



Monday 15 May, 2017

2017 THE AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE SOCIETY INAUGURAL BALL

PRESERVING AND PROTECTING AUSTRALIA'S UNIQUE WILDLIFE

On Saturday 17th June in the Grand Ballroom at the Western Suburbs Leagues Club, the Australian Wildlife Society (the Society) will hold its inaugural annual ball. To be hosted by President of the Society, Suzanne Medway AM this prestigious event will feature special guest speaker and internationally-renowned Aussie wildlife enthusiast, Tim Faulkner and local MC Steve Wisbey OAM.

The Society was formed in May 1909 and is committed to the preservation and protection of Australia's unique native wildlife through national environmental education programs, community involvement, as well as practical hands-on wildlife conservation projects. This event is the Society's first-ever large-scale public fundraising initiative which aims to raise money for the continuation of its important work.



The event aims to bring together all members of the community with a passion for conservation and Australian wildlife. Through the support of these guests, the Society will be able to continue to work on vital biodiversity rehabilitation projects, provide grants and fund education projects for threatened and endangered species such as the Bilby project and Eastern quoll project.

Given that Australia is facing significant biodiversity loss, the AWS needs all the support it can muster to ensure the ongoing survival of these precious species. 59% of mammals alone in NSW are listed as being threatened with extinction whilst Australia as a continent has experienced the largest documented decline in biodiversity in any continent over the past 200 years.

President of the Society Suzanne Medway AM said, "The Society is thrilled to be hosting its first-ever ball. With the Tasmanian devil and other iconic native species now in serious decline and on the brink of extinction, there is a real sense of urgency for the Society and its members to act. We

hope to raise as many funds as possible to help us continue on our mission to preserve our precious wildlife,” said Suzanne Medway AM, President of the Australian Wildlife Society.

TIM FAULKNER – LOCAL HERO

Born in Greystanes, New South Wales, Tim is a recognised leader in the Australian zoo industry and in conservation. His working life has been dedicated to hands-on wild life education and conservation.

Tim currently lives in Wamberal, New South Wales and as General Manager, is responsible for the day-to-day running of the Central Coast’s largest tourism attraction, the **Australian Reptile Park**. Along with 35 staff and 50 volunteers, Tim is credited with the growing success of the park as the leading wildlife tourism attraction in NSW for both regional and global markets, attracting over 220,000 visitors a year, including regular bus tours of visitors from North and South East Asia. Many will recognise this environmentalist from his TV show, *The Wild Life of Tim Faulkner*, which airs on Channel 9 and the National Geographic Channel. Each series boasts a global audience of 180 million people. Tim led an initiative to reverse the extinction rate of small mammals on the Australian mainland, through the reintroduction of Tasmanian devils to the NSW landscape and has also played a pivotal role in efforts to curb the extinction of the Tasmanian devil itself.



Tim was also awarded the 2015 Australian Geographic Society’s Conservationist of the Year Award for his important work with the devils.

For media enquiries:

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Event details:

When: 7pm, Saturday 17th June, 2017

Where: Grand Ballroom of the Western Suburbs Leagues Club (Campbelltown), 10 Old Leumeah Road Leumeah

To purchase tickets:

To book tickets: www.aws.org.au