

wildlife matters

australian



wildlife
conservancy

OCTOBER 2004

Brooklyn

our last chance to save one of
Australia's great wildlife havens



saving australia's threatened wildlife



the awc mission

Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) is dedicated to saving Australia's threatened wildlife and ecosystems. To achieve this mission, our actions are focused on:

- Establishing a network of sanctuaries which protect threatened wildlife and ecosystems: AWC now owns 12 sanctuaries covering 655,000 hectares (nearly 1.66 million acres).
- Implementing practical, on-ground conservation programs to protect the wildlife at our sanctuaries: these programs include feral animal control, fire management and the translocation of endangered species.
- Conducting (either alone or in collaboration with other organisations) scientific research that will help address the key threats to our native wildlife.
- Hosting visitor programs at our sanctuaries for the purpose of education and promoting awareness of the plight of Australia's wildlife.

about awc

AWC is an independent, non-profit organisation based in Perth, Western Australia. Donations to AWC are tax deductible.

During 2002-2003, over 90% of AWC's total expenditure was spent on conservation programs, including land acquisition. Less than 10% was on development (fundraising) and administration.

Cover photo: *Lumholtz's Tree-kangaroo*
(Photo courtesy of QPWS)

Welcome to the sixth edition of *Wildlife Matters*. It is a time of great excitement for Australian Wildlife Conservancy and its supporters. On page 4 and 5 you will read about our latest acquisition – Brooklyn Station, in far north Queensland. When AWC's field staff first visited Brooklyn, we quickly realized that it was a property of immense significance to the conservation of Australia's threatened wildlife. Quite simply, AWC is not aware of any other place in Australia with such a high concentration of endangered wildlife.

After two years of negotiations, we now have an opportunity to provide a secure future for Brooklyn. To take advantage of this opportunity, we need to raise sufficient funds for the acquisition and long term management of the property. The Federal Government has made a generous contribution to enable its acquisition. However, we now need your help to raise additional funds for the management and protection of Brooklyn and its wildlife. Australia is rapidly losing its last great wildlife havens and this may be our only chance to transform Brooklyn cattle station into Brooklyn Wildlife Sanctuary. I hope you can join us in protecting this remarkable property.

At Scotia Wildlife Sanctuary, AWC and our partners are about to take another huge step forward for conservation in Australia. After 18 months of intensive, on-ground work by Scotia's dedicated field staff, four threatened mammal species will be released in November and December 2004. Brush-tailed Bettongs (Woylies), Bilbies, Bridled Nailtail Wallabies and Burrowing Bettongs (Boodies) will be translocated into a 4,000 hectare (10,000 acre) feral predator-free area in what Sir David Attenborough describes as 'a vitally important project for Australia and for the world'.

Recent achievements at Scotia include:

- The feral predator-proof fence around the 4,000 hectare 'stage 1' area at Scotia was completed in early October. This 6 foot high fence is 26 kilometres long.
- Intensive feral animal control measures are being implemented in stage 1 to remove the last remaining rabbits from this area and to confirm that it is fox and cat free.
- AWC has established a collaborative research program with the University of Sydney and the Threatened Fauna Ecology Unit of the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC). This groundbreaking research will examine the efficacy of different release techniques, the biology of the four released species, the structure and trends of the translocated populations and the effect of the released mammals on existing wildlife and vegetation communities.

Thank you to all of our donors who have helped support the Scotia project. We will provide a detailed report on the releases in a future newsletter.

As you will read in the following pages, great progress is also being made at our other sanctuaries. It is an exciting time, made possible by your strong support. Thank you again for helping AWC take action to save Australia's threatened wildlife. I hope you can continue to assist by supporting projects such as the establishment of Brooklyn Wildlife Sanctuary.

