
SUPPORTER UPDATE

ISSUE 9 / 2025



Animals' lives transformed— *thanks to you.*

Bringing the hidden
suffering of pigs to
the courtroom

Securing an end to
the cruel live sheep
export trade

Saving wildlife
from bushfire
devastation

Delivering lifesaving
aid to animals
in war zones



Compassion is gaining ground.

— BY GLENYS OOGJES —

Thanks to you, change is not only coming – it's here.



As a cherished supporter of Animals Australia, you've been standing by our side, helping to see Australian sheep spared from live export cruelty – so you'll certainly understand my deep emotion in saying this: the ban is secure.

The re-election of the Albanese government solidified one of the most significant animal welfare

reforms ever achieved globally – a legislated end to live sheep exports by sea from Australia.

While Australians undoubtedly cast their votes with a range of issues in mind, the outcome of this election holds especially good news for Australian sheep who have suffered for far too long at the hands of the live export trade. Whatever part you played – from donating to our campaigns,



...you'll certainly understand
my deep emotion in saying
this: the ban is secure.

to writing to candidates, or having important conversations with those around you – I want to sincerely thank you.

You have helped shape a kinder future for these animals.

And while we celebrate this milestone, our focus remains on what lies ahead – because the challenges most animals in our country face persist, and so too must our resolve to help them.

The past twelve months have been momentous for Animals Australia. We've represented pigs in Victoria's Supreme Court and brought their hidden suffering into public view through powerful campaigns on streets and screens across the nation. Our messages have travelled further than ever before – raising awareness and shifting hearts.

We've continued our critical work for native wildlife, who are too often abandoned to suffer during disasters, or worse, targeted for profit. And through our Emergency Grants Program, we've ensured that animals caught up in war and disaster zones across the seas haven't been forgotten either, recognising that their suffering matters just as much as the animals we share our backyards with.

Every one of our initiatives for animals are made possible by your compassion and belief in a kinder world.

The pages of this Supporter Update reflect your impact – and the hope you bring to animals everywhere.

With the new Federal Parliament now in place, we will work with the Albanese government and the increasingly animal-friendly crossbench to advance reforms that will protect pigs, sheep, and other animals still caught in systems of suffering. And with you by our side, we're confident that progress will continue.



↑ We continue to represent pigs and other animals on a global level, as co-founders of the World Federation for Animals.

Thank you for ensuring that wherever animals are in need, we can be there for them. ■

Glenys Oogjes
CEO



Action for pigs: from TV and billboards to the courtroom.

— BY LYN WHITE —

The saying ‘the eyes are the windows to the soul’ – whether the eyes are that of a human or animal – is so very true.



The first time I looked into the eyes of a mother pig trapped inside a factory farm, I saw a deeply wounded soul. I had witnessed cruelty before, and sadly seen many videos of animal suffering, but nothing prepared me for the misery and hopelessness I witnessed in her eyes that day.

As a former police officer, I understood imprisonment to be punishment. Remove freedom, and you remove one’s ability to experience life, to feel joy. You remove their reason to live.

So, seeing row upon row of individually-caged mother pigs – unable to turn around, seek comfort, or connect with each other – was incredibly confronting. Realising that this was

standard and legal practice within these mammoth factory farms ignited in me a commitment that has guided Animals Australia ever since: to shine a light into these animal prisons and ensure the suffering of these animals became known.

My commitment to pigs had deepened back in 2005, when I met the star of one of our first campaigns, an eight-week-old piglet named Bella. With boundless enthusiasm, Bella turned the Animals Australia office into her personal playground – racing between rooms, bouncing on sofas, and napping contentedly in our arms. Bella made clear something we already knew – that given the chance, pigs seek joy, comfort, and connection.



//

...the greatest advocates for pigs remain everyday Australians, whose choices shape demand, and drive change.

← Opposite page and left: Powerful ads across billboards, buses, trams, TV and digital platforms brought animals out of factory farms and onto streets and screens across Australia.

Like us, they are not just living beings, they are *feeling* beings.

Despite this, pigs such as Bella have been condemned to the harshest confinement and cruellest deaths within Australian agriculture. Emotionally complex and deeply sensitive, they suffer immense deprivation in factory farms, only to have their lives cut painfully short in gas chambers.

