

# TALES FROM *the* WILD NEWSLETTER



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**TARONGA**   
CONSERVATION SOCIETY AUSTRALIA.

*For the Wild*





## SAVING AN AUSSIE ICON FROM AN UNBEARABLE FATE

**It's hard to imagine that an animal so synonymous with our national identity may soon be gone.**

Whilst Koala populations have been declining for

decades, the threats to their survival have intensified in recent years. Despite their fame and popularity, Australia's most famous marsupial resident was recently listed as endangered in

NSW, Queensland and the ACT – which means they're at risk of dying out within decades.

**At current rates of decline, it's estimated that Koalas will be gone from eastern Australia within 30 years. That's why we need to act now!**

Thanks to supporters like you, Taronga and Port Macquarie Koala Hospital are taking a stand and working to turn this trajectory around. We are very grateful to our supporters who donated an incredible \$319,515 to our recent letter asking for support for Koalas.

Saving a species from extinction is a big and complex undertaking, but thanks to the generosity of people like you we're determined to stop Koala's from disappearing.

Your investment not only allows us to work on a breed-for-release program, it also drives Taronga's ambitious long-term work to rewild Box-gum woodlands, a vital habitat for Koalas and other species of endangered wildlife.

*Thank you!*





# PROVIDING A HELPING HAND TO OUR NATIVE WILDLIFE

**Turtle hatchling admitted to Taronga Wildlife Hospital with plastic in its stomach**

Photo by Harry Vincent

Thanks to your support, we've been able to raise \$131,252 to help fund our emergency medical treatment, long-term hospital care and specialist rehabilitation for sick, injured, and orphaned animals.

Taronga Wildlife Hospital Sydney cares for up to 80 marine turtles every year, many of which are admitted with severe injuries caused by entanglement in fishing

lines and crab pots, as well as hook and plastic ingestion. We recently had a green sea turtle hatchling which was brought to Taronga Wildlife Hospital with a stomach full of plastic.

It took six days for the turtle to pass all the plastic in its system, amazingly it survived and is now doing well.

Single-use plastic bags were banned as of 1 June,

in NSW. From November, other single-use plastic items will be added to the list, such as straws, stirrers, cutlery, plates, bowls and cotton buds.

We are all aware of the detrimental impact plastics have on our environment and our wildlife, but did you know that over 33% of turtles and 42% of sea birds have ingested plastic in their lifetime?

We hope the NSW Plastic's Ban will help reduce the number of turtles admitted to Taronga Wildlife Hospital in the future.



**Turtle-y cool rehab update! Just look at this little guy go!**

**ARE YOU READY FOR PHASE TWO OF THE NSW PLASTICS BAN?**

Let Taronga help you along your own plastic-free journey by visiting here and seeing where you can swap out your consumption of single-use plastics.





# A TASMANIAN DEVIL OF A GOOD TIME

Three of the world's largest carnivorous marsupials have stepped out of their nest boxes and into their new public exhibit at Taronga Western Plains Zoo.

Tasmanian Devils who are nocturnal, are best spotted in the early morning and late afternoon and can be heard well into the night.

The three females, **Pecorino**, **Philus** and **Mija** all have different markings, which allow keepers and guests to identify them.

Sisters Philus and Mija were born at Taronga Western Plains Zoo in 2019 and both have white stripes on their chests. Philus can be identified by the small white dot on her rump, while Mija has white dots on her shoulders.

Pecorino, who is completely black, came to Taronga in 2020 and had a successful first breeding season, giving birth to four healthy joeys in 2021.



*Check out this update video of the new Devils:*



Thanks to your support, Taronga Western Plains Zoo has successfully bred 50 joeys in a dedicated behind-the-scenes breeding facility since commencement of a breeding program in 2008.

**Taronga has now transitioned to an ambassador role within the region for this species, providing guests with a chance to see, connect and learn more about this iconic Australian marsupial.**



**Your Tasmanian Devil adoption can contribute to their care at the Zoo and in the wild.**

Become a Zoo Parent today:





# NOT ONE BUT TWO PRECIOUS RHINO NEWBORNS FOR YOU!

In fantastic news for the species, a Sumatran Rhino calf was born in March in Way Kambas National Park in Indonesia to Rhino mum, Rosa!