Atticus Fleming
Chief Executive

australian wildlife conservancy

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Karakamia

Helping to restock National Parks



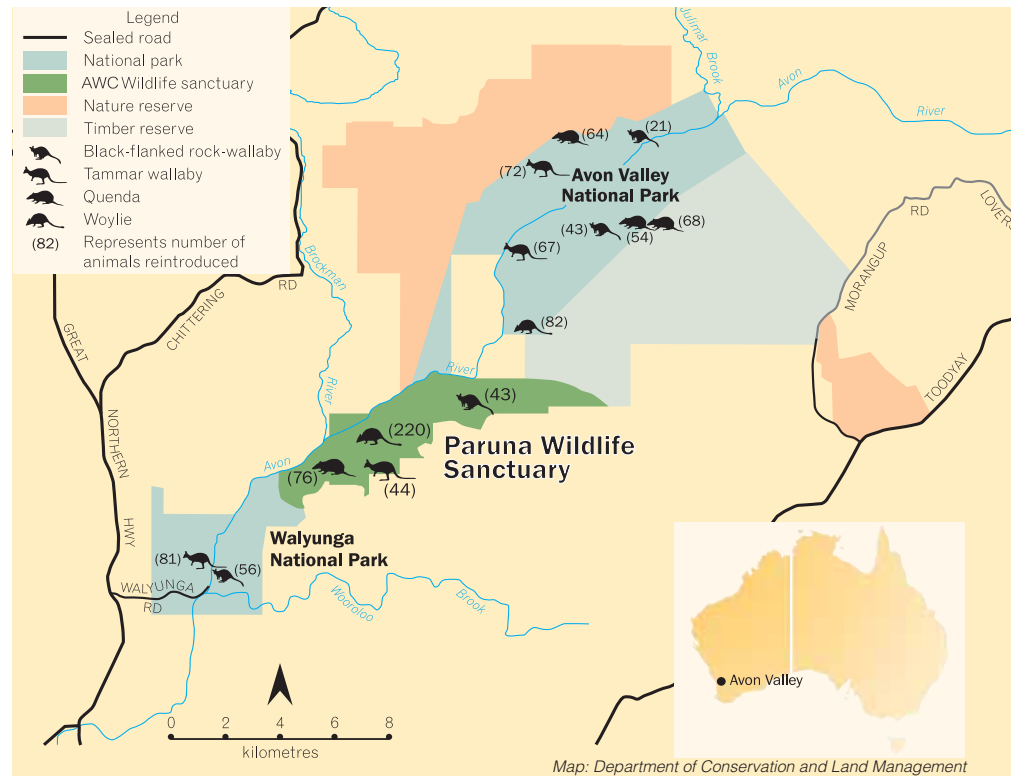
Woylie

In the last three months, over 120 Woylies have been translocated from AWC's Karakamia Wildlife Sanctuary to help restock other national parks and nature reserves. This represents a significant event for conservation in Australia, highlighting the important role that the non-government (private) conservation sector can play in promoting the survival of Australia's rare and endangered wildlife.

The Woylie (or Brush-tailed Bettong) was once widespread throughout southern Australia but, primarily due to fox predation, the population has declined dramatically. The range of the Woylie contracted to several small populations in southwestern Australia, where its survival depends upon ongoing fox control programs.

In 1995, Woylies were reintroduced into AWC's Karakamia Sanctuary from Dryandra State Forest. Over the last 10 years, the Woylie conservation program at Karakamia has been so successful that AWC is now able to provide the WA Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) with animals for translocation back to the government's national park system.

Accordingly, in a joint AWC/CALM operation in July 2004, 95 Woylies were translocated from Karakamia to other fox-secure areas within the Avon Valley



near Perth. Thirty Woylies were released at Avon Valley National Park, 15 were released at Julimar Conservation Park and 50 were released at AWC's Paruna Wildlife Sanctuary. In September, a further 30 Woylies were translocated from Karakamia into Kalbarri National Park.

The translocations into Paruna and Avon Valley National Park are part of a broader regional strategy to reintroduce a suite of threatened mammals into the Avon Valley. Numerous translocations

have been carried out (see map), establishing new populations of Quenda, Black-flanked Rock-wallaby, Tammar Wallaby and Brush-tailed Possum as well as Woylies. It represents surely one of Australia's best examples of public-private collaboration in the field of conservation.

Note: An article featuring AWC's collaborative work with CALM to restore the wildlife of the Avon Valley can be seen in the recent Spring Edition of Landscape Magazine.



Jo Williams releases a radio-collared Banded Hare-wallaby

Faure Island Update

In our previous newsletter, AWC reported the release of 7 Banded Hare-wallabies on Faure Island. All seven individuals were radio-collared and are now being monitored closely by AWC field staff. Jo Williams, who has led the monitoring effort, reports that at least six of the seven individuals are still alive. The seventh may also be alive, but unfortunately the radio-collar failed shortly after release and AWC is therefore unable to monitor that individual. In October, Jo reported that the majority of the wallabies have settled in an area close to the release site and are seen regularly. This is encouraging news, although it is too early to make any firm conclusions about the long-term success of the new population.

