




SUMMER 2025

TALES FROM *the* WILD NEWSLETTER

THE IMPACT *of* YOUR SUPPORT:

-  Your support helps continue critical research for Koala conservation work.
-  Vital breed-for-release projects for endangered wildlife are ongoing because of you.
-  You are helping injured and sick wildlife receive critical care at Taronga Wildlife Hospital.

 TARONGA
FOUNDATION.
For the Wild

A MASSIVE THANKS TO YOU!

I'm absolutely delighted to share Summer edition of Tales from the Wild with you.

Each and every story in this newsletter has only been made possible with your incredible support!

It's rare people like you, who have so much passion and love for wildlife. Thank you for being a real hero to protect our precious wildlife.

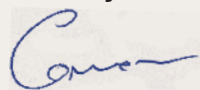
Not many people can say they've helped to save wildlife from extinction, but YOU are one of those very special people.

Not many people can say they've helped to save and treat 50,000+ injured animals before returning them to the wild, but YOU are one of those people.

Through funding breed-for-release programs and wildlife research and monitoring projects, it's YOU who is making all these achievements possible.

Thank you for caring so deeply for precious wildlife.

Sincerely,



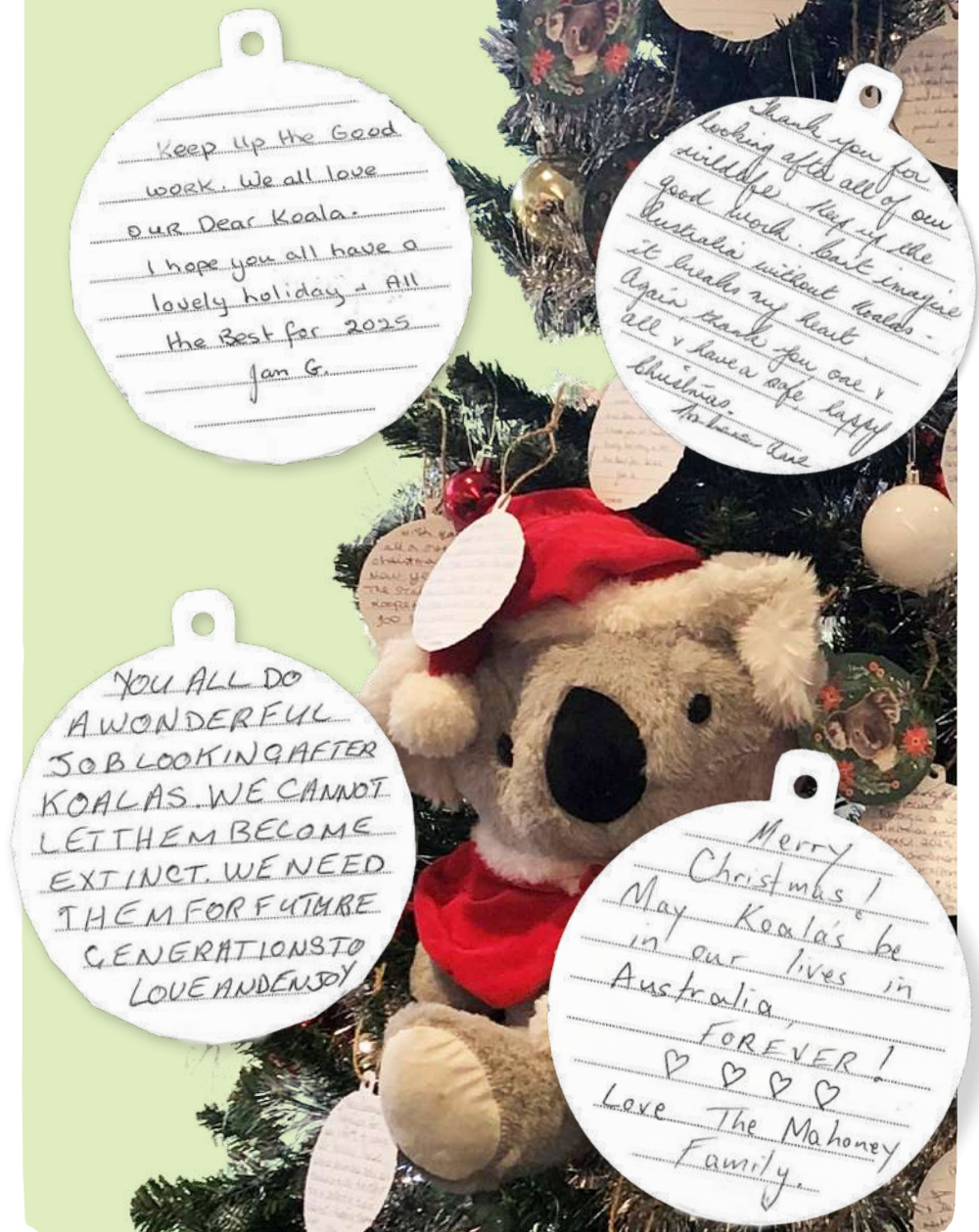
Cameron Kerr AO
Chief Executive



A SPECIAL THANKS FOR YOUR MESSAGES FOR THE KOALA CONSERVATION PROJECT.

The Koala Conservation Team were delighted to read your wonderful messages, and send you their deepest appreciation.

These baubles were on proud display at the Taronga office.



THANKS TO YOU, THE KOALA CONSERVATION PROJECT CONTINUES!



A Koala being released back into the wild, with GPS tracking to help learn about their movements and behaviours.

A massive thank you from the Koala team! Your generous support means Taronga teams are able to continue vital research on Koalas in NSW to help rejuvenate Koala populations.

With planning now in full swing to go back onto the field early this year. The team are so

grateful to you for your support to fund incredibly important Koala research that will pave the way for conservation action!

Equipped with specialised thermal imaging drones and GPS Collars, the Taronga team will be going deep into bushlands, overnight to track and study Koala populations.



