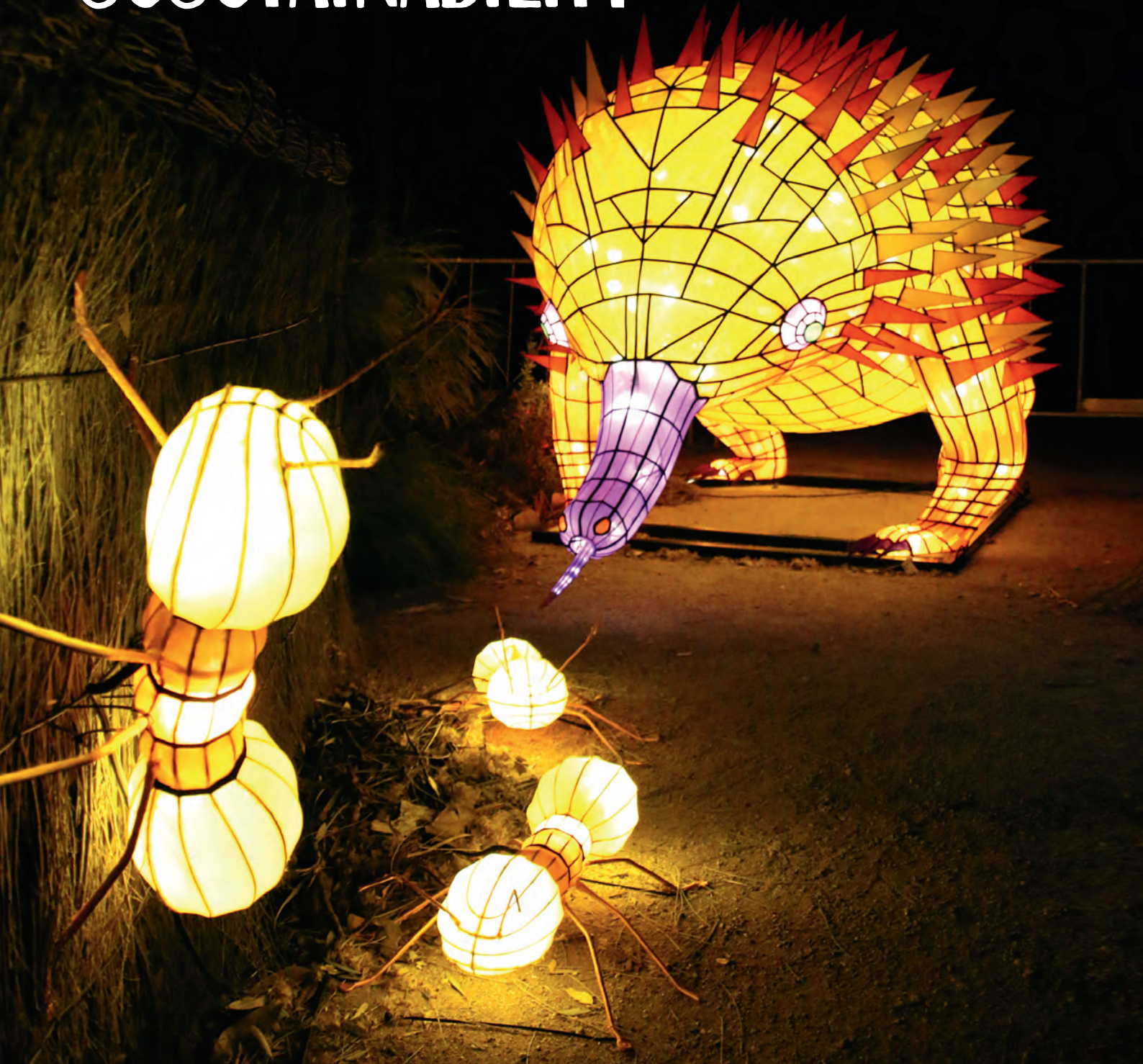


FINANCIAL *and* ENVIRONMENTAL SUSUTAINABILITY



THE ONGOING MANAGEMENT OF TARONGA'S ENTERPRISE TO FUND AND SUSTAIN SUCCESSFUL CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION OUTCOMES.