The Boodie and Shark Bay Mice populations on Faure Island are also doing well (more details will be provided in the next newsletter).

Brooklyn Station

We need your help to protect this extraordinary property, home to nearly 500 species of mammals, birds, reptiles and frogs

Brooklyn Station, covering 60,000 hectares in far north Queensland, protects perhaps the greatest diversity of wildlife of any property in Australia. This single property is home to 40% of all Australian bird species and 30% of all Australian mammal species. To illustrate its international significance, 5,000 hectares of the property are included in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.



Sadly, however, the future for many species on Brooklyn now hangs in the balance. Altogether, 45 of the species found on the property are listed as threatened with extinction.

- Rare mammals include the Spotted-tailed Quoll, the Yellow-bellied Glider, Lumholtz's Tree-kangaroo and the Daintree River Ringtail Possum.
- Threatened birds on Brooklyn include the Buff-breasted Button-quail, the Blue-faced Parrot-Finch, the Rufous Owl and the Southern Cassowary.

Brooklyn is a property of dramatic contrasts. Rugged mountains dominate



the eastern section, rising to over 1000 metres. Annual rainfall on these peaks can reach 4,000 millimetres, or 160 inches, giving life to some of Australia's richest rainforest communities.

Further down the slopes, extensive stands of wet sclerophyll forest cling to the margins of the rainforest. As rainfall drops off sharply, tall woodlands skirt the foothills before making the transition to low, open grassy woodlands. This is the floodplain of the mighty Mitchell River and its tributaries.



“Brooklyn Station contains probably the highest concentration of endangered wildlife in Australia. Please help protect this remarkable place and its 45 threatened species.”

Dr Tim Flannery



The Mitchell River, fringed by melaleucas and red gums, runs through Brooklyn for more than 40 kilometres. Only the prominent spire of Lighthouse Peak and the bare granite hills of Mt Alto and Little Alto rise above the Mitchell River floodplain.

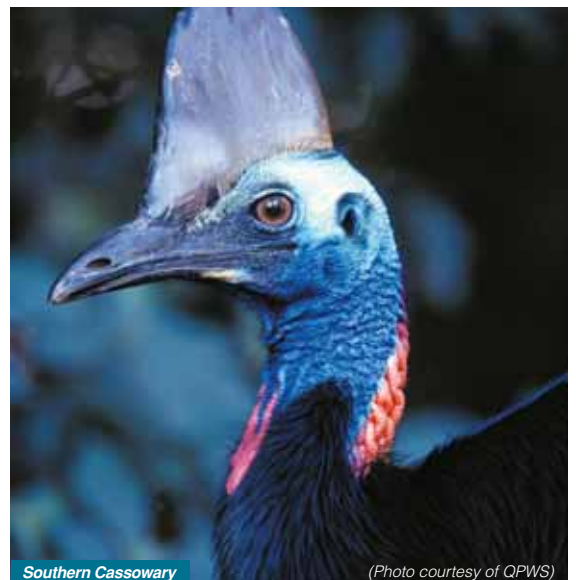
Sadly, however, this incredible diversity of habitats is under threat. Years of cattle grazing, altered fire regimes and the encroachment of weeds are threatening to overwhelm Brooklyn’s native wildlife.

With generous support from the Federal Government, AWC has now taken action to acquire Brooklyn Station. However, AWC must also establish an effective on-ground management regime which addresses key issues such as fire, weeds and uncontrolled recreational use.



Yellow-bellied Glider

(Photo courtesy of QPWS)



Southern Cassowary

(Photo courtesy of QPWS)

We can only protect Brooklyn with your help. Resources are urgently needed to put in place the practical measures that will save Brooklyn’s wildlife. Please donate to our Brooklyn appeal (see back page), before it is too late.

- **Your donation of \$100** will protect 6 hectares (15 acres) of tropical woodlands.
- **Your donation of \$250** will protect 15 hectares (37 acres) of tall eucalypt forest.
- **Your donation of \$1000** will protect 100 metres of the Mitchell River and its gallery forest of giant melaleucas.
- **Your donation of \$5000** will protect 300 hectares (750 acres) of world-heritage listed rainforest.

