

GREENPEACE greenpeace.org.au August 2019

EVERGREEN

A newsletter dedicated
to our Green Guardians



Green Guardians

STORIES AND IDEAS FROM OUR GREEN GUARDIANS



Sarah at one of our Green Guardian events in Sydney earlier this year.

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“We didn’t give much thought to the environment then....” learn how Sarah’s ideas about nature changed. Sarah has been Greenpeace supporter since 1985, volunteer and Green Guardian Ambassador.

In our backyard in Sydney in the 50s we grew vegetables and had a compost bin. Blocks of ice were delivered to our front door for an icebox in the kitchen, milk was delivered in bottles which were recycled for reuse. Clothes were boiled in a copper drum and hung to dry outside; clothes were often home-made and wearing hand-me-downs was accepted. Before the arrival of TV we had a bakelite radio. There was no sign of plastic in our everyday shopping.

We didn’t give much thought to the environment then - Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring* in 1962 was the first alarm and I remember, too, the shock of reading about ‘planned obsolescence’ in Vance Packard’s *Waste Makers*.

We accepted at school that whaling was just another ‘industry’ until Greenpeace opened our eyes to what

that industry involved, with its pictures of the slaughter of whales. Other issues such as deforestation, water and air pollution, crept into our consciousness. Since that time, awareness of the environment has grown to become the major issue it is today. We now face a climate crisis with a threat of mass extinctions.

While my generation has had all the benefits of improvements in living standards over the years, we have at the same time bequeathed to our children an unknown future. Fortunately organisations such as Greenpeace exist to tackle global environmental problems and promote solutions that are needed.



Glenn is our first ever Green Guardian Ambassador

©Greenpeace

“This threshold event left a deep mark on my soul but also a strong resolve...” read what inspired Glenn to become a Greenpeace supporter, a volunteer and our first ever Green Guardian Ambassador

In the late 70s I was living near and studying at the main university in Jogjakarta. One day a tiger descended

from the forests near the base of the very active volcano, Gunung Merapi. Drawn by the smell of goats and other livestock, the tiger entered the university’s agricultural studies precinct. Appallingly, however, and in very short order, this rare Javan tiger was cornered and shot. One of the very few surviving members of its unique species!

Remarkably, but ultimately compounding the tragedy, yet another Javan tiger descended from the forests in search of its (now dead) mate. The hapless creature was captured and caged at a local zoo. Bereft of its mate and its jungle home, the tiger survived for only a short time. Not too many years later, the Javan tiger was declared extinct. This event, far away near the tropical jungles of Java, left a deep mark on my soul but also a strong resolve to do what I can during the rest of my life to try to halt senseless impoverishment of the natural world and the destruction of the sole biosphere on which our lives depend.

The dingo, a hidden gem within our midst

Josef, affectionately known as ‘The Dingo Guy’, manager of the Great Ocean Road Wildlife Park, tells us: “Contrary to general belief, the dingo is most definitely not a dog, but is more closely related to the wolf.

The dingo has been the apex predator and a key animal in the Australian ecosystem for the last 4000 years. Indeed, dingoes keep down populations of feral animals



Josef and one of his dingoes at the Great Ocean Road Wildlife Park, VIC

such as foxes which hunt endangered species and target sick animals. Removal of the dingo from the system would lead to catastrophic consequences, as there is no other animal in Australia to replace it.

Unfortunately the dingo has been persecuted since the farming industry began in 1788, resulting in the dingo now being on the endangered species list and the Australian ecosystem now in the critical stages of rapid collapse.

It is astounding, that no environmental authority has correlated the collapse of the system with the removal of the dingo. Why do we have such huge numbers of endangered species (animals, birds and plants) and extinction issues today? In my opinion the dingo is the solution and needs to be protected and reintroduced, not persecuted and removed.”

If you would like to share your stories and ideas with your Green Guardians community, please contact Alexis on 0448 948 113 or 02 9263 0364, or by email at aescavy@greenpeace.org



Alexis and his sister Anne

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Alexis and his team of talented volunteers

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ALEXIS ESCAVY, GIFTS IN WILLS RELATIONSHIP COORDINATOR

Alexis was born in Nice in the south-east of France in the mid 80s. At an early age he studied music at the Conservatorium, with a great passion for woodwinds. When he turned 25, he moved to Australia to start a PhD in Chemistry at Sydney University developing cancer vaccines. After a few months Down Under he started to learn about the state of our forests and rivers and decided to focus his time and energy on protecting our precious environment. Alexis started as Relationship Coordinator for our Gifts in Wills community in September last year.



