

CHAIRMANS REPORT

AUSTRALIA ZOO WILDLIFE WARRIORS WORLDWIDE LIMITED

Welcome to the Annual General Meeting of Australia Zoo Wildlife Warriors Worldwide Limited.

Thank you for your attendance today and special thanks for your commitment to the organisation.

The main purpose of today's meeting is to review the operations of our organisation for the year ending 30 June 2008. I would especially like to thank the Wildlife Warrior team who have worked hard to consolidate the operation of the organisation after experiencing significant growth, their main aim being to identify our focus for the coming year.

For the financial year ending on 30 June 2008, our performance was very pleasing. We set out to do a number of things and our priorities for the year were all achieved. These included:

- Maintaining and extending our profile and building our supporter base;
- Consolidating our fund raising efforts and holding our first major public appeal on Steve Irwin Day;
- Increasing our effectiveness in our international conservation programmes;
- Continuing the construction of the Australian Wildlife Hospital;
- Continuing to raise the funds needed to complete the new Hospital.

Our major achievements throughout the last financial year have included:

- The launching of the first Steve Irwin Day on 15 November 2007 in partnership with our major sponsor Australia Zoo. This was a major event held at Australia Zoo and all funds raised went to Wildlife Warriors;
- As part of SID the launch of two major appeals for community involvement in the raising of funds. The Backyard Campout and Khaki Day proved to be extremely popular with local and overseas people, allowing direct contribution to our cause;
- Securing more contracts with organisations requiring services provided by the Ecological Services Unit thus providing an avenue for developments to seek advice and assistance to become more environmentally and ecologically aware and 'friendly';
- Our Hospital increased wildlife cases to around 5,500 during the year thus requiring an increase in staffing levels to 25 persons;
- The further development of processes to allow individuals and community groups to raise funds for the organisation;
- The ongoing development and contribution to our international conservation programmes with tigers, cheetahs, elephants and orang-utans;
- The provision of funding for the "Devil Island Project" assisting in completion of this pilot facility in Tasmania for the protection of Tasmanian Devils;
- The continuation of the koala tracking programme. This program has now spanned a number of years and is providing crucial information with regard to threats/pressures on koala;
- We also actioned a conversion campaign in April last year. This was aimed to convert one-off donors into regular monthly donor programme. This campaign was carried out through a direct mail-out and resulted in a conversion rate in line with industry figures;
- We continued providing administration support to the US Office and supported the New York Gala Dinner held on 22 January 2008;
- Fund raising stalls were held at most of Australia Zoo's promotional days throughout the year. These were of great assistance in raising funds and general awareness of the organisation;

Since June 30 2008 there have been three other substantial events that warrant mention and required an enormous amount of effort from all of the Wildlife Warrior and Australia Zoo crew alike. This involved the 2nd Steve Irwin Day held on the 15 Nov 2008, the 1st Steve Irwin Gala dinner held on the evening of Steve Irwin Day and of course the official opening of our new 'Australian Wildlife Hospital'. This in particular is an enormous milestone for Wildlife Warriors as not only was it one of our founding projects, it is also in memory of Lyn Irwin. I would like to give special thanks to all involved from design to completion of construction and ongoing thanks to all of the vets, nurses and volunteers who help us make Steve's dream a continual reality.

We of course would also like to acknowledge all of the donors, supporters and sponsors for their generosity during 2007/08 – in particular, we would like to thank the team at Australia Zoo for continuing to underwrite our administration costs, for encouraging their guests to support us and for the assistance provided by the entire Australia Zoo team. This ongoing assistance is what enabled us to keep our small crew operational. In particular, we would like to thank all the staff that are involved in payroll giving, their combined donations amounting to \$35,000 during 2007/08.

Our major focus for the current year is to continue to support the newly completed Australia Zoo Wildlife Warriors Australian Wildlife Hospital which now has the capacity to treat up to 10,000 annually; almost double the old hospital's capacity. We will also support and potentially expand our current Australian and international conservation projects.

In addition to this we are in the process of developing our new website, together with a Junior Wildlife Warrior sub-site called "TRIBE". Both of these will enable us to communicate more easily and frequently with our donors and supporters.

In the coming year a major priority will be to maintain strong relationships with our current and upcoming supporters and sponsors and to ensure they are engaged with the organisation and therefore continue to financially support the important conservation work that we undertake. We are also putting in place a strategic fund raising plan that will ensure advantage is taken of every opportunity available to us to raise funds and awareness for such projects.

Thank you all for your support and for continuing to "live a little on the wild side".

Wes Mannion
28 January 2009