Your contribution will help save one of the last great refuges for Australia’s threatened wildlife.

Mt Zero-Taravale

Historic conservation agreement



'I welcome this partnership with Australian Wildlife Conservancy and congratulate them on their dedication to protecting our natural assets'.

Queensland Environment Minister, the Hon John Mickel (30 June 2004)

AWC has signed an historic conservation agreement with the Queensland Government to ensure that the Mt Zero-Taravale Wildlife Sanctuary is protected in perpetuity.

Under the agreement, the Mt Zero-Taravale Wildlife Sanctuary will be formally declared as a protected area under the *Nature Conservation Act (Qld) 1992*. The properties will continue to be owned and managed by AWC. However, Mt Zero-Taravale will now also receive statutory protection under the *Nature Conservation Act*. This is the same legislation that protects Government-owned National Parks and Nature Reserves in Queensland.

The conservation agreement is significant because Mt Zero-Taravale is the

largest area of private land protected to date under the *Nature Conservation Act*. The agreement was signed on 30 June 2004 by the then Queensland Minister for Environment, the Hon John Mickel, and AWC's Chief Executive, Atticus Fleming. It attracted widespread media attention in Queensland, featuring on the television news in Brisbane and in the Courier Mail and Townsville Bulletin.

The agreement establishes a strong basis for on-going collaboration between AWC and State agencies including the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. Such collaboration is already producing practical on-ground benefits, with AWC and QPWS staff co-ordinating fire management and research on Mt Zero-Taravale and the adjacent



Northern Bettong

National Park and State Forest areas.

Perhaps most importantly, the agreement ensures that the Queensland government will not grant any permits to third parties to undertake damaging activities on Mt Zero-Taravale (such as logging or quarrying). This is a critical level of added protection for the threatened ecosystems and wildlife of Mt Zero-Taravale.

Our challenge now is to continue to implement effective on-ground management at Mt Zero-Taravale. Your generous on-going support will make this possible, ensuring a more secure future for endangered species such as the Northern Bettong.

Back to nature
Historic deal will give land to refuge
By KYLE STOCKDALE

THE signing of a historic agreement which sees North Queensland's largest nature refuge in a huge step for conservation in Australia, says a national wildlife group.

Australian Wildlife Conservancy chief executive Atticus Fleming said yesterday the signing of a 60,000-hectare parcel of land to be used as a refuge for native wildlife, including rare and threatened species like the endangered northern bettong and southern cassowary.

"So precious this area is to Australia," he said.

Mr Fleming signed the agreement with Queensland Environment Minister John Mickel in Brisbane yesterday.

Mr Mickel said the agreement provided for an extension of the existing Taravale Nature Refuge to include Mt Zero.

Mr Fleming said the Mt Zero-Taravale Wildlife Sanctuary was a vital addition to the protected area network in North Queensland.

"It is a real hotspot for threatened wildlife," he said.

The property is 90km northwest of Townsville within the upper catchment of the Ross and Star rivers, adjacent to the Paluma Range Forest, Paluma Range National Park and the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Mr Mickel said the refuge promised a re-

Refuge offers haven for rare wildlife
Rosemary Odgers

MORE than 60,000ha of land north of Townsville will be protected from development under an agreement which will create the state's largest nature refuge.

Conservation group Australian Wildlife Conservancy yesterday signed an agreement with the State Government to conserve former grazing and logging land at Mt Zero and Taravale, 90km northwest of Townsville.

The area is home to rare and threatened wildlife and more than 70 species of mammals

— more than Kakadu National Park.

The property borders the Paluma State Forest, the Paluma Range National Park and the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

AWC bought the land last year, using \$1 million in funding from the Federal Government and another \$1 million in donations.

Environment Minister John Mickel said the Government would provide advice to the AWC on land management, as well as pest and weed control.

"We encourage other private landowners to get involved in agreements such as this," Mr Mickel said.

AWC chief executive Atticus Fleming said the refuge included wet tropics and dry woodlands, making it one of the most biodiverse regions in the state.

One of Australia's rarest mammals, the northern bettong, lives in the area, along with the southern cassowary, sherman's rock wallaby, masked owl, grey goshawk, rufous owl and flute-nosed bat.