Roar and Snore at Taronga Zoo.
PHOTO: TARONGA ZOO



Design of new Tiger Exhibit at Taronga Zoo.
IMAGE: TARONGA ZOO



The most successful Twilight at Taronga season ever.
PHOTO: TARONGA ZOO

Taronga's celebration of the Vivid Sydney Festival was popular with nighttime visitors.
PHOTO: PAUL FAHY

Key achievements

- Continuing the strong growth of prior years, Taronga has attracted increased numbers of international guests. More than 41% of guests at Taronga Zoo visited from overseas.
- The overnight Roar and Snore program at Taronga Zoo operated for a record number of nights throughout the year, providing almost 12,000 guests with unique experiences with Taronga's wildlife, and continues to be 'Sydney's Ultimate Sleepover'.
- A new 5 ha browse site has been leased at the Richmond campus of the University of Western Sydney with 9,000 trees. The site will supply additional browse for the Zoo's animals for many years to come and sustain the increasing future needs.
- The 21st season of Twilight at Taronga delivered record breaking results with 14 of 17 shows sold out and more than 28,000 guests enjoying this iconic experience.
- Taronga's Sustainability Strategy 2016 - 2020 includes a Carbon Reduction target which will become the primary driver for improved resource efficiency, waste reduction and better purchasing choices. The Strategy also includes objectives to integrate sustainability into systems and processes while mitigating and controlling environmental risk.
- ANZ continued its enduring support of Taronga with a substantial contribution to become the Presenting Partner of Taronga's Centenary year. This collaboration enabled many of the key events across the Centenary celebrations.
- Attendance records were excellent for both Taronga Zoo and Taronga Western Plains Zoos with a total of 1.84M visitors, making it the highest year ever for total attendances.
- Energy Efficiency Audits were completed for TZ and TWPZ to identify new opportunities to reduce electricity consumption, increase efficiency of current operations and generate cost savings. Both audits will provide a framework to ensure Taronga Carbon Reduction target will be met by 2020.
- Taronga's gift shops surpassed many records including the highest ever annual income and the highest ever daily taking.
- A waste audit was completed for Taronga Zoo and operational waste assessment completed for Taronga Western Plains Zoo which identified a number of opportunities to reduce waste across both sites. The focus across both zoos has been on food waste as it has contributed up to 20% of the total waste stream.
- Financial management and oversight of increased revenue lines and cost budgets in 2015/16 arising from expanded activities across both sites, and implementation of the Centenary Capital Plan ensured improved financial performance and high quality reporting.

Performance Indicators

	2014/15	2015/16
Direct Government support per visitor (including contribution for capital development) ⁽¹⁾		
Taronga Zoo	\$8.92	\$10.31
Taronga Western Plains Zoo	\$9.43	\$18.59
Operating expenses per visitor (Excluding Taronga Foundation)		
Taronga Zoo	\$47.35	\$53.66
Taronga Western Plains Zoo	\$70.27	\$72.71
Capital expenditure per visitor		
Taronga Zoo	\$4.60	\$9.56
Taronga Western Plains Zoo	\$18.92	\$18.92
Taronga Foundation fundraising revenue	\$12.85m	\$12.96m

⁽¹⁾ Calculation excludes Twilight concert attendees at Taronga Zoo and function guests at both Zoos.

Environmental Sustainability

Sustainability Strategy 2016-2020

Taronga’s Sustainability Strategy 2016-2020 has been developed and implemented to provide a pathway to achieving the objectives of Taronga’s Strategic Plan. This Strategy includes a Carbon Reduction Target which will become the primary driver for improved resource efficiency, waste reduction and better purchasing. The Strategy also includes objectives to integrate sustainability into systems and processes while mitigating and controlling environmental risk.

Energy Efficiency

Level 2 energy efficiency audits were completed for Taronga and Taronga Western Plains Zoos to identify new opportunities to reduce electricity consumption, increase efficiency of current operations while generating cost savings. Both energy efficiency audits will inform the Carbon Reduction Plan which is the framework to ensure Taronga’s Carbon Reduction target will be met by 2020.

Waste Audit & Organics Waste Assessment

A waste audit was completed for TZ and an operational waste assessment completed for TWPZ, which identified a number of opportunities to reduce waste across both sites. The focus across both zoos has been centred on food waste as it contributes up to 20% of total waste stream. A more detailed organics waste assessment was completed at TWPZ to focus on the opportunity to divert and process food waste on site from commercial outlets.

Waste Performance

With the commencement of the Capital Program, Taronga has seen an increase in demolition and construction on site, resulting in increased construction waste at TZ by up to 25%. Total waste diversion from landfill is still performing well at 78% of total waste streams diverted. Over 500 tonnes of fill excavated from the site was retained at Taronga Zoo this year for the purposes of reuse on site in a number of key capital projects. This was a positive initiative taken on by the development team to increase the quantity of material being reused on the site.

