

AUTUMN 2024

TALES FROM *the* WILD NEWSLETTER

THE IMPACT *of* YOUR SUPPORT:

- 🐾 How you're helping to save the Koala from extinction
- 🐾 The species escaping extinction, thanks to you!
- 🐾 A centuries old technique saves the life of a Wedge Tailed-eagle
- 🐾 A world-first reproductive treatment is used to save the endangered Southern Black Rhino
- 🐾 How your love for the wild can live on

TARONGA 
CONSERVATION SOCIETY AUSTRALIA.

For the Wild

THANK YOU!

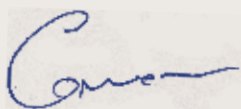
I am delighted to share this newsletter with you because it's such a joyous celebration of everything that you make possible.

All the achievements in this report – all these wonderful wins for wildlife – are thanks to you and our amazing community of supporters. I am inspired by your passion, and grateful for your dedication and love for the wild.

You are making your presence felt, as you help to save the most threatened and endangered species. You are rescuing, saving and releasing some of our most beloved wildlife. Your support further helps Taronga researchers gather data to ensure conservation decisions are data-led and evidence-based.

Thank you for being a deeply valued Taronga supporter, and someone who believes in the importance of conservation for a shared future for wildlife and people. I am grateful to be able to count on your support.

For the wild!

