



**HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL**
AUSTRALIA

HSI AUSTRALIA'S SUPPORTER NEWSLETTER

STANDING **for** **ANIMALS**

JULY 2023



Saving lives by saving land

Native animals thriving
on private land

INSIDE: Campaign success for flying-foxes | Feature: Meet some of the Wildlife Land Trust members helping to protect wildlife | Retraining feral donkeys for wildlife protection | Lions saved from snaring | The Better Wool Guide updated for winter 2023 | and more



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We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this land. We recognise and respect the enduring relationship they have with their lands and waters, and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

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Share your stories of creating a more humane world by using the hashtag **#standingforanimals** on social media.

Front cover

Eastern bearded dragon (*Pogona barbata*)
Image: Katinka Thorondor

Back cover

Gang-gang cockatoos on Box Ridge
Sanctuary

Image: Owen Davis and Karen Davidson,
Box Ridge

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CEO Message

As another year flies by, I am writing this with a feeling of optimism after winning some tremendous victories for animals and the places they call home after years, and sometimes decades, of hard work.

You have stayed with us through all this time and nothing makes me happier than to report back that real progress is being made thanks to you.

In these pages you will learn how we have finally stopped the shooting of flying-foxes in Queensland (page 3), protecting these much maligned yet vital pollinators from suffering cruel and unnecessary deaths.

And we also have good news on shark protections (page 10) as well as updates on the incredible difference private landholders make to wildlife protection through our Wildlife Land Trust (page 4).

I am also pleased to introduce you to Nicola Beynon (page 8), who is one of our longest-serving team members whose exceptional knowledge and skill helps to guide our campaigns, always ensuring we are having the maximum impact for animals. And she is also a joy to work with!

The arduous work of reforming our environment law continues and we remain strong and focused knowing that we have your support and encouragement to keep fighting for change that will actually stop the extinction crisis.

I also hope to bring you news in the coming months of tangible efforts to protect some of our most endangered species, such as the Maugean skate, which is in real danger of extinction without extraordinary measures being rapidly deployed.

Our campaigns often take patient perseverance over a very long time so I really want to thank you for your unwavering backing.

We do not take the trust that you place in us for granted—it is what lifts us up every day as we tackle the challenges we face in making the world a better place for animals.

So from all of us—thank you so much!

Erica Martin

Chief Executive Officer



IMAGE: NICK EDWARDS

Major progress for flying-foxes, at last!

Queensland has officially committed to phase out the licensed shooting of bats, which marks an important win for flying-fox conservation and animal welfare. This commitment means that all flying-fox species will now be protected from shooting across Australia.

Supporters like you have allowed HSI Australia to steadfastly champion the cause of flying-fox protection, and we will continue to provide our advice and support for the Queensland government during this phase-out.

In a letter to HSI Australia, Former Minister Meagan Scanlon said, “I have made the decision to move away from permitting the shooting of flying-foxes due to ongoing animal welfare concerns.”

Despite being protected under the Nature Conservation Act 1992, Damage Mitigation Permits (DMPs) were issued to orchardists in Queensland to shoot three species of flying-fox: the black flying-fox, little red flying-fox and grey-headed flying-fox, in an effort to reduce crop damage. Shooting flying-foxes is not only inhumane; it is also less effective than alternative methods such as wildlife-friendly exclusion netting.

