Your living legacy

An exceptional gift
“I have decided to leave a gift in my will to ACF because I want part of my legacy to be a healthy and safe environment for all Australians. I trust ACF to speak on my behalf as a voice that makes a difference. A voice for the species who can’t advocate for themselves, and a voice that continues on long after I’ve gone. I want my grandchildren to experience the delights of nature as I have, in a country where all life thrives. ACF’s capacity to respond to the long-term challenges of today will determine the legacy we leave for future generations.”

Professor Ian Lowe AO
Honorary Life Member and past president of ACF
Creating a better future  
– a living legacy

The Australian Conservation Foundation is a community of people  
who speak out, show up and act for a more beautiful world –  
a world where forests, rivers, people and wildlife thrive.

Our community’s incredible support means  
we are proudly independent and funded  
almost entirely by individual donations,  
memberships and bequests.

Through our commitment over more than  
50 years as Australia’s national environment  
group, we have achieved some extraordinary  
conservation outcomes. Antarctica, Kakadu,  
Daintree rainforests, the Great Barrier Reef,  
the Franklin River – iconic places that our  
strong, dedicated community has helped  
to protect.

We bring together people, government and  
business to create a better life for all. We  
speak out for clean energy, strong laws and  
a better economy.

We love, explore and protect our Great  
Dividing Range and Barrier Reef, our rivers  
and forests, and our beautiful north – from  
the Kimberley through Kakadu to Cape York.

The world we hand on to future generations  
will be the result of decisions made on  
our watch.

We want to create a future in which our water  
flows clean and we care for country and  
communities. Where we share in abundant  
energy from the sun and wind and use this  
clean energy to power our cities. Where  
business creates opportunities to work in  
harmony with nature and people work in jobs  
with a future. Where the idea of extinction is  
extinct and the places we love thrive.

By giving a gift to ACF in your will, you can play  
a vital role in protecting our lives and all life  
around us. A living legacy. Every gift, large or  
small, makes a difference and enables us to  
take on the big challenges we face.
“While it is good to invest capital on Earth’s account now, it is better in the long-term to multiply that capital through ongoing environmental advocacy. ACF is one of the strongest organisations working to this end and should be number one on anyone’s ‘bucket list’.”

Jan and Steve Blakeney
ACF Legacy Leaders
ACF – 50 years young

For more than 50 years, ACF has brought together people who care about our forests, oceans and wildlife.

Because people spoke out, Australians stopped the Franklin River from being irreversibly destroyed. Together, we protected Tasmania’s ancient forests from logging. We said no to mining in Antarctica.

Together with the National Farmers’ Federation we pioneered the Landcare movement Australia-wide, working with farmers and conservationists alike in a shared goal for nature protection.

We have walked the corridors of government, bridging political divides to win large-scale funding for biodiversity, to guarantee precious water for the rivers of the Murray-Darling Basin and to protect the Great Barrier Reef.

We’ve visited boardrooms and inspired businesses to champion clean energy. We seeded the policy that became the $10 billion Clean Energy Finance Corporation. We kept pollution on the agenda, even when our elected representatives tried to ignore it.

We’ve worked tirelessly to campaign for environment protection laws to care for the country that became our treasured national parks and world heritage areas. These beautiful places that mean so much to so many belong to all Australians.

We’ve helped local communities and Indigenous people stand up against irresponsible decisions by governments and companies, and supported Traditional Owners in Cape York to win the return of their homelands for culture and conservation.

It is bequests and gifts from people who care that make our work possible.
“I decided to leave a gift in my will to ACF as a parting ‘thank you’ to Mother Nature - investing in our planet’s future seems the best practical legacy I can make. I would like my contribution to help educate people to make sustainable choices, with the hope that ultimately, the incredibly special places in nature that have brought my body and soul sustenance, will be there for many generations to come.”

Jane Crouch, ACF Legacy Leader, and Climate Leader with Al Gore’s Climate Reality Project
How will a brighter future look?

We want to live in a country where nature and people thrive. Where our rivers, forests, oceans and reefs are valued as vital for life on our continent, not merely for what can be extracted from them.