Sustainable Purchasing

Taronga continues to improve performance in sustainable procurement of office products through the targeted purchase of products that align with Taronga’s updated Sustainable Procurement Policy. Over 97% of purchased office paper contained recycled content and approximately 65% of Taronga’s publications were printed on recycled content or FSC certified stock. This is a slight decrease compared to previous year and was the focus of a review this year. As a result a new target has been set requiring 100% of publications to be printed on FSC certified stock, with a minimum of 60% recycled content

Financial Sustainability

Admissions – Taronga Zoo

Taronga Zoo achieved the highest paid visitation* and total visitation** ever recorded in the 2015/16 financial year. With almost 1.58 million visitors to Taronga Zoo, an increase of 7.2% on last year was achieved. Very strong general admissions, particularly an increase in international guests across several key markets, and the uplift in visitation thanks to the Vivid Sydney at Taronga Zoo event all contributed to this outstanding result. Further, 2016 saw the most successful Twilight Concert series to date and a record number of guests at Roar and Snore also contributed to the significant increase in attendance.

Admissions revenue also performed well with strong admissions yields, a high proportion of international visitors and the record Paid Admissions attendance all contributing to a very positive performance for the year.

The weather conditions were more favourable compared to last year, with 12% less weather-affected days. Significant weather events are an increasingly prevalent challenge for Taronga’s operations with a major weather event in Sydney in June resulting in the total closure of Taronga Zoo Sydney for 1.5 days and the Vivid event closing for 2 nights.

* Includes All Paid Admissions and Zoo Friends, Paid Education and Overnight Stays.

**Paid and free of charge attendance including function guests at both Zoos and Twilight Concert attendees at Taronga Zoo. Note, 2015/16 figures also for the first time includes Wild Ropes Climbers and attendees at Vivid at Taronga.

Admissions – Taronga Western Plains Zoo

Paid visitation to Taronga Western Plains Zoo totalled 136,343 visitors across the year; a 5% increase on the previous year. Total visitation reached 252,010 people, an 8% increase year on year. Total admission revenue of \$4.5M, an increase of 8% year on year was achieved.

A targeted effort throughout the year ensured that all three of the Zoo’s overnight experiences were effectively marketed and promoted. As a direct result of this, along with winning Best Unique Accommodation at the Australian Tourism Awards, a record level of overnight visitation was achieved during

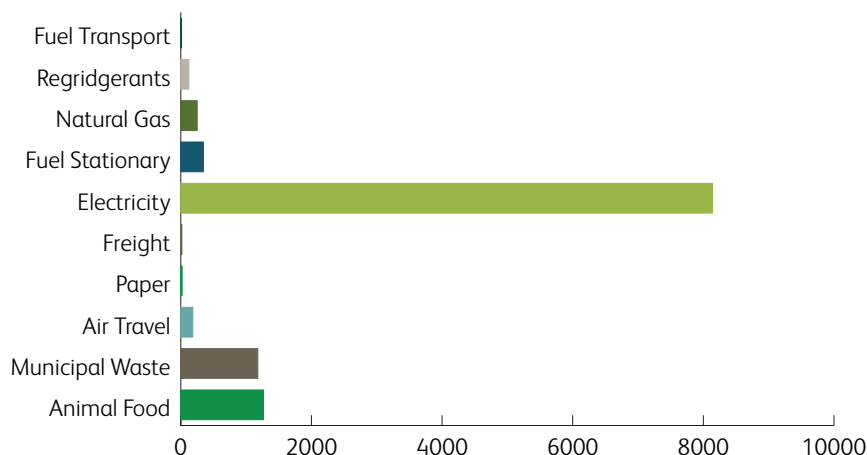
Environmental Performance – Consolidated Report

Resource	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Performance
Total Electricity (kWhrs)	9,232,833	9,494,894	9,356,336	9,835,067	8,302,281	-16%
Natural Gas (MJ)	5,803,347	6,562,397	4,893,303	5,519,451	6,995,602	30%
LPG (L)	33,978	35,872	47,287	42,897	43,719	2%
Potable Water (KL)	152,879	168,608	171,567,455	145,731	133,242	-7%
Recycled Water Used (KL)	77,678	58,120	53,586	67,277	68,950	3%
River Water (KL)	290,000	476,000	411,000	528,000	424,727	-25%
General Waste to Landfill (t)	158	168.38	170	181	162	-11%
Bulk Waste to Landfill (t)	211	227	214	123	216	43%
Green Waste Recycled (t)	NA	NA	30	37	24	-43%
Co-mingled Waste Recycled (t)	367	343	341	334	330	-1%
Paper and Cardboard Recycled (t)	255	188	181.6025	203	160	-24%
Unleaded petrol (L)	51,622	39,220.84	33,212.29	24,509	23,710	-2%
Diesel petrol (L)	67,931	66,014.85	73,547	74,630	68,547	-8%