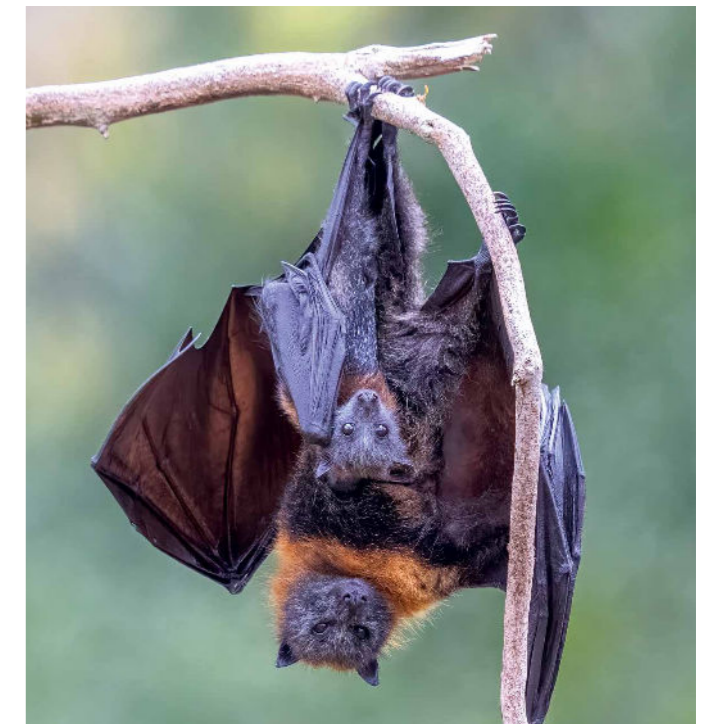
All too often shooting flying-foxes resulted in punctured wings and agonising, slow deaths, especially when the shooting occurs at dusk and into the night.

Instead, farmers and orchardists will now be eligible for government assistance to construct wildlife-friendly netting structures, safeguarding their crops from both wildlife and environmental factors.

To push forward this progress, HSI made a compelling submission to the inquiry and consulted extensively with the department in relation to environmental and animal welfare concerns of shooting.

Flying-foxes are keystone species important for ecosystem health through the pollination and seed dispersal of native trees which enhances the resilience of native forests. These animals are suffering from habitat loss and are vulnerable to extreme temperatures, and with more frequent heat stress events increasingly impacting all species of flying-foxes, we know you'll join us in celebrating the end of shooting permits as a key protection of this vital Australian animal.

Thank you for helping to secure these protections for flying-foxes!



Grey-headed flying foxes like these will be saved from shooting.

IMAGE: KL'S AUSTRALIAN IMAGES, VIA FLICKR

Taking habitat conservation into their own hands

People across Australia are providing vital refuge for wildlife, right in their own backyards—from small residential blocks to thousand-hectare properties—through HSI Australia's Wildlife Land Trust program.

Australia is lucky to have some of the most unique wildlife on the planet, but our native species and their homes are disappearing. A growing number of landowners are joining HSI Australia's Wildlife Land Trust to support native species on their properties.

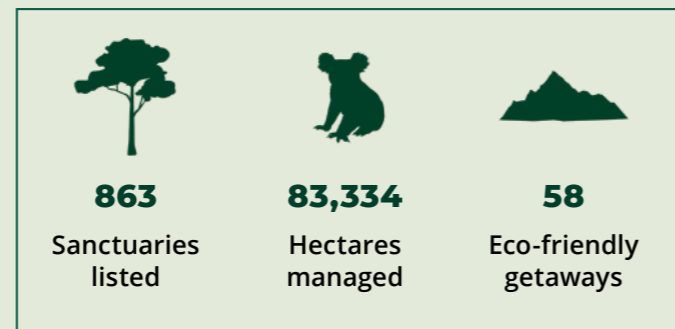
The Wildlife Land Trust is one of HSI's many initiatives to safeguard wildlife and their habitat in Australia. It was created to empower landowners to take part in conservation: with many animals relying on private properties for shelter, food and safe migration paths, we all have a role to play.

Since its inception in 2007, the Wildlife Land Trust has exploded in popularity: we now have over 860 sanctuaries across the country, ranging from one to several thousand hectares. Our members include farmers, retreat owners, dedicated conservationists and regular family bush blocks.

The Wildlife Land Trust is coordinated by Helen Church, HSI Australia's Project Officer. "I love speaking to people from around Australia who want to get involved in conservation," Helen says. "We can provide expert advice and help to share their conservation story with likeminded people to grow the movement."

The habitats found on Wildlife Land Trust sanctuaries include alpine landscapes, deserts, ancient rainforests and eucalypt woodlands teeming with life.

