





Annual Review 2011-2012

Our commitment to a support to a support

A mark in ink, still the simplest way to put your name to a letter, a petition, to a contract, to a cause. Our cause is the wild. We believe that we all, humankind and animals, have a future together. We believe in a world that we can share, a world where all our wild species can make a comeback. Where the wild can remain wild. And we believe that for this future to become reality, one species must lead us there... ours.

For the Willer TARONGA

Photo: Rick Stev



In June 2012, we gathered prints from many of our animals and shared them in a public statement for the wild. We also invited staff, volunteers and visitors to pledge their support for the wild by adding their own handprint alongside the prints of our animals. With this simple action, hundreds of people joined us on our journey to secure a shared future for wildlife and people.



Director and Chief Executive's Room +

Director and Chief Executive's Report

2011/12 has been an exciting year for Taronga. With the Master Plan nearing completion, Taronga and Taronga Western Plains Zoos continue to deliver extraordinary experiences for visitors. Taronga has also continued its support for research, conservation and education programs to help secure a shared future for wildlife and people.

Despite the relatively tough economic climate, Taronga maintained strong attendances and revenue streams in 2011/12. The Taronga Foundation also delivered a strong result, raising \$11.2 million to support capital development at the Zoos and research and conservation programs in Australia and overseas.

In the second last year of the Master Plan, Taronga, together with the NSW Government, invested more than \$8.9 million in capital development and maintenance to deliver improved visitor experiences at Taronga and Taronga Western Plains Zoos. The impact of the Master Plan on visitor experience was recognised in 2011, with both sites nominated for NSW Tourism Awards. Taronga Zoo won the 2011 NSW Tourism Award for Best Major Attraction, cementing its place as the premier tourist attraction in the state, whilst Taronga Western Plains Zoo was acknowledged as a finalist in the Best Attraction and New Tourism Development categories.

Taronga's contribution to research and conservation continues to evolve. Indeed, the work within the grounds of Taronga and Taronga Western Plains Zoos is just the tip of the iceberg; only a part of Taronga's efforts to help secure a shared future for wildlife and people. One of the most significant projects in 2011/12 was the establishment of the first Australian genome resource bank for Great Barrier Reef coral at the Wildlife Reproductive Centre at Taronga Western Plains Zoo in Dubbo. In collaboration with the Smithsonian and other local research groups, Taronga collected billions of coral cells during the annual coral spawning to be frozen, transported to and cryogenically stored at the Wildlife Reproductive Centre. These cells may one day be needed to reseed Australia's world famous reef.

Taronga has also increased the number and scope of its conservation partnerships and field grants program. Taronga now works in partnership with 11 organisations, community groups and conservation experts across the globe to secure and support priority species and habitats including Chimpanzees in the Republic of Congo, and Asian Elephants in Thailand. The Taronga Foundation has also committed more than \$160,000 in grants to 14 field conservation projects that promote wildlife, ecosystem and human health, involve direct species action or reduce conflict between wildlife and local communities.

Taronga Director and Chief Executive, Cameron Kerr, making his mark for the wild. Photo: Rick Stevens

Closer to home, Taronga's flagship community conservation campaign, Fish4Life, was relaunched in March 2012 to promote sustainable seafood consumption. The campaign raises awareness and consumer support for the Marine Stewardship Council's (MSC) ecolabel which can be found on seafood products at all major Australian supermarkets and indicates that the fishery from which the fish was sourced has been independently judged as being sustainable. Taronga's very own Harbourview Café also became the first MSC certified sustainable seafood café.

Within the Zoos, Taronga has celebrated some significant births in the last 12 months. In addition to our three Sumatran Tiger cubs and Eastern Bongo calf, Taronga welcomed a Francois' Leaf-monkey, a Southern Hairy-nosed Wombat joey, an Andean Condor chick and meerkat pups at Taronga Western Plains Zoo. The success of these and other breeding programs is a testament to the expertise and commitment of Taronga staff, and critical to the future of endangered and critically endangered species.

Taronga's education programs have also continued to grow during the year, with over 162,092 school students participating in curriculum-based environment programs across both Zoos. Taronga also launched the organisation's inaugural Reconciliation Action Plan in May 2012. With the objective of closing the gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and their fellow Australians, this is an important step in Taronga's journey as an organisation.

Some of the most significant events this year, including the birth of the tiger cubs but also the arrival of Kibali, Taronga's future Western Lowland Gorilla Silverback, were featured on film as part of ABC1's 8-part documentary series 'Wild Life at the Zoo'. The series was an important opportunity to highlight the scope of Taronga's work, reaching a total audience of 4,459,932 across 8 weeks.

