

# Animal

## ROUNDABOUT



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Produced for people with an interest in the exhibition of animals in zoos, circuses, mobile farms, fauna and wildlife parks in NSW.

## New Snow Leopard Exhibit at Billabong Koala and Wildlife Park



*Snow Leopard Exhibit*

Photo Credit – Mark Stone

Mark and Danena Stone and all the staff at Billabong Koala and Wildlife Park are delighted to announce the opening of their new snow leopard exhibit. The project which has taken five years from inception to completion has brought about many challenges, not least from Mother Nature who has unleashed torrents of rain throughout the eight month construction period and delivering one of the wettest years in recent times.

The hard work has paid off though with the first snow leopard, 8 year old Khumbu, settling well into the new facility. Khumbu will be enjoying the summer at Billabong before being transferred to Taronga Zoo for breeding in 2012. Khumbu was bred at Mogo Zoo and arrived at Billabong in mid-November. He seems to be enjoying his new

exhibit and has been responding to keepers well. When the time comes for Khumbu to move to Taronga Zoo, new snow leopards Kamala and Sabu, a non-breeding brother and sister pair, will take up permanent residence at Billabong.

A primary focus for Mark and Danena when designing the snow leopard exhibit was to ensure it was as multi-purpose as possible with the capacity to hold other carnivore species should the need occur. The facility boasts three large dens, a large fully grassed holding yard and a large exhibit featuring a combination of a rock face as well as grassy areas. The facility allows easy movement of the snow leopards through multiple slides which allows the cats to move in a circular motion throughout the complex as required. Billabong staff hopes that in the future the facility may be utilized for breeding purposes.

Mark and Danena look forward to the community's response and have already received very positive feedback from local businesses and media.

**Mark and Danena Stone**  
**Billabong Koala and Wildlife Park**

# National Zoo Biosecurity Manual

The Zoo and Aquarium Association, the Australian Wildlife Health Network and the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) have collaborated to produce the National Zoo Biosecurity Manual (NZBM). The Manual has been developed by veterinary leaders and advisors within the Australian zoo industry to document best practice biosecurity measures currently being adopted by the zoo industry. The Manual acknowledges the wide range of circumstances under which zoos within Australia operate in terms of geographic location, species and numbers of animals held, work practices and available resources.

All zoos are encouraged to use the information in this Manual to assess their own biosecurity risks, and to develop and maintain an appropriate level of biosecurity for their premises.

## **Biosecurity is important for all zoos. Good biosecurity practices help to:**

- Keep zoo animals safe and healthy.
- Keep zoo staff and visitors safe and healthy.
- Minimise costs associated with treating disease in zoo animals.
- Keep zoos open and running if an infectious disease outbreak occurs within, or near a zoo.
- Promote the good reputation of the individual zoo and the zoo industry as a whole.
- Assist zoos in acquiring and managing exotic species.

## **Zoo Biosecurity includes but is not limited to:**

- Appropriately constructed and maintained facilities.
- Management of stray and pest species.
- Management of drainage and waste products.
- Good hygiene and work practices.
- A preventative medicine program.
- Appropriate quarantine of newly arrived and sick animals.
- Veterinary diagnosis and treatment of sick animals.

Although it is not expected that every zoo will have a need to, or be in a position to, implement all of the guidelines within the Manual in daily practice, the development of Zoo-specific practices and institutional-specific Biosecurity Plans is fundamental to the success of improved biosecurity for the entire zoo industry.

A copy of the National Zoo Biosecurity Manual can be downloaded at either of the following links:

<http://www.zooaquarium.org.au/Publications/default.aspx>

[http://www.daff.gov.au/animal-plant-health/pests-diseases-weeds/biosecurity/animal\\_biosecurity/manuals](http://www.daff.gov.au/animal-plant-health/pests-diseases-weeds/biosecurity/animal_biosecurity/manuals)

Or you may request a hard copy of the Manual by contacting: [NZBMreview@zooaquarium.org.au](mailto:NZBMreview@zooaquarium.org.au)

The Zoo and Aquarium Association welcomes all feedback on the Manual from stakeholders.

**Andrea Reiss, Zoo and Aquarium Association and Rupert Woods, Australian Wildlife Health Network**



*Biosecurity Manual Cover*

Photo Credit – Andrea Reiss and Rupert Woods

# Taronga Zoo's New Chimp Exhibit

Taronga's Chimpanzee Sanctuary reopened on September 28 last year after a two year renovation to increase its operational capacity to manage Taronga's chimpanzee group. Changes to the original exhibit include a complete refit of the night-house den system, a new climbing structure, a new visitor viewing and interactive area, and the most noticeable addition, a new mesh dome structure that partially encloses the western end of the exhibit.

The objective of the project was to provide a higher degree of exhibit complexity for the animals and to provide a second space that can temporarily house separate groups of chimpanzees while they assimilate into the main group. This functionality will support the zoo's ability to



*Taronga Zoo's renovated chimp exhibit.*

Photo Credit – Taronga Zoo

manage the chimpanzee group's complex social structures, as well as helping keepers introduce new members into the group in future.

The semi-transparent dome structure was an innovative design that allows a more usable area for the chimps within the exhibit, including the roof, and also allows the separation of the exhibit into two parts – the meshed separation paddock and an open paddock. When separation of the two sides is needed, a large mesh curtain slides across to create a dividing barrier. Perforated metal sheets surround this area prevent the chimps from accessing the outer face of the mesh while maintaining transparency.

The chimpanzees have settled in well and wasted no time taking advantage of the new environment. The young ones are constantly found playing in different areas and environments, and the older chimpanzees, who usually displayed a preference for remaining on the ground in the original exhibit, have started using the new elevated resting platforms placed throughout the climbing structure. Perhaps they are enjoying the serenity of their new home and the harbour views?

**Nicolas de Graaff**

Project Manager - Exhibit Planning  
Taronga Zoo

