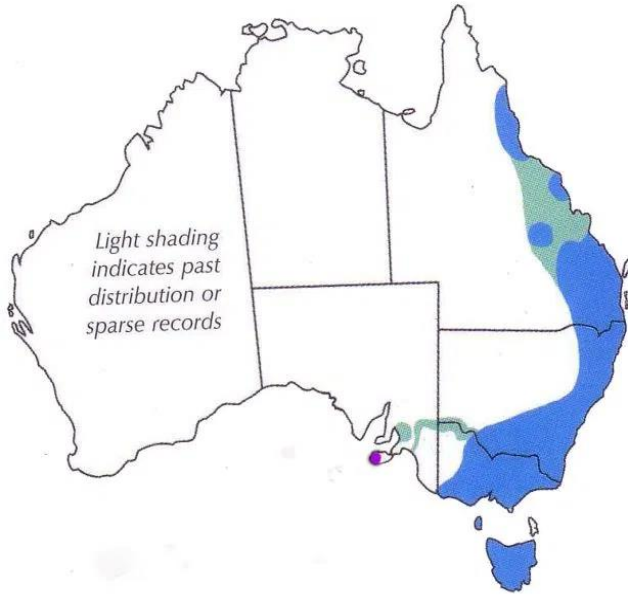


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Image: Platypus distribution map. Credit: Map adapted from R. Strahan and S. van Dyck. (2008). The Mammals of Australia, 3rd edition. (New Holland: Sydney).


WORLD'S
DEADLIEST

Ecological Significance

- Freshwater carnivore:
  - keep species at lower levels of the food chain in check.
- Ecosystem engineer:
  - construction of burrows increases habitat quality and nutrient cycling through the turnover of soil.

Threats

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

Platypus Alliance

Queensland Alliance for Platypus

Centre for Ecosystem Science

Secret Creek Sanctuary

NSW GOVERNMENT DPI Fisheries

Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW
Promoting sustainable fishing

VICTORIAN ALLIANCE FOR PLATYPUS
SAFE YABBY TRAPS

Nature Conservation Council
The voice for nature in NSW

NSW GOVERNMENT Local Land Services Greater Sydney

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Platypus Conservation Initiative

NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers

UNSW SYDNEY

Australian Ecosystems Foundation Inc.

The Australian Mammal Society

NPA NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF NSW
protecting nature through community action

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

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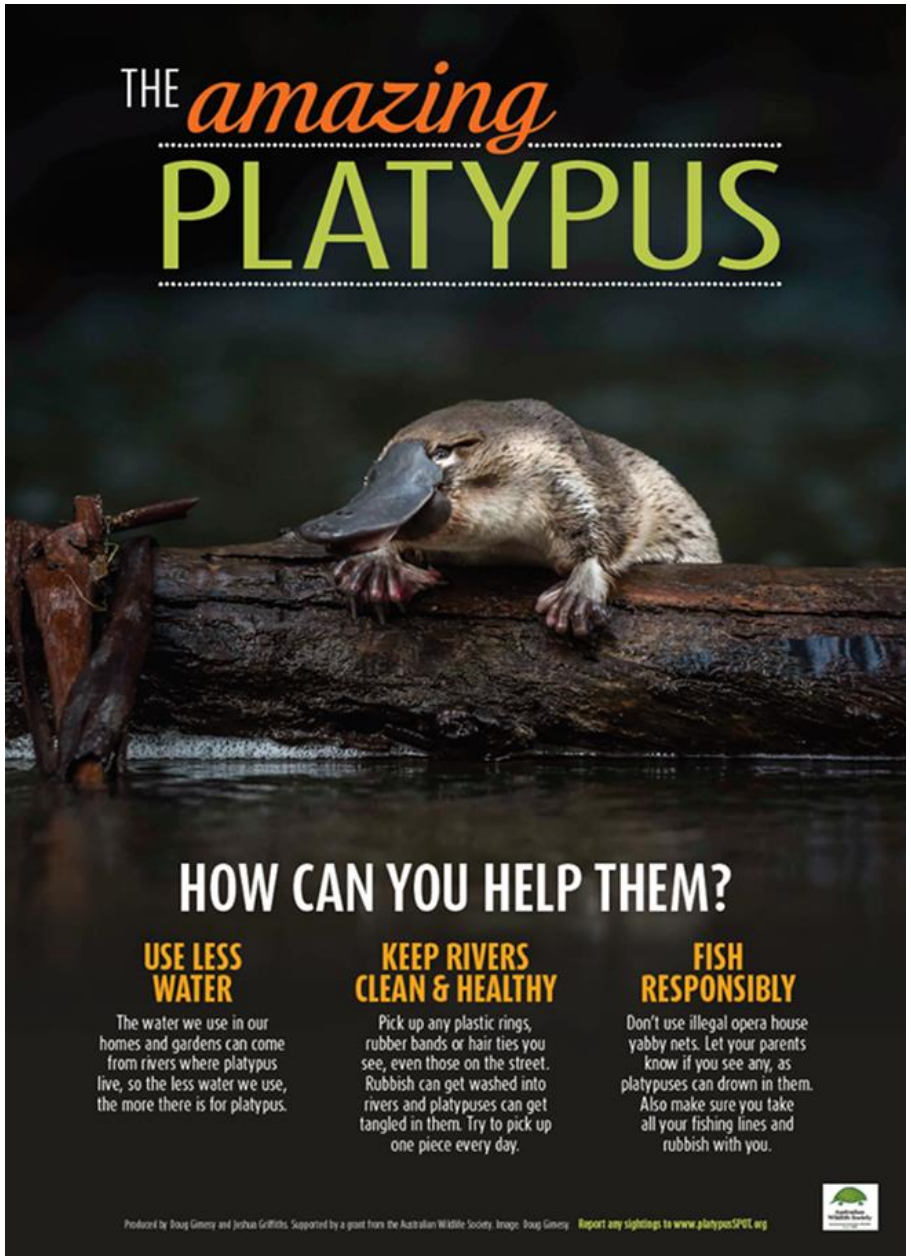
STATE/TERRITORY	CONSERVATION STATUS	POSITION	ACTION
ACT	**Protected**	Banned	17-Sep-19
TAS	**Protected**	Banned	Prohibitions in place
VIC	**Vulnerable**	Banned	1-Jul-19
NSW	**Protected**	Banned	30-Apr-21
SA	**Endangered**	Banned	1-Jul-23
NT	*Not present*	Not Banned	TBA
WA	*Not present*	Banned	Prohibitions in place
QLD	**Protected**	Not Banned	Discussions occurring