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BREAKFREE CAMPAIGN

Following the recent setbacks of the federal election and the decision to approve the Adani mine, Greenpeace is taking action by organising 'BreakFree' trainings all around the country.

It is an opportunity for our crew to learn how to lobby local councils effectively and organise non-violent direct action. We have already started to see positive impacts: Melbourne, Darwin, Launceston, Sydney City and many other regional councils have declared a climate emergency. Sydney council even announced that it will be powered by 100% renewable energy by 2024, six years before the deadline imposed by the Paris Climate Agreement.



Plastic Pollution in Manila

©Greenpeace/FAU



Antarctic scientific expedition to uncover the effects of plastic pollution on the ocean floor.

©Greenpeace/Aslund



Fishing trawler in West Africa

©Greenpeace/Aslund

GLOBAL OCEAN CAMPAIGN

Greenpeace is working towards protecting 30% of the world's oceans by 2030, a target that scientists say is crucial in order to safeguard wildlife and help mitigate the impacts of climate change. Through research done in collaboration with the University of York and the University of Oxford, Greenpeace has mapped out what a planet-wide network of ocean sanctuaries should look like. Ocean sanctuaries are key to protect habitats and species, rebuild ocean diversity and help our oceans ecosystems recover.

Greenpeace's ship the *Esperanza* is currently on an ambitious voyage across the oceans to conduct critical research on the state of our seas. Greenpeace's 'Protect the Oceans' campaign will inspire people all over the world to push for a strong Global Oceans Treaty and create global ocean sanctuaries.

We are presently in the second leg of this campaign, travelling over the 'Lost City' (a complex network of hydrothermal vents in the Atlantic). This leg of the expedition aims to expose the dangers of deep sea mining, a practice that threatens oceans all over the world. As minerals become rarer the deep sea becomes the new frontier for mining. **The deep sea mining industry must be stopped from plundering the sea bed for minerals and metals as it risks irreversible wildlife loss and disturbs important carbon stores that could exacerbate climate change.**

The next leg of the journey will take us to the Sargasso Sea to combat the plastic pollution that is killing the endangered loggerhead turtle.



SYDNEY EVENT

On 21 June, we organised a Green Guardians community event in Sydney. This event was an opportunity for our legacy supporters to meet each other, hear about our campaigns, learn from our activists, and share compelling stories.

We plan to organise similar events around Australia and we hope to see you at one of them soon. Our next one will be in Melbourne on the 9th of August.

If you would like to order your free copy of the Coal Truth Book, please contact Alexis on 0448 948 113 or 02 9263 0364, or by email at aescavy@greenpeace.org

GREENPEACE THROUGHOUT HISTORY



1971 - Greenpeace was founded when activists sailed from Vancouver to protest against underwater nuclear testing off Amchitka Island, a home to endangered sea otters, bald eagles and falcons



1977 - In their first action in Australia, Greenpeace activists placed themselves in the line of fire to protect sperm whales from the whalers at the last whaling station in Albany.



1982 - After years of actions against whalers, a whaling moratorium was created by the International Whaling Commission, stopping commercial whaling from the 1986 season, all around the globe.



1985 - French service secret agents bombed the Rainbow Warrior in Auckland. The ship was ready to confront French nuclear testing in the Moruroa Atoll. Our Portuguese photographer, Fernando Pereira, died during this deadly attack.



1993 - Greenpeace tracked down a Russian ship dumping nuclear waste in the Sea of Japan. A month later, the London Dumping Convention banned nuclear dumping in oceans.



1994 - In December, the Southern Whale Sanctuary proposed by Greenpeace was approved by the International Whaling Commission. This sanctuary bans all kinds of commercial whaling in Antarctica.



2012 - Australia announced a two-year ban on super-trawlers fishing in Australian waters.



2018 - After a seven-year campaign, the New Zealand government banned all new offshore exploration in its seas. This was a huge win for Greenpeace. People's voices made the difference.

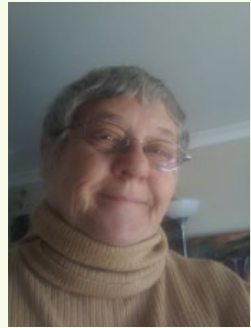


2018 - After more than a year of over 100,000 of us continuously exposing Commbank's dirty funding, the bank has finally agreed to reduce their funding for coal.



2018 - Oil drilling in the Great Australian Bight was delayed for another year following Greenpeace's 'Protect the Bight' campaign.

GREEN GUARDIANS: WARRIORS OF TODAY, HEROES OF TOMORROW



Meet Diana, one of our Green Guardian Ambassadors:

What's your personal philosophy on what should be done about the environment?