The nature refuge also contains more than 180 bird species and 70 reptiles and amphibians.

LANDLORD... an endangered bettong

The property is 90km northwest of Townsville within the upper catchment of the Ross and Star rivers, adjacent to the Paluma Range Forest, Paluma Range National Park and the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Mr Mickel said the refuge promised a re-

LEGEND
Mt Zero - Taravale Nature Reserve
Existing Conservation Estate

Curramore update

AWC has recently completed the preparation of a habitat map for Curramore Wildlife Sanctuary. Peter Stanton prepared the map after an analysis of aerial photographs and detailed 'groundtruthing' of different vegetation types. The mapping process identified 11 broad habitat types including a suite of rainforest, wet sclerophyll and open grassy forest communities. Caloundra City Council provided valuable assistance, supplying topographic and cadastral information for the map. AWC would also like to thank Terry Webb for his generous support. Terry provided the GIS-related expertise required to produce the map.

David Stanton continues to make great progress on the lantana eradication program. Lantana has now been controlled over 23 hectares, including 5 hectares of wet sclerophyll forest and 18 hectares of grassy woodland. AWC's efforts at saving the remarkable botanical diversity of Curramore were featured recently on Gardening Australia (ABC TV).

Mornington

Saving the Kimberley's wildlife



School of the air students with Dr Sarah Legge

Mornington Wildlife Sanctuary, covering 312,000 hectares (780,000 acres) in the heart of the Kimberley, is a very special place. Set in a beautiful and rugged landscape, the sanctuary protects a fragile set of tropical savanna ecosystems, many of which are not protected in any other nature reserve.

In order to actively protect, conserve and restore ecological health over such an enormous area, AWC is putting in place an on-ground conservation program of national significance.

Destocking: Cattle grazing is having a significant adverse impact on the tropical savannas of northern Australia. At Mornington, AWC is about to commence construction of a 28 kilometre cattle-proof fence across the Adcock valley. This fence will close the gap on a massive 65,000 hectare section of Mornington (see map), allowing the

area to be permanently destocked. Mustering within the destocked area is well advanced, led by AWC's Jay Gook (Bluey). However, the new fence is essential to prevent re-invasion by feral cattle. ***We need your help – it will cost AWC approximately \$3,000 per kilometre to construct the fence. You can make a direct contribution to the conservation of critical habitats on Mornington by making a donation to AWC (see the donor form on page 8).***

Biodiversity monitoring: The first series of long-term biodiversity monitoring sites was established and opened for 5 days in early September. Assisted by a team from Kimberley TAFE in Broome, we recorded a myriad of invertebrate species as well as several reptiles and mammals. The highlight was discovering a healthy population of Long-tailed Planigales (*Planigale ingrami*) – the world's smallest marsupial. AWC's long-term monitoring sites will help identify any changes in animal and plant populations that may

occur in response to new management measures at Mornington (such as destocking!)

Gouldian Finch surveys: Mornington is home to one of the last viable populations of the endangered Gouldian Finch. Much of AWC's work on Mornington is focused on discovering intimate details about the life-history and ecology of Gouldian Finches. Such details will ultimately help us understand why they have fared so poorly, and what can be done to reverse their decline. One important aspect of this research is charting the rise and fall of body condition throughout the year. This work is technically difficult and logistically challenging, but we are making excellent progress. AWC has employed a team of five highly skilled ornithologists to catch finches, measure a multitude of physiological stress indices, follow birds through the landscape using radio-telemetry and undertake censuses to track changes in population size. We look forward to providing a report on progress in future newsletters.



You can help save Australia's threatened wildlife

World Heritage listed rainforest, Brooklyn

we urgently need your help

yes, I want to help awc save australia's endangered wildlife at places like brooklyn and mornington wildlife sanctuary

Name: Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms _____
Address: _____
_____ State: _____ Postcode: _____
Telephone: W) _____ H) _____
E-mail: _____

Direct Debit Authorisation

I / We request that you draw by way of the Direct Debit System, \$ _____ per month, for the payment of a monthly donation to Australian Wildlife Conservancy Fund.

My/Our Account details are

Institution: _____

Account Name: _____

Account Number: _____ BSB: _____

I / We acknowledge that this Direct Debit Request is governed by the terms of the "Direct Debit Request Service Agreement" (below).

