

TALES FROM *the* WILD NEWSLETTER

INSIDE:

HOW EYES HELPED SAVE LIONS

BUSHFIRE CRISIS - ROAD TO
RECOVERY UPDATE

THE REFORESTING OF SUMATRA

FIGHTING OCEAN POLLUTION
AND HOW YOU CAN HELP



TARONGA 
CONSERVATION SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

For the Wild

A ROARING SUCCESS *in* TOUGH TIMES



Back in June we wrote to you about the plight of the African Lions. You read about how they are now extinct in 26 African countries, and if their numbers drop any further, they'll be on the slide toward extinction.

A major drive for the decline of lion populations has been human/wildlife conflict. Due to shrinking habitat, lions have unfortunately turned to hunting livestock such as cattle. This puts farmers

livelihoods at risk which results in retaliatory killings in order to save their livestock.

You heard about Taronga's Dr Neil Jordan and his search for a non-lethal method to solve this crisis. Using the knowledge that lions are ambush predators, Neil together with UNSW Sydney created the Eye-Cow Project.

The Eye-Cow project is a simple and low-cost attempt to reduce livestock-carnivore conflict by painting eyes on the hinds of cattle. This approach relies on the prediction that ambush predators such as lions will abandon the hunt when they are 'seen' by their prey.

You showed us through your generous support that you, along with Taronga, are determined to help. Even with the

uncertainty of life during COVID-19 and the struggles you may be personally facing at this time, you stepped up for these amazing animals.

We are deeply grateful and can't thank you enough.

Because of supporters like you, we are happy to report the Eye-Cow Project has shown to be successful. Completed tests have shown cattle with eyes painted on their rumps were never attacked by lions

compared to ones without.

This is an amazing result proving a sustainable solution is possible for the coexistence of wildlife and humans.

The next stage of the project will be implementing the paint kits with instructions for local farmers to use.

This is an amazing milestone and we couldn't have achieved this without you, our wonderful wildlife supporters, thank you!



Photo by Bobby-Jo Clow



Painted Eyes on Livestock in Africa for the Eye-Cow Tests.

YOUR GIFTS

Your generous support has helped achieved great results for African Lions facing extinction.

Your thoughtful gifts contribute towards:



SUPPORT FOR THE
BEADS FOR
WILDLIFE INITIATIVE/
LOCAL COMMUNITIES



NORTHERN
RANGELANDS TRUST
RANGER PATROLS



PROTECT WILDLIFE
CORRIDORS
(KEEP LION POPULATIONS
CONNECTED TO EACH OTHER)



EYE-COW PAINT
KITS FOR
LOCAL FARMERS



Platypus has a health check at Taronga's Wildlife Hospital.

the LONG ROAD *to* RECOVERY

Last summer, Australia faced devastating bushfires that ravaged our beloved country. At Taronga, we hope that all people and wildlife affected are on the path to recovery.

Not only was the impact devastating to us and our homes, the loss of wildlife to the bushfires was horrific. It is now estimated that nearly 3 billion animals were

killed or displaced due to the fires and huge areas of wildlife habitat decimated.

Taronga's two Wildlife Hospitals responded to the bushfire crisis by providing emergency shelter, medical care and rehabilitation for koalas, platypus, wallabies, flying foxes and critically endangered frogs and fish.

The hospitals saw an

unprecedented amount of wildlife during this time. Between November 2019 and April 2020, our vets and vet nurses treated more than 140 Koalas at our hospitals and in the field.

Even as we faced COVID-19, where we saw both Zoos in Sydney and Dubbo close the doors for the first time in our 100-year history, the doors of our hospitals never closed. They continued their hard work caring for wildlife in need whilst managing the challenges of COVID-19 restrictions and social distancing.

During these difficult times we asked you for your help and your response was overwhelming and humbling. Your support meant that we were able to not only help the animals brought into our Wildlife Hospitals, but also for the long road to recovery for each species

and its habitat recovery.

Because of you and your kind and thoughtful gifts, we have been able to release the 14 orphaned grey flying foxes we cared for, affected by the severe heat events.