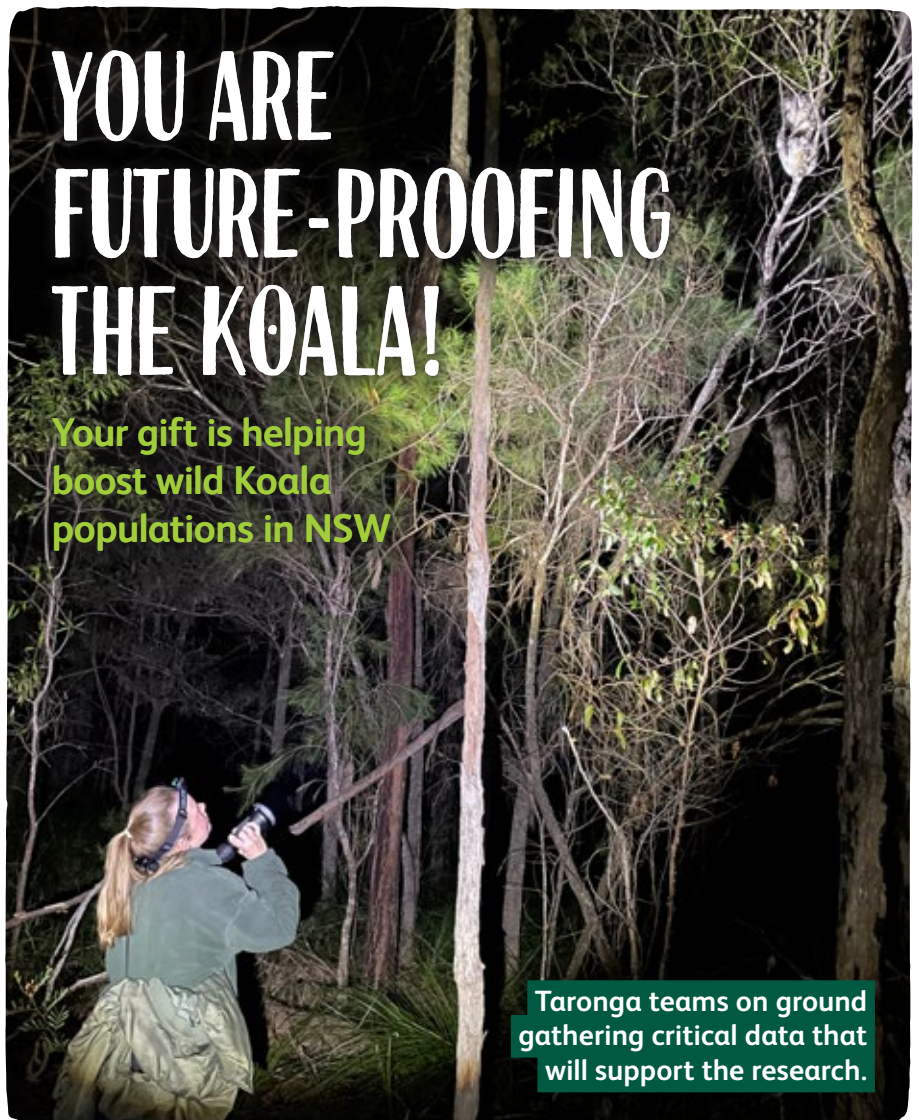


Cameron Kerr AO
Chief Executive



YOU ARE FUTURE-PROOFING THE KOALA!

Your gift is helping
boost wild Koala
populations in NSW



Taronga teams on ground gathering critical data that will support the research.

Sadly, Koalas are facing a threat of extinction by 2050 in NSW, brought on by the devastating 2019/2020 bushfires.

Over 60,000 Koalas were impacted by the bushfires, more than a third in NSW alone. Together with our conservation partners, Taronga's Koala Conservation Project aims to boost wild Koala populations around NSW with a groundbreaking breed-for-release strategy.

Thanks to you, thermal imaging drones will be able to find wild Koalas to determine the most suitable habitats for release. Valuable information will be gained from these surveys to learn more about why Koalas choose to populate that area and disease that may be affecting the current population.

Teams are currently in the critical research phase of the five year project. Breeding and research has been going well, thanks to you, and now we're onto the next phase, with teams going out to two of the project sites to complete drone population monitoring. This in-depth level of research provides critical information for Taronga teams to monitor and assess the released populations.

Thank you for being part of this world-first project to save the Koala.

It's exciting to watch as the project continues to develop – every step taken is a step closer to saving the Koala.

The introduction of new Australian bred Rhinos will help improve the genetic diversity and strength of the African Rhino populations – deemed critically endangered.

Mum Kufara pictured with baby Matobo, born in Dubbo, NSW.



BABY MATOBO IS THRIVING – THANKS TO YOU!

Groundbreaking reproductive success for the Southern Black Rhino breeding program.



Because of your support, Matobo will grow up to help save his species from extinction.

Little Matobo is a bit of a big deal. He was born in Taronga Western Plains Zoo Dubbo using a world-first reproductive treatment. His very existence is a symbol of hope for this critically-endangered species.

Taronga has the largest breeding program for Black Rhino conservation outside mainland Africa, right here in Dubbo, NSW.

As a founding member of the International Rhino Foundation, Taronga is firmly committed to saving this majestic species from extinction.

Your support is providing a new hope for the future of this critical species – thanks to your generosity, the Southern Black Rhino breeding program is delivering new advancements in reproductive research and helping conservation breeding efforts.

Matobo is already one year old

now and weighs over 500 kilos. As he continues to grow and thrive, thanks to your support, for Taronga vets and experts – with vast quantities of sweet potato, carrots and bananas – Matobo is likely to tip the scales at 1,400 kilos as an adult.

Thanks to you, 'little' Matobo has a big future ahead of him – and a huge role to play in the survival of Black Rhinos.