We will cut climate pollution and power our country with clean energy. We will strengthen our national environment laws to safeguard the places we love. We will protect and connect the ecosystems along our Great Dividing Range to provide clean water and give our wildlife safe places to adapt to a changing climate.

We will look after the rivers and wetlands in our Murray-Darling Basin that support fish, birds, red gums, farms and people. We will stand with Indigenous communities as they manage the ecologically rich landscapes of northern Australia creating sustainable tourism and Indigenous Ranger programs.

What will future generations see as our legacy? Will we be the generation who free ourselves from coal and power our lives with the sun and wind? Who make Australia do its fair share to limit global warming?

Will future generations experience our rare and beautiful wildlife? Will they marvel at the Reef, the Range and our ancient forests as we do, and remember us for shaping a better future?

We think they will. We think this will be our living legacy.

By giving a gift in your will, you can make this your living legacy too – an exceptional gift indeed.
Your will can reflect what has been important to you in your lifetime

Your will can provide for family and friends as well as leaving a gift for forests, rivers, oceans and wildlife.

A will is a legally binding document that lets you say what you want to happen to your property after you are gone. Many people tend to make their will later in life or even not at all. However, if you do not have a will, you could lose the opportunity to give the people you care about the things you most value.

Without a will, the law prescribes how your property is distributed among family members. Charities are not included and your personal aspirations cannot be taken into account.

If you do not have a will, please consider contacting your solicitor today.

Will you join other like-minded people and give a gift to ACF in your will? Together, we can create a tomorrow that’s even more beautiful than today.

Freya Godkin and Chris Carlile, Mt Buffalo National Park, VIC
Photo: Anna Carlile
“I love being outside because when you are high up in the mountains you can see wonderful beautiful trees everywhere and rocks and formations...and I like looking at the clouds. It makes me feel happy.”

Freya Godkin, 7 years old
Gifts in wills explained

A gift in your will doesn’t necessarily have to be a large amount of money. Any gift can make a difference to the impact of ACF’s work and the achievement of our vision.

Here are some of the ways you can tailor a bequest to suit your personal preferences and circumstances:

**Residual bequest**
You can provide for your family and friends first and leave what is left (the residue) to ACF. As your estate increases in value, so does your bequest. As opposed to leaving a cash sum, which can be diminished by inflation over time, a residual bequest helps offset the effects of inflation.

**Percentage or nominated portion of estate**
Your estate can be divided among a number of people and/or organisations.

**Property**
You can give a specific asset to ACF. ACF can receive all forms of property including shares and can be the beneficiary of a life insurance policy. Neither the estate nor ACF would have to pay capital gains tax on the asset.

**Trust**
Establishing a trust in your will allows a spouse or other person to use your property and to receive income derived from your estate during their lifetime, after which time the property can pass to ACF.

**Cash sum**
You can give a specific cash sum. This is a common form of bequest. Note though, that in the time between making your will and when the sum is received by ACF, inflation can diminish the value of your bequest.

**A gift in memory**
You may wish to leave a gift in memory of a loved one, respected friend or colleague. ACF will recognise this gift in our annual report and on our website.
Amending a current will
You can amend your existing will to include a gift to ACF by preparing a signed and witnessed codicil (an additional page to your will). Seek professional legal advice when preparing your codicil to ensure it does not contradict anything already in your will and is legally binding. For substantial amendments your solicitor may recommend that you make a new will.

Naming ACF as a beneficiary
To be certain your gift will reach ACF use our full legal name and include the registered Australian Business Number: Australian Conservation Foundation Incorporated ABN 22 007 498 482

Make sure your will is valid
Whether you are making a new will or amending an existing one by codicil, we strongly recommend you seek professional legal advice to ensure your will complies with current legal requirements and your wishes can be fulfilled.

Discuss your wishes with your family, and ensure your will is carefully thought out and properly executed to avoid misconstrued intentions.

Review
Review your will regularly as your circumstances may change with marriage, retirement, births or deaths in the family. Your will is an important document. Keep your original will in a safe place such as with your solicitor. Inform your executor where your will is kept and keep a confidential copy for yourself for easy review.