Sumatran Rhinos are critically endangered, and one of the most at risk species on the planet with less than 80 individuals remaining. This birth is such an important milestone for this iconic species and testament to

the hard work of the team at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary Way Kambas, YABI Yayasan Badak Indonesia and the International Rhino Foundation.

Taronga’s conservation and science staff have both provided technical expertise to support Rosa’s fertility, and the care of Sumatran Rhinos.

Thanks to generous donations from Wildlife Defenders, Taronga has



Greater One-Horned Rhinos Amala and calf Hari

Photo by Rick Stevens

also provided support for anti-poaching teams and is working with the International Rhino Foundation, Way Kambas National Parks and the local community to restore lowland forests within the park, creating safe future habitat for Sumatran Rhinos and many other endangered species.

houses Greater One-horned Rhinos. And with an estimated wild population of only 4000, our breeding program is instrumental in securing a future for the species.

Closer to home, we were also excited to announce the arrival of a male Greater One-horned Rhino calf, born in the early hours of Sunday 17 October at Taronga Western Plains Zoo. The calf was born to mum Amala and named “Hari” by his keepers, meaning sun in Nepalese.

Taronga Western Plains Zoo is the only zoo in Australia that



Sumatran Rhino calf

Photo by IRF and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry



*Check out an adorable video of Hari on our facebook page*




**TARONGA WILDLIFE DEFENDERS**

## BECOME A WILDLIFE DEFENDER

Your support as a Wildlife Defender is vital in helping us protect and nurture Rhinos in our breeding program and on the ground in Sumatra.

To find out more visit [taronga.org.au/donate/wildlife-defender](https://taronga.org.au/donate/wildlife-defender)





# WELCOME TO NURA-DIYA AUSTRALIA

*'Nura-Diya' means  
'This Place'*



**In celebration of this land of extreme geography, ancient culture, unique ecosystems and rare wildlife, we are thrilled to share with you the vision for Taronga Zoo's newest precinct, Nura-Diya Australia.**

Opening in the coming months, this precinct not only elevates animal welfare at every turn, but also respects the role and importance of humans' deep relationships with nature.

We have been honoured to work with Jacob Nash, a Murri man and Head of Design for Bangarra Dance Company. Josh has created a stunning visual storyline through

the precinct, a place for gathering and learning, through heroing the majestic Angophora tree, a sacred and endangered tree of the Sydney Basin.

## WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

The immersive macropod walkthrough will return, this time, triple in size. Here you'll find the exciting addition of a Kangaroo Island Kangaroo (subspecies of Western Greys).

Moving into Koala country, you will recognise original trees from the old site, which will provide habitat to Koalas. The Koalas will now take to the canopy and high branches, as

they would in nature. A new treetop boardwalk will deliver you up to the canopy to view the Koalas. From a height, you can also experience the new Koala encounters, providing the Koalas with the comfort of the treetops, encouraging their most natural behaviours.

The original Nocturnal House, which opened in 1972, was last upgraded over 30 years ago. Now, this beloved experience has been reimaged into a dramatic sensory journey from the smeared skies of dusk to the darkest hours of night before emerging into the dappled streams





of light as dawn pushes through the forest canopy – embedding and celebrating Aboriginal Culture within a contemporary conservation context along the way.

Here you can expect to see Gliders, Platypus, Hopping Mice, and Greater Bilbies. Our keepers are also working on some very special new animal encounter opportunities, bringing

you closer to these precious species we rarely have the opportunity to see in the wild.

You can look forward to the return of tours like the Taronga Wild Australia Experience too.

An outdoor Cultural Circle will complete the Nura-Diya journey for guests with a peaceful spot to sit and soak up the experience among significant native plants



Artist concept image.

including examples of medicinal and bush tucker species.

The site at Taronga Zoo, Sydney holds a spiritual significance for the Cammeraigal and Booragal clans, originally and as First Nation custodians living on and with the landscape.

**This connection to and care for Country continues today and we look forward to sharing this special connection with you.**

**With extreme weather events becoming more frequent, native animals face further challenges.**

Taronga's Wildlife Hospitals have compiled some tips if you come across injured wildlife during these events.



