

Wildcard-Sue

Creativity for wildlife conservation

Sue Liu



Hello fellow wildlife enthusiasts. My name is Sue Liu and I am an artist, author, communications professional, and community builder from Sydney, New South Wales. I discovered my drawing abilities in late 2019 when I picked up a pen to give drawing a go.

My purpose as an artist and communicator is to foster an enduring appreciation and fascination for a wide array of Australian animals. I hope that my creativity and advocacy work, with researchers, educators, and through implementing wildlife projects, translates into conservation actions to help save Australia's threatened wildlife and their habitats. It is certainly true for me that as I study and draw an animal, I fall into a curious fascination with their faces, structures, textures, and movements, always wanting to know more about each animal.

I am pleased to announce that my website, wildcard-sue.com.au, has launched and showcases over sixty unique Australian native wildlife illustrations, offered as fine art prints, posters, and more. Wildcard-Sue is dedicated to raising funds for wildlife conservation and will be donating five percent of profits, from every artwork sold between October to December 2020, to the Australian Wildlife Society to help protect Australia's wildlife.

Art inspired by the sea

As a self-taught illustrator, I have established a personal style of drawing – drawing mainly with black ink, grey markers, and sometimes grey ink. Although I adore colour, it appears that the glorious complexity and texture, that brings these unique animals to life, work better in monochrome!



It is a preference for me to draw from my own experiences. I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to observe and study some of Australia's exquisite sea animals on my scuba dives in Sydney, such as the weedy seadragon (*Phyllopteryx taeniolatus*) and White's seahorse (*Hippocampus whitei*). I enjoy sharing my scuba diving experiences, and the interactions I have with the sea animals, with my non-diving friends – via photographs and short films. My friends are astounded by the diversity and beauty of the unique sea animals often encountered offshore.

I am passionate about raising awareness and inspiring a greater interest in Australia's native animals, not widely known to many people.

A growing awareness of land animals

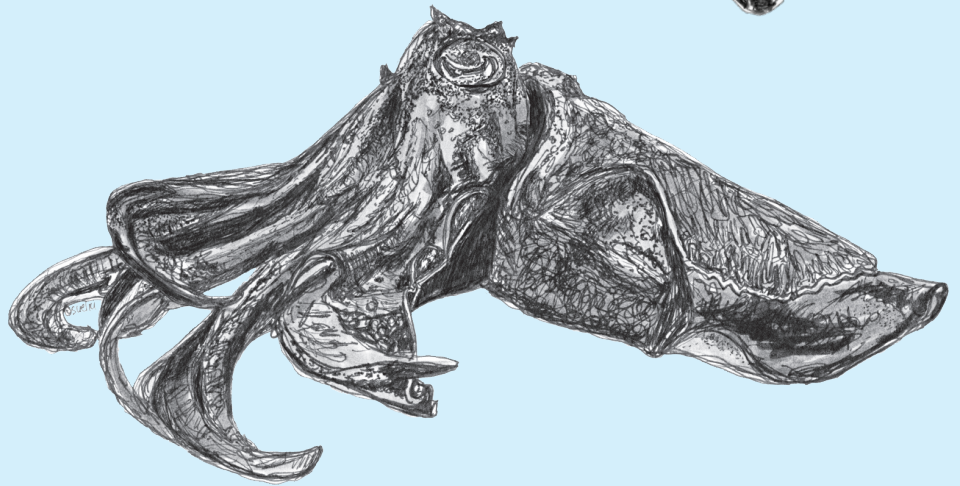
As bushfires raged across the country, my curiosity quickly came to include Australia's land animals. Watching television, I was reminded about the many animals, such as the elusive platypus (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*) and many small mammal species, whose habitat was destroyed as fires tore through Australia's bush and urban lands. I watched from afar in helpless horror, grieving the loss of our unique and precious wildlife and their habitats.





During December 2019, I contributed funds to bushfire relief and volunteered with communities that were supporting the New South Wales Royal Fires Service. With reality set in, I felt compelled to do more to protect Australia's native wildlife. I initiated a small fundraising campaign and donated profits from artwork sold, to a koala rescue project in Taree, New South Wales. I was so overwhelmed by the community's response to my fundraising efforts, that I was encouraged to develop ideas for a nature-focused business – integrating my art and philosophy of service to the community and continuing fifteen years of work for humanitarian causes.

I feel that I have now found an effective way to combine my core passion for creativity, community building, and wildlife conservation. I am delighted to be participating in wildlife conservation action, by donating five percent of profits to the Australian Wildlife Society to help protect Australia's wildlife, with additional fundraising efforts going towards koala conservation. For further information or to view and purchase wildlife art prints, posters, and more, please visit <https://wildcard-sue.com.au>



Captions

Page 26 left: Meet Sandra the seahorse, drawn from one of my personal photos of a seahorse taken under the jetty at Clifton Gardens in Mosman, New South Wales.

Page 26 right: Staring into the eyes of a wombat makes you fall deeply in love with them. Meet David and Betty wombat.

Top left: Fernando, the platypus, has so much personality and movement.

Top right: With Spike the echidna, I attempted to capture the softness of his spikes and portray the gentle nature of the echidna.

Middle right: When I see a turtle in its natural habitat, I am thrilled. This is Jacki the turtle from Cabbage Tree Bay in Manly, New South Wales.

Bottom right: Clive the cuttlefish, was inspired by photos from photographer Carl Charter who takes snorkellers and divers to experience the aggregation of giant cuttlefish in Whyalla, South Australia.

Bottom left: I usually draw upright on an easel. In this image, I am creating Cuddles the cuttlefish.