Platypus Conservation



What can you do?

- Dispose of litter appropriately.
- Fish responsibly.
- Keep rivers clean and healthy.
- Reduce water consumption.
- Educate yourself.
- Sign petitions to protect wildlife.
- Report sightings of platypus and entanglements.

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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.

NSW 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 Rescue Inc & Hospital – NSW**
  - **Wombat Hospital development**
- Save the Bilby Fund – QLD
  - Bilby breeding program
- Friends of the Western Ground Parrot – WA
  - Predator management
- Tasmania Wildlife Rehabilitation Council – TAS
  - Microbat flight aviary

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The Wombat (*Vombatus ursinus*)

- Herbivorous, burrowing marsupial.
- Feeds on native grasses, tussocks, and sedges.
- Occurs in woodland habitats and coastal heath.
- Digs impressive tunnel systems (2 – 20 m in length).

- Distributed across southeast Australia (QLD, VIC, SA, TAS).
- Threats: sarcoptic mange, habitat loss, and vehicle collisions.

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The Wombat

- Can live for up to 14 years in the wild and 26 years in captivity.
- A reinforced rump protects them from predators.
- Females have a backward-facing pouch.
- Can move at speeds up to 40km/h.
- Closest living relative is the koala.
- Wombats produce cubic faeces.

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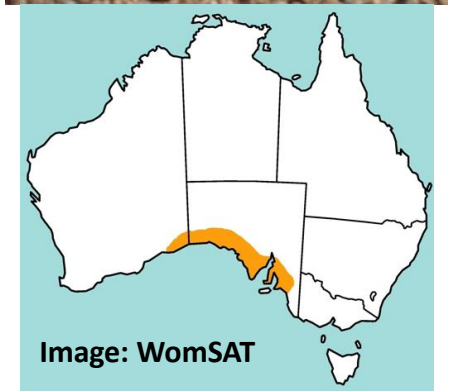
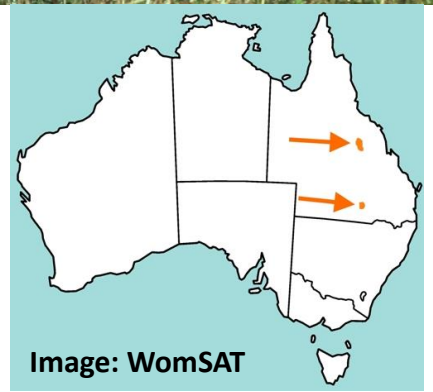
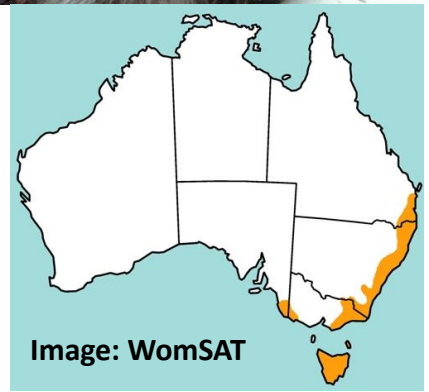
The Wombat