When undercover investigators from Farm Transparency Project exposed the chilling CO2 gassing of pigs, our Legal Team set to work on our landmark legal case in the Supreme Court of Victoria. We're arguing that these horrific gassing machines, which blatantly disregard animal welfare, should not be in use – in fact, they should never have been approved in the first place.

When faced with immense animal suffering, like the final moments of those terrified pigs, it is always tempting to think, '*how could they?*' but the important question is, '*why did they?*'

The answer lies in the heart-disconnect that occurred when pigs were categorised as food.

You cannot kill who you care about. So, the caring had to stop. Compassionate urges had to be quelled. While the resultant animal suffering is immense, the human harm, too, has been great. These historic unchallenged decisions have also created a human consequence.

That this multimillion-dollar industry believes the pigs' agony in these machines is acceptable and wants it to continue, presents such clear evidence of the psychological toll of raising and killing animals for food.

Our legal case brings to the forefront a critical truth: animals raised and killed for food are currently afforded next to no protection under Australian law.

It's a stark reminder that animals cannot be protected within the industries that profit from their deaths.

As we await the outcome of this pivotal case, our public advocacy has continued unabated. This year, thanks to the generosity of our supporters, powerful billboard, tram, and

bus advertisements nationwide have reminded Australians of the hidden suffering behind ham, bacon and pork products – and the compassionate choices we can all make to spare animals from that suffering.

Alongside this, our television commercials *You didn't know, did you?* and *Be Their Hero* have touched thousands of hearts and minds across the country. The powerful feedback we've received on these campaigns underscores the impact: people are being moved to embrace compassionate food choices for the first time.

We realised that awakening and empowering our 'inner hero' is essential for meaningful change.

Even as we advocate for pigs in courtrooms and through campaigns on Australian TV screens and city streets, the greatest advocates for pigs remain everyday Australians, whose choices shape demand, and drive change.

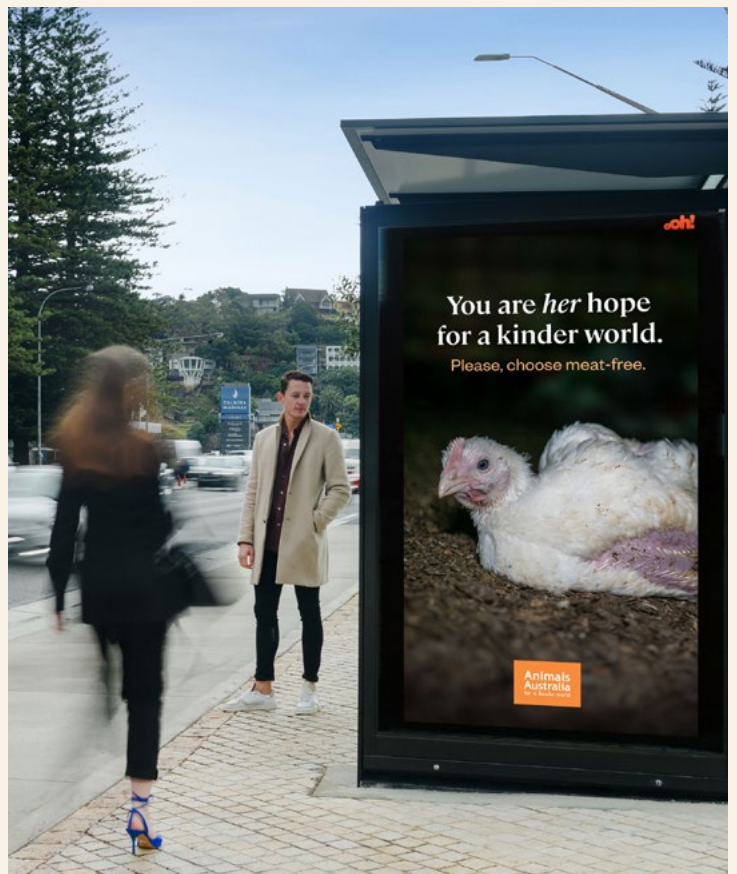
The truth is that kindness, mercy and compassion are intrinsic to who we are; our highest human potential. Were it not for adopted beliefs colouring our view of those different from us, we would be living this truth.

Legalised cruelty to farmed animals is enabled by generational thinking that somehow animals raised for food matter less, because they are destined to be slaughtered.