Notes:

- * Performance is based on figure from previous FY
- * 6% of total energy purchased is sourced from Green Power.
- * Bulk waste is defined as operational waste
- * General waste is defined as non recyclable staff and visitor waste
- * Co-mingled waste is defined as aluminium, glass and plastic
- * River water is used at TWPZ only
- * Natural gas is used at TZ only
- * Recycled water is produced at TZ only
- * LPG is used at TWPZ only
- * Bulk waste figure is for TZ only
- * Added additional reporting measure - Green Waste for TZ only
- * Food outlet refurbishment complete this period adjusts natural gas consumption in line with 2012-2013 year

Taronga Emissions breakdown by source



the year with 37,241 overnight visitors. This represents an increase of 26% of overnight guests year on year.

A continued focus on maintaining and increasing the Zoo Friends membership base and promotion of the benefits of membership saw 25,933 Zoo Friends members visit the Zoo this year.

Marketing and Promotional Activities

Taronga Zoo

January 2016 marked the start of Taronga's Centenary year and several new Centenary-themed marketing campaigns were launched in addition to the traditional holiday campaigns and promotions. These included a memory-sharing nostalgia campaign #IGrewUpWithTaronga that encourages the upload of photos of Taronga visits across the decades, "Visit for \$1 On Your Birthday" where people register to receive a voucher for a \$1 visit on their birthday, and the "Birthday Ballot" to enter a competition to attend Taronga's 100th Birthday celebration. All campaigns were promoted through owned and paid social media and to date have attracted over 80,000 responses.

This year also saw the launch of Vivid Sydney at Taronga Zoo, with 85,000 people purchasing tickets to visit over the 23 night festival. The event was promoted with the help of Destination NSW's together with Taronga's owned and paid social media. Vivid at Taronga Zoo allowed for the conservation messaging to be shared with a broader audience thanks to the promotion of the ten Centenary species as the light installations and projection show content. The overall event was widely acclaimed and considered a great success.

International visitation continues to grow, up 16% on last year and representing 41% of total visitation at Taronga Zoo. China remains the largest market with the greatest opportunity and a continued strategy in this area has delivered 33% growth on last year. A new focus on the USA including attending trade missions and developing trade relationships in market has seen impressive movement with visitation up 27% on last year, shifting the USA to the second largest international market for Taronga.

Taronga Western Plains Zoo

Taronga Western Plains Zoo's marketing activities assisted the zoo to exceed budgeted admissions and achieve record overnight visitation, with over 37,000 people experiencing overnight programs.

Key marketing activity across the year included digital and print advertising. This year the Zoo moved away from television advertising; however results from a stronger digital approach were very positive, with online video performing extremely well, remaining a strong visual medium for conveying the Taronga

Western Plains Zoo experience.

Creatively, overnight experiences were again the lead across all marketing activities, with the 'Wake up in the Wild' campaign material featuring Zoofari Lodge engaging audiences across paid and non paid media, and having a halo effect across all zoo products. In appropriate channels such as paid social media, new Zoo arrivals were also promoted as were discounted online tickets following the implementation of a discount in Autumn. Initial results saw online ticket sales jump from 5% of total General Admissions (GA) to 31% of total.

Exceptional photography was captured across the year and used across traditional and social media to assist in achieving admissions and accommodation results. Most of the media and public relations activity generated this year focussed on new arrivals, particularly the three rhino calves in 2015 and four Giraffe calves in early 2016.

Paid media and public relations activity around these new arrivals also continued to drive local (Dubbo and surrounds) admissions and engagement, with 'Mates Rates' visitation up 3% and Zoo Friends memberships continuing to be strong. Overall visitation from the Dubbo region is up year on year. Additionally advertising conducted in the wider Central West NSW around new arrivals has seen strong visitation from within a two hour radius of Dubbo.

Digital Marketing

During 2016 Taronga implemented a renewed digital marketing strategy which focuses on attracting zoo guests through performance digital media channels. This approach, together with a revised pricing structure for online tickets, achieved significant growth in the pre-purchase of tickets, with redemption rates moving from less than 10% to an average of greater than 20% of general admission tickets daily.

