

SUMMER 2026

TALES FROM *the* WILD NEWSLETTER



THE IMPACT *of* YOUR GENEROSITY:

- 🐾 Your support is providing over 1,500 Aussie animals with urgent medical care each year
- 🐾 Your support is rewilding critically endangered Aussie icons through Taronga's breed-for-release programs
- 🐾 Your support is unearthing exciting new research on NSW's Marine Turtles

*Thank you for your incredible impact in saving
vulnerable and threatened species!*

A year of impact. Because of you!

Thank you for your incredible commitment to conservation. I'm excited to share your special summer edition of *Tales From The Wild* with you.

It's because of you, alongside other kind and compassionate supporters, that Aussie native species have the best chances of survival.

Your support is having such a powerful impact in saving wildlife. From your commitment to conservation to your crucial support of the Wildlife Hospital in Sydney, **you are making an incredible impact! Thank you!**

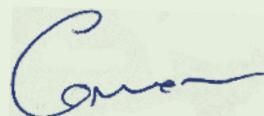
With the finishing line in sight, your generosity means that our new state-of-the-art Wildlife Hospital is within touching distance of being finished later this year.

In this issue of the newsletter, you can find updates on the progress of the Wildlife Hospital, how your vital support is saving more sick and injured animals, and your positive impact on threatened species, both in Australia and around the world.

Without you, none of these incredible conservation milestones would be possible. I can't thank you enough, and I'm so grateful for your continued support.

Thank you for being there for the wild!

Sincerely,



Cameron Kerr AO
Chief Executive



A state-of-the-art Wildlife Hospital in Sydney – thanks to you!

Expected to be complete and open to the public by the end of this year, Taronga's new state-of-the-art Wildlife Hospital represents the future of saving and protecting Australia's most precious native species.

This first-class facility will allow Taronga to care for even more sick and injured Aussie animals.

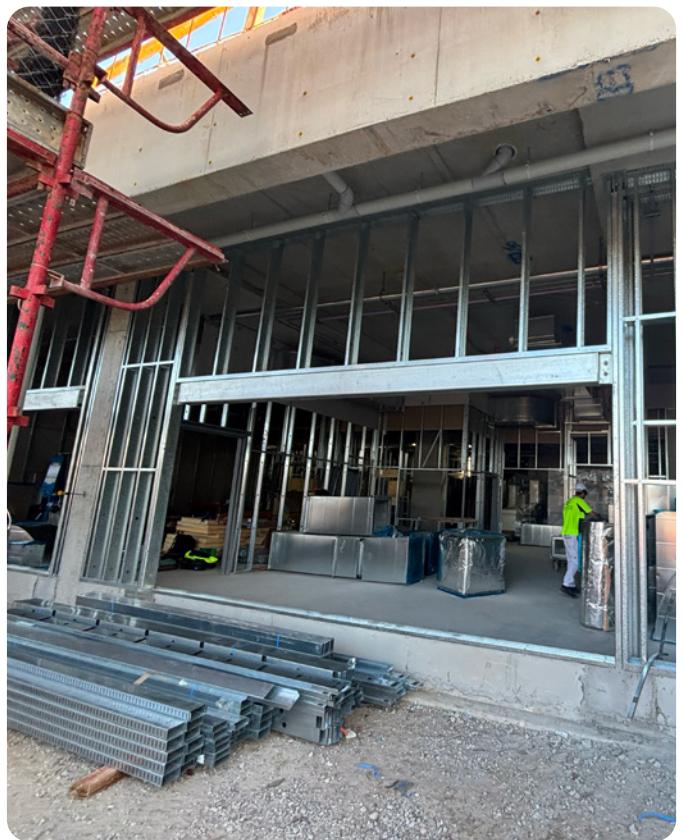
With severe weather events like bushfires, floods and droughts expected to become more frequent, this hospital is vital to future-proof wildlife.

Construction timeline for the new Wildlife Hospital

Milestone	Date
✓ Site established	Oct 2024
✓ Demolition complete	December 2024
✓ Crane setup	February 2025
✓ Ground floor slab pour 1, 2 & 3	March-May 2025
✓ Roof installation	September 2025
Canopy installation	March 2026
Construction complete	September 2026
The hospital is open to the public	December 2026



A birds-eye-view on construction progress! This state-of-the-art Wildlife Hospital will give our patients a world-class view, but more importantly, world-class care.



