

# TALES FROM *the* WILD NEWSLETTER

Photo: Guy Dixon



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**TARONGA**  
CONSERVATION SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

*For the Wild*

# THE LITTLE AUSSIE FIGHTING EXTINCTION



**Rain, hail or shine your wonderful commitment to conservation doesn't stop. Because of you and your thoughtful support the critically endangered Corroboree Frog now stands a fighting chance.**

We have received an extraordinary \$412,690 (including a generous \$128k in matching donations) and we are so thankful for your support during these turbulent times.

Your dedicated passion for wildlife has enabled Taronga experts to travel to the Brindabella Mountain Range to release 187 critically endangered Northern Corroboree Frog eggs into specially designed artificial pools to re-establish the diminishing population.

Over the coming weeks these frogs will hatch and in three to four years we hope will successfully breed and nest. This will add a new generation of Corroboree Frogs free from the deadly disease

that has been bringing the species close to extinction.

**Your recent support of the Corroboree Frog breeding program has aided in these vital efforts to save this little Aussie species from extinction. And for that we thank you!**

Their survival would not have been possible without you, amazing Taronga supporters who show us time and time again how important it is to save native wildlife and that making a difference is possible.



Photo: Paul Fahy  
Taronga's Michael McFadden and Emma Bembrick holding containers of Corroboree frogs in the field.

## FIND OUT MORE!

Learn more about  
Corroboree Frogs with  
our Keeper Talk





# SOLVING *the* GREAT MARINE TURTLE MYSTERY

**With your wonderful support Taronga's Turtle conservation program has led to the discovery of some incredible findings, including an incredible \$124k raised!**

Back in March we reached out to you to let you know about the ground-breaking research we needed to undertake to identify important turtle habitats.

By understanding where marine turtles are setting up habitats, we can better protect this vulnerable species and their homes.

Sadly, each year, more and more marine turtles die after swallowing plastic, getting hooked on fishing line or entangled in nets.

Climate change is another huge threat with rising seas sweeping away the turtle nesting beaches and warming waters making their food sources harder to find.

Your passion and support for wildlife has enabled Taronga to continue vital conservation work so together we can protect beloved marine

turtles and their important habitats.

This includes identifying areas along the NSW coastline which may be important foraging or resting grounds for marine turtles.

This research is vital to their survival and we thank you, our incredible supporters for helping us undertake this project.

**Without thoughtful donors like yourself, we would not be able to help our wildlife in need, our Taronga team and wildlife thank you!**

## FIND OUT MORE!



Watch an amazing Marine Turtle Release by Taronga's Wildlife Hospital



*“Thank you so much for your generous contribution to Taronga's marine turtle research program. We are excitingly seeing greater numbers of marine turtles along the NSW coast, but these turtle populations are increasingly threatened by climate change, marine debris and disease. With your incredible generosity and support, we're working with our partners to understand where the turtles are feeding and resting so we can protect these habitats now and into the future.”*

**– Dr Jo Day, Research and Conservation Coordinator**

# A CHRISTMAS FOR *the* WILD!

Believe it or not, the holiday season is almost upon us. For those of us who celebrate the festive season, it can be a magical time to focus on friends, family and the joy of giving. But it can also be a season of excess, with wasted food, packaging and unwanted gifts ending up in landfill.

Follow our tips for a more sustainable Christmas, to re-focus on what really matters and help protect our wildlife and their habitats.

## DECORATIONS



Stunning decorations can really help to set the scene, but that doesn't mean they need to be wasteful.

Instead of buying new each year, dust off those old decorations and upcycle them with a new lick of paint. Opt for decorations made from recyclable or compostable materials rather than plastic. You can even create an Australian Christmas theme using natural items like branches or fallen leaves.

## FOOD



We all know the Christmas feast is arguably the main event!

Cut down on food waste by being selective with your choices. Reduce your carbon footprint by shopping for local, organic and seasonal produce. And our most important tip – eat everything! Find creative ways to use up your leftovers in a Boxing Day sandwich, or compost what's left instead of sending it to landfill.

## GIFTS



Instead of getting your loved one something they don't need, consider an experience or charitable donation. A Zoo Parent animal adoption is a fantastic way to spoil a loved one and support their favourite animal at the same time!



Warm someone's heart with a Zoo Parent adoption!

## ANIMAL ADOPTIONS

With eight animals to choose from, a Zoo Parent adoption makes the perfect gift! Your adoption supports vital conservation work and includes a personalised certificate, fact sheet and regular updates. See them all at [taronga.org.au/donate/adopt-an-animal](https://taronga.org.au/donate/adopt-an-animal)

Enjoy this special Christmas Enrichment for our little Aussie Natives at Taronga Zoo! Happy Holidays!