**Red Kangaroo**

Photo by Mandy Everett

# ONE FOR THE CALENDAR

**HATCH Accelerator Program 2023 is just around the corner.**

Do you have an innovative idea to support Australian wildlife or the natural environment? Are you a new environmental innovator or ecopreneur?

The 2020 winner of the \$50,000 HATCH Grant was Good-Edi (pictured right) for their development of edible and truly biodegradable takeaway coffee cups, and in 2021 Carapac, for their plastic packaging alternative made from crustacean shells.

For more information or to get in touch with the HATCH team, visit [taronga.org.au/hatch](https://taronga.org.au/hatch)

Taronga is also welcoming corporate and/or private support for this program and we'd love to hear from you [pauline.georges@taronga.org.au](mailto:pauline.georges@taronga.org.au)





# SUPPORTING UKRAINE'S ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS

Thank you to everyone who supported the Emergency Appeal for Ukrainian Zoos and their animals.

We are delighted to let you know that together we raised an incredible \$31,327 for this worthy cause.



The invasion of Ukraine has not only had a devastating impact on the Ukrainian people, but a huge impact on the animals and staff in Ukraine's zoos and wildlife parks.

The European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) set up an Emergency Fund to support Ukrainian Zoo's and wildlife parks, providing supplies for the animals, but also preparing for the rebuild once the war is over.



Taronga is proud to have hosted fundraising activities in both Sydney and Dubbo in the month of July, including a raffle, staff BBQ and guest donations both online and in-grounds.

Thanks to your support,

**EAZA can help buy food and supplies for animals and staff, repair critical infrastructure and enclosures, and help zoos rebuild and rehabilitate their animals once the fighting is well away from the sites.**

# TARONGA WINS AT THE SAP BEST RUN AWARDS

This year, Taronga was the proud recipient of the SAP Chris O'Brien Award, a special award that recognises not-for-profit organisations using SAP technology

with outcomes that specifically support social good and sustainability.

Taronga Chief Executive Cameron Kerr AO, accepted the award

on behalf of Taronga noting that it was 'lovely recognition for Taronga as we strive to be world leading conservation zoos across all areas of our operations'.

SAP and Taronga have a long history, with the partnership commencing in 1996. Over the last 26 years SAP have worked with Taronga in implementing systems that significantly transform the way Taronga operates, most notably Taronga's Executive Dashboard powered by SAP Analytics Cloud.

This tool gives Taronga's Executive team instant access to data-driven insights from across the organisation's operations providing Taronga team members with the information they need for pivotal, real-time decision-making – meaning more time for Taronga to focus on important conservation programs!







# ZOOFARI 2022 GALA EVENT IS BACK!

After the stop-start nature of the last few years, Taronga is eagerly looking forward to the return of our annual gala event Zoofari in November.

**Zoofari 2022 will support Taronga's Australian native wildlife conservation projects.**

With many of Australia's most iconic animals being pushed ever closer to the brink of extinction

due to habitat loss and climatic events such as the bushfires, drought and floods, the event will shine much needed attention on the plight of our precious wildlife.

Tickets to this event have sold out but we have some fantastic prizes available in our online auction, including stunning works of art, wild sporting experiences, exclusive travel prizes and much more!

## BID BIG!

*You can help to ensure our iconic species don't just survive but thrive.*





Darill Clements with koala  
at Taronga Zoo, Sydney

## WHY I SUPPORT TARONGA



Although she has now retired, Darill Clements continues to play an active role in supporting Taronga's important endeavours through donations and the ultimate pledge of support, a gift in her Will.

It's not easy to fully acknowledge the contribution which Darill Clements has made to

Taronga over almost half a century.

Darill became the Public Relations Manager at Taronga in 1975 despite confessing that she had no interest in animals whatsoever!

It wasn't long before Darill was a leading ambassador for wildlife and conservation, working tirelessly to bring

the plight of the natural world to the attention of the Australian public.

With her professionalism and wit, she charmed the media, politicians and celebrities alike, giving them an insight into the everyday life of the animals and staff at Taronga's two zoos.