With your support we were also able to release all seven of the Platypus rescued from Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve affected by the drought. The pond has since replenished and, the platypus were implanted with tracking devices and have now all been returned back. We have received reports that all have been recorded moving around their ponds. Fantastic result!

All these and more would not have been possible without you, our generous and caring supporters. Thank you so much for standing with us in the fight to save our native animals.

"I would like to take a moment to personally thank you for your generous support for our Autumn Taronga Wildlife Hospitals appeal."

Our Hospitals at both Zoos have been busy and with Spring upon us we are already seeing an increase in wildlife cases. Many of the animals we received during the bushfire crisis earlier this year are doing well and most already re-released back into the wild.

This would not have been possible without our hard-working Vets and Vet nurses across both our Zoos, but also without you, our amazing supporters who stand by wildlife no matter what crisis they face. A heartfelt thanks for your on-going support from all us at the Wildlife Hospitals – Thank you!"

- Dr Larry Vogelnest



WELCOME, OUR FRIENDS *of the* FUTURE

The prolonged drought, extreme bushfires and now COVID-19, have had a huge impact on our native wildlife.

As you know, more than a billion Australian animals perished though last summer's fires, and we have seen huge increases in admissions to Taronga's two Wildlife Hospitals as animals are displaced from their homes due to drought.

COVID-19 has challenged us to find innovative ways to keep Taronga's important mission on track – I do hope you've been enjoying updates through Taronga TV, for example. Even during these uncertain times, Taronga's expert conservation science teams are busier than ever seeking new and better ways to secure a future for precious

animals here and around the world, and our amazing keepers, vet teams, and the myriad others who work tirelessly to keep our animals happy and healthy have not skipped a beat.

If you want to get in touch with me about any of our work (or just to say 'hi!'), please feel free to drop me a line at dvodden@zoo.nsw.gov.au

THE JOY OF BEQUESTS

There are many ways to support a not-for-profit organisation like Taronga.

Some people choose to support financially whilst others support through volunteering their valuable time and expertise. Some supporters, our Friends of the Future, have generously chosen to leave a gift in their Will.

We sincerely hope that once you have chosen to include Taronga as a

beneficiary of your life's work, that you will cherish that decision and enjoy being part of the Taronga Family.

Incredibly, many people don't realise it's an option to leave a gift to charity, or perhaps they think that it's something that only the wealthiest amongst us would do.

In fact, a legacy gift of any size is a profound way to be remembered for your love of wildlife.

If you are interested in learning more about leaving a gift in your Will please get in touch with me via email at dvodden@zoo.nsw.gov.au

WHY I CHOSE TO GIVE



"My mother left a proportion of her assets to charities in her Will and when I wrote up a new Will recently, I decided to do the same."

I was very particular about choosing organisations which fit with my values and my intentions to support different areas. One of my areas of interest is the environment, sustainability and conservation.

There is so much more to Taronga than a Zoo and I'm enjoying learning about their activities every time I visit – from scientific labs to the wildlife rescue and hospital to international research and conservation.

We don't know when we will die, however we can provide some assistance to our planet and wildlife when we go."

- Valerie Orton

HEARTFELT THANKS *to the* FOLLOWING DONORS

We pay our respects and are deeply grateful to the following donors who chose to leave

a gift in their Will to Taronga. These wonderful people are remembered for their love of animals and

their legacy is forever in caring for wildlife and working towards a shared future for animals and people.

- The late Robin Potter
- The late Valerie Ryan
- The late Grayden Le Breton
- The late Jillianne Ortnier

MEET OUR TASSIE DEVILS!

Did you know you can become a Zoo Parent to our amazing Tasmanian Devils at Taronga?

Zoo Parent Adoptions are a great way to help endangered species in Australia and around the world.

Today we meet one of the amazing animals that would greatly appreciate your adoption – Australia's truly unique Tasmanian Devils!

Our resident Devils at Taronga are *Gunner*, who is calm, confident and curious. *Erebus* our most active Devil and *Rosalie* our timid and more anxious Devil.