The collective impact of these sanctuaries is tremendous, safeguarding threatened species such as forty-spotted pardalotes in Tasmania, greater gliders along the east coast, flatback sea turtles in Western Australia and brush-tailed rock wallabies in New South Wales. Of course, many member sanctuaries also support more common animals like wombats, kangaroos, kookaburras and emus, all of which play an important role in their respective ecosystems and make up part of the wondrous natural world.



Can you support wildlife in your area?

Whether you're new to conservation or are an active wildlife warrior, we'd love to welcome your property to the Wildlife Land Trust. Becoming part of the Wildlife Land Trust is completely free and involves a non-binding agreement to support wildlife and their habitats. Each of our members also receives a free property sign to mark their land as a wildlife sanctuary.

To learn more please visit:

wildlifelandtrust.org.au



IMAGE: STEPHEN GRAY, MENA CREEK RESERVE

Meet our Wildlife Land Trust members

BOX RIDGE, NSW

Box Ridge is a special place perched high in the mountains of Ngarigo Snow Country. We're fortunate to share the land with cheeky quolls, echidnas, curious wombats, wallabies and possums. Summer brings our favourite visitors, the garrulous gang-gang cockatoos! These amazing characters always fly in to say hello if we're working outside.

On misty mornings Box Ridge is like Middle Earth, when clouds fill steep valleys following the path of the Snowy River through Byadbo Wilderness. Lyrebird conversations echo over the ranges, and though we're clearly visitors in their territory, they seem happy to accept our presence.

There is a sense here of being fully immersed in nature, and we hope we can protect the wildlife on Box Ridge into the future.

Karen Davidson and Owen Davis
Members since 2021



KAREN DAVIDSON AND OWEN DAVIS



IMAGE: LISA HOGBEN

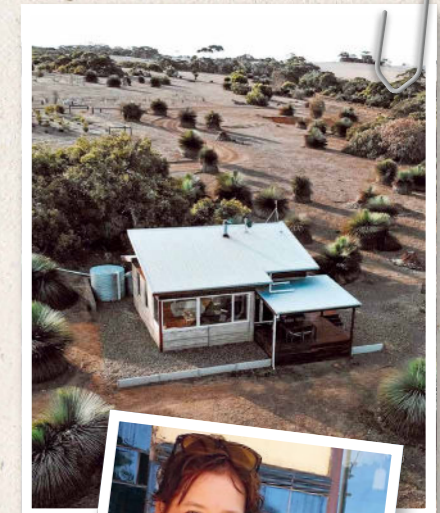
ECOPIA RETREAT, SA

Ecopia is a wildlife sanctuary and eco-accommodation spanning 60 hectares of Kangaroo Island bushland, with the Eleanor River running through the property. Our sanctuary is home to the Endangered glossy black-cockatoo, as well as echidnas, koalas, pygmy possums and black swans.

Twenty years ago we fell in love with Kangaroo Island and bought this property, restoring the old farm into a thriving wildlife sanctuary.

The 2020 bushfires reached Ecopia, affecting 20 hectares of bush around the river. After two weeks of firefighting, we were finally able to contain the fire. As part of our recovery efforts we planted 500 native trees at Ecopia focusing on extending habitat for the growing number of cockatoos and koalas on our land.

Yael Katz and Robert Clements
Members since 2019



IMAGES: COURTESY OF ECOPIA RETREAT

De-snaring success!

We just received some great news from our partners at Conservation South Luangwa (CSL) in Zambia.

You may remember that we told you the story of Chowo, the lion that was caught in a poacher's snare in Zambia several years ago. With your support she was rescued and released and went on to thrive back in the wild.

Our partners at CSL recently reported that no lions were caught in snares throughout the whole of 2022!

The team often de-snares about five lions every year, so this is a tremendous achievement thanks to the anti-poaching patrols and de-snaring efforts of the community scouts.

