

## **Repaying my debt: a conservationist's tale**

by Geoff Mosley 1931-

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review by Keith Muir

The theme of Geoff Mosley's autobiography is that throughout our lives we need to repay our debt to future generations and the planet by treating our environment with respect and making conservation our guiding principle.

He has brought us a vibrant narrative of his early life, education, family and friends that played key roles in his development. Geoff, the adventurous kid who foraged for food in the dales of England's Peak District during the Great Depression, became the student who studied national parks and then the conservationist who saved the wilderness. For most of his life Geoff has grown vegetables and it is this personal connection with the land that has enabled his astounding passion for nature to flourish and gain purpose.

In many ways his biography reminds one of that other great Australian autobiography, *A Fortunate Life* by Albert Facey, as Geoff is a man who draws joy and inspiration from his daily challenges.

After completing a masters on the Peak District National Park, he gained a doctorate on outdoor recreation activities in Tasmania from the Australian National University in 1963. With these qualifications Geoff was able to propel his conservation vision into the national and international political arena.

It is also his belief in the benefits of staying connected to nature that saw Geoff tie his bushwalking adventures to nature conservation projects, and in later life brought his children along on these walks.

His contribution to conservation has been honoured as a Member of the Order of Australia and with an Individual Award in the United Nations Association of Australia World Environment Day Awards. He has been the Australian Director of the Centre for the Advancement of the Steady State Economy since 2008, and worked for nearly twenty years in executive positions leading the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) to help save Tasmania's Franklin River. He also served as an elected ACF councillor for nearly thirty years, a mark of the popular support for his conservation vision. He also helped save Antarctica from mining and lead dozens of other campaigns that saved threatened natural areas across Australia.

Dr Geoff Mosley is still an active conservationist, an avid bushwalker and gardener. He is one of the greatest figures in wilderness conservation in Australia. Geoff's new book is well worth reading.