Work is underway, thanks to your support!
Level two of the marine rehab space, where marine animals like Turtles, Seals and Seabirds can recover.

The view that you will have of treatment room one, available for all guests to see! Here you will see both staff and patients at work.



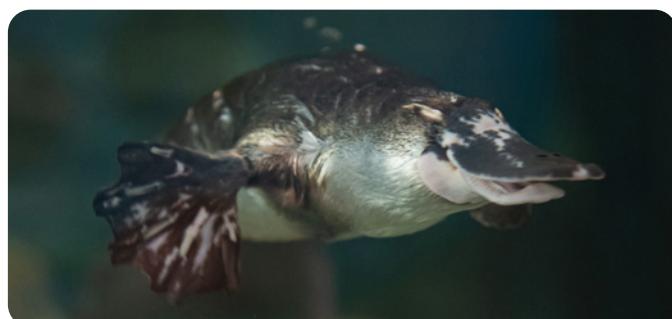
Critical Platypus Conservation, thanks to your support

Thanks to you, Taronga's dedicated Platypus HQ out in Dubbo has been a world-leading centre for almost two years, specifically for this little Aussie icon!

One of the most elusive animals worldwide, this centre combines research, rescue and rehabilitation all in one facility.

Platypuses have been around for millions of years, but with only 21 ever bred in captivity worldwide, they remain a relative mystery.

Their health and behaviour are closely monitored here through thermal cameras. The footage is constantly revealing more and more about this secretive species. This amazing access is showing that Platypuses have vibrant, confident and curious personalities!



“Our innovative research will broaden the conservation toolbox for the Platypus to ensure that wild populations remain resilient in the face of climate change.”

“The ability to overlay science with existing knowledge on Platypus conservation and care will enable us to move forward as we strive to protect this iconic species from extinction.”

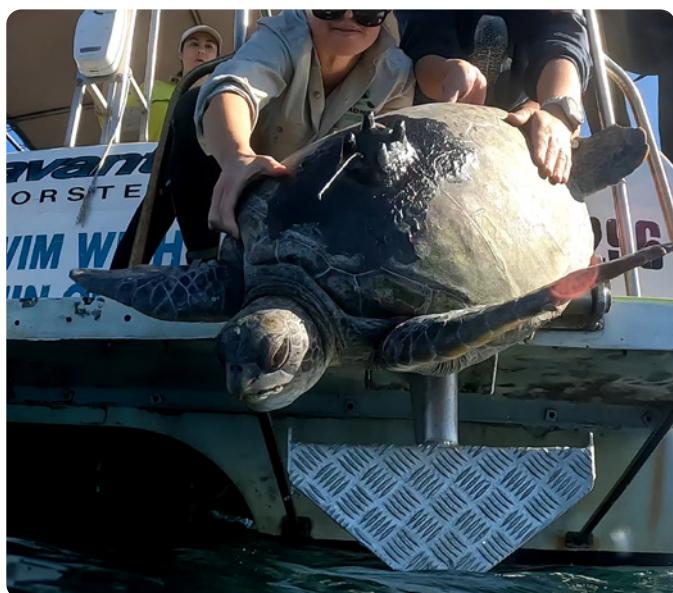
Dr Phoebe Meagher
Wildlife Conservation Officer

New Marine Turtle research – thanks to you!



Taronga's new Marine Turtle tagging project is revealing the secret lives of turtles along the NSW coast.

Led by Taronga scientists, in partnership with Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS), NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, and Gumbaynggirr Land and Sea Rangers, 21 turtles are currently being tracked via satellite tags to learn about their movement and habitat use in NSW waters.



Some of the early findings show that NSW is a vital climate refuge for these threatened species, with most tagged turtles choosing to stay local year-round.

On the flip side, research has shown one Loggerhead Turtle taking a 3,500km migration route to Norfolk Island!

This research is the first study of Marine Turtles in NSW and will help shape future conservation zones and climate strategies.



