**Australian
Wildlife Society**
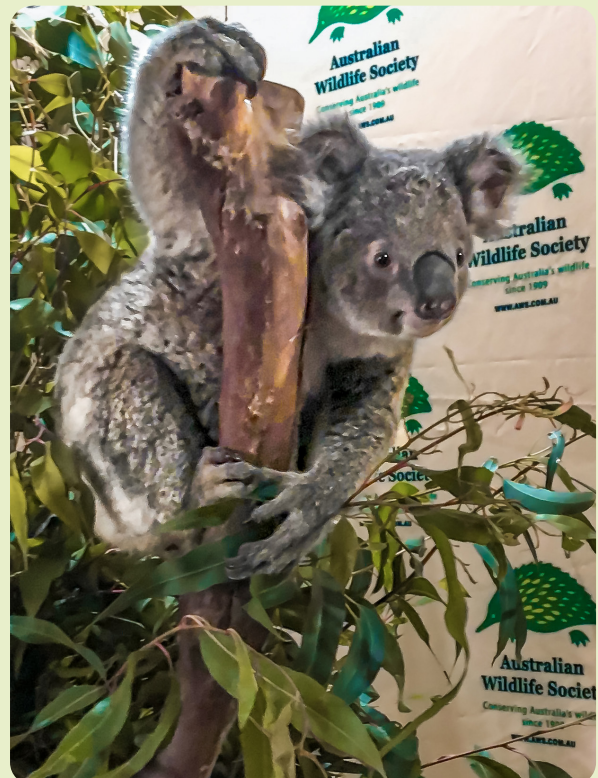Conserving Australia's Wildlife
since 1909          ®

# YOUR LEGACY FOR
## AUSTRALIA'S WILDLIFE

The Wild Life Preservation Society of Australia was founded in 1909 by a group of enthusiastic bushwalkers. Our founders suggested the need for such a group in a talk with the Naturalists' Society of New South Wales. The Swedish Consul-General for Australia, Count Birger Mörner, organised the first preliminary discussion in the Consulate on 11 May 1909. As an outcome of this discussion, it was decided to call a public meeting for the formation of the Society. Fifty people attended and were enrolled as the first members of the Society. Within one week, the newly formed Wild Life Preservation Society of Australia had grown to more than one hundred members.

The Provisional Committee worked hard and in the same year, the inaugural meeting adopted a constitution and elected the first chairman, the Hon. F E Winchcombe MLC, head of a large firm of woolbrokers, skin and hide merchants. There were six women on the first council of twenty-five people, and some who were later to become famous as naturalists.

Our Society pioneered the recognition of the need for legal protection for Australia's animals and plants.

Today we are known as the Australian Wildlife Society (AWS). We are a national not-for-profit wildlife conservation organisation. Our mission is to conserve Australia's wildlife (flora and fauna) through national environmental education, public awareness, advocacy, hands-on conservation work, and community involvement. AWS is a tax-deductible gift recipient and registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission. Its public fund is listed on the Register of Environmental Organisations under item 6.1.1 of subsection 30-55(1) of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. AWS is funded through membership fees, sponsorships, partnerships, donations, and bequests. The Society is managed and controlled by an elected



board of ten volunteer directors. We hold regular monthly meetings, on the first Wednesday of each month, to discuss important wildlife conservation matters and make a number of significant decisions.

Furthermore, we act as a watchdog and provide advice to government agencies and institutions regarding environmental and conservation issues concerning all aspects of wildlife preservation. Our Society has always known that a battle is never really won until the victory is enshrined in legislation. We have always tried to convince politicians of the necessity to include the preservation of Australia's wildlife and the conservation of its vital habitat in all their planning, policies and discussions.

**YOUR BEQUEST WILL HELP US TO CONTINUE TO PRESERVE
AUSTRALIA'S WILDLIFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS**

# HOW YOUR BEQUEST WILL BE USED

By remembering AWS with a bequest in your will, you are making a unique commitment. Your bequest to AWS will help us continue to preserve Australia's wildlife for future generations.

We rely on our supporters' generosity to enable us to continue working towards the conservation of Australian wildlife (flora and fauna) in all its forms through national environmental education and advocacy. Without you, our work would simply not be possible. Whatever the amount you bequeath to AWS, your contribution is invaluable.



A bequest is one of the most effective and long-lasting ways you can help AWS. Your promise of future support is deeply appreciated. If you have included a bequest to AWS in your will, please let us know. We thank you personally for this bequest of support. At all times your privacy will be fully respected and the information you provide will remain strictly confidential.

## Your bequest will go directly to our wildlife conservation projects across Australia. Some examples listed below:

- Supporting wildlife rescue groups rehabilitating injured wildlife.