- 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)







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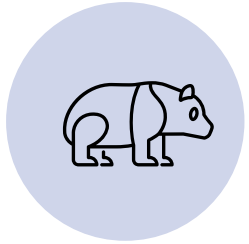
Support assisted Cedar Creek Wombat Hospital to:

- Expand and upgrade their wildlife hospital, and
- Add additional intensive care pens.

Wombat Conservation

WomSAT.org.au

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



Become a member of your local wildlife rescue group.

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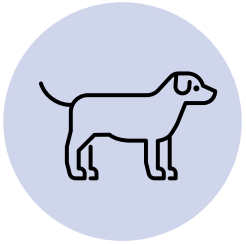

Responsible pet ownership.

Drive safely.

Previously Supported Projects

- Cedar Creek Wombat Rescue Inc & Hospital – NSW
  - Wombat Hospital development
- Save the Bilby Fund – QLD
  - Bilby breeding program
- Friends of the Western Ground Parrot – WA
  - Predator management
- **Tasmania Wildlife Rehabilitation Council – TAS**
  - **Microbat flight aviary**

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Australian Wildlife Society proudly supports Cedar Creek Wombat Hospital

SAVE THE BILBY FUND

Friends of the Western Ground Parrot

TWRC
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*).

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Microbats

- Nocturnal, insectivorous mammals.
- Feed on moths, beetles, caterpillars, and mosquitos.
- Use echolocation to locate their food in the dark.
  - A sound wave bounces off an object, returning an echo about the object's distance and size.
- They occur in various forest types and live in old hollow trees.
- Some bats roost in rock crevices or buildings.

Microbat Conservation

- All species are 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.
  - Assist in installing microbat boxes and monitoring them.
  - Protect old-growth forests.

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- Microbats often require rehabilitation due to:
  - Injuries from cat attacks,
  - Entanglement in barbed wire, and
  - As a result of bad weather conditions.

- Their specialised flight and hunting techniques require the highest level of fitness.

- After just two weeks in care, a microbat loses the muscles it needs to hunt for insects and fly out from its roost.

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The Society supported the development of a rehabilitation flight aviary to enable microbats to develop their flight fitness before returning to the wild.


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Snip Rings for Wildlife
Est. 2020
REGISTERED CHARITY
acnc.gov.au/charityregister

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Snip Rings for Wildlife

- Cut through ring-shaped items:
  - Plastic rings
  - Rubber bands
  - Hair ties
  - Loops of facemasks
  - Plastic dome shaped lids

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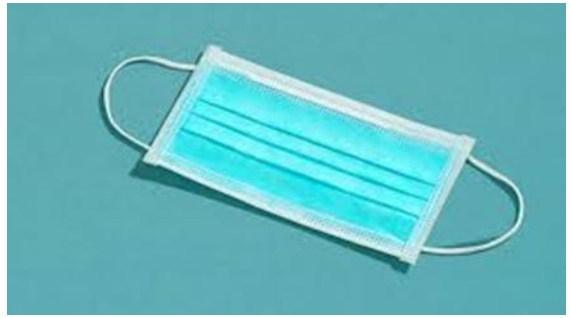

Before throwing them away to protect native wildlife.

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Snip Rings for Wildlife

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

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Snip Rings for Wildlife

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

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Snip Rings for Wildlife

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

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Snip Rings for Wildlife


Image: Wendy Wallin

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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.

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Snip Rings for Wildlife

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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.

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Snip Rings for Wildlife

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

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Snip Rings for Wildlife

Snip through ring-shaped items before disposing of them.

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Snip Rings for Wildlife

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

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Snip Rings for Wildlife

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

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Snip Rings for Wildlife

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

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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.

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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*).

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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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Australian Wildlife Society
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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.

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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 events each year to encourage participation in conservation action, for example:
  - Online Webinar,
  - Art Display, and
  - Video Competition (Due 31 Aug)

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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. 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.

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).

Australian Wildlife Society

Conserving Australia's Wildlife since 1909

AWS Portal

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

REGISTERED CHARITY

acnc.gov.au/charityregister

Other Benefits

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

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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Contact

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All the Best With Your Studies.
Thank you!

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