A Koala joey receiving a health check by Taronga Staff.

THE IMMENSE IMPACT *of* YOUR GENEROSITY

A Baby Southern Black Rhino calf born because of your support!

Southern Black Rhinoceros Mesi gave birth to a healthy male calf late on Saturday 24 August 2024 at Taronga Western Plains Zoo, Dubbo.

Unfortunately, this species like all Rhinos, continue to be poached for their keratin horn, even though it's been proven to have no benefit for humans.

Sadly from a half a million at the beginning of the 20th century, only an estimated 27,000 remain in the wild today.

Taronga has the largest and only breeding facility in the Southern hemisphere of the critically endangered Southern Black Rhino.

Using innovative IVF techniques, the birth of a male calf is a welcome addition to establishing an insurance population of this important species.



Another flock of Regent Honeyeaters released into the wild.

Thanks to your support, Taronga alongside conservation partners have been implementing a successful breed-for-release program. Releasing over 200 Regent Honeyeaters back into the wild!

These strikingly beautiful yellow and black birds once were spread across all Australia. Sadly, there's only an estimated 250 Regent Honeyeaters left in the wild.

[Read more on page 8.](#)



After 100 years, the Greater Bilby and Chuditch return to the wild in Sturt National Park!

After 100 years absence, Greater Bilbies and Chuditch have returned to Sturt National Park in NSW.

In a collaboration between Taronga and conservation

partners, this is a huge step toward helping rejuvenate populations of both of these much-loved Australian species.



Southern Corroboree Frogs now waking up from Winter cooling!

The insurance population of Southern Corroboree Frogs at Taronga are now waking up from their winter cooling.

This is where the team carefully drop the temperature down 4-5 degrees during winter months to simulate the wild conditions of Kosciuszko National Park when the frogs

would normally bunker down beneath snow.

Giving them this seasonal temperature cycle is important for the breeding season.

The frogs are now very active and feeding again! Each successful breeding season is a massive step in helping to replenish their wild populations.





**TARONGA
WILDLIFE
HOSPITAL**

You will not believe what this Laughing Kookaburra swallowed!