Our Devils can eat the equivalent of 40% of their body weight in a single day! They are

sometimes nicknamed 'vacuum cleaners' because they never leave any leftovers, but they are not very efficient hunters and are primarily scavengers.

At Taronga, they are given a wide variety of foods, including kangaroo tail, rabbit, chicken and raw eggs. Occasionally they will also be given dog kibble and goose legs as treats. Lucky Devils!

Sadly Tasmanian Devils face a variety of different threats, the most notable of which is the devil facial tumour disease – DFTD.

This disease is an infectious cancer that only affects Tasmanian Devils, and is transmitted through biting, fighting and mating. Since the

Baby Tassie Devils at Taronga Zoo.
Photo by Tony Britt-Lewis



first official case of DFTD in Australia in 1996, there has been a decline of up to 50-70 per cent of the Tasmanian Devil population across the majority of Tasmania.

Our unique Tassie Devils are listed as endangered in the IUCN Red List.

The Devils at Taronga, Gunner, Erebus and Rosalie play an important part for the future of all

Tassie Devils. All three are part of Taronga's breeding program, which aims to produce a stable population for eventual reintroduction into the wild in Tasmania.

Your adoption will assist with the conservation, breeding and preservation of wild animals and their habitats ensuring they are here for generations to come, and it all starts with your thoughtful adoption today!

Visit taronga.org.au/zooparent or scan the QR code from your phone's camera to find out more. Your adoptive animal is waiting and you can help a species in need today!



Photo by Tony Britt-Lewis



Scan here

REFORESTING SUMATRA

for TIGERS, BEARS, RHINOS (OH MY!)

With fewer than 80 Sumatran Rhino and 400 Sumatran Tigers left in the wild, simply protecting remaining habitat is not enough. Degraded habitat must be restored.

Taronga is replanting 50 hectares (ha) of critical degraded forest habitat in Way Kambas National Park, Sumatra over four years – 15 ha this year.

FOR HABITAT

Significant areas of this forest have been highly impacted by human activity. While all illegal agricultural activities in the region have been ceased for over five years, much of the habitat is now a significantly degraded monoculture of elephant grass with opportunity for successful restoration.

This project is the basis for an ambitious long-term radical reforestation

project, aiming to replant 5,000 ha (12,355 acres) of forest over the next decade.



FOR WILDLIFE

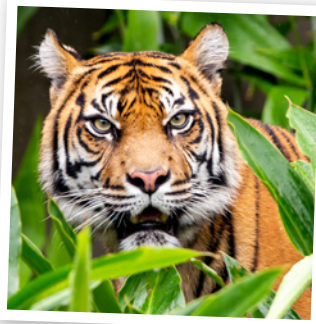
Way Kambas is one of the last strongholds for the critically endangered Sumatran Tiger and Sumatran Rhino and the endangered Sumatran Elephant – species Taronga is committed to protecting.

Experts agree that the only way to save the Sumatran Rhino from extinction in our lifetime is to manage the population in breeding facilities and protection

zones like Way Kambas, which has been identified as one of two viable national parks.

FOR COMMUNITIES

This work involves and supports local communities, with more than 50 local people employed throughout the duration of the project. Local farmers' groups are contracted to grow seedlings, and people with disabilities are hired to plant seedlings, trim



invasive species and maintain the new growth areas by hand. Rangers are hired from local communities, to manage the reforestation sites and patrol the areas to prevent poaching.



Community Tree Planting in Sumatra.
Photo by IRF

WE INVITE YOU TO BE INVOLVED

You are able to support this work by donating to plant new habitat. Funds will be directed to growing and raising seedlings in the nursery, planting and maintaining the new forest as well as providing equipment and resources.

Donations at all levels are welcome. With a tax-deductible gift of \$5,000, 1 hectare of new forest will be planted with 2,500 seedlings and a sign with your name will be placed at the site of planting.