As always I would like to thank Taronga Chairman, Len Bleasel AM, and the Board, Taronga's sponsors, donors and Zoo Friends. Your support enables Taronga to continually expand the scope of its activities and contribution to conservation, research and education. I would also like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to all staff and volunteers at Taronga and Taronga Western Plains Zoos for their contribution. Their passion and commitment underpins Taronga's efforts to secure a shared future for the wild.

Comon Kern

Cameron Kerr Director and Chief Executive



For Anstralian Salua Lion

... and all marine life we introduced Taronga's Fish4Life Campaign. When people switch to sustainable seafood, we leave more fish in the ocean for endangered species.



Year, in blief USUALAM

Year in brief – Visitation

Total visitation



Origin of guests – Taronga Zoo



Guest attendance

Consolidated result Paid attendance Paid and FOC* attenda

Taronga Zoo Paid attendance⁽¹⁾ Paid and FOC attendar

Taronga Western Plair Paid attendance⁽³⁾ Paid and FOC attendar

Australian Sea-lion Miya



Origin of guests – Taronga Western Plains Zoo



	2010/11	2011/12	Variance	Variance %
	1,267,605	1,298,200	30,595	2.41%
ance ⁽²⁾	1,572,980	1,654,406	81,426	5.18%
	1,080,225	1,101,113	20,888	1.93%
nce ⁽²⁾	1,355,863	1,430,049	74,186	5.47%
ins Zoo				
	187,380	197,087	9,707	5.18%
ince	217,117	224,357	7,240	3.33%

* FOC – Free of charge. 1. Paid attendance at Taronga Zoo includes Zoo Friends and Twilight Concert attendees.

Includes function guests at Taronga Zoo.
 Paid attendance at Taronga Western Plains Zoo includes Zoo Friends and Zoofari guests.



Australian Platypus



Chimpanzee





Asian Elephan



Sumatran Tige

Annual Review 2011–2012





Nigeria

Uganda

7amhia

Zimbab

Cameroon

Democratic Republic of Congo





Year in brief - Research and Conservation



Fijian Crested Iguana

Gorilla

Nena

Pear in brief Research z Conservation

Wildlife research and conservation requires sustained effort from many people working in a variety of fields.

Taronga has exceptional expertise in its Zoos but recognises the need to support and work with like-minded organisations, community groups and conservation experts to protect endangered species in the wild, help save and regenerate natural habitats and reduce conflict with wildlife. Taronga is now involved in many research and conservation projects, both here in Australia and around the world, to help secure a shared future for wildlife and people.

In addition to the Conservation Partnerships and Field Grants identified, Taronga also supports conservation science programs including the Australian Marine Mammal Research Centre, Australian Registry of Wildlife Health, Wildlife Reproductive Centre and Australian Wildlife Health Network and Community Conservation Campaigns Fish4Life, Beads for Wildlife, Don't Palm Us Off, They're Calling On You and Take 3.

Conservation Partnerships
Australia
Australian Platypus Conservancy (Platypus)
Rainforest Rescue (Cassowary)
Cameroon & Nigeria
Wildlife Conservation Society and GRASP (Cross River Gorilla)
Democratic Republic of Congo
Jane Goodall Institute (Eastern Lowland Gorilla)
Fiji
National Trust of Fiji (Fijian Crested Iguana)
Indonesia
Wildlife Asia (Sumatran Tiger)
Komodo Survival Program (Komodo Dragon)
International Rhino Foundation (Sumatran Rhino)
Kenya
Northern Rangelands Trust (Giraffe)
Republic of Congo
Jane Goodall Institute (Chimpanzee)
Sri Lanka
Department of Wildlife Conservation (Asian Elephant)
Tanzania
University of Oxford (African Wild Dog)
Thailand
Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (Asian Elephant)
Zimbabwe
International Rhino Foundation (Black Rhino)

Sri Lanka Tanzania Field Grants Australia Alice Springs Desert Park (Fauna & Flora Audit) Australian National University (Recovery strategies for the Corroboree Frog) Brazil IUCN Tapir Specialist Group (Protecting the Lowland Tapir in Brazil) Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (Ecology and conservation of the Giant Armadillo Cambodia University of Oxford (Ecology and conservation of Dholes) Indonesia Friends of National Parks Foundation (Reforestation project at the Lamandau River Wildlife Reserve) Zoological Society of London (Enhancing wildlife protection in the Berbak ecosystem

Nepal

National Trust for Nature Conservancy (Assessing human-bear conflicts) Himalayan Nature (Protecting key habitats for Fishing Cats)