## UPDATE FROM THE FIELD

YOUR DONATIONS *at*  
WORK *in* SUMATRA

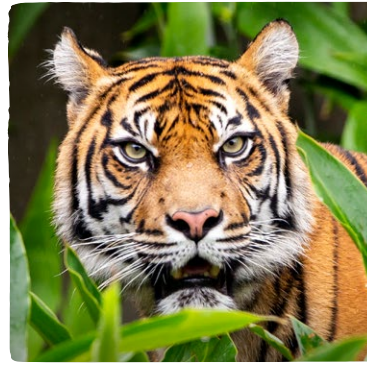
Although border closures have taken international travel off the cards for now, your support continues to fund vital conservation work on the ground in Sumatra, Indonesia. Here are just some of the recent achievements that your regular gifts make possible.

**Reforestation Way Kambas National Park**

Over the last year Taronga worked with our partners in Sumatra to plant more than 30,000 seedlings and over 15 hectares of new forest. There is evidence of more than 45 species of wildlife returning to the areas, including a Tapir and Pangolin. This work has also supported communities and employed 62 local people.

**Sumatran Rhino Survival Alliance**

Thanks to your support, Taronga's vets and scientists continue to support the global approach to Sumatran Rhino conservation. Our experts have contributed to training and research on rhino tracking, husbandry,



Watch our Sumatran Tiger Video Update here



veterinary care and reproduction. Importantly, local rangers continue to protect the forest from illegal activity and the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary is unwavering in its commitment to save the critically endangered species from extinction.

**Spotted, Sumatran Tigers in the wild!**

Last year, while Taronga was setting up Taronga TV Tiger cameras on site, your generous gifts were funding the installation of cameras in North Sumatra to monitor for wild tigers across almost 50,000 hectares of Sumatran forest. In exciting news, the camera found a wild tiger! This photo evidence will help to protect tigers and other species by strengthening forest management plans, securing additional ranger resources, and supporting community education programs. This vital work was conducted in partnership with Conservation International and the Government of Indonesia.



None of this inspiring work would be possible without the support of our generous Wildlife Defenders, who help fund long-term conservation programs with a small monthly donation.

To find out more, visit [taronga.org.au/wildlife-defender](https://taronga.org.au/wildlife-defender) or scan the QR code.

# HATCHING YOUR IDEAS FOR THE PLANET

It's easy to maintain healthy optimism for the future when we know there are people in our community who are determined to make a positive impact on the world.

Thanks to visionary Taronga supporters like yourself, we have established an accelerator program called HATCH to inspire, support and launch those innovative ideas, addressing environmental and conservation challenges.

This year, six teams are being mentored by Taronga and our network of experts across a variety of industries to take their ideas to the next level. One team will be awarded \$50,000 to take their dream even further.

**HATCH also won the Zoo and Aquarium Association Australasia 2021 Engagement Award**, recognising outstanding achievement in community engagement and is testament to the impact we can have for the planet when we all work together.

## INTRODUCING OUR INNOVATORS

**SURF SINE** – two young founders are shaking up the surfing industry by developing surfboards from sustainable materials.



**PEDAL CLUB** – a kids bicycle subscription service, addressing bike waste by providing a convenient and sustainable alternative.

**SPOTTR** – a thermal-optic drone system to dramatically boost effectiveness of wildlife protection and feral species management on a large scale.

**CARAPAC** – a plastic alternative made from crustacean shell waste that not only extends the shelf life of fresh produce but is also home compostable.



**XYLO SYSTEMS** – turbocharging threatened species management via an innovative new software platform, connecting conservation projects across the country.

**VISIBLE** – shifting consumers towards advocacy by creating new avenues for talking points, tangible benefits and visible impact for conservation causes.



Last year the winners, *Good Edi*, are bringing edible coffee cups to Australia's cafes. Who will win this year's prize?

Join our Pitch Event online on 28 October and Vote for the People's Choice Award.  
[taronga.org.au/HATCH](https://taronga.org.au/HATCH)



## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Contact Pauline at [pauline.georges@taronga.org.au](mailto:pauline.georges@taronga.org.au) if you:

- Have a brilliant idea to register for the next round
- Would like to support HATCH financially
- Would like to explore corporate support of the Program
- Have skills to mentor a team or provide expertise in your field

# MEET *the* LITTLE BIRDS LEARNING HOW *to* SING AGAIN



**The Regent Honeyeater is a beautiful black and yellow native bird that plays a crucial role in pollinating vast expanses of woodland across New South Wales and Victoria. However, with fewer than 350 adult birds left in the wild, young Regent Honeyeaters aren't learning crucial skills for future breeding success.**

Mimicry in songbirds is a useful technique which helps birds learn new skills and avoid detection by predators. Traditionally living in large flocks, young Regent Honeyeaters would have learnt how to sing from older adult males by mimicking their song. However, with population numbers

dwindling, young Regent Honeyeaters have begun mimicking other local bushbirds, resulting in incomplete or distorted mating songs.