TARONGA
WILDLIFE
HOSPITAL

MEET SOME OF OUR RECENT PATIENTS



BABY LOGGERHEAD TURTLE

Earlier this year, Bulwal Bilima, meaning strong turtle, was found stranded and rescued in Yuin Country, South Coast NSW.

While some of our wildlife hospital patients stay for just a few days, others like this endangered Loggerhead Turtle hatchling, require care at our Taronga Wildlife Hospital for a few months.

'Wintering' this little one over the last six months allows him to maintain thermoregulation, meaning extra energy can be used to strengthen, forage and grow. As we head into the warmer seasons and ocean temperatures increase.

LITTLE PENGUIN

It's not every day you see a Little Penguin waddling along the Pacific Highway in Belmont, Newcastle – but that's exactly where this adventurous Little Penguin was found.

Thanks to quick action from Hunter Wildlife Rescue, she was able to receive five weeks of care at our Taronga Wildlife Hospital, and now, she's been returned to the wild.



PLATYPUS

This young Platypus was brought into the Hospital with a suspected predator wound on its shoulder. He was spotted by a concerned member of the public waddling along a road in Hazelbrook in the Blue Mountains.

Following 11 weeks of expert care from our veterinarians at the Taronga Wildlife Hospital, he was released back into the wild where he was originally found, in the Blue Mountains National Park.

The Blue Mountains are a crucial home for Platypus. Seeing this wild platypus waddle back into its natural habitat is a huge win for biodiversity, our environment, and the incredible teamwork behind this wildlife care effort.



WHITE-BELLIED SEA EAGLE

This White-bellied Sea Eagle was found on the ground with a left-wing droop at Munmorah State Conservation Area National Park in Wybung.

The raptor was brought to the Taronga Wildlife Hospital, where it received a physical exam and X-ray by our expert veterinary team, and was found to have a significant wing fracture.



CONSERVATION *at* WORK!

Because of you,
critically threatened
species are back in
the wild.



GREATER BILBIES

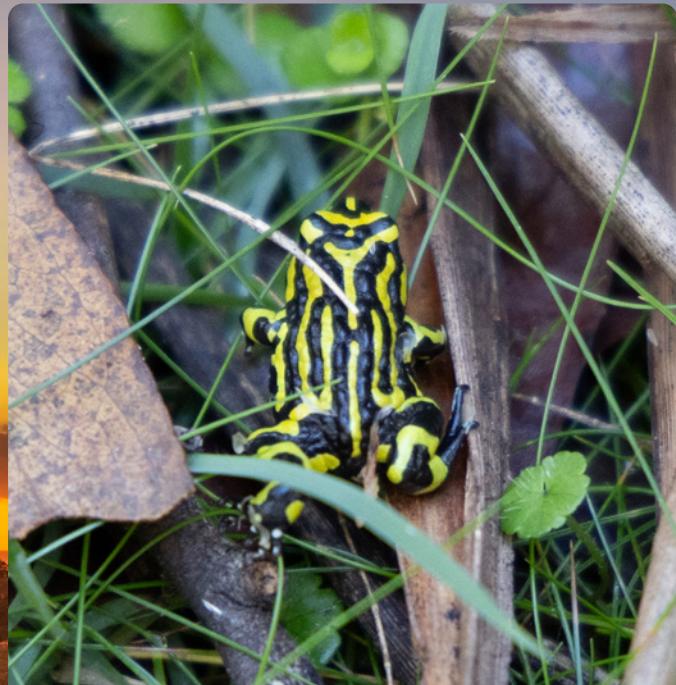
Greater Bilbies were once found across 70% of mainland Australia and now inhabit only 15% of mostly central Australian deserts.

Starting with 20 founders in 2019, our population surveys have identified at least 188 bilbies have been born into our conservation breeding program in Taronga's 110-hectare sanctuary in Dubbo, with 62 bilbies released over three translocations!

Thank you for supporting one of Australia's most iconic animals!

Breed-For-Release Milestones:

- 62 released to the wild
- 188 offspring bred for the program
- 350+ living at Taronga's sanctuary



NORTHERN CORROBOREE FROGS

In a major boost for Australian conservation, Taronga released 544 critically endangered Northern Corroboree Frogs into Brindabella National Park. This is the largest-ever release in the NSW national park.