New Zealand

Bushy Park Trust (Establishing a new population of Hihi)

Nigeria

Tropical Research and Conservation Centre (Regenerating Sclater's Guenon habitat)

Philippines

Mabuwaya Foundation (Buffering human-crocodile conflict at Dinang Creek, San Mariano)

Uganda

New Nature Foundation (Kibale Fuel Wood Project)

Zambia

South Luangwa Conservation Society (Anti snaring work at Luangwa National Park)





Brazilian Tapi

Corroboree Frog



Social network of Port Jackson Sharks

The Great Barrier Reef genome resource bank

Total income



*Asian Elephant calves born in 2009/10 and 2010/11 *Total income includes one-off Government grant of \$36 million

Allocation of recurrent resources to expense types



Expenditure on capital development and maintenance



Total assets









Allocation of employees by Taronga division

Total cost of Social Program Policy activities



For The Graat Bannor Bannor

> we collected embryonic coral sperm and embryonic cells, stored them cryogenically and are keeping them frozen in the CryoReserve at Taronga Western Plains Zoo, until they are needed to one day reseed our unique reef.

> > Acropora tenuis spawning Photo; Australian Institute of Marine Science



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	cure a shared fut	ture for wildlife a	nd people		
ur Role		Our V	/alues		
Dur role in conservation is to create direct and positive connections between wildlife and people. Through our efforts we protect endangered species, increase understanding of wildlife and nspire community action.		Accept Show o Innova	portive and enthusiastic and take responsibility dignity and respect te and take initiative		
		Comm	Clear and simple Commitment to Taronga's WHS, animal welfare and customer service charters.		
/ildlife		Реор	le		
We breed, manage and care for wildlife, and undertake research, to deliver tangible conservation outcomes.		learnin	We create unique, dynamic and engaging learning experiences to positively influence and change behaviours.		
Tangible	Animals in	Financial	Visitor	Our People &	
Conservation Outcomes	Our Care	Sustainability	Experience & Learning	Organisational Effectiveness	





Opened October 1916 lite[.] 28 hectares Animals

Platypus



Taronga's strategic plan defines the long-term goal of the organisation (our vision), the unique role Taronga plays in the world of conservation (our role) and the way we will conduct our work (our values).

(Ornithorhynchus anatinus)

Number of Animals: 4,988 Species/sub-species: 322



Symbol Giraffe (Giraffa camelopardalis)

Opened February 1977 Site 788 hectares

Animals Number of Animals: 452 Species/sub-species: 70 Ensuring all our efforts contribute to tangible and measurable conservation outcomes.





Dr Jane Goodall visits Taronga's chimpanzees prior to their move to the redeveloped Taronga Chimpanzee Sanctuary.

MACLE

Nikki Bodel and children 'Take 3' from a Sydney Harbour beach.

Mr Munro making his mark for the wild.





Australian Registry of Wildlife Health veterinary pathologist, Dr Karrie Rose.



Dr David Slip assessing the impact of human-borne pathogens on Leopard Seals in Antarctica.

- 1. The Australian Registry of Wildlife Health performed diagnostic investigations to help detect parasites that have contributed to significant amphibian declines as part of health screening for the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage
- 2. In collaboration with the Smithsonian, Taronga staff joined other research groups at the Australian Institute of Marine Science near Townsville during the annual coral spawning to freeze coral species of the Great Barrier Reef. Samples are now cryogenically stored at the Wildlife Reproductive Centre at Taronga Western Plains Zoo
- 3. The Taronga Conservation Committee committed over \$160,000 in grants to 14 field projects that promote wildlife, ecosystem and human health, involve direct species action or reduce conflict between wildlife and local communities
- 4. Taronga increased the number and scope of its conservation partnerships across the globe. Significant partnerships established in 2011/12 support priority species and habitats including in: Bukit Tigapuluh, Sumatra; Tchimpounga, Republic of Congo; Queensland, Australia; and Kui Buri, Thailand
- 5. Taronga's flagship community conservation campaign, Fish4Life, was relaunched in March 2012 to promote sustainable seafood consumption
- 6. Taronga was recognised by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage as a Bronze Level Partner for organisational commitment to sustainability, environmental performance and advocacy
- 7. Taronga Green Mini Grants were awarded to five staff driven projects to promote workplace sustainability and support the goals of Taronga's Sustainability Action Plan.