For more information and to donate visit taronga.org.au/reforestingsumatra or contact Pauline Georges at pgeorges@zoo.nsw.gov.au

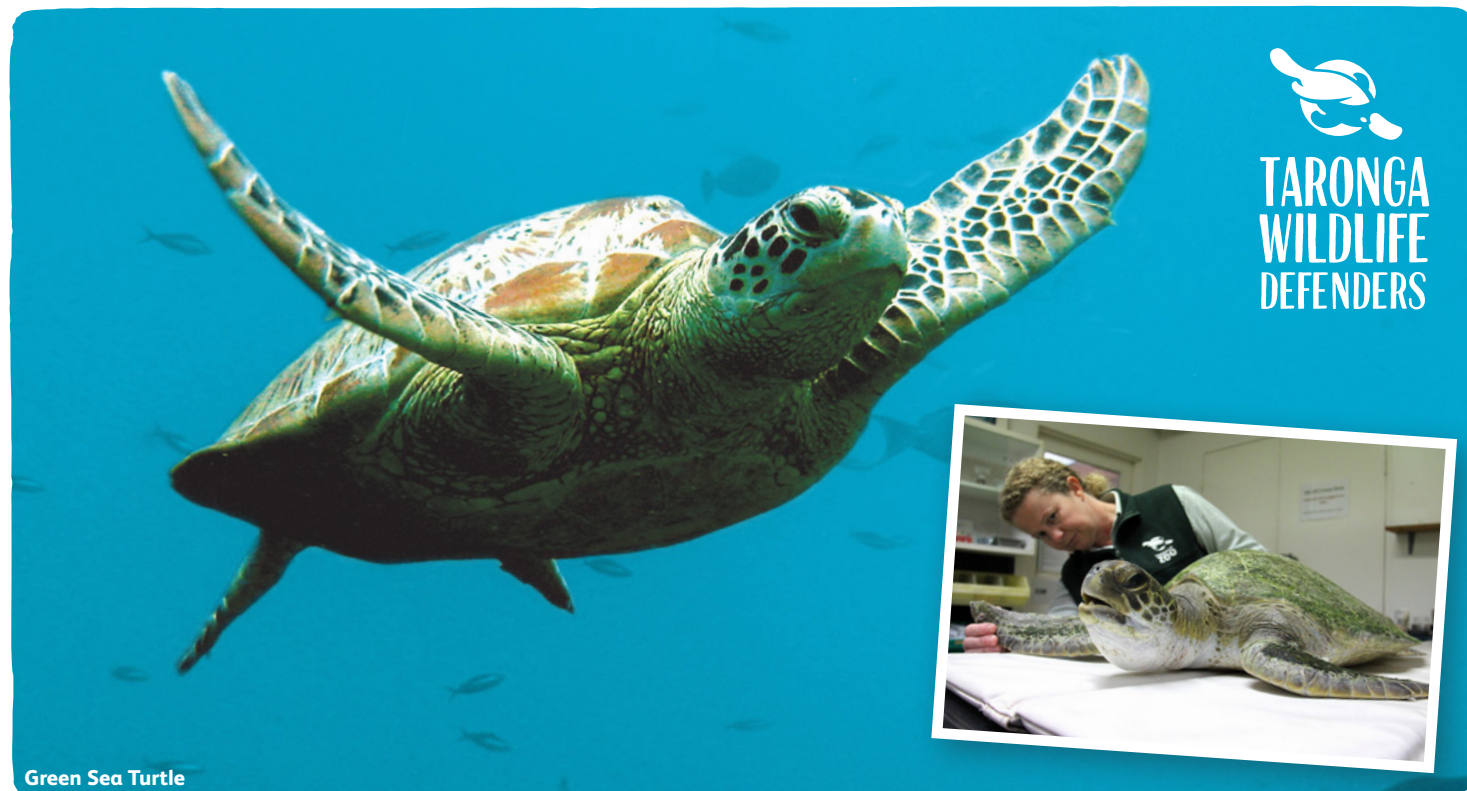


Community reforestation.
Photo by IRF

DELIVERY PARTNERS



- International Rhino Foundation (IRF)
- Rhino Foundation of Indonesia (YABI)
- Way Kambas National Park
- Directorate General of Nature Resources and Ecosystem Conservation



Green Sea Turtle

BY BECOMING A WILDLIFE DEFENDER, YOU CAN DO SOMETHING AMAZING FOR HER

Our Wildlife Defenders play a crucial part of our conservation work in protecting endangered and vulnerable species not only in Australia but around the globe.