Everyone must learn

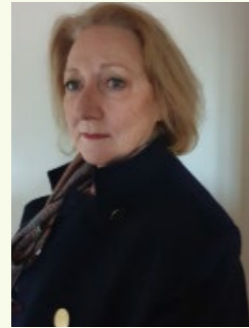
from an early age to embrace a common collective understanding that without a healthy environment 'everything we know would become nothing.'

What would you like to say to future generations about the environment?

Cut Out the 'I want' syndrome! Only take what you need from your local, national and international environments and importantly give consideration for all sentient beings including plants!! You cannot eat computers or concrete, you can only eat bread, onions, fresh fruit and breathe fresh air!!

What do you do when you aren't supporting Greenpeace?

At age 76 I am compiling my life's adventures into the inevitable memoir as a visual artist; enjoying now that I no longer need to meet deadlines or responsible to front ups or being 'on stage' and out there! As my great aunt Sarah M Smyth wrote in 1923 "As one grows old, how gently die the fires, of all one's once ambitions, all one's once desires." But still happy to ensure I can continue to donate and ensure a decent amount of funds are left to Greenpeace in my Will after I depart and become another Kosmic Dancer!



Meet Christine, one of our Green Guardian Ambassadors:

When did you first get involved with Greenpeace?

I returned to Australia

in the early 1980s and became aware of Greenpeace. A fond memory is being invited on board the Rainbow Warrior when it was docked in Sydney Harbour. And then the horror of it being blown up in Auckland Harbour with the loss of the life of a photographer on board.

Why do you support Greenpeace?

Since becoming a regular contributor to Greenpeace, I have supported every campaign and read avidly every article in which Greenpeace exposes destruction, devastation, greed and ignorance somewhere on our planet... I am proud to be part of the broader Greenpeace family as there are so many dedicated supporters who never give up hope that we can make a difference and win against overwhelming odds.

Why did you decide to leave Greenpeace in your Will?

It seemed a natural decision and it wasn't hard to do. I have been making monthly donations but when I die these will cease. The obvious way of making a last contribution was through my Will. I have discussed this with my family and they know and understand my passion for the environment, animals and people.

DEFINITIONS

Will: a legal document that sets out how your assets are to be distributed.

Codicil: A legal document that may modify or amend a previously executed Will. May be identical to a Will, or may act as a replacement.

Executor: A person elected by the maker of the Will, responsible for carrying out the requests and instructions of the Will.

Solicitor: A legally qualified person responsible for drawing up the Will.

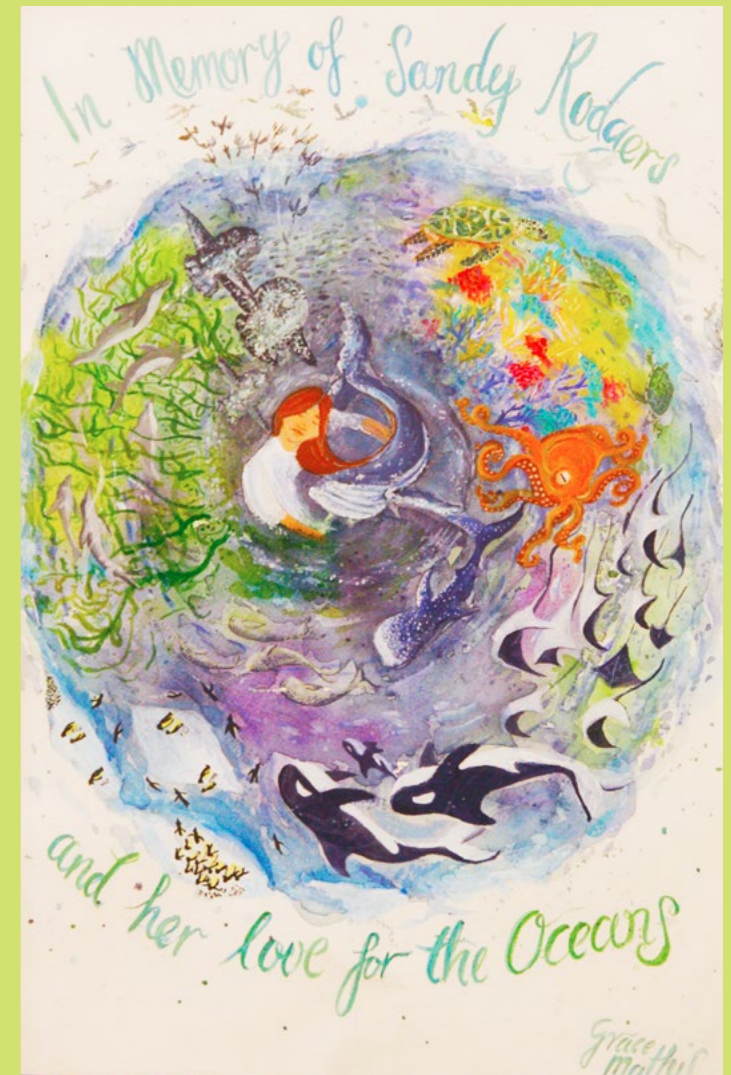
Trustee: A person who looks after ongoing bequests to friends and family.