Performance indicators	2010/11	2011/12
Collection species which are classified as threatened		
Taronga Zoo	28%	30%
Taronga Western Plains Zoo	41%	47%
Threatened species in conservation programs		
Taronga Zoo	44%	43%
Taronga Western Plains Zoo	66%	70%

Animals in Our Care

The care and management of a sustainable collection of animals supporting conservation and research outcomes and providing inspirational visitor experiences.



Libby Hall prepares to release a marine turtle after treatment at the Taronga Wildlife Hospital.



Taronga Wildlife Hospitals treat many hundreds of native animals each year including Ring-tailed Possums.







Francois' Leaf-Monkey 'Tam Dao'



Taronga Western Plains Zoo celebrated the arrival of Meerkat kits in 2011/12.

- 1. Over 1,123 animals were treated at Taronga's Wildlife Hospitals including 38 endangered marine turtles found along the coastline between Port Stephens and Jervis Bay
- 2. In May 2012, 447 Taronga bred Southern Corroboree Frog eggs were returned to Kosciuszko National Park to help boost critically low numbers in the wild
- 3. Taronga Zoo celebrated a number of significant births including three healthy Sumatran Tiger cubs, an Eastern Bongo calf, a Francois' Leaf-monkey, a Southern Hairy-nosed Wombat joey and an Andean Condor chick
- 4. A new breeding Meerkat female arrived at Taronga Western Plains Zoo from Auckland Zoo, and since her arrival has produced nine pups in three litters
- 5. Taronga Zoo's future Western Lowland Gorilla Silverback, 'Kibali', arrived in Australia from France. 'Kibali' was selected based on his genetic value and behavioural characteristics, both of which will hold him in good stead as the future leader of Taronga's gorilla family
- 6. The Life Sciences team at Taronga Western Plains Zoo successfully introduced Ring-tailed Lemurs into a new facility in advance of plans to commence breeding as part of a regionally coordinated program for this species
- 7. Daily presentations at Taronga and Taronga Western Plains Zoos continued to evolve and expand and include conservation messaging to increase visitor learning
- 8. The Taronga Behavioural Studies Unit collaborated with the Jane Goodall Institute to assist in the selection of individual male chimpanzees to be released in groups into new conservation areas in the Republic of Congo.

Performance indicators	2010/11	2011/12
Collection in conservation programs		
Taronga Zoo	12%	13%
Taronga Western Plains Zoo	28%	33%
Wildlife rehabilitation		
Number of cases	1,162	1,123

The ongoing management of our business to fund and sustain successful conservation outcomes.





Visitors enjoying a Giraffe in Focus animal encounter at Taronga Western Plains Zoo.

Taronga Zoo's newly refurbished Top Entrance Plaza.





Nicole Whitfield and Cyrelle Field with Mary Coustas as 'Effie' at the 2012 Taronga Dinner.





Zoofari Lodge at Taronga Western Plains Zoo.



James Morrison and Giraffe, 'Nyota' preparing to perform at the Twilight at Taronga series.

- 1. Total admissions* to Taronga Zoo were 1.43 million, a 5.47% increase on 2010/11. Taronga Western Plains Zoo admissions increased by 3.3% to 224,357
- 2. The Taronga Foundation raised \$11.2 million, to support capital developments and conservation and research projects
- 3. Taronga's digital supporter base grew significantly. Facebook fans increased by 164% to 43,014, and Twitter followers by 90% to 5,280
- 4. Taronga Zoo won the 2011 NSW Tourism Award for Best Major Attraction and Taronga Western Plains Zoo was a NSW state finalist in the Best Attraction and Silver Award winner in the New Tourism Development categories
- 5. Taronga Western Plains Zoo celebrated its 35th birthday on 28 February 2012
- 6. 27,000 guests enjoyed the 2012 Sun Herald Twilight at Taronga concert series at Taronga Zoo
- 7. A new tour, 'Nura Diya, Taronga's Aboriginal Wildlife Experience', was launched at Taronga Zoo focusing on Aboriginal culture and its relationship to Australian fauna and flora
- 8. More than 7,100 visitors have enjoyed the multi award winning Zoofari Lodge experience at Taronga Western Plains Zoo.
- *Paid and free of charge including function guests.

Performance indicators	2010/11	2011/12
Direct Government support per visitor (Including contribution for capital development)		
Taronga Zoo	\$15.69	\$9.66
Taronga Western Plains Zoo	\$14.45	\$10.62
Operating expenses per visitor (Excluding Taronga Foundation) Taronga Zoo Taronga Western Plains Zoo	\$43.50 \$63.99	\$44.33 \$63.47
	205.77	γ 0 3 .+7
Capital expenditure per visitor Taronga Zoo Taronga Western Plains Zoo	\$16.80 \$11.22	\$3.09 \$3.18
Taronga Foundation fundraising revenue	\$18.5m	\$11.2m

The creation of innovative and engaging experiences that attract Zoo guests, exceed guest expectations, inspire loyalty and influence positive behaviour change.