Nothing could be further from the truth of who they are, and, the truth of who we are.

Current generations have the opportunity to 'course correct', to evolve our thinking to align with what our hearts know – that animals too want to experience life to the fullest, and that they suffer deeply when prevented from doing so.

If we do, we pioneer a very different, kinder world together. And what a world that will be. ■



↑ Top: Our campaigns, like *Be Their Hero*, have been empowering people to choose compassion over inherited habits – because when we do, we not only free ourselves from outdated beliefs, but also free the animals, too.

↑ Below: Of course, it is not only pigs who suffer in factory farms; chickens and other animals need help too, which is why our campaigns are about choosing to live and eat kindly for *all*.

Lyn White is Animals Australia's Director of Strategy, a globally respected animal advocate and investigator, and recipient of an Order of Australia (AM) for her service to animal protection.

Live sheep export ban **secured.**

As the 2025 Federal election outcome became clear, we celebrated a hard-fought victory – the live sheep export ban was safe, and the countdown had begun to the day not one more sheep would be forced onto a live export ship.

In 2024, Australia made history by passing legislation to end live sheep export by sea. This landmark decision was set to spare millions of sheep from the inherent suffering of long sea journeys and brutal handling and slaughter in importing countries.

But as the 2025 federal election approached, the Coalition vowed to repeal the legislation if elected. And so began our high-impact ad blitz, targeting battleground seats with a clear message: Australian sheep have suffered enough.

The re-election of the Albanese government has cemented one of the most significant animal welfare reforms ever achieved globally...

... our hard-won live sheep export ban has been secured.

We can now count down to the day that the last sheep will leave our shores – 1st May 2028. While of course we wish it was sooner, we also recognise and respect the need to consider all who may be affected by this historic decision.

Beyond our great relief, we are filled with overwhelming gratitude to each of you – our dedicated supporters.



↑ As the live export lobby tried to rally opposition to the live sheep export ban, our ad blitz – putting animals back at the centre of the debate – reached millions of voters, thanks to our donors.

It's your generosity that has fuelled our investigations and exposés over the last twenty years, and your commitment that kept this cruelty firmly on the political agenda each time we asked for your help to lobby decision makers on behalf of sheep.

We would not be where we are today without you.

We are also grateful to our friends at the *Australian Alliance for Animals* and *Stop Live Exports* for uniting with us to ensure as many people as possible understood what was at stake for animals this election.

Not only do we now know with utter certainty that the live sheep trade will end, our politicians now know that while animals may not be able to vote, caring Australians will do so on their behalf. ■

A lifeline for wildlife in disasters.

— BY LOUISE BONOMI —

When the biggest bushfire since Black Saturday ravaged the Grampians, we did all we could to help wildlife in its path.



My stomach dropped as this message from a wildlife carer in the Grampians appeared on my phone.

'Bushfire. Leave now'...

It was a normal day in late December, we were halfway through a meeting preparing for the end of year break.

I excused myself for a closer look at what I recognised as the government's

emergency warning app, and the location of a bushfire on *the same road* as one of the biggest kangaroo sanctuaries in the state.

This marked the beginning of Animals Australia's three-month emergency response to one of the most devastating bushfire disasters in Victoria for over five years.

Gariwerd National Park (The Grampians) is globally renowned for pristine bushland, home to a rich diversity of native wildlife.

We knew that fires spreading throughout the park would be catastrophic for the many animals who call it home. And our fears were soon confirmed.

Burnt wildlife were being found by firefighting crews, community members and homeowners returning to their properties. There was a desperate need emerging for experienced vets to search for, assess, treat or humanely euthanise those whose injuries were too severe.

We knew we had to act quickly.

Thanks to our donors we called on the team from Vets for Compassion, and funded their immediate deployment to the Grampians. In just days they were on the ground, with the Animals Australia mobile vet triage van and fleet of rescue vehicles donated by our generous supporters back during the 2020 megafires. They responded to endless calls for help, searching properties that surround the national park, finding hundreds of animals who had managed to outrun the flames but were now injured – most of them severely.



↑ Above: Lou from Animals Australia comforts a distressed orphaned kangaroo joey, who suffered burns to his feet and lost his mother to the bushfire. The emergency triage centre and rescue teams provided a lifeline for many animals, thanks to the generosity of our donors.