Darill has witnessed the transformation from the old-fashioned ways of displaying animals, to the enlightened, conservation-focused exhibits of today which mimic each species' natural environment and behaviours as closely as possible.

Her influence highlighted the importance of the modern zoo and its role in education and conservation, as well

as the practical tools developed to save and maintain precious wildlife.

Darill even wrote a book about Taronga! 'Postcards from the Zoo' chronicles Darill's heart-warming, hilarious and sometimes heartbreaking zoo experiences.

We are so grateful for Darill's dedication to Taronga and for her ensuring that her love of wildlife will live on through the gift she has included in her Will.

Learn more about our Gifts in Wills program at [taronga.org.au/giftsinwills](https://taronga.org.au/giftsinwills)



Darill and husband Rob  
at Taronga Zoo, Sydney





# CHARITABLE GIVING, A TWO-WAY STREET

In a recent survey of over 20,000 people, a very clear theme emerged; that people have a strong desire to reciprocate for the benefit they have received from animals.

For some this might be for the companionship of a beloved pet. But for the

wonderful supporters of Taronga, it might be for the treasured childhood memories of visits to the zoo, or the time you've spent in nature or, if you've been fortunate, perhaps the time you've spent traveling and observing animals in the wild around the globe. The point is, we all

want to think of future generations enjoying magnificent animals in the ways we have been able to. After all, a world without the animals we know and love, doesn't bear thinking about.

A gift to Taronga in your Will, no matter the size, is the most powerful way to ensure that the immense joy you have received from animals is reciprocated, and that wildlife will flourish and thrive for future generations.

Heartfelt thanks to the many, incredible supporters who have chosen to include a gift to Taronga; you are wildlife's 'Friend of the Future'.

**If you'd like to find out more about becoming a Taronga Friend of the Future, I welcome you to call for a confidential chat.**

- Dee (02) 9932 4239

Taronga has partnered with Australia's most comprehensive end-of-life services company, **Gathered Here** to give you, our amazing supporters, the chance to write a legally-binding Will, completely free-of-charge, online in less than 10 minutes, with unlimited updates for life. **Make your FREE online Will** by scanning this QR code:



## HEARTFELT THANKS *to the* FOLLOWING DONORS

We pay our respects and are deeply grateful to the following people who chose to include a gift to Taronga in their Will.

These wonderful people are fondly remembered for their love of wildlife and we are humbled that they chose Taronga to honour their legacy.

- The late Mrs Jenny Tait
- The late Betty Rose Ellis
- The late Don Jon McClimont
- The late Jane Mary Frolich
- The late Milena Nemec
- The late Ms Lynette Forbes



## WADU MAKES HIS DEBUT!

We are delighted to announce the recent emergence of little Southern Hairy-nosed wombat joey Wadu.

His name means 'wombat' in the Wirangu language of South Australia and pays tribute to the last male joey that was born here at the Zoo, Waru, who holds a very special place in the heart of many. Wadu has become

more and more active and independent after emerging from mum Jedda's pouch.

You can visit Wadu and his mum at Taronga Zoo Sydney's Backyard to Bush experience.



## CHRISTMAS IS COMING...

With such a busy year, it came as a surprise to hear the distant sound of sleigh bells approaching.

**Why not give a gift that matters this Christmas?**

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.

*Scan the QR code to find out more:*



## HAVE A CAPPY BIRTHDAY AT TARONGA!

By popular demand we are excited to share with you the return of Taronga's \$1 on your Birthday ticket and invite you to paw-ty with us on

your birthday at Taronga Zoo Sydney or Taronga Western Plains Zoo Dubbo.

*Scan the QR code for more information and to claim your ticket!*



## HAVING A BALL ON WORLD LION DAY

To celebrate World Lion Day 2022 and the cubs first Birthday, Taronga Zoo Sydney's Lion pride was treated to some special treats, including a giant toy ball and special carcass feed. Carcass feeds are a great opportunity for a range of carnivores

including Taronga's Lion pride as it encourages natural behaviours, and it also tests the animal's strength.

Scan the QR code to hear from Zoo Nutritionist Michelle Shaw and watch the cubs enjoy their feed:



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