



The Grand Opening of the Society's New National Office and Education Centre in Campbelltown, New South Wales

The President of the Australian Wildlife Society, Stephen Grabowski, was delighted to announce the opening of the Society's new National Office and Education Centre at 9/121 Queen Street, Campbelltown, New South Wales.

For the first time in over one hundred years, the Board of the Society decided to purchase and establish a new National Office and Education Centre to cope with the expanding work of the Society in wildlife conservation across Australia.

"After some 115 years, the Society now has a new permanent home from which to operate and promote wildlife conservation and environmental education programs across Australia", Stephen said.

The new National Office and Education Centre was officially opened on Tuesday, 20 August 2024, at 11 am by Gregory Charles Warren MP, Member for Campbelltown, with some thirty-eight guests in attendance, including councillors and representatives from Campbelltown City Council, life members and members of the Society, and friends and family, joined us to celebrate this special occasion.

Steve Wisbey OAM, the Master of Ceremonies, officially opened the event and invited Gregory Warren MP, to say a few words. Mr Warren first congratulated the Society on its achievements to date and wished the Society and its President well for a successful future.

He communicated his concern for the future of the koala population in Campbelltown and articulated that balancing the needs of wildlife with an expanding community can be complex. He said the roads are needed to ensure members of the community can get from A to B, but it is also crucial that wildlife is not put at risk at the same time. Mr Warren voiced his support for the work of the Society and is committed to collaborating with the Society in the future to ensure our wildlife conservation efforts are successful.

Steve Wisbey OAM invited the Chief Executive Officer, Patrick Medway AM, to say a few words. Patrick spoke about the history of the Society and its activities

and our efforts to continue the legacy of our predecessors to ensure our native wildlife persists in the future. He said, "Since our establishment in 1909, we have advocated for legally protecting Australia's precious animals and plants. Throughout history, we have achieved significant milestones and victories for wildlife, such as ending the cruel practice of skinning koalas for their fur. We are committed to continuing this vital work and expanding our wildlife conservation efforts nationally".

The President of the Society, Stephen Grabowski, was then invited to say a few words on behalf of the Board. He acknowledged and thanked everyone for their attendance and expressed the Society's hopes for the future. He mentioned that we look forward to forming solid connections and collaborating with key stakeholders to ensure local wildlife conservation. Stephen also

Above: Gregory Warren MP, the Board of Directors of the Society, Steve Wisbey OAM, and Councillor Warren Morrison cut the ribbon to mark the official opening. Image: Megan Fabian.

Above Right: The Australian Wildlife Society's Grand Opening Cake. Image: Megan Fabian.



Stephen Grabowski, Gregory Warren MP, and the Board of Directors cut the cake to celebrate the momentous occasion. Image: Megan Fabian.



The Society's National Office. Image: Megan Fabian.



Certificate of Congratulations.
Image: Megan Fabian.



Stephen Grabowski and Gregory Warren MP unveiled the plaque. Image: Megan Fabian.

acknowledged Campbelltown City Council's contribution to gift bags and a variety of native plants handed out on the day, which was a great success. Coles Campbelltown also sponsored the opening event by providing cold beverages for our guests.

Councillor Warren Morrison of Campbelltown City Council was invited to speak a few words. He stated that the council was delighted to support such a momentous occasion and is excited to work together in the future to achieve positive outcomes for wildlife.

The official ribbon cutting took place, the President of the Society and Mr Warren unveiled the plaque, and the cake was cut. Mr Warren also presented the Society with a framed certificate congratulating the Society on the opening of its National Office and Education Centre.

The President of the Society then



President, Stephen Grabowski.
Image: Megan Fabian.



Member for Campbelltown, Gregory Warren MP.
Image: Megan Fabian.



Chief Executive Officer, Patrick Medway AM.
Image: Nicholas Tisdale.



Councillor Warren Morrison, Campbelltown City Council.
Image: Megan Fabian.



Master of Ceremonies, Steve Wisbey OAM.
Image: Megan Fabian.



The Society's official opening plaque. Image: Megan Fabian.



Campbelltown City Council donated a variety of native plants. Image: Megan Fabian.

officially closed the event. Stephen said he was pleased that the new office was in the Macarthur region of Western Sydney, as it is a dynamic and growing area of influence for today's generation of conservation-minded people.

“We want to engage with all like-minded wildlife conservation groups to form new alliances to save our native wildlife for the next generation of young Australians”, he said.

We believe that everyone can play a role in conserving Australia's wildlife, and this belief is reflected in the Society's magazine, newsletters, and membership structure. He encouraged everyone interested in wildlife conservation to join the Society to help save Australia's unique and precious native flora and fauna.

The guests were then invited to stay for a light lunch to network and continue celebrating the milestones and achievements of the Society. Guests were also taken on a guided tour of the New National Office and Education Centre.

The Australian Wildlife Society, founded in 1909, is a national not-for-profit wildlife conservation organisation. We are dedicated to conserving Australian wildlife (flora and fauna) through national environmental education, advocacy, and community involvement.



The Society's Education Centre. Image: Megan Fabian.



The entrance to the Society's National Office and Education Centre. Image: Megan Fabian.

Opening of the Society's New National Office and Education Centre



Stephen Grabowski and Gregory Warren MP. Image: Megan Fabian.



Introduction by Gregory Warren MP, Member for Campbelltown. Image: Megan Fabian.



L to R: Anne Parnham, Stephen Grabowski, Gregory Warren MP, Patrick Medway AM, and Councillor Warren Morrison. Image: Megan Fabian.



L to R: Suzanne Medway AM, Sue Emmett, and Judy Wilson. Image: Megan Fabian.



Michaela Beattie, Environmental Education Officer, and Michael Ellison, Bushcare Officer, Campbelltown City Council. Image: Megan Fabian.



L to R: Stephen Grabowski, Ken Mason, and Megan Fabian. Image: Sue Emmett.



Trevor Evans in front of the mountain pygmy-possum photo. The Society supported a breeding program for this species at Secret Creek Sanctuary to help save it from extinction. Image: Megan Fabian.



Tim Knapp and Patrick Medway AM. Image: Megan Fabian.



Gregory Warren MP and Patrick Medway AM. Image: Nicholas Tisdale.



Guests of the Society's New National Office and Education Centre Opening. Image: Megan Fabian.



John Creighton and Caitlin Gallagher. Image: Megan Fabian.



Patrick Medway AM presenting to the attendees of the Society's Opening. Image: Megan Fabian.