While there were no lions, unfortunately there were still some snaring victims, but the team successfully treated and released 12 animals including elephants, giraffes, a zebra and hyena.

Two live pangolins and a vervet monkey were also seized and successfully released back into the national park.

HSI support of Zambian wildlife through our partners at CSL helps to protect 1,400,000 hectares of largely intact wilderness in eastern Zambia that make up the South Luangwa National Park. The Luangwa Valley is home to over 60 species of mammals and 450 species of birds.



IMAGE: EDWARD SELFE/CONSERVATION SOUTH LUANGWA

Poachers' snares being cleared by rangers supported by HSI Australia.

We have proudly supported the life-saving work of CSL for more than a decade thanks to supporters like you.



IMAGE: CONSERVATION SOUTH LUANGWA

Lioness Chowo rests in the shade. The scar from the snare she was freed from is visible on her neck.

Guardian donkeys an essential tool in Predator Smart Farming

Promise for a win-win solution for dingo protection and donkey welfare, written by HSI wildlife campaigner Dr. Louise Boronyak

When people talk of livestock guardian animals, donkeys are not what usually springs to mind. Yet donkeys are effective guardians for sheep, goats and cattle to proactively protect livestock from predation. This is because donkeys and canids such as dingoes and wolves are natural enemies.

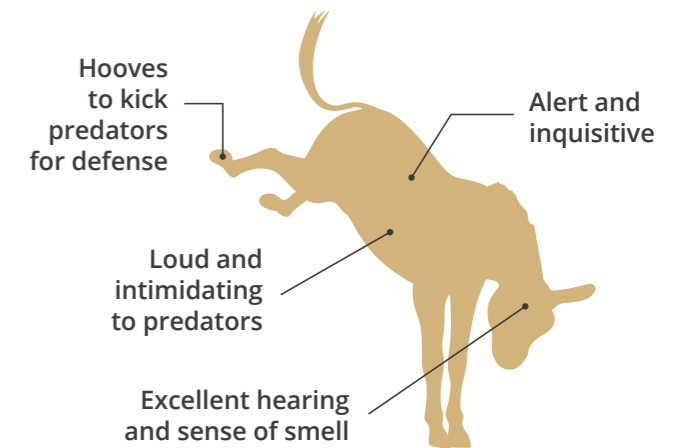
In my role as Wildlife Campaigner at HSI, I identify viable solutions to reduce predation on livestock animals and maintain the important role of dingoes as apex predators in Australian ecosystems. Guardian donkeys are widely used in the western United States to successfully reduce wolf, bear and coyote predation on livestock. Guardian donkeys are just starting to be recognised as fearsome guardians in Australia.

As part of my research, I recently met with farmers near Singleton, NSW to learn more about how both donkeys and dingoes can be saved from culls by training donkeys as guardian animals. I am hopeful that programs that help people adopt wild donkeys from stations in Queensland and the Northern Territory where they are usually culled can create a win-win

solution to reduce killing of both dingoes and donkeys, and support healthy landscapes. I interviewed farmers who had brought guardian donkeys into their herd and all had seen a significant decrease in predation (if any at all) as the donkeys maintain a perimeter around the livestock and do not tolerate dingoes near the livestock.

By understanding donkeys' natural behaviours, we can unlock one of the most underrated yet powerful tools to balance conservation and agricultural interests.

Stay tuned for more as we work to make Australia a leader in non-lethal predator control, which will benefit donkeys, dingoes and more animals.



Wildlife coexistence campaigner Louise and juvenile guardian donkey Mya (left).



IMAGES: LAST STOP DONKEY PROGRAM

INSIDE STORY



Nicola Beynon

Head of Campaigns Australia

Nicola Beynon is HSI Australia's Head of Campaigns and a lifelong animal advocate.

Hailing from Wales, she arrived in Australia with an MSc in Conservation from Oxford University and University College London, passionate about protecting some of the most unique wildlife and habitats in the world.

Why did you join HSI?

I first joined HSI in 1998—25 years ago! I wanted to do my bit to make the world a better place for animals.