In 2014, Taronga's keepers started noticing this behaviour in our captive-bred birds, who were beginning to pick up and mimic the songs of other birds in the area. Birds that sang incorrectly were less likely to go on to a successful coupling with female birds.

Using speakers, recordings of wild Regent Honeyeaters were piped in to the aviary where juvenile birds were being raised, helping to tutor the birds in the appropriate calls.

Keepers also discovered that by placing older Regent Honeyeaters in nearby aviaries, the young birds were more likely to learn the correct songs to mimic.

Whilst scientists are still studying this phenomena, birds who've been exposed to song tutoring have up to a 10% increased rate of survival when released back into the wild. With so few Regent Honeyeaters left, every bird that successfully makes it to breeding age is a crucial addition to the wild population.

Taronga has been leading the national recovery efforts for Regent Honeyeaters for over 20 years.

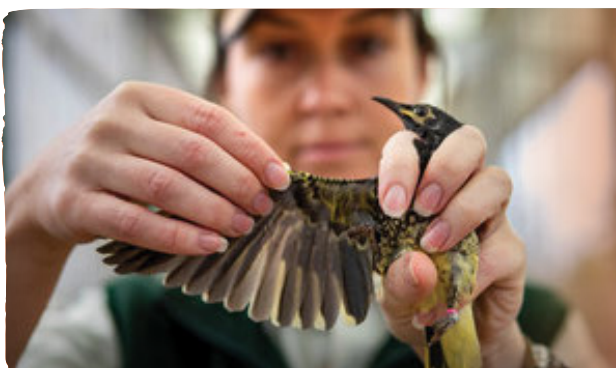
## FIND OUT MORE!



Learn more about the Regent Honeyeaters Breeding Success Story



Your support helps boost the wild population of Regent Honeyeaters through a science-based breed-for-release program and improves habitat through tree planting and restoration.



To support the National Recovery Program for the Regent Honeyeater and help boost wild populations of this beautiful bird species, scan the QR code.

# JOIN TEAM TARONGA!

Show your **suppawt** for Taronga's conservation programs by becoming a member of **Team Taronga**.

This exciting new fundraising platform allows you to create your own personalised fundraising page to share with friends and family across the world.

Every dollar you raise will enable Taronga to protect wildlife at risk of extinction.

Whether it's fundraising for your birthday, gearing up for a challenge, kicking a habit or holding an online trivia competition, the

options for how you can fundraise are endless! We're here to help you be a **roaring** success with a range of resources and unique incentives to help you meet your goals.

It's thanks to the efforts of wonderful fundraisers like you that Taronga can continue to breed threatened species, conduct scientific research and support vital wildlife conservation programs both locally and across the globe.

So earn your **stripes**, and let's get fundraising -

**JOIN TEAM TARONGA TODAY!**



Join Team Taronga today for your chance to win a **WILD** day at the Zoo



## GET STARTED!

To kickstart this exciting new program, the first fifty Team Taronga members who sign up and raise \$1,000 **by the 31st October 2021**, will go into the draw to win a **WILD** day out at Taronga. This unique experience will provide you and 3 friends with all day entry to Taronga Zoo Sydney and an exclusive 'Behind the Scenes' where you will have the opportunity to either feed a giraffe, come face to face with a snake or meet our seals. Learn first-hand from our knowledgeable keepers how your fundraising efforts are ensuring a safe future for wildlife.



Scan the QR code or visit [www.teamtaronga.org.au](http://www.teamtaronga.org.au)



# DID YOU HEAR *the* SCOOP?

Remember as a kid rushing to your local corner store to get your favourite ice cream? There was no better part of the day. You can now re-live those days guilt free by knowing you are supporting a worthy cause for wildlife!

Old time favourite Peters Ice Cream have committed to supporting our Legacy Species Program and you can help by simply eating ice cream! Yum!! There has never been a more satisfying way to help our wildlife!

One of the most iconic Legacy species is the Aussie Platypus. These little battlers are facing threats such as habitat loss from the ongoing effects of climate change with severe and prolonged droughts as well as bushfires.

**Peters has committed to saving the Platypus by donating 20c for every Proud & Punch ice cream sold at both Taronga Zoo Sydney and Taronga Western Plains Zoo Dubbo.**

That is one very taste-tastic way for you to help our wildlife in need!