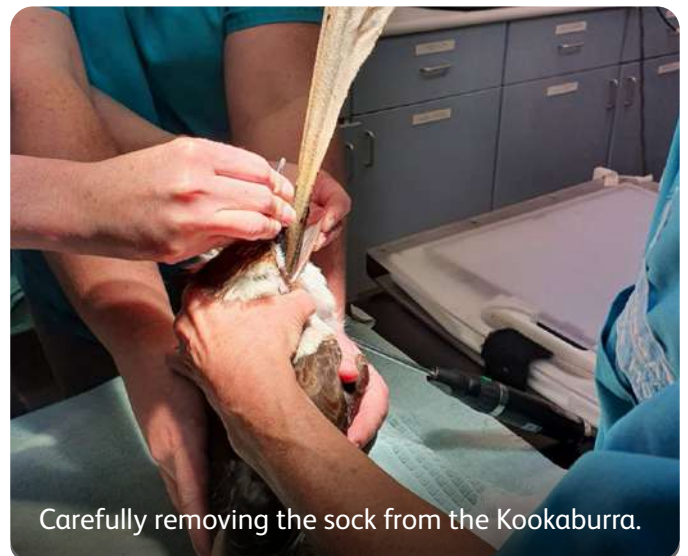
THANKS TO YOU THIS LAUGHING KOOKABURRA IS BACK IN THE WILD!



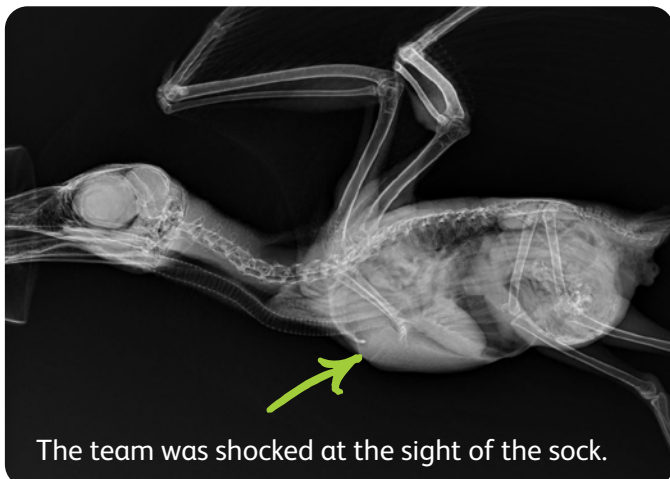
This Laughing Kookaburra was rescued and brought into our Taronga Wildlife Hospital by a WIRES volunteer after being found unusually quiet on the ground in a residential backyard.

Taronga Wildlife Hospital staff found the Kookaburra was generally in good body condition but had laboured breathing, and on first assessment couldn't determine what was wrong, but noticed a foul smell coming from its mouth.

Under general anaesthetic, the Kookaburra was x-rayed, but imaging showed no obvious obstructions, only a faint tube-like outline extending from the oesophagus.



Carefully removing the sock from the Kookaburra.



The team was shocked at the sight of the sock.

Furthering the investigation while still under anaesthetic, the Taronga veterinary team located an object deep within the oesophagus and removed it with forceps – which turned out to be an adult ankle sock! This was a first for the team!

After spending a week receiving some much needed TLC from the expert veterinary team at Taronga, the Kookaburra was feeding well and exhibiting optimum health.

It was then released back to the wild where it was found.