There has also been growth in the social media audiences with 210,000 fans on Facebook across both Zoos, 100,000 followers on Instagram and 17,000 Twitter followers. The website remains an important asset for communicating both Zoos to the digital audience with just on 4 million unique visits, 26% growth on last year.

Thanks to the Centenary marketing campaigns and events such as Vivid, the database has reached almost 200,000 email addresses with additional data captured for future marketing and fundraising opportunities.

Retail

Taronga Zoo

This year saw the retail department achieve record sales of over \$5.5 million, growth of 9% on the prior year.

The focus this year was on staff development, empowering all members of the retail team

with in-depth product knowledge and ensuring a commitment to high customer service standards. Coupled with strategic buying and strong visual merchandising, this ensured the very positive retail sales growth for the year.

Highlights of the year included achieving the highest ever daily trading figure and the very successful retail activities during the Vivid Light Festival

Taronga Western Plains Zoo

Taronga Western Plains Zoo retail department has seen great results throughout the year, with overall retail sales achieving a 3.4% increase on the previous year. It is clear that the increase in both paid and overnight guest attendance, particularly in non school holiday periods, have influenced the overall result.

The team worked hard to deliver improvements again this year in stock control, with the annual stocktake realising its best ever results. Improvements were also made to merchandising and introducing new product lines throughout the year. The cooler/wet weather also assisted retail performance with visitors spending more time at the zoo in general, and more likely to visit the Savannah Visitor Plaza area.

Catering and Functions

Taronga Zoo

Catering at Taronga Zoo achieved strong returns over the year with both in-ground catering and the functions business delivering solid growth.

Maximising peak visitation periods through the placement of additional temporary outlets supported a 4.2% growth in the spend-per-head over the previous year. The addition of a new role of Assistant Retail Manger also supported this result.

The functions business saw several highlights throughout the year. An additional 17 weddings were hosted. Supporting this segment was a Wedding Open Day held in January which directly generated many of these bookings. The appointment of an Assistant Event Operations Manager ensured consistency of event delivery and assisted in business growth.

Innovation within the catering offering for the Twilight at Taronga concert series also continued in 2016. The introduction of a 'premium' hamper for the concert series kept the catering offering fresh. This was also the first concert series sponsored by a beverage supplier giving the outlets a new look and providing a wider choice of offering for concert goers.

The opportunity of providing additional catering during Vivid at Taronga was not missed with a high volume of sales achieved over the 23-night event. Overall functions revenue grew by more than 17% on the previous year.

Taronga Western Plains Zoo

Taronga Western Plains Zoo Functions has seen a marginal decline in the number of guests attending weddings in the 2015/2016 Financial Year. While the number of conference guests increased, the overall guest spend is higher for weddings than conferences.

The consolidated profit was consistent with the 2014/15 result. The Zoo's Functions and Events Coordinator was proactive in attending numerous wedding expos and conferences throughout the year to promote and advertise the Zoo's products and services.

This, along with the opportunity for more restaurant-style dinners in the Savannah Functions Centre, such as the "Flavours of the World" events currently scheduled for every few months, have been a great way to supplement the slight decline in traditional function guests. These events, along with improved packages and offerings, represent the prospect of good growth in functions and events.

Positively, Taronga Western Plains Zoo's Catering income for the year was 4% up against last year. The Catering department continued catering for Billabong Camp, along with regularly running promotions for daily specials and a number of special events offered during the year including Mother's Day breakfast and lunch, Valentine's Day dinner, Father's Day lunch, and catering for the Dubbo Stampede event. Catering spend per visitor this year was \$6.68 compared to \$6.79 last year, a decrease of 4%.

Inground commercial operations

Taronga Zoo

Roar and Snore

Roar and Snore experienced another record year, hosting almost 12,000 guests and achieving revenue growth of 7.7% on the previous year. 2015/16 saw Roar and Snore operate across a record number of nights throughout the year, boosted by attracting group business in the off-peak periods and running continuously for the duration of Vivid at Taronga.

Twilight at Taronga

The 2016 series of Twilight at Taronga achieved record ticket sales with 14 of 17 shows sold out. The diverse line-up featured Courtney Barnett, John Butler Trio, Birds of Tokyo, Missy Higgins, Violent Femmes and South African a cappella group Ladysmith Black Mambazo. This was the second series that Taronga has promoted and produced internally, with the net contribution increased 19% on the prior year.