← Left: Kangaroos at Wildwood Wildlife Shelter, run by licensed volunteer carer Pam Turner, as the bushfires burn around them.

With a team focused on rescue efforts, our task was getting the many animals at Wildwood Wildlife Shelter in the foothills of the Grampians to safety. The prospect of safely moving dozens of kangaroos, wallabies, emus, birds, reptiles and possums was daunting, and for a moment, we weren't even sure it would be possible. But we knew

we didn't have a choice. With another call to the Vets for Compassion team and help from other experienced local wildlife carers, we had our plan.

The animals were nervous.



The team found hundreds of animals who had managed to outrun the flames but were now injured – most of them severely.

SCAN TO WATCH

Head here →
to see the moving story
of our work for wildlife
in the Gariwerd fires.



→ Ollie from Vets for Compassion rescues a burnt wallaby on the firegrounds, to be taken to our emergency triage centre for treatment.



Their usually peaceful sanctuary was roaring with activity from waterbombing helicopters hovering over their lake, and planes criss-crossing low in the sky dropping fire retardant on the nearby bush. Fire trucks lined the usually deserted dirt road, and chainsaws and bulldozers were used to clear the only way out. And so, we began the evacuation convoy of animals into town.

By 7am the following morning, every animal who could be evacuated, was. Enclosures stood empty as an enormous red cloud of fire rose above

the shelter, the blaze surrounding the entire property, up to the driveway.

The nervous wait over the coming days was intensified by 38 degree temperatures and gusty winds.

Finally, news came that the shelter was spared. But tragically, the fire had destroyed almost two thirds of

the Grampians National Park and killed countless animals in its path.

As the extent of the fires became clear, so did the need for an emergency veterinary hospital to be established, to give those who still had a chance dedicated veterinary care. Hearing the disappointing news that the Victorian state government wouldn't deploy their triage services for wildlife, we set about planning our own. Alongside the Vets for Compassion team and within 48 hours, we had a fully functional emergency wildlife hospital for kangaroos and



↑ A ringtail possum who was burned in the fires receives treatment from the expert team at Vets for Compassion – he has since made a full recovery, and has been released back to the wild.

wallabies established. Staffed by dedicated professionals, it remained in place until the last survivors were released or transferred to carers once their burnt feet had healed.

When it comes to helping animals during and in the aftermath of bushfires, one of the greatest needs

we continue to see through our work is rapid deployment of vets and rescuers to help survivors, and the volunteers charged with caring for them. These fires were no different, but thanks to the generosity of donors like you, we were able to help countless animals stranded on the firegrounds. ■

Louise Bonomi is Animals Australia's Director of Wildlife Welfare. She leads our public campaigns calling for better protection for native animals and our emergency response work on the ground.



Gary the survivor

Most people think that native animals are protected, particularly in the aftermath of bushfires. But with the bush still burning in some areas, commercial kangaroo shooters continued to kill survivors in the Grampians region under a government supported program.

This news shocked thousands of our caring supporters, who took the opportunity to stand up for joeys like Gary. He fled the bushfire that killed his Mum but was badly burnt. Despite months of dedicated rehabilitation, he, and thousands like him, are at risk of being killed by the commercial industry the moment they are returned to the wild.

We reminded Adidas that bushfire survivors like Gary deserve better than being made into their sports shoes.

↑ Gary survived the bushfires, but once he is big enough to be released back home to the wild, he will be at risk of being killed by shooters.



Hope finally delivered amid devastation.

Just before midnight in early February, we received
the message we'd waited 15 long months for...





- ← Left and above: Countless animals have been rescued from the rubble in Gaza, and received shelter and care at Sulala Animal Rescue.
- ↗ Above right: A truck is loaded with aid from Animals Australia, making its way across the border from Egypt into Gaza, to Sulala's animal shelter.
- Below right: Donkeys are one of the many animals rescued and receiving care and respite at Sulala's temporary shelter.

Our semi-trailer full of animal aid had finally crossed the border from Egypt into Gaza. We'd been working day and night to make this happen since aid supply had been cut off in May the year before, and like many people in the war-torn region, animals were starving.

This delivery represented the first truck full of aid for animals since the war began, and thanks to the generosity of our donors, it wasn't the last.