This is part of long-term conservation efforts to bolster the dwindling wild population, which is now estimated at fewer than 1,200 mature individuals, after an amphibian chytrid fungus took them to the brink of extinction in the early 2000s.

Thank you for caring for wildlife of all sizes, both big and small!

Breed-For-Release Milestones:

- 1098 frogs released to the wild
- 2604 eggs released to the wild
- Research continues into a solution for the chytrid fungus



NORFOLK ISLAND SNAILS

In 2020/21, Taronga established a breeding colony of a 'thought to be extinct' land snail endemic to Norfolk Island, also known as the Campbell's keeled glass-snail.

The population steadily grew to over 800 snails. This success created the opportunity to trial a translocation back to Norfolk Island for release in the National Park.

In July 2025, the project reached a significant milestone with the release of 340 snails into an unoccupied catchment within the park.

This is the first large-scale snail translocation ever attempted in Australia.

Thank you for playing such a vital role in this pioneering effort!

Breed-For-Release Milestones:

- 340 released to the wild
- 800+ insurance population bred
- One species brought back from extinction



REGENT HONEYEATERS

Regent Honeyeaters were once seen overhead in flocks of hundreds across south-eastern mainland Australia. However, these birds are now elusive and difficult to track.

November marked a major milestone for Taronga as we reached 30 incredible years since the establishment of our Regent Honeyeater conservation breeding program in 1995.

To mark this milestone, 69 zoo-bred Regent Honeyeaters were released in Lower Hunter Valley, NSW, our fourth release in this location.

To date, over 400 Taronga-bred Regent Honeyeaters have been released into the wild. With only around 300 birds remaining in the wild, each bird released plays such an important role in the survival of this endemic species.

Thank you for supporting the long-term recovery program of the Regent Honeyeater.

Breed-For-Release Milestones:

- 400+ released to the wild
- 30,000+ trees planted to boost their habitat
- 30 years supporting their recovery



THE ANNUAL GUARDIANS OF THE WILD *Christmas Luncheon*

This time of year is always special.

We absolutely loved spending it with our friends, who are so passionate about conservation, and share our vision for a future where wildlife and people can thrive together.

Our annual luncheon is anticipated and cherished by all involved.

It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the many conservation wins from the last year alongside some of the incredibly generous people who are so integral to this success.

This day gives us a chance to say a massive 'thank you' to all our amazing supporters who have so generously decided to include a gift in their Will to Taronga and leave a lasting legacy for wildlife, both in Australia and around the world.



Gifts in Wills help Taronga plan ambitious and innovative conservation programs that can change the future of critically endangered species. They allow for long-term, sustainable work that will have a powerful impact on wildlife threatened with extinction.

As little as 1% of your estate, after your loved ones have been cared for, can make an enormous difference to save our beautiful wildlife from extinction. You can truly leave an extraordinary legacy for future generations.

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

Hear from some of our incredibly passionate supporters who have chosen to include a gift for Taronga in their Will.

My love of conservation started when I was a baby. My grandmother would bring animals like insects and other creatures in from the garden, and I was fascinated.

As a child, I was obsessed with animals. I wanted to rent the zoo! Visiting the hippopotamus was always a must. I couldn't leave until I'd seen it.

Now, I've decided to focus my support on Taronga. I've always admired its conservation work, both here in Australia and overseas, especially the breeding programs. I love seeing the impact it's making.

- Emmanuel



I grew up surrounded by bush and animals. Over time, I saw the bush and wildlife changing. Many of my creeks used to have yabbies in them, but they disappeared due to pollution and development.

I can't conceive of a world where they don't exist. Can you imagine a world where the only place you would find an Elephant or a Koala is in a book?

It's fair to say that Taronga Zoo has always been one of my happy places. I love the passion that Taronga has for the animals in its care.

Leaving a gift in my will is one way that I can show support for the work Taronga does in promoting biodiversity. For anyone wanting to preserve the natural environment for future generations, I'd encourage them to do the same.

We are all guardians of the future!

- Louise



RESCUE | RESTORE | REWILD | RESEARCH

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



*You're helping make a
real difference to protect
Australian wildlife!*

Taronga Foundation

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 **TARONGA FOUNDATION**
For the Wild