

The Zoological Parks Board of NSW
Annual Report 2006

THE LIVING FUTURE







OURS TO PROTECT

CORROBOREE FROG *Pseudophryne corroboree*

In May this year, the NSW Minister for the Environment, the Hon. Bob Debus MP launched a new conservation program for the critically endangered Corroboree Frog at Taronga Zoo. A new climate-controlled facility was built to assist with the hatching of these unique amphibians, in hope of releasing them as adults back into the Kosciuszko National Park in a few years.

The population of the Corroboree Frog has dropped to as low as 200 in the wild. Numbers of these colourful frogs have collapsed due to the impact of the Chytrid Fungus, which also affects many other frog species.

PHOTO COURTESY JEFF DARMANIN - THE DAILY TELEGRAPH





TO DELIGHT IN

WHITE RHINOCEROS
Cerathotherium simum

'Kei' the White Rhinoceros was born at Western Plains Zoo in February this year. The calf is the fourth born to the Zoo's White Rhino breeding program since 2003, when five Southern White Rhinos were transported from Kruger National Park in South Africa, introducing new genetic strands to the Zoo's herd.

The Southern White Rhino is considered endangered after having been on the brink of extinction. At the start of the 20th Century, there were only 50-200 Southern White Rhinos in the wild. International conservation, research and breeding programs have boosted numbers and the Southern White is now the most abundant species of rhino. However, poaching pressure is still intense.

PICTURE COURTESY SHALLON MCREADDIE





TO DISCOVER

ASIAN ELEPHANT
Elephas Maximus

Taronga Zoo helped establish a regional Cooperative Conservation Program for the Asian Elephant. Five elephants are due to arrive at the end of 2006 to commence the important breeding program and create an insurance population for this endangered species.

The population of Asian Elephants is in very serious decline due to competition with civilisation, cultivation and loss of habitat. In Thailand alone, the area of rainforest has diminished from 80% coverage in 1946 to only 15% today. Asian Elephants are endangered with as few as 34,000 remaining in the world today.

PHOTO COURTESY LISA KEEN



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Cover image:

SILVERY GIBBON *Hylobates moloch*

Taronga Zoo is home to one of only seven breeding pairs of endangered Silvery Gibbons in world zoos. 'Reggie' and 'Halimun' (pictured) can often be seen swinging about in their exhibit in 'Wild Asia'. It is estimated that 98% of the Silvery Gibbons natural habitat has been destroyed and the remaining rainforest faces pressure from the region's concentrated human population. It is estimated that less than 2,000 Silvery Gibbons are left in the wild today.

PHOTO COURTESY JAMES ALCOCK

This page: Royal Spoonbill
PHOTO COURTESY JAMES ALCOCK

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VISION

**TO INSPIRE AUSTRALIANS
AND OUR VISITORS TO
DISCOVER, EXPLORE,
DELIGHT IN AND PROTECT
OUR NATURAL WORLD.**

MISSION

We will demonstrate a meaningful and urgent commitment to wildlife, our natural environment and the pursuit of excellence in our conservation, recreation and scientific endeavours.

Through effective communication and example we will promote positive and measurable conservation outcomes. We will inspire active and enjoyable learning experiences and be a catalyst in creating understanding and wonderment of our natural world.

By encouragement and demonstration, our Zoos will lead individuals and communities in the wise and sustainable use of natural resources for the benefit of future generations.

AN OVERVIEW

The Zoological Parks Board of NSW (ZPB) operates Taronga Zoo in Sydney and Western Plains Zoo in Dubbo, catering for local, interstate and international visitors.

The ZPB is constituted under the Zoological Parks Board Act, 1973, as a statutory authority owned by the people of New South Wales and comes within the administration of the Minister for the Environment.

Amended legislation in 1992 defined the ZPB's responsibilities in education, conservation, research and recreation (see Appendix 1).

TARONGA ZOO

Symbol

Platypus *Ornithorhynchus anatinus*

Opened

October 1916. Site 28 hectares.

Animals

From the Old Moore Park Zoo, founded by the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales in 1881. The collection now includes approximately 3,087 animals from 356 species/sub-species.

Contact

Bradleys Head Rd, Mosman
PO Box 20, Mosman NSW 2088
Tel: (02) 9969 2777 Fax: (02) 9969 7515
Hours: 9.00am to 5.00pm daily
Website: www.zoo.nsw.gov.au

WESTERN PLAINS ZOO

Symbol

Giraffe *Giraffa camelopardalis*

Opened

February 1977. Site 788 hectares.

Animals

Exhibited in open range facilities. The collection now contains approximately 815 animals from 98 species/sub-species.

Contact

Obley Road, Dubbo
PO Box 831, Dubbo NSW 2830
Tel: (02) 6882 5888 Fax: (02) 6884 1722
Hours: 9.00am to 5.00pm daily
Website: www.zoo.nsw.gov.au



The Hon Bob Debus MP
Minister for the Environment
Parliament House, Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Mr Debus

It is a great pleasure to present the 33rd Annual Report of the Zoological Parks Board of New South Wales (ZPB), which includes the statement of accounts, for your presentation to the NSW Parliament. This report covers in full the ZPB's activities for the year ended 30 June 2006 in accordance with Sections 20 and 37 of the Zoological Parks Board Act, 1973 (as amended), and the Annual Reports Statutory Bodies Act, 1984 (as amended).

Yours sincerely,

Leonard F Bleasel AM
Chairman, Zoological Parks Board of NSW

25 October, 2006