We can't wait to welcome you through our doors once again soon. What better way to enjoy an ice cream whilst helping save a species!



Did you know you can also adopt our platypus? By choosing to become a Zoo Parent you can help save a species in need today.



# HOW GIFTS *in* WILLS CAN HELP FUTURE-PROOF AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

**Taronga's scientists are working hard to help wildlife but saving species from extinction takes many years to accomplish – that's why we're asking for your help in the battle against climate change.**

When the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its latest assessment on the 9th of August 2021, it went viral; with the findings being touted as a 'red alert for humanity'. Since then, the news has been filled with reports on record flooding, bushfires, and other natural disasters being experienced all around the world.

Faced with such dire headlines, it can be easy to feel overwhelmed and paralysed by climate grief. However, there's one simple way in which you can help and ensure that your legacy is protecting wildlife. Have you considered supporting Taronga through a gift in your Will?

Even 1 % of your estate can make an enormous difference to wildlife, and your loved ones still get 99 %!

Knowing that we have funds pledged long into the future through gifts in Wills, gives us the confidence to commit to the essential long-term work that is required to turn things around for wildlife under threat.

Taronga is committed to several long-term wildlife recovery programs, but this work often takes upwards of 10 years. It's only thanks to the support of caring people like you that we're able to tackle this work and ensure a future where wildlife can flourish.

**Interested in leaving a gift in your Will? Please contact Dee at [dee.vodden@taronga.org.au](mailto:dee.vodden@taronga.org.au) for more information**

## MESSAGE *to* OUR BELOVED FRIENDS *of* THE FUTURE

To our dear Friends, I hope you and your family are staying safe and well. It has been a difficult and hard time for many with our ongoing lockdowns and we appreciate your ongoing support in this tough period. I hope to see you all again soon and look forward to planning our next catch up when the zoo reopens.

Stay safe.

– Dee Vodden, Gifts in Wills Officer



# WHY I SUPPORT TARONGA

## WAVIE WOODWARD

*“I just love all animals and I can’t stand the thought of people being cruel to them. That’s why I’ve chosen to include a gift to Taronga in my Will.*

*Animals are always pleased to see you - there’s nothing like the wag of a little tail! I don’t remember much these days, but I do remember seeing something on the television once where people were cruel to animals and it just made me so mad. I’ve never forgotten that.*

*Though I’ve never been able to travel overseas, I feel very lucky to have seen kangaroos, dolphins, whales and more in Australia. I used to love visiting Taronga Zoo with my dear sister when we were young; she’s no longer with us now, but how we loved Taronga Zoo! I’ve always just thought all animals are beautiful.*

*That’s why I’ve chosen to leave a gift in my Will. For my love of animals. So others can love them like I do. And so that Taronga can care for them and protect them from cruelty. To anyone else who’s thinking of including Taronga in their Will, I’d say it’s a very good thing to do. That’s one place you can always rely on for the animals.”*



## HEARTFELT THANKS TO *the* FOLLOWING SUPPORTERS

**We pay our respects and are deeply grateful to the following supporters 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 Laraine McDermott**
- **The late Terrence Reynolds**

# NEWS FROM *the* ZOO



## With great excitement we are proud to announce the birth of five new baby lion cubs!

On 12th August we welcomed two male and three female cubs to mum Maya and first-time dad Ato. Maya's and Ato's romance began in October 2020 when Maya joined us from Taronga's Western Plain Zoo.

After meeting both brothers Ato and Lwazi, Maya quickly had eyes only for Ato. The pair bonded almost immediately and have now welcomed five adorable cubs to their pride.

And on an extra special note the cubs happened to be born on Ato's birthday, awww. Five cubs on your birthday is a big thing for a young, first time Dad!

Not only are these little cubs cute, their birth plays an important role in the conservation story for the future of African Lions. As our population grows, inevitably so do the impacts of human-lion conflict. Maya's and Ato's wild cousins face ongoing threats such as poaching and habitat loss.

Get a sneak peek of the adorable cubs here!



Today, African Lions are classified as vulnerable on the IUCN species extinction list.

You can watch the cubs everyday for a small donation towards vital lion conservation when you scan the QR code or at [www.taronga.org.au/cubcam](http://www.taronga.org.au/cubcam).

We are overjoyed to welcome these adorable cubs at Taronga and we eagerly await for our doors to reopen so you can meet these gorgeous bundles of joy and enjoy the cuteness overload!



**Taronga Conservation Society Australia**

**A** 2A Bradleys Head Road (PO Box 20), Mosman NSW 2088

**T** 1300 369 116 **E** [supporter@taronga.org.au](mailto:supporter@taronga.org.au) **W** [taronga.org.au](http://taronga.org.au)

ABN 41 733 619 876

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