Animals Australia includes war zones in our Emergency Grants Program. This is no easy feat, which is why few global animal protection organisations help animals in this challenging space. Over the last five years, our grants

program has provided lifesaving support to animals and the compassionate people caring for them in the most difficult and dangerous circumstances. And though our support for Sulala Animal Rescue, Gaza's only official animal protection organisation, began long before the current war, it has been bolstered by our kind-hearted supporters since.

Forcefully evacuated from their shelter as the war began, the Sulala team have continued to care for animals in their shelter, and in the broader community.

And despite their own homes being destroyed by airstrikes, they have remained steadfast for the animals who so desperately needed them.



Including war zones in our Emergency Grants Program is no easy feat, which is why few global animal protection organisations help animals in this challenging space.

→ Sa'ed from Sulala Animal Rescue, working tirelessly to provide animals with food and care during the ongoing war in Gaza.



With support from Animals Australia, they have been able to operate veterinary clinics every week for dogs, cats, donkeys and horses. Through our monthly grant, they have fed animals stranded on the streets, and distributed food to the many families who couldn't bear to leave their beloved animal family members behind, even when faced with evacuations and homelessness themselves.

But with the huge demand for food, and borders closed to aid supply, food for the animals of Gaza soon ran out.

Thanks to the negotiation efforts of our international team, particularly our former Palestinian investigator and advocate, Belal, we were able to send tonnes of animal food by road from Egypt. The process of supplying aid was incredibly complex and at times, felt impossible, particularly as our truck was initially turned back when the border closed. But backed by the determination of our supporters who all wanted to help ease the suffering of every animal who needed us more as each day passed, we persisted.

There is a very long road ahead for the animals and people in Gaza. Ceasefire deals are fragile and fleeting, and safety relies on the war ending. Some streets, including where the Sulala team's homes used to stand, are now unrecognisable rubble. Infrastructure and basic services must be restored, local economies re-established, homes rebuilt and families reunited.

For now, the focus is survival.

Weeks after our first truck arrived into Gaza, we arranged a second, thanks to our donors who funded it within a matter of days of us asking. Through our global networks, we are also working on the provision of veterinary supplies so that the longer-term health of the animal community can be protected.

If there is one thing that has been abundantly clear throughout our work in this global space, it's that compassion for animals knows no borders. ■



Nanna's bringing kindness into the kitchen.

— BY CLAUDIA ALTAVILLA —

It all started with a little fish who made a splash...
and ripples that have lasted a lifetime.



Growing up, I always adored animals. But there's one moment from my childhood that really stands out – the moment that opened my eyes and my heart, and fuelled my desire to help them. I was still quite young, on a family holiday in Queensland, when someone caught a fish. There was some family debate as to whether the fish was big enough to keep or should be thrown back into the water. Seeing the fish struggling helplessly, waiting for their fate to be decided, I ran off in tears.

From that day on,
I saw every fish as
someone, instead
of something.

As I grew older, I realised that all animals who are killed for food suffer the same fate as that little fish. Most people have never stepped foot inside a slaughterhouse – and I understand why most wouldn't want to – but it's where most farmed animals

spend their final moments, at just a fraction of their natural lifespan.

It became clear to me that the most powerful way to help animals suffering in our outdated food systems is to make kinder choices, exploring meat-free alternatives and a new way of cooking.

This is at the very core of our food advocacy initiative, VegKit. It's designed to make animal-friendly eating easy, delicious, and accessible – addressing the common questions, obstacles, and



It became clear to me that the most powerful way to help animals used in these cruel systems was to help shift demand towards kinder choices...

← I wish everyone could spend time with pigs like Calvin Swine, who lives at Edgar's Mission farmed animal sanctuary – curious, affectionate, and full of personality, he reminded me so much of my golden retriever.

family meal dynamics so many of us struggle with when moving away from animal products.

This past year alone, half a million people have come to VegKit.com for our tasty recipes and inspiring articles, and our popular Veg Starter Kit has guided 8,000 more, offering practical advice, easy meals, and motivation for those keen to explore animal-friendly eating.

Following the success of our TV series *Freshly Picked*, and recognising the growing appetite for plant-based guidance, we recently launched an online video series called *The Nanna Diaries* – one of my proudest passion projects, as the star is my 85-year-old Nanna, Mirella.