Australian waters are home to 6 of the 7 species of Marine Turtles. Of these, the Leatherbacks, Loggerheads and Olive Ridley Turtles are listed as

vulnerable, Green Turtles are listed as endangered and Hawksbill Turtles are listed as critically endangered (according to the IUCN Red List).

Having existed for more than 100 million years, sadly today the marine turtles are a struggling species. It's estimated that half of all marine turtles have ingested some form of plastic. And with 8 million tonnes of plastic entering our oceans each year, the problem is only getting worse.

Plastic pollution has taken its toll on this species as turtles often mistake plastic for food and when ingested the results are often fatal.

For the turtles who are lucky enough to survive, they end up sick or injured and wash up on our beaches. The

situation may be dire but there is still hope.

Taronga's Wildlife Hospitals treat about 40 marine turtles a year and as a wildlife defender, you are supporting our hospitals in the rehabilitation and release of these turtles.

Back in 2017, three sea turtles were brought into Taronga's Wildlife Hospital. The sea turtles Stan, Nulla and Stephen arrived as hatchlings and over a two-year period required intensive care and rehabilitation. This care was vital to assist in their survival once released back into the wild.

And we are happy to announce the good news, that we were able to successfully release all three back into the wild! This long-term care for animals in need is only

made possible because of the ongoing support from you, our Wildlife Defenders – thank you

As a Taronga Wildlife Defender, your support helps not only treat Marine Turtles in needed, but with our conservation programs in Australia and around the globe.

Interested in finding out how you can become a Taronga Wildlife Defender? Simply go to taronga.org.au/wildlifedefender/turtles or scan the QR code from your phone's camera to find out more.



Scan here

GOOD NEWS FROM *the* ZOO CREW

Taronga plays a leading role across various conservation projects working towards a shared future for wildlife and people. None of which would be possible without you.

Here are some of our other recent successes:



295 Taronga-bred Regent Honeyeaters have been released into the wild after the bushfires. Taronga is a leader in the National Recovery Program for the Regent Honeyeater. Once numbering tens of thousands, only 350-400 adults remain in the wild.



10 Greater Bilbies to make a landmark come back. Taronga-bred bilbies from our Wildlife Sanctuary in Dubbo have now been released back into wild at Sturt National Park, NSW – this is a landmark moment after becoming extinct in NSW over a century ago.



20 Healthy Bellinger River Snapping Turtles released back into the wild. After an unknown virus wiped out 90% of their population in 2015, Taronga established a breeding program and lead a team of scientists who are working tirelessly to develop a vaccine.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

At Taronga we are happy to announce the arrival of the pitter patter of some tiny new paws! We were joined by:

Five gorgeous Oriental Small-clawed Otter pups from proud parents Jafar and Harry at Taronga Western Plains Zoo, Dubbo.

An Australian Sea Lion pup! We congratulate Nala on her pup, a little girl! She is the first female born at

the zoo in over 10 years.

Two very cute as ever Cotton Top Tamarin at Taronga Zoo Sydney.

And a special welcome to **Wanyi our Southern Hairy-nosed Wombat**. She is 11 months old now but we only just starting see her for the very first time as she has now left her mum's pouch.

When she was born, she was a tiny 1 gram in size!



Taronga's new Australian Sea Lion pup



LET'S MEET...

...our new residents **Lwazi and Ato!**

We are happy to welcome Taronga's newest residents **African lions!**

The two brothers arrived in June, all the way from Melbourne's Werribee Zoo, to their new home at Taronga's Savannah precinct. After an absence of 5 years we are excited to have lions back at

Taronga and since arriving the boys have settled in nicely with them recently celebrating their 3rd birthday.

Come and meet the Kings of the Savannah in their new habitat as they prowl, play and pose. Book online at www.taronga.org.au/buy-tickets

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