Wild Ropes

Wild Ropes completed its first full year of operation with great success. Over 23,000 climbers experienced the on-course challenges and were immersed in a new perspective on Taronga's flora and fauna.

Across the year net-returns exceeded budget expectations and set a solid foundation for the ongoing operation of Wild Ropes. Group interest continues to grow with weekend birthday parties gaining momentum and school bookings and corporate team building activities proving popular mid-week.

Taronga Western Plains Zoo Overnight Programs

Overall Taronga Western Plains Zoo overnight programs achieved record results this year, along with being awarded as Australia's best Unique Accommodation at the 2015 Qantas Australian Tourism Awards.

The TWPZ accommodation properties achieved revenue in excess of \$5.8M, with a total of 37,241 guests staying overnight at the Zoo, a 26% increase on last year.

Zoofari Lodge has a record year with a total of 12,680 visitors experienced the multi-award winning product, an 8% increase on 2014/15. Trading revenue was up 12% on the previous year and Zoofari Lodge was awarded Best Contemporary Zoofari Retreat – Australia, and Best Experience Accommodation - New South Wales, by the LUX Travel Magazine UK.

Billabong Camp showed some great results for this unique Australian experience. A total of 8,528 visitors participated in this program during 2015/16, which was a 13% increase from the previous year.

The Savannah Cabins outperformed the 2015/16 forecasts, accommodating 16,033 guests, representing a 49% increase on 2014/15. It should be noted that the Savannah Cabins traded for 9.5 months in 2014/15.

Guest Services

Bikes and Carts revenue grew 7% on the previous year's result, influenced by the increase in overall visitation. Looking forward, the acquisition of 20 new electric carts will assist in generating continued growth.

The new jumping castle, infant's jumping castle and binocular hire have continued to be popular add-ons for visitors and have been received extremely well.

Taronga Foundation

The Taronga Foundation achieved its most successful year to date, raising a record level of funds from trusts and foundations, individuals and corporate partners all supporting our commitment to a shared future for wildlife and people. Funds raised through the Foundation over the past 16 years have enabled the expansion of the support of field conservation grants program; in-situ conservation partnerships, education and research projects as well as supporting major re-developments at both zoos ensuring high standards of animal care and improving visitor experience and enjoyment.

Taronga Foundation Executive Patrons

Mr Maurice L Newman AC (Chair)
Mr Nigel Adams
Mr Guy Cooper PSM
Ms Lisa Ho
Ms Terry Kaljo
Mr Thomas O'Donnell
Ms Gretel Packer
Mr Harold Shaprio
Mrs Nikki Warburton

Taronga Foundation Executive Patrons

Mr John Armati AM
Mr Frank Brennan
Mr John Cleese
Ms Collette Dinnigan
Mr Bradley Trevor Greive
Mr Justin Hemmes
Mr Graham Humphrey
Mrs Sandra Humphrey
Mrs Skye Leckie
Mr Justin Miller
Mr Richard Morecroft
Mrs Rebel Penfold-Russell OAM
Mr PJ Shanmugan
Ms Deborah Thomas
Mr Peter Young AM
Mr George Wang

Philanthropy

Taronga Foundation Events

The Foundations fundraising events raised almost \$900K. Two fundraising dinners were held, Zoofari 'Spirit of the Sun' ball in November - raised funds for Taronga's Sun Bear breeding and conservation programs in Sumatra. The evening was a huge success and included a raffle, silent and live auctions along with the lucky key and generous pledging.

June 2016 saw the Vanishing species Masquerade Ball, held at Town hall raising funds for Taronga's Centenary Sumatran species. Rove McManus was the MC for the evening. Guests wore colourful and impressive animals mask and were treated to displays from aerialists.

A number of new community fundraising initiatives were implemented. In August 21 runners representing Taronga took part in City to Surf raising over \$17,398. In September 8 participants took part in Taronga Sumatra Trek for the Wild, accompanied by a Taronga keeper the group raised over \$30,000.

New Years Eve at Taronga was once again a resounding success, with over 2,500 guests enjoying the entertainment and incredible views of the harbour. Tickets for the event sold out well before the event.

Major Gifts and Bequests

Thanks to a number of supporters leaving gifts in their Wills bequest income reached over \$3 million.

Gifts from donors raised over \$1.8M providing support for a range of projects both here in Australia and for in-situ projects overseas. This includes support for Taronga Conservation Science Initiatives which funds projects such as preventing marine mammal entanglements, helping frogs fight deadly fungus and understanding wild shark social networks.