What is it that motivates you each day?

Our supporters! They entrust HSI to work as hard as we possibly can to protect animals, and so I make sure that I do.



Nicola delivering signed petitions to lawmakers in Canberra calling for stronger laws to prevent illegal wildlife trade.

What is special about HSI's campaigning?

I love that we are very strategic and make great use of the law. Highlights have been taking the Japanese whalers to court and winning; winning a case to end the shooting of sharks in the Great Barrier Reef; using international treaties to protect animals from trade in their fur, fins and other body parts; and the millions of hectares of wildlife habitat we have protected in law at home in Australia. Just last week we heard our campaign to end the shooting of flying-foxes in Queensland is going to succeed. HSI gets results for animals!

Do you have a favourite animal?

My rescue dog Milo would never forgive me if I didn't say it was him. He also reminds me every day to have empathy for all animals.

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT



Pene's living legacy to the nature she loves

Twenty years ago, Pene read about HSI's work to help free India's dancing bears from lives of exploitation. She sent off a gift and still remembers her joy at learning the last bear had been rescued from the street and later that her support had helped rehabilitate Champa the elephant. Now, Pene is a proud member of HSI's Animal Defenders, a wildlife carer and volunteer with ORRCA, and she has planned for her love of animals and nature to continue on by including a thoughtful gift for nature in her Will.

Is there a particular area of HSI's work that you're proud to support?

I am happy for HSI to use my donations as deemed necessary but particularly appreciative regarding issues concerning prevention of cruelty (working animals and illegal trade) and protection and preservation of vulnerable and endangered species. I also applaud the way HSI works generously in conjunction with other like-minded charities to achieve substantial goals.

Have any wildlife or animal experiences shaped your interests?

My parents obviously loved animals so I grew up with up with a love and respect of animals as child. I was lucky to have pony whom I named Pancho. I spent a lot of time with him and the various dogs, cats, birds and more that we had over time.



Eight-year-old Pene with her beloved ponies Pancho and Wonder Boy.

Respect for nature and wildlife is central to HSI Australia's work. What does respect for nature mean to you?

Respect and love for nature—flora and fauna—is natural for me. I love all animals, some more than others of course, but all life is a valued component of our planet. Because respect for nature and wildlife is central to HSI Australia's charter, I was drawn to their charitable work. I feel this association with HSI is a good way for me to make a small difference to a world struggling with issues relating to nature and the environment...issues that are important to me and harbour my concern.

"I hope my love of animals and nature generally will help future generations, so those children can see and know the wonder of the natural world and all things that live in it. It's a really beautiful world out there and we need to respect it."

To learn more about leaving a gift for animal protection in your Will or becoming an Animal Defender, please call Caroline Pattison on 02 9973 1728.



This year marks big progress for the conservation of sharks with 12 species saved from culling in Queensland.

12 more species of sharks spared from culling

As of 1 January this year, Queensland reduced their list of species targeted for culling from 19 down to seven. It is a significant campaign win resulting from years of pressure from HSI to stop the killing as certain species on the list posed little danger.

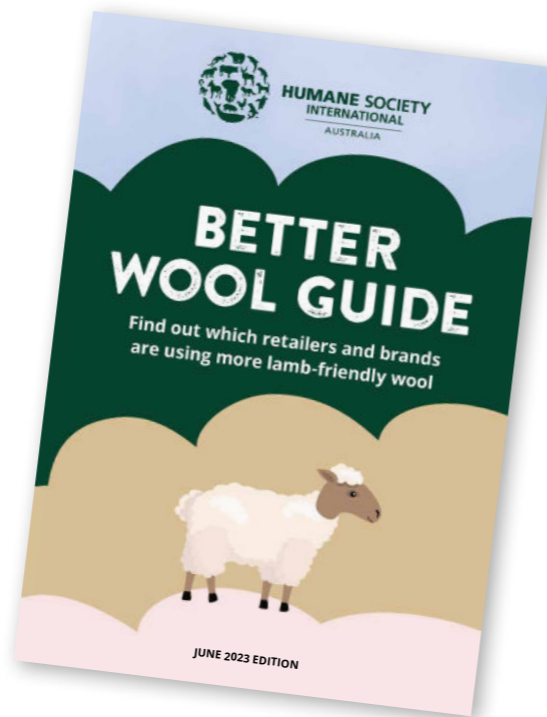
Target species are shot and killed when captured alive on drumlines and shark nets. However, this depressing fate will no longer befall big-nose, long-nose and pigeye whalers, great hammerheads, longfin and shortfin mako sharks, oceanic whitetips and sandbar, lemon, blue, silky and silvertip sharks.