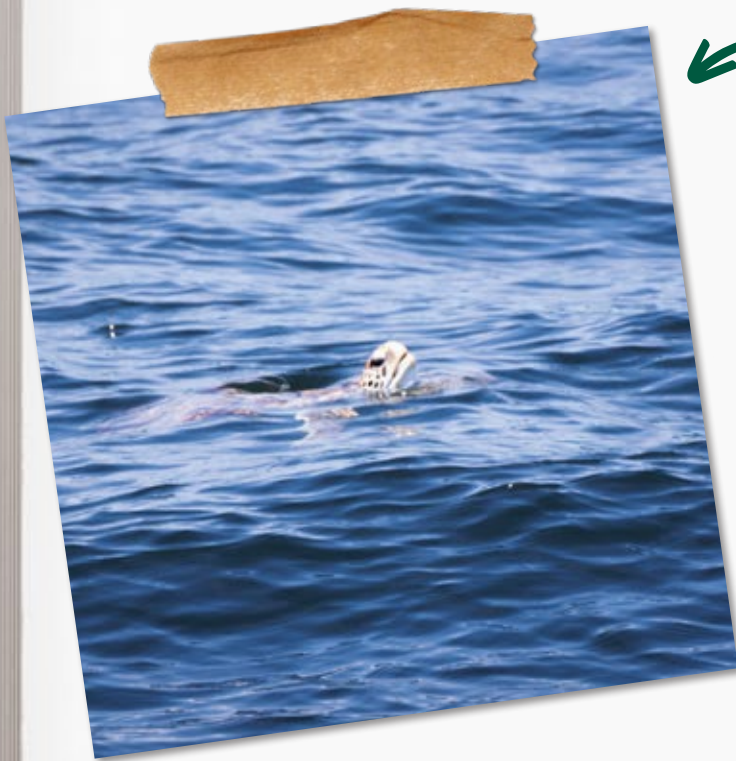


**TARONGA
WILDLIFE
HOSPITAL**

YOUR SUPPORT IS HELPING SICK & INJURED NATIVE ANIMALS!

Turtles missing fins, injured Echidnas, orphaned Koalas and sick Platypus; these are just a few of the native Australian wildlife that come into Taronga's Wildlife Hospitals in Sydney and Dubbo every day.

Your support has helped provide immediate medical care, surgery, rehab and recovery and release back to the wild.



TURTLE 'TAMA' RELEASED BACK INTO THE WILD

Tama was found in a rockpool at Tamarama Beach in Bondi, and was missing a right flipper, some of its back left flipper and has a piece of shell missing indicating it had sustained a bite.

Tama was also found to have a stomach full of plastic. After a stay at the hospital, and now weighing 11.9kg, Tama was released back to the wild in December last year.

TILLY THE PLATYPUS →

The baby Platypus was only four months old and weighed 280 grams.

She was weak, severely malnourished and covered in ticks, which compromised her waterproofing and made it difficult for her to swim and survive on her own.

For two months straight, the dedicated team hand-fed her six times a day! Tilly is making tremendous progress and you can visit her in Nguring Nura at Taronga Zoo Sydney.



SMUDGE THE ECHIDNA

Smudge came into the Hospital as a severely underweight Echidna who had been flung out of his mothers pouch following a road accident.

Smudge received medical care and had to be hand fed daily to ensure he was gaining strength and growing. After a long period of recovery, Smudge was released into the wild.



EASTERN LONG-NECKED TURTLE

Brought into the Dubbo Hospital by a member of the public, this turtle was suffering several shell fractures and was in great pain.

The vet team treated the fractures, gave antibiotics and pain relief and nursed the turtle back to health over 11 weeks. Once fully recovered she was released close to the Macquarie River where she was originally found.



WEDGE TAILED-EAGLE

Rushed in with a broken wing, several damaged feathers, underweight and unable to fly.

Specialist vets performed a technique called 'Imping' which attaches feathers using glue and wooden dowel to the wing.

The surgery super-accelerated the bird's recovery, and was followed by regular care with food, fluids and pain relief. After x-rays confirmed the bone was healing well, the Eagle was returned to the wild.



LONG-NOSED FUR SEAL

This 10-month-old Long-nosed Fur Seal was found washed up on Newport Beach.

She was found to be anaemic and had evidence of small shark bites. After a month of expert treatment, her wounds healed and she was released back into the wild.