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name in Full: _____

Commemorative Plaque

I have donated \$250 or more or made a monthly pledge of \$25 or more. Please commemorate my name on a plaque at Brooklyn.

Bequests

I am interested in making a bequest in my will. Please send me some information.

Information

Please tick this box if you do NOT wish to receive news and information on our latest initiatives and progress.

MONTHLY PLEDGE

I wish to become a regular supporter and give a tax deductible donation each month of: \$10 \$25 \$50 \$ _____
Other (minimum \$10)

I wish to pay by: **Direct debit from my bank account**
Please fill in Direct Debit Authorisation (see opposite).
 Credit card - Please fill in details below or call (08) 9226 0340.

DONATION

I am unable to give monthly but would like to make a single tax deductible donation of:
 \$100 \$250 \$1000 \$5000 \$ _____
Other (minimum \$10)

I wish to pay by: **Credit card** - Please fill in details below or call (08) 9226 0340.
 Cheque/Money Order - (enclosed)
Payable to the Australian Wildlife Conservancy Fund.

Credit Card Details

Mastercard Visa AMEX Bankcard Diners

_____/_____
Card Number Expiry Date

Cardholder's Name: _____

Signature: _____

Your Direct Debit Request Service Agreement with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy ("our", "we" or "us"), ABN 36 068 572 556

Our Commitment to You

- We agree to be bound by this agreement when we receive your Direct Debit Request complete with the particulars we need to draw an amount under it. We will not change the amount of the deductions unless we have a new Direct Debit Request on file, signed by you.
- We will withdraw only the amount that you, the donor, have nominated in accordance with the terms of your Direct Debit Request. Drawings will occur on a monthly basis unless otherwise stated on the Direct Debit Request.
- The commencement date of the first draw will be at least 20 working days after our receipt of your signed Direct Debit Request. Thereafter each drawing will be made on the 15th day of each month (or part thereof as specified). Where the due date falls on a non-business day, the drawing will be made on the next working day.
- We will send a receipt within 45 days of the conclusion of the financial year summarizing your entire year's gifts for tax purposes.
- We cannot change our procedures in this agreement or change or cancel your Direct Debit Request without giving you at least 14 days notice.
- We reserve the right to cancel the agreement if three or more drawings are returned unpaid by your nominated Financial Institution. In this event, we will arrange with you an alternative donation payment method.

- We will keep private and confidential all information pertaining to your nominated account at the financial institution.
- We will promptly respond to any concerns you may have about amounts debited to your account.

Your Rights

- You may ask us to:
 - Alter the terms of your Direct Debit Request; or
 - Defer a donation to be made under your Direct Debit Request; or
 - Stop a drawing under your Direct Debit Request; or
 - Cancel your Direct Debit Request;by writing to us by the 10th day of the month that your next deduction is due to be made and stating your name, Direct Debit Request details and the reason for the change. This applies if you want to cancel a single deduction, all future deductions or have closed your account.
- You may dispute any amount we draw under your Direct Debit Request by calling us on (08) 9226 0340 and stating your name, Direct Debit Request details and the details of the disputed charge.
- Where you consider that the drawing has been initiated other than in accordance with this "Direct Debit Request Service Agreement" you should contact us by calling (08) 9226 0340.

Your Obligations:

- Please enquire with your financial institution if you are uncertain whether direct debit functions are available on your account. (You may be charged a fee by your financial institution if the direct debit facility is not available on your account.)
- It is your responsibility to ensure that sufficient funds are available in the nominated account to meet each drawing on its due date. (You may be charged a fee by your financial institution if the account details are incorrect or there are insufficient funds in the nominated account when we attempt to deduct donations.)
- It is your responsibility to ensure that the authorisation given to draw on the nominated account is identical to the account signing instruction held by the financial institution where your account is based.
- It is your responsibility to advise us if the account nominated for transactions with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy Fund is transferred or closed.
- It is your responsibility to arrange a suitable alternative payment method with us if the Australian Wildlife Conservancy Fund drawing arrangements are cancelled either by yourselves or by your nominated Financial Institution.



Please post this form to:

australian wildlife conservancy - PO Box 1897 West Perth WA 6872 Phone: 08 9226 0340 www.australianwildlife.org ABN 36 068 572 556