The Shark Control Program's drumlines and nets cause the entanglement and death of hundreds of marine animals every year and remains a priority campaign for HSI to ensure the safety of marine animals and ecosystems.

The bigger and better, Better Wool Guide!

There are no butts about it, mulesing is attracting increasing attention across the retail sector with even more brands jumping on board and ditching cruelty, changing their supply chains to instead use kinder non-mulesed wool. We first launched our Better Wool

Guide back in 2021 with over 100 brands, and now it's almost doubled in size as consumers continue to drive the demand for products made using better animal welfare practices. What's more, the updated Guide is even stricter, only allowing brands with stronger commitments to be featured.



Be sure to download your copy and keep cosy the kinder way this winter:

hsi.org.au/betterwoolguide

Tackling albatross bycatch internationally

HSI's Head of Campaigns Nicola Beynon was recently in Edinburgh, Scotland to advocate for better protections of albatross and seabirds.

At the meeting of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), Nicola advocated on behalf of supporters for the strongest possible protections to be adopted. Albatross and petrels are magnificent animals capable of going years without touching land but are sadly the world's most imperilled group of birds. Ocean plastics and longline fishing pose the biggest threats, which is why international coordination on protection is essential. Though countries have agreed on the best ways to reduce bird bycatch, they must now mandate these measures, necessitating our continued advocacy and pressure.

HSI's work to protect the albatross in Australia dates back more than 20 years, with a nomination submitted in 1995 listing long-line fishing as a Key Threatening Process under Australia's national environment law.

Caring for native wildlife

Wildlife carers are continuing to receive much-needed grants to build their disaster preparedness and capacity for care, thanks to kind donations from HSI supporters.

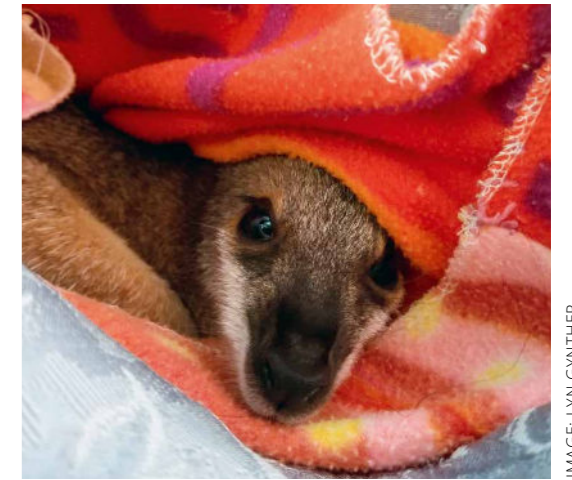


IMAGE: LYN GYNTHIER

Wildlife carers funded by HSI help save injured and orphaned animals, like this young wallaby.

From rescue vehicles to treatment rooms, these grants have a very real impact for animals in crisis.

A grant recently helped a wildlife carer in Queensland move kangaroos from a rehabilitation shelter to a beautiful release site where they could integrate with the local wild mob.

This enormous job required many trips to move these animals under sedation and ensure that they safely recovered in their new home. The project was a huge success with all animals safely relocated, and carer Lyn even rescued an orphaned wallaby on the side of the road on her way back.



Albatross inhabit the high seas and travel thousands of kilometers in flight, making international agreements key for protection.

*Thank you
for your
support*