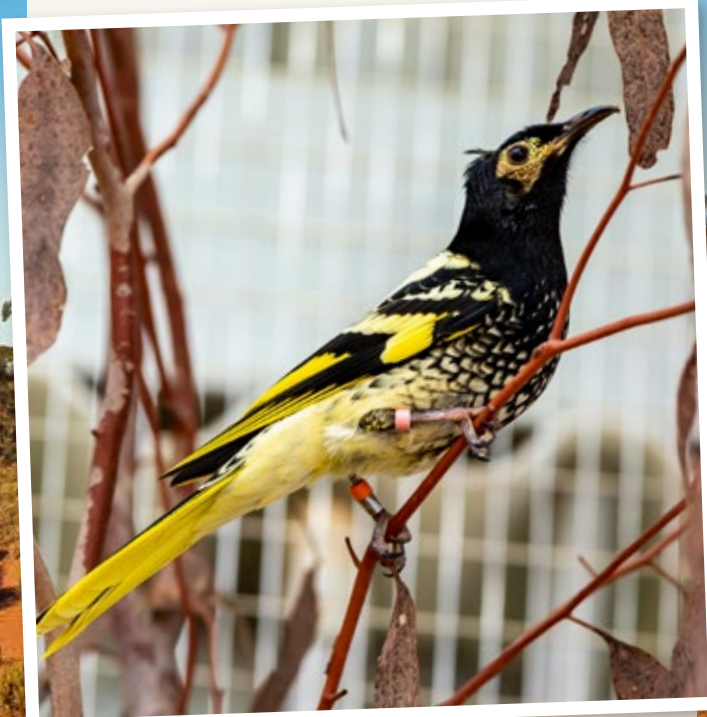


THE IMMENSE IMPACT *of* YOUR GENEROSITY

YOU'VE HELPED RELEASE 45 REGENT HONEYEATERS

Only 250 Regent Honeyeaters remain in the wild – a devastating statistic when you think that these beautiful birds were once widespread all across Australia.

- Taronga commenced recovery efforts in 2019.
- A total of 45 Regent Honeyeaters have been released back into the wild since 2021.
- In 2023, 41 chicks were born to 9 breeding pairs, bringing total up to 107 chicks across 3 breeding seasons.



Once a species is extinct, it's gone forever.

Your support provides critical work on ground for breed for release conservation programs, that's helping save endangered species, boost populations and ensure wildlife can survive and thrive in the wild.



YOU'VE HELPED SAVE 136 GREATER BILBIES – AND COUNTING

The Greater Bilby was presumed extinct in NSW for more than 100 years. Taronga has led the work for the breed for release program of Bilbies in the 110 hectare sanctuary at Taronga Western Plains in Dubbo, NSW.

We recently checked up on them – a difficult task for an elusive breed! Over four nights, Dubbo and Sydney teams identified, microchipped and health-checked 81 Bilbies, including 55 that had not been found before – a success for breeding.

Today the sanctuary is home to 136 Bilbies, an amazing achievement that points to a strong future for this endangered species.

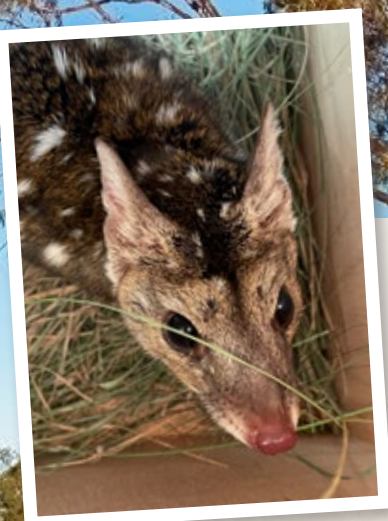




YOU'VE HELPED BREED 17 PLAINS-WANDERER CHICKS

The numbers of Plains-wanderers have declined by more than 90 percent since 2001, and now only 2,500 remain in the wild.

In the past year, 12 birds successfully bred at Taronga were released onto farmland near Hay in NSW, and 17 new chicks were born at Taronga. **The future is looking bright for this unique bird – thanks to you!**



11 CHUDITCH JOEYS READY FOR RELEASE – THANKS TO YOU!

This was the second year of a successful breeding program at Taronga Western Plains Zoo for the endangered Chuditch, also called the Western Quoll.

To date 37 joeys have been bred at Taronga with the intention to release them into the wild. A further 11 genetically strong Chuditch were released into the Mt Gibson Wildlife Sanctuary, a 130,000 hectare nature reserve in Western Australia.

A BIG BOOST FOR TINY FROGS

The future of three critically endangered tiny frog species is looking brighter with success in Booroolong, Northern Corroboree and Southern Corroboree amphibian breeding programs. Taronga's breeding programs are designed to boost insurance populations that can be released into the wild.