- Active involvement in national environmental education.

- Lobbying and advocating for the protection of wildlife habitat.

- Offering university grants and scholarships to honours or postgraduate students at Australian universities.

- Offering annual conservation group grants.

- Conservation activities during Australian Wildlife Week.

- The presentation of our four prestigious annual awards.

- Platypus Alliance conservation activities to preserve platypus populations and other semi-aquatic air-breathing species.

- Our #SnipRingsforWildlife Campaign to protect wildlife from the risk of entanglement and death.

# HOW TO MAKE A BEQUEST

If you already have a will but would like to leave a bequest to AWS, you can do so by making a simple addition to your existing will. This is called a codicil. If you do not have a will at the moment, you can simply include a bequest when you write a new will. Whatever your circumstances, we would advise you to see a solicitor to ensure that your wishes will be followed.

When catastrophic events occur and our immediate action is required, it is essential that all our programs continue without interruption. Financial flexibility is crucial to our ability to respond to priority needs, so we ask that you do not designate your gift to a particular project or region.

## Types of bequests:

**1** A residuary bequest is the most effective way to leave a bequest to AWS. It is a gift of what remains after you have made provisions for your loved ones. A residuary gift will keep up with inflation. It will mean your bequest will achieve as much in our projects in the future as you would like it to now.

**2** Leaving a percentage of your estate allows you to decide what proportion of your total estate you would like to give to AWS. A percentage gift will also keep up with inflation.

**3** A pecuniary bequest is a fixed sum of money to be left to AWS. This type of gift will not keep up with inflation.

## Recommended Bequest Wording

Please take this information with you when you visit your solicitor to draft or update your will. We suggest the following wording:

"I give and bequeath

- the residue, or

- [......] percentage of my whole estate, or

- [......] percentage of the residue, or

- the specific sum of $[......]

to the Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia Limited, for its general purposes, and declare that the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia Limited shall be a complete discharge to my Executors in respect of any sum paid to the Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia Limited."

Your solicitor may also require the following detail:

ABN: 13 817 470 816



L to R: (Standing) Ken Mason, Dr Robin Crisman, Trevor Evans, Brian Scarsbrick AM, John Creighton, and Suzanne Medway AM.  L to R: (Seated) Stephen Grabowski, and Patrick Medway AM.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## What is a bequest?

A bequest is a gift left in your will. It's also known as a legacy. You can leave a bequest by writing a new will, or by adding a codicil (an addition) to your existing will. We recommend you consult a solicitor who can help you write your will.

## What is the best way to leave a bequest in my will to AWS?

The best way to leave a bequest to AWS is to leave a monetary bequest (i.e., not property, shares, etc.) and a residuary bequest. This is a gift of what remains after all your other provisions have been made, enabling you to put your loved ones first. A residuary bequest also keeps up with inflation, and is the most effective way to provide a gift to AWS. You can also leave a percentage of your estate or pecuniary bequest, which is a fixed sum of money to be left to AWS.

## I want to leave a bequest to a specific project. Can I do this?

Having flexible funds is essential to our ability to respond rapidly and where the need is greatest. Leaving a bequest for the Society's general use is the most effective as it means that your gift will definitely be used where it is needed most. Leaving a bequest to a specific type of work or location might mean that it cannot be used. This can occur if we are no longer working there or doing the kind of work specified in the future. As such, we ask that you do not designate your gift to a particular project or region.

## Can AWS help me write my will?

No, we don't have that kind of legal expertise. We recommend you consult a solicitor who can help you write your will. There is also a public trustee in every state of Australia that offers will-writing services.

## Can I make AWS the Executor of my will?

No, we appreciate your trust in the Society but we do not have the necessary resources. We try to keep administration costs low so that the maximum amount can go towards our projects in the field. As such, we choose not to take the role of Executor of a will as this can often be a lengthy and involved legal process.

## Can I leave you my house, other property or shares?

Yes, but monetary gifts are preferred as AWS would need to convert any property or shares into cash to be able to use them. This means additional time and resources spent trying to get the best price and sell these items before we can put your bequest to use.

## My relative has passed away and left a bequest in their will for AWS. What do I need to do?

We very much appreciate bequests that are left to us by generous supporters. Please ask the Executor to notify us in writing of the bequest by sending a letter to the National Office or via email, and we can start the process of transferring the bequest to AWS.

## Why is having a will so important?

If you do not have a will when you die, state laws will determine how your assets will be distributed. Leaving clear instructions and sharing your decisions with your family and friends can give you the peace of mind that your final wishes will be understood and respected after you are gone. We recognise that writing a will is one of the most significant decisions you'll ever make. That's why we know it's important to take your time and have all of the information you need to help you make up your mind.