Beneficiary: Someone who is named in the Will to receive property or possessions.

Pecuniary Gift: A specified amount of money left to a beneficiary

WHAT IS A RESIDUAL GIFT

A Residual Gift allows you to perpetuate your ideals by leaving a charitable gift in your Will at the same time as your family needs. It is the portion of your estate that remains after specific gifts are distributed to the beneficiaries named in your Will and your debts are paid. The remainder (or a proportion of the remainder) of your estate will be paid to Greenpeace. A residual gift retains its value over time, it covers contingencies, remove risks and is a popular option for supporters, unlike a specific cash gift that can reduce in value with inflation.



IN MEMORY OF SANDY RODGERS

Sandy Rogers was a loyal Greenpeace supporter and Green Guardian. When Sandy, sadly, passed away at the beginning of this year, she wanted her legacy to go towards protecting the whales of the Great Australian Bight. Her daughter asked us if we could remember her legacy in a meaningful way. So one of our volunteers created this gorgeous artwork to immortalise her love for the ocean. This drawing now hangs in the entrance of our Sydney office to remember Sandy's life, generosity and legacy.

Would you like us to remember your legacy in a special way?



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AIR POLLUTION

WE ARE DEVELOPING A NEW CAMPAIGN TO TACKLE THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE

Air pollution is a public health crisis in Australia. It causes about 3000 premature deaths a year, which is three times higher than the national road toll. Even greater numbers of people are impacted by asthma, chronic bronchitis and ischaemic heart disease. Children, pregnant women and the elderly are the most impacted. Coal-burning electricity stations are the largest industrial source of air pollution in Australia. Toxic fumes emitted from tall smoke stacks can travel hundreds of kilometres and pollute even our major cities.

Fortunately, we have an opportunity to turn that around. While Australia's clean air standards lag behind those of the US, China and the European Union, they are finally being reviewed, for the

first time since 1998. By advocating for standards that are strong enough to protect human health, we can protect people in the most polluted areas and in our major cities.

Australia is in the midst of an extraordinary transition to clean energy; within three years a third of our electricity will be coming from the wind and the sun. We can replace dirty energy with clean power within a decade using existing technology - all that is missing is political will. In the meantime, **there is no reason why power stations should be allowed to pollute at levels that would be illegal overseas.**

THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN BIGHT

The Great Australian Bight is home to a unique array of marine life, a whale nursery and more unique species than in the Great Barrier Reef. **More than 85% of the species in the Bight are found nowhere else in the world.**

Currently, the Bight is under threat from Equinor, a corporate giant with a licence for oil exploration in the region. Not only does this risk major oil spills in the pristine waters and along surrounding coastlines, seismic blasts risk the existence of the Great Southern Reef altogether. Each blast is eight times louder than a jet engine heard from 50 metres away and could burst human eardrums. Can you imagine what it would do? The devastation of an oil spill speaks for itself.

Going beyond the protection of species, we need to protect local communities which rely on the Bight for their income. **We should be questioning why our government would risk the natural advantages of our waters when they should be protecting our local economy.** A recent success with the Bight campaign has seen Equinor made to delay oil drilling until 2020. The National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) later knocked back Equinor's plan to drill in the Bight and gave 60 days for the company to resubmit its plans to appropriately consider environmental safety with proper community consultation. But the fight will continue until Equinor is sent packing.



Southern right whales frolicking in the Great Australian Bight

©Dorinda Gurnin



Divers protest oil drilling along the Great Australian Bight

©Greenpeace/Robinson



A new ROV (Underwater Remote Operated Vehicle) launched from the Rainbow Warrior off Kangaroo Island

©Greenpeace/Robinson



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Green Guardians

“I left a gift to Greenpeace in my Will because it brings me hope, joy and a legacy for the future of our planet”

Ildika Koppen, Teacher Librarian

Protect our future by remembering Greenpeace in your Will

10% of our campaigns are funded by gifts in Wills.

Join our Green Guardians community and leave a legacy for a healthy future.

**For more information contact Alexis on: email: alexis.escavy@greenpeace.org
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