

Article published in the Hills News in April 2003 regarding the 'will dispute' with Mr. X.

This story was arranged by my sister Mrs. C. who with my sister Mrs. K. hadn't had any contact with me or our father, from around 1975 to mid-October 1994.

Will dispute delays cash.

On the first anniversary of Garth M's death, his daughters waited for closure. It never came. They are still waiting. At the core of this delay is a dispute over who will get his \$2m estate – his daughters or the ghosts of long gone kangaroos.

Garth M, otherwise known as 'the kangaroo man' came to fame when he first opened his kangaroo orphanage in the 1960's. He died on the 14th March, 2002, leaving a will dated 1994 leaving his entire estate equally divided between his three daughters.

However, **close friend and former xxxxxx mayor Mr. X. believes an earlier will of 1989 should be honored. The 1989 will – of which Mr. X. is executor – shares the estate between the kangaroos, Mr. M's three daughters, other people related to looking after the animals and Mr. X. But 200 animals are nowhere to be found.**

They are said to have escaped the orphanage through a hole in the fence around 1990 – leaving more than \$400,000 allocated to care for the now non-existent kangaroos. This is a trust fund over which Mr. X. would have total control.

After reconciliation with his three daughters in 1994, Mr. M. made a new will which left his entire estate to them. Mr. X. was made executor of that will in 1995.

In September last year the solicitor for Mr. X. told Mr. M's daughter Mrs. C. that he would not be presenting the 1994 will because the deceased 'did not know or approve of the contents of the 1994 will and lacked testamentary capacity to make the will'.

Mr. X. who became friends with Mr. M. after treating the kangaroos said he had the responsibility – as executor of the will – to see the wishes of Mr. M. carried out.

"I don't know how many wills he made, but I have a responsibility to put forward the will I do know he made in 1989, he said.

I am aware he made another will but I don't know the contents of it because I was not a signatory to it at the time, I was made executor of it a year later. It is in the hands of the solicitors at the moment, but the sooner it's fixed for all concerned, the better".

Mrs. C. told the Hills News that she and her two sisters would be "contesting that most vigorously because her Father would have known what he was doing".

"My Father was a very eccentric person" she said, "No one is denying that. A man who lived with 200 kangaroos is not your average bloke, but he had testamentary capacity when he made the 1994 will". "He knew us, was always happy to see us and introduced us to people when we visited him".

Before his stroke in 1994 forced him to move to Mowll Village nursing home, Mr. M's home became virtually a derelict shanty with 20cm of compacted kangaroo dropping covering the floors. Mr. M. was born in 1911 and hunted crocodiles in far North Queensland before joining the RAAF as an instructor. One of his cadets was killed during a training flight crash landing in 1940.

"My Father was so profoundly affected that he had severe difficulties in maintaining normal relationships within the family and withdrew from social contact" Mrs. C. said.

"Eventually he became an isolated man, a hermit. He was a proud man and wouldn't seek help and wanted to cure himself but he couldn't. It beat him and it destroyed our family".