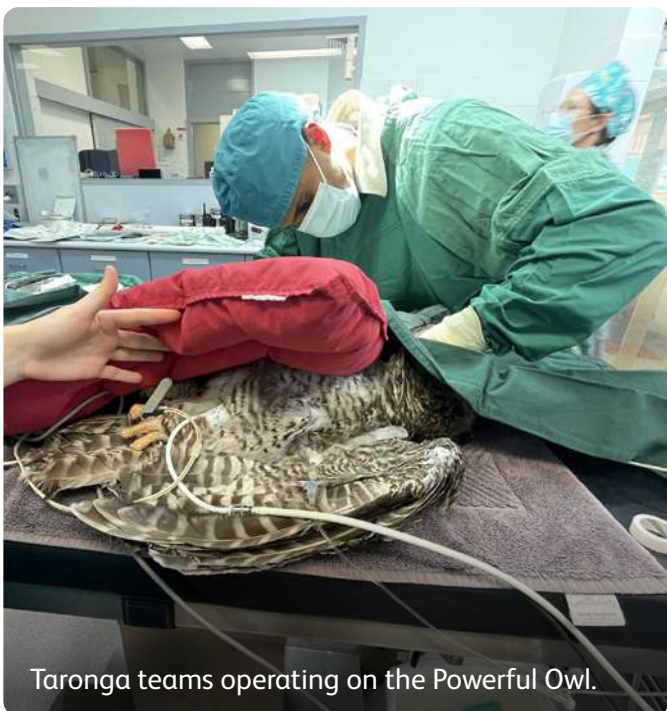
THIS POWERFUL OWL IS ON THE MEND **BECAUSE OF YOU!**



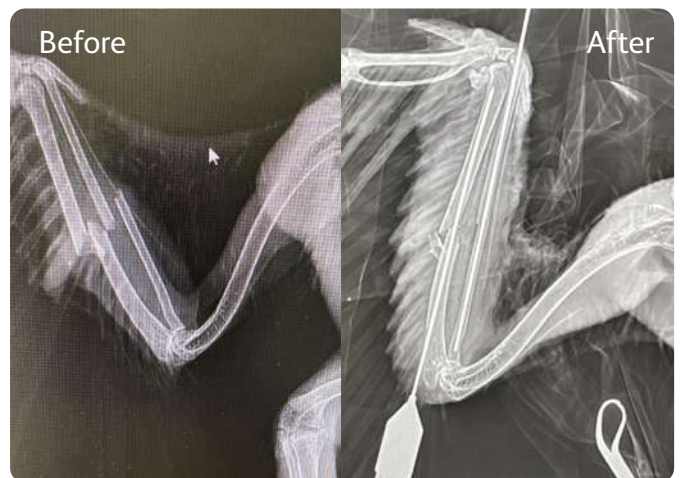
Did you know that the Powerful Owl is the largest of Australian owls?

This Powerful Owl was rescued by Hunter Wildlife Rescue after it had reportedly been hit by a car.

Found on the side of the road with a drooping right wing and unable to fly, the Owl was first taken to Elder Street Vets in Lambton where x-rays revealed it had two significant fractures in its right wing.



Taronga teams operating on the Powerful Owl.



The Owl was then brought to Taronga Wildlife Hospital for treatment.

Across a three hour surgery, Taronga Vets Kresen and Frances and Vet Nurses Liz and Chelsea carefully placed pins in the Owl's wing – similar to pins that humans get when repairing fractures, these help to hold broken bones together and stabilise it until it heals

While the fracture heals, the Powerful Owl will continue to be cared for by our expert veterinary team and placed on confined rest for up to six weeks before receiving physio and having movement reintroduced.

49 MORE REGENT HONEYEATERS RELEASED INTO THE WILD!



Once seen in flocks of hundreds across south-eastern mainland Australia from eastern Queensland to South Australia, the Regent Honeyeaters song could be heard far and wide. Unfortunately, due to habitat loss the population declined to an estimated 250 in the wild.

As a flagship species in Victoria and NSW, these beautiful Australian birds play a big part in the natural ecosystem, pollinating our iconic eucalyptus trees which serve as a vital food source and habitat for many of our precious native species.

Now on the edge of extinction, every effort is being taken by the teams here at Taronga to not only save this species, but also the delicate and unique ecosystem we live in.

Your support has helped Taronga alongside conservation partners create a long-term conservation research and breed-for release program, along with habitat restoration initiatives planting over 30,000 trees in the Capertee Valley in NSW.

The program started in 1995 and has been a massive journey to finding how to give these birds the best chance of survival once released in the wild! Studies found that Regent Honeyeaters need to learn wild Regent Honeyeater song to thrive!



Inspecting one of the Regent Honeyeaters in the breed-for release program.

Yes, that's right! Juvenile Regent Honey eaters need to be taught by an older "Tutor" how to sing the right call in the wild. Taronga research revealed that the best method was to have a mix of playback recordings, alongside live lessons to learn the song of the wild!