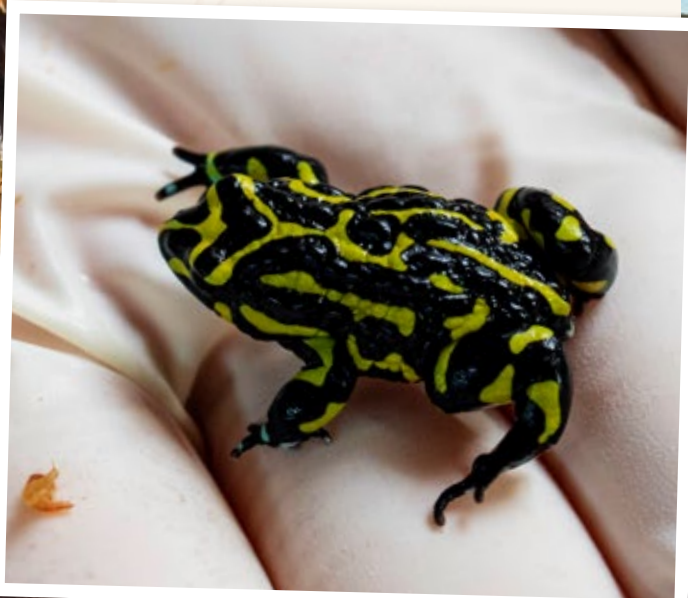
The programs have bred:

- 270 Northern Corroboree Frogs, bringing the Zoo's insurance population to approximately 600. There are an estimated 1,200 mature adults in the wild.
- 20 Southern Corroboree Frogs, bringing the insurance population to approximately 400. There are an estimated 50 mature adults in the wild.
- Hundreds of Booroolong Frogs. There is not an exact estimate as their numbers fluctuate in the wild, however we know they have disappeared from approximately 50 percent of their former habitat.

Further releases for all three species are planned for the first half of the year.

These breeding programs play a crucial role in the survival of some of our state's most threatened species that are facing a multitude of threats in the wild.

They might be tiny, but these frogs represent a better future for the survival and recovery of these species.



WELCOME TO THE WORLD, LITTLE EVE!



We are so excited to announce a little female Long-nosed Fur Seal pup was born on Christmas Eve to mum Keke, just as her one-year-old pup Kobe was prepping for his debut in our much-loved Seals for the Wild presentation, powered by Red Energy!

Keke and the newborn pup are doing well behind-the-scenes, bonding, suckling and snoozing.

Whilst Keke and Eve are having

swimming lessons behind-the-scenes, you can catch Taronga's other Seals at one of our daily Seals For The Wild presentations – you might even see Kobe showing off his new skills!

Taronga is proud to have had Red Energy as a Principal Partner since 2019. Since March last year, both Taronga Zoo and Taronga Western Plains Zoo have been powered by 100% renewable electricity.

The switch to renewables means the equipment the Wildlife Hospital teams use to treat injured wildlife, the pump that reuses water for Seal enrichment, and the heat lamps that our primates like to bask in, are all now powered by renewable electricity.

And even more importantly, clean energy is a step towards helping secure a future for all animals.



Your electricity bill has the power to protect wildlife with the **Red Wildlife Saver plan**.

When you switch your residential electricity to a Red Wildlife Saver plan, Red Energy will contribute \$5 every month to Taronga*.

Plus the plan comes with a renewable matching promise, which means for every unit of electricity you buy from Red Energy, Snow Hydro Limited will match it by generating one unit of electricity from a renewable source. Funds raised from this product will support vital conservation work.

Learn more at redenergy.com.au

*Eligibility criteria and conditions apply. Fact Sheets and Basic Plan Information Documents available at redenergy.com.au/bpid



FIGHTING *the* ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE - YOUR IMPACT



Dr Phoebe Meagher together with Taronga teams work with federal police to stop the illegal trafficking of Australian wildlife.

Every week, we receive packages from federal authorities. They might look like boxes of chocolates, or printers, or stuffed toys.

But hidden inside, bound and suffocated, are native Australian wildlife.