We would like to acknowledge the following generous supporters who donated \$10,000 or more this financial year.

- Beswick Family Fund
- Caledonia Foundation
- The Denton Family
- Ms Koko Dowe
- Mrs Susan Doyle
- Emily’s Wish Foundation
- Girl Guides Association (NSW)
- Mr James Fairfax
- The E J Hart Family
- Hill Family Conservation Foundation
- Dr Irvine Hunter
- Mr Andy and Mrs Prue Kennard
- Maple-Brown Family Foundation Ltd
- Metlife Foundation
- The Sir James McNeill Trust
- Ottomin Foundation

- Ms Gretel Packer
- Mrs Roslyn Packer AO
- The Paradise Family Foundation
- Mrs Rebel Penfold-Russell OAM
- Mr Alan and Mrs Lynne Rydge
- Skipper-Jacobs Charitable Trust
- Mr Dick and Mrs Pip Smith
- The Late Mrs Joyce Sproat
- Mr Lawrie and Mrs Anne Turnbull
- Anthony Suters and Assoc Pty Ltd
- Vonwiller Foundation
- Mr Anthony Whitehouse
- Ms Sarah Whyte

Friends of the Future Income (Funds received from estates 2015-2016)

- The Estate of The Late Mrs Shirley Margaret Corder
- The Estate of The Late Ms Melinda Knipers
- The Estate of The Late Mr Jacobus Neelemaat
- The Estate of The Late Mr Wallace Newlyn
- The Estate of the Late Mrs Marlene Verbeek
- The Estate of The Late Mr Paul Willoughby
- The Estate of The Late Mr Nicolai Zissoff

Direct Marketing

The Taronga Wildlife Defender regular giving program has grown by 53% within the year, attracting new supporters through face to face, telemarketing and direct mail programs, with supporters generously donating almost \$700K this year.

The Christmas appeal focused on Taronga’s rhino breeding and conservation programs in Sumatra. The end of year tax appeal focused on the Sumatran Tiger, the breeding and conservation program. This year’s appeals have raised over \$770,000.

Zoo Parent

Zoo Parents have generously contributed an income of \$400,000 during the year, with a new-look web presence for the program.

Corporate Partnerships

The Foundation has achieved a great level of corporate support with revenue of nearly \$5.4 million received in cash and contra support.

Taronga secured over \$4 million in cash sponsorships this year. In addition, essential contra and project support reached a total of \$1.34 million in equivalent value of contributions towards operations of Taronga and the Foundation.

The success of the program is due to the valued support of over 60 long-term partners supporting in a range of different ways. Principle partners include ANZ, Fairfax, QBE, Streets and Woolworths that continue to work with Taronga to generate value for both organisations.

ANZ further committed their partnership to Taronga by supporting the Taronga Centenary as the Presenting Partner for 2016.

The Taronga Foundation Chairman’s Report

This financial year the Foundation raised a net total income of \$13.7 million bringing the total raised over the last 16 years to an impressive \$89 million.

The Foundation’s 2015/16 program of fundraising activity in the Centenary year included the annual events, Zoofari, Taronga dinner and New Year’s Eve at Taronga, collectively raising nearly \$900,000.

I would like to thank our Patrons for their continued support and advocacy again this year. I would particularly like to thank Ms Terri Kaljo for once again chairing the Zoofari Fundraising Committee, Mr Nigel Adams for support and advice on estate matters and Ms Gretel Packer for supporting the Taronga Conservation Science Initiatives.

And finally, I would like to thank our corporate partners, donors, and of course, Taronga Director Mr Cameron Kerr, the Chairman, Board members and dedicated staff at Taronga Zoo and Taronga Western Plains Zoo. Thank you all for encouraging and supporting our fundraising endeavours.



Maurice Newman AC
Chairman
Taronga Foundation

TARONGA ZOO AND TARONGA WESTERN PLAINS ZOOS' PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION

Sponsorship supports The Taronga Foundation's contribution to conservation

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Signwave Newtown
Tourism and Transport Forum
Virbac
Visy Beverage
Wet & Forget
Zoetis

Taronga Zoo Facilities and Infrastructure Asset Maintenance

Taronga Zoo

Asset Management

Development of asset management strategies continued, with ongoing implementation of period service contracts for key systems, and completion of works to enhance the reliability and resilience of critical infrastructure. Maintenance and repurposing of existing facilities continued to support the needs of wildlife in the Zoo's care.