Studies also found that it was best to have a low student to teacher ratio as the little birds were a bit distracted if the class was too big.

Recently, 49 Regent Honeyeaters were released into the wild in the Lower Hunter! This is another step to helping these gorgeous birds thrive in the wild once more!

YOU'VE HELPED FUND A WORLD-FIRST RESEARCH PROGRAM FOR THE PLATYPUS.



It was a massive year for making conservation progress for the Platypus in 2024. Because of your support, a world-first research program to save the Platypus has officially kicked off at the newly opened Platypus Rescue HQ in Dubbo!

So far, four new Platypuses have passed their health checks and are now settling into the research facility, where the males and females will be introduced in the coming weeks.

The new arrivals will give scientists a unique opportunity to study Platypus breeding behaviour and biology, and improve the conservation of this beloved species – before it's too late!

The research program, a collaboration between Taronga, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance and the University of NSW, will combine ex-situ monitoring and wild population field work to refine the conservation strategy for the Platypus.

By understanding how this vulnerable and elusive monotreme is responding to environmental stressors like climate change, Taronga can identify interventions required to protect this iconic animal's future.

We look forward to continuing to give you updates on the progress of the research and breeding program in 2025.



Tanks now at Dubbo used for wild Platypus rescues.

Did you know?

Platypus Rescue HQ was opened as a response to the Black Summer bushfires. The research and rescue facility is the size of a football field, and is ready to take up to 65 Platypus in need of rescue from drought, floods or bushfires.

It is built to mimic the natural habitat of the Platypus, ensuring that they can recover and be safely released back into the wild!

DECLARED EXTINCT TO BREEDING AND THRIVING!



An adult Norfolk island snail and babies part of the breeding program.

Once thought to be extinct in the 1800's this shy and small Norfolk Island land snail known as *Advena Campbellii*, recently was rediscovered in 2020. Predation by introduced rats and chickens, alongside habitat loss and climate change has made it very difficult for these snails to thrive.

After discovering a small surviving population, Taronga in collaboration with conservation partners collected a few snails to create a rigorous research and insurance population breeding program, with the goal of completing essential research to understanding these elusive invertebrates, how they breed, their behaviours, how they eat and their longevity.

Although it took a while to learn how to help them thrive and give them the exact right conditions, the breeding program has been wildly effective with now around 600 snails bred as an insurance population.

Something fascinating about these tiny snails is that they give birth from their necks! To fully formed baby snails!

Snails might not be cute to everyone, and may not seem like something worth protecting but these amazing creatures play their unique and essential part in maintaining the ecosystem on Norfolk Island. **Thank you for caring for all wildlife, big and small!**



Taronga team member looking after the insurance population.



Snail tanks containing Norfolk Island land snails.



THE ANNUAL
Friends of the Future
 CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON 2024



How wonderful to spend time with friends – especially friends with so much in common! With a deep love for wildlife!

We always are delighted to see our wonderful supporters who have generously chosen to include a gift in their Will to Taronga.

These are friends dear to our hearts, who share our vision for a future where wildlife and people can thrive together.

The annual luncheon is a much looked forward to event in the calendar and is held in Sydney and Dubbo.

It was a great opportunity to celebrate all the many wins in conservations that's been possible thanks to the generosity of our supporters. And most of all, it was a chance for

us to say 'Thank you' for choosing to include Taronga in your Will and leave a lasting legacy for wildlife and conservation.

Gifts in Wills help Taronga plan ambitious and innovative conservation programs that can change the future of critically threatened species. They allow for long term and sustainable work that can have a true impact for the wildlife that are at risk of extinction.

Did you know? A small percentage – even as little as 1 % – of your estate, after loved ones and friends are cared for, can make an enormous difference to save wildlife from extinction. It is a wonderful legacy for future generations to come.

If you'd like more information, please email: bequest@taronga.org.au



RESCUE | RESTORE | REWILD | RESEARCH

Thank you for your passion and support for the conservation of critically endangered species.

You are helping make a real difference to protect wildlife.



*Thank you for
caring so deeply for
precious wildlife!*

Taronga Foundation

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