The Taronga Lemur Forest Adventure will open to visitors in October 2013.

Rod Cheal, Cyrelle Field and Sunrise presenters show their support for the wild.



- 1. Visitor satisfaction levels increased to 89% at Taronga Zoo and 85% at Taronga Western Plains Zoo
- 2. Both Taronga and Taronga Western Plains Zoos were awarded Trip Advisor Awards for Excellence, having received a rating of 4.5/5 from their guests
- 3. A total of 162,092 students were involved in Taronga learning programs, equivalent to 14% of all NSW school students
- 4. The Zoo Friends membership program grew by 13% to a record 70,009 members
- Taronga managed 2,693 news stories, with an equivalent total value of more than \$33 million based on advertising rates
- ABC1's 8-part documentary series 'Wild Life at the Zoo' reached a national audience of over half a million each Wednesday from 18 April 2012, and a total audience of 4,459,932
- 7. The Taronga Zoo Chimpanzee Sanctuary redevelopment was completed in August 2011 providing greater flexibility and capabilities to manage the introduction of new chimpanzees into the group
- 8. Taronga Western Plains Zoo completed the Ring-tailed Lemur breeding facility that will support the Ring-tailed Lemur breeding program and exhibit at Taronga Zoo
- 9. Restoration of Taronga Zoo's Top Entrance was recognised at the 2012 National Trust Heritage Festival, receiving an award for the conservation of a medium sized built heritage project
- 10.Taronga's new communications campaign, "For the Wild", was launched to align with the organisation's vision to secure a shared future for wildlife and people.

Performance indicators	2010/11	2011/12
Visitation – total	1,572,021	1,654,406
Students visiting on a school excursion Taronga Zoo Taronga Western Plains Zoo	109,677 15,028	107,063 14,397
People participating in Public/Outreach education programs Taronga Zoo	36,589	37,127
Satisfied guests as measured through satisfaction surveys Taronga Zoo Taronga Western Plains Zoo	83% 83%	89% 85%
Complaints per 1,000 guests Taronga Zoo Taronga Western Plains Zoo Zoofari Lodge	0.24 0.51 0.50	0.18 0.61 0.53
Conference and workshop proceedings delivered by staff (including workshops convened)	22	35

Our People and Organisational Effectiveness

The alignment of people and processes with strategy and values.





Brad McKenzie and Australian Sea-lion Malie. Volunteers assisting guests at Taronga Western Plains Zoo.

ž Organisational Effectiveness

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Aboriginal Discovery Hosts at Taronga Zoo.



Ms Lois Birk addressed staff and guests at the launch of Taronga's Reconciliation Action Plan.

- 1. Taronga's inaugural Reconciliation Action Plan was launched in May 2012 with the objective of closing the gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and their fellow Australians
- 2. 11 Indigenous Scholarships for Taronga's Registered Training Organisation, the Taronga Training Institute, were awarded
- 3. 16 staff members were awarded Zoo Friends Fellowships to participate in diverse local and international work experience and research projects
- 3 inductees were welcomed into the prestigious
 '20 Year Club'. The '20 Year Club' recognises staff who have contributed to the work of Taronga for 20 years or more
- 5. With the assistance of government funding, 12 staff completed the Certificate IV in Occupational Health and Safety to support Taronga's continued focus on Work Health and Safety
- 6. The number of workplace injury claims decreased. Workers' compensation claims fell from 64 to 44 and claims that resulted in a Lost Time Injury fell from 33 to 18
- 7. A detailed volunteer survey was conducted to identify priorities for improvement of volunteer programs and an intense development program run to improve and refresh core skills
- 8. Taronga and Taronga Western Plans Zoos benefited from the efforts of the more than 125 new volunteers.

Performance indicators	2010/11	2011/12
Severity rate		
Lost time injury frequency/workplace accidents for both Zoos	37.3	20.8
Staff turnover		
Taronga Zoo	6.8%	5.2%
Taronga Western Plains Zoo	4.9%	4.9%

... we've bred three new cubs at Taronga Zoo and with four field conservation programs in Indonesia, we are working hard to protect vital tiger habitat.







Please support our work by visiting us, becoming a member or making a donation. For more information go to taronga.org.au

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Design: HULSBOSCH Communication by Design

Original 'For the Wild' campaign concept created by Whybin/TBWA

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