Critical Infrastructure

Significant upgrades to critical site infrastructure were completed with resulting improved system resilience and capabilities for expansion. These included connection of a second water supply for the potable water and fire systems, completion of a site wide upgrade for fire detection and alarm systems, and renewal of aged high-voltage cabling.

Sky Safari

The scheduled replacement of the main cable for the Sky Safari cableway was carried out in conjunction with planned major maintenance works to ensure continuing reliability of the Sky Safari experience. The works were completed sooner than scheduled allowing an early return to normal operation for guests.

Life Support Systems

A detailed evaluation commenced for enhancement of the hydraulic systems and aquarium life support systems within the Great Southern Ocean Marine Precinct to meet proposed new Environmental Protection compliance requirements and provide flexibility for future animal welfare requirements.

Waste Water Treatment Plant

The two UV filtration systems within the Waste Water Treatment Plant were replaced to ensure compliance with the Zoo's EPA licence. These systems were both of an age which made their reliability difficult to maintain. These units are an essential part of maintaining compliance and our commitment to protecting the environment.

Bellinger River Turtle Facility

In conjunction with the Office of Environment and Heritage a project was developed to construct a purpose-built facility to accommodate 16 (9 male, 7 female) turtles as part of creating a Bellinger River insurance

population. This work was carried out using both in-house and contract resources to complete the project. The facility has nine large dedicated pools with individual filtration systems that will be utilised to maintain the insurance colony.

Sun Bear Climbing Structure

This project was developed to provide a more complex environment for our Sun Bears. This involved the construction of a large climbing structure using natural logs and materials to provide an aesthetically pleasing environment. The work was carried out using our in-house resources to achieve Life Science's requirements.

Taronga Western Plains Zoo Asset Maintenance

With the continued roll out of major infrastructure maintenance, linked to capital works improvements and general maintenance it has been a busy year. Reviews and mapping of the Zoo's electrical layouts, potable and non potable water systems, fencing and security gates, roadways and emergency control areas has been ongoing with the development of an overlay mapping system being developed.

General building and amenity maintenance has been prioritised along with painting for the accommodation facilities, main amenities and office areas. The cycle ways and visitor access to exhibit precincts has also been a focus with improvements to presentation, amenity, horticulture and visitor flow movements. Pavement resealing is ongoing as are extensions to public parking to help reduce the impact on high visitation days.

Animal exhibit maintenance continues to occur across the site to ensure positive outcomes for our wildlife.

Taronga Zoo Heritage and Asset Management

Heritage Asset Maintenance

The management of the heritage values of the Zoos as cultural landscapes has assisted in informing the current capital works program in planning and construction. The Zoos' design teams have been engaged in enhancing heritage values and providing creative solutions across the two sites.

Research has found that Taronga's existing 'Finch Aviary' to be the original 1916 Python Enclosure. A proposal to preserve it with a new public use is in development.

The registered Aboriginal site at Taronga has been protected during the construction of the Sumatran Tiger exhibit and monitoring will continue.

General maintenance has continued in line with legislative requirements with various repair works continuing across the site.

Design works at Taronga Zoo are underway for repair and stabilisation of sections of the stone boundary wall, a Depression era structure. Planning has commenced for maintenance works to the Elephant Temple, which is subject to ongoing concrete cancer and facade spalling.

The Zoos' heritage items continue to be managed in line with the Heritage and Conservation Register and the suite of conservation management documents. Strategies are in preparation for review and update of the heritage management documents.

Horticulture

After 22 years of operation, Taronga's horticulture browse team decommissioned the smaller 1.8 ha Koala plantation at the Richmond campus of the University of Western Sydney (UWS) and moved to the new 5 ha site with 9,000 trees at a nearby site at UWS. The new site will supply additional animal browse for The Zoo's animals for many years to come and sustain increasing future animal food needs.

Landscaping works in the zoo grounds covered areas such as Backyard to Bush, Great Southern Oceans, Roar and Snore and Moore Park Aviary with new plantings.

The heritage floral clock had its seasonal annual planting with some minor upgrades. Significant horticulture activities for the 100 year celebrations involved landscaping areas for the Vivid festival.

Horticulture staff have collaborated with the Education Centre on to major habitat programs, including Project Yellow Belly Glider and Project Penguin. These programs provide an opportunity for horticulture staff to educate students on the importance of habitat and the part it plays in conservation.

Volunteer groups continue to support the team's bush regeneration work of restoring the zoo's natural areas. 'Bushcare' involved 15 volunteers working across the year, while corporate sponsors dedicated 47 volunteers for community work clearing and weeding the Zoo grounds.