Just recently we received another package containing lizards. Illegal trafficking and wildlife crime is fast becoming a threat for many of our native species. Unique Australian animals that are not found in other parts of

the world and who are already at risk of extinction following the devastating bushfires and continuous weather patterns that threatens Australian wildlife.

For example, a single poaching event could drive the critically endangered Pygmy Blue Tail Lizard to go extinct in the wild.

With your help, Taronga teams test the quills or scales on a rescued animal and find out where they came from. To identify if they are wild, or if they

were bred in an illegal facility. (Traffickers often falsely claim an animal is a pet, not wild).

This data helps provide evidence in a Court of Law to catch the criminals. Teams also provide medical care for trafficked animals.

MESSAGES *of* SUPPORT:



Dear Dr Phoebe and team,

TARONGA
CONSERVATION SOCIETY AUSTRALIA
For the Wild

To ALL OF YOU WONDERFUL AND CARING PEOPLE
HOPEFULLY OUR PRECIOUS WILDLIFE WILL HAVE
A CHANCE OF SURVIVAL WE ALL NEED TO DO MORE
WE CANNOT ALWAYS TAKE AND NOT GIVE BACK TO
ALL OUR ANIMALS, NO MATTER HOW HARD TIMES ARE
I WILL ALWAYS DONATE TO YOUR CAUSE ♡ J.P.

Dear Dr Phoebe and team,

TARONGA
CONSERVATION SOCIETY AUSTRALIA
For the Wild

The work Dr PHOEBE +
the TEAM IS doing is extremely
important. Anyone who loves
animals will be heartbroken at
the sight of these tortured
creatures. PLEASE keep up -the
AMAZING work. LINDA P. ♡

In January this year, Taronga teams helped federal police as \$1.2 million worth of native lizards and reptiles were seized and three criminals apprehended.



The Annual Friends of the Future Christmas Luncheon

How wonderful to spend time with friends – especially friends with so much in common!

We always love to see our Friends of the Future – supporters who have chosen to include a gift in their Will to Taronga to give wildlife a better future. These are friends dear to our hearts, who share our vision for a future where wildlife and people can thrive together.

We held the Friends of the Future annual luncheon last December. As always, it was a great opportunity to celebrate all the many achievements made possible through their generosity. And most of all, it was a chance for us to thank our Friends for their vision and determination.

By leaving a gift in their Will, Friends of the Future allow us to be ambitious on behalf of wildlife, through long-term and long-range programs that change the future of wildlife around the world.

As one of our Friends of the Future shared with me, “I always feel that it’s a special day. It feels lovely to sit in a room full of like-minded people who love animals so much.”

Sincerely,

Victoria

Victoria Bradd
Gifts in Wills
Relationship Manager



LET YOUR LOVE *of* WILDLIFE LIVE ON

Many of our supporters want to make sure the wildlife they love, will live on into the future.

Some want to make sure their grand-children and great-grandchildren can experience the awe and wonder of our beautiful wildlife. Others can't bear the thought that critical species may be gone forever.

While others want to make sure that their love, their passion and their values are reflected. The most powerful way to do this is by leaving a gift in your Will to Taronga.

Leaving a legacy through your Will helps fund critical conservation in Australia and around the globe. In other words, it gives our wildlife a fighting chance.

A gift in your Will has a profoundly powerful impact. Even as little as 1%, after your family and loved ones are cared for, helps save wildlife from extinction.

To find out more, please email Gifts in Wills Relationship Manager Victoria.bradd@taronga.org.au or call **1300 369 116** for a chat.



RESCUING RESTORING REWILDING

A historic moment. In a joint conservation effort with local partners, Taronga teams released 10 Platypus into Royal National Park in May last year. Platypus hadn't been sighted in over 50 years at this site making this release incredibly important.

Six months later, all 10 were found to be thriving and teams are closely monitoring for the sign of babies – for Platypus populations to increase. **What a win for this elusive and threatened species!**

*Thank you for being someone
who cares for wildlife!*

Taronga Conservation Society Australia

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

T 1300 369 116 **E** supporter@taronga.org.au **W** taronga.org.au

ABN 41 733 619 876

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For the Wild