With her rich Venezuelan and Spanish heritage, my Nanna cooks like no one else I know. Her kitchen is a place

where food and love merge beautifully. When I made a commitment to kinder eating, I worried about losing that connection (and missing out on her lasagne!), but instead, Nanna Mirella embraced the change with open arms – and a lot of questions about how to 'vegan-ize' recipes.

Together, we transformed her most beloved dishes into compassionate meals that nourish the body, heart, and soul.

Now, *The Nanna Diaries* has made her kitchen a welcoming 'classroom' of sorts, for anyone wanting to cook wholesome, traditional food – with a kinder twist!

Supporting our veg advocacy helps keep resources free and accessible for anyone looking to create positive change for animals.

My Nanna's journey taught me that compassion and tradition can go hand-in-hand – and with your help, we can inspire more people to discover that too. Your generosity fuels our vital projects that educate, empower, and transform the way people view animals and food. ■

Claudia is Animals Australia's Video Producer, helping bring stories to life to shift hearts and minds, and ultimately, change the world for animals. Learn to cook her family's favourite veg meals at [VegKit.com/Nanna](https://vegkit.com/nanna)



Nanna's Lasagne

You will need

Bolognese sauce

- 1 carrot
- 2 celery stalks
- 1 brown onion
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 1–2 tbsp Italian herbs
- 2–3 fresh basil leaves
- 2–3 bay leaves (dried or fresh)
- 340g vegan mince or burger patties
(You can easily leave out the plant-based meat and still make a beautiful lasagne with a Napoli sauce!)
- A glass of red wine (optional)

- 700g bottle of passata (we used *Mutti*)
- A 400g tin of diced tomatoes
- Salt and pepper

Lasagne

- 1 pack of lasagne sheets
(egg-free, we used *Barilla*)
- 3 vegan eggs
(we used *McKenzie's* egg replacer)
- 1 cup vegan parmesan
- 1-1.5 cups vegan mozzarella, grated
(such as *Made with Plants* Mozzarella)
- Bolognese sauce (recipe listed)

Shop for a kinder world.

Every purchase you make will fund our lifechanging work for animals.

Scan the QR code to visit



'For all animals' hoodie

A hood that does good... for animals, people, and the planet.

'End Live Export' tee

Help us end this global trade in suffering by wearing this powerful message.

*available in black or white

'For the pigs' pack

Know someone who loves pigs as much as we do? This is the perfect gift.

Celebrating a lifelong animal advocate.

In loving memory of Liz Dealey
(1956 – 2025)



A respected stalwart of the animal protection community, Liz was one of the very first members of Animals Australia, or as we were known in the early 90s, ANZFAS. Her bright smile was never dimmed by the cruelty she witnessed as an animal advocate at a time when many of the issues we work on today remained largely unknown. She dedicated every waking moment to helping animals, whether speaking at public events and rallies, volunteering her time at Edgar's Mission farmed animal sanctuary, or caring for the ever-present flock of rescued hens in need at the home she shared with her lifelong partner, Chris.

Founding Melbourne Chicken Save and Melbourne Chicken Rescue, she created a lifeline for countless chickens in need of a second chance while advocating tirelessly for the many in factory farms and slaughterhouses who would never experience kindness.

Liz's lifetime of dedication now lives on through the many she inspired to join our movement to treat all animals with the respect and compassion they deserve. She will be dearly missed and lovingly remembered by all at Animals Australia as we continue our work to shape the kinder world she envisioned for all. ■



Image credit: Tamara Kenneally

*To know even one life has breathed
easier because you have lived,
this is to have succeeded.*

— BESSIE ANDERSON STANLEY

If you would like to speak with one of our team about how to leave a legacy for animals, we would be honoured to support you through this decision with a confidential discussion. Our Relationships Manager can be reached by email or phone:

Contact us on 03 9329 6333 or bequests@animalsaustralia.org



↑ Scan the QR code



Give her hope.



I'm no longer accepting
the things I cannot change.
I'm changing the things
I cannot accept."

- DR. ANGELA DAVIS



Locked Bag 1236,
Nth Melbourne VIC 3051
Ph: 1800 888 584
ACN 617 080 387
ABN 65 016 845 767
AnimalsAustralia.org

Pass it on

Please help us spread the message of
kindness and empower more people to
help animals by sharing this Supporter
Update with family and friends.



PRINTED ON 100%
RECYCLED PAPER
USING VEGETABLE-
BASED INKS