Wording suggestion
When you leave a gift to ACF, a clause may be inserted in your will using the following words:

“I give the rest and residue of my estate... OR
“I give [insert description of specific gift]... OR
“I give [insert percentage] %...

...of my estate free from all debts (secured and unsecured) and all duties and taxes (whether federal or state) payable in respect of my estate to the Australian Conservation Foundation Incorporated (ABN 22 007 498 482) (“ACF”) for its general purposes, and I declare that the receipt of an authorised officer of the said ACF shall be a full and sufficient discharge of this bequest.”

Photo: Luca Zanon
“From the age of around five, my family holidayed on the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria, so school holidays were spent exploring the beach, the sea, the foreshore, and taking in wonderful views from the bush hinterland.

I started supporting ACF in the early 1970s as it was the pre-eminent national environmental organisation and one that was concerned with the care and management of the environment in its broadest sense. As a town/land use planner, this broad, integrated view of nature and our relationship to it made sense to me.”

Hedley Thomson, ACF Living Legacy community

Hedley Thomson, VIC
Photo: James Thomas
Preparing your will

Some considerations when preparing your will:

- **Choosing an Executor.** Your executor will oversee the execution of your will. This person needs to be willing, reliable and likely to survive you.
- **Provision for spouse, partner, children or other dependants.**
- **Guardianship of minor age children.**
- **Gifts to individuals.** Ensure significant gifts to individuals will not have unintended consequences on their entitlements to pensions and benefits.
- **Assets not included in your will.** You may not be aware that some important assets – such as death benefits under a superannuation scheme or a home owned jointly with a spouse – are not included in your estate and therefore not dealt with in your will.

Your legal adviser can ensure all your assets are considered when making your will.

- **Digital records.** Access and management of digital assets.
- **Cost.** The cost of preparing a will depends on your personal situation and how complex your estate is. A simple will costs less than a more complex one.

Your will may need to be updated several times over your lifetime as circumstances change. You can include a gift to ACF when you write your will, or next update your current one.
Our Living Legacy community – be in touch and let us know!

Our Living Legacy community is made up of supporters who have included a gift to ACF in their will.

By advising us of your gift, we can make sure you are invited to special events with guest speakers, teleconference briefings, social functions with like-minded people and meetings with ACF’s CEO, President and campaign staff. You can choose how much you want to be involved.

We also would love the opportunity to thank you for your future support. You can let us know by returning the gift in will form in the back page pocket. Alternatively, you may like to ask your solicitor to notify us on your behalf. When you let us know, you can be assured we are aware of your wishes.

If you believe the value of your gift is likely to be $100,000 or more, we would with your permission, acknowledge you as a Legacy Leader in our annual report and on our website.

Confidentiality of your advice will be respected at all times.

For further information about giving a gift to ACF in your will, please contact our bequest officer on:

freecall 1800 223 669
direct 03 9345 1144
bequests@acf.org.au

Thank you for considering giving a gift to ACF in your will - for clean air, thriving wildlife, moist rainforests, flowing rivers and healthy oceans - your living legacy.
An exceptional gift.
Now my five senses
gather into a meaning
all acts, all presences;
and as a lily gathers
the elements together,
in me this dark and shining,
that stillness and that moving,
these shapes that spring from nothing,
become a rhythm that dances,
a pure design.

Judith Wright, *Five Senses*
Poet and founding ACF member,
ACF was a beneficiary of Judith’s will.

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**Australian Conservation Foundation**
Level One, 60 Leicester Street
Carlton VIC 3053
T (03) 9345 1111
Freecall 1800 223 669
E acf@acf.org.au
www.acf.org.au

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this brochure should not be construed as legal advice and we recommend you contact a legal adviser for your estate planning needs.

**Privacy Statement:** ACF takes your privacy very seriously. All information collected is strictly in accordance with ACF’s Privacy Policy which can be viewed at www.acf.org.au/privacy-statement; or request a copy at bequests@acf.org.au; or freecall 1800 223 669.

The Australian Conservation Foundation is an incorporated association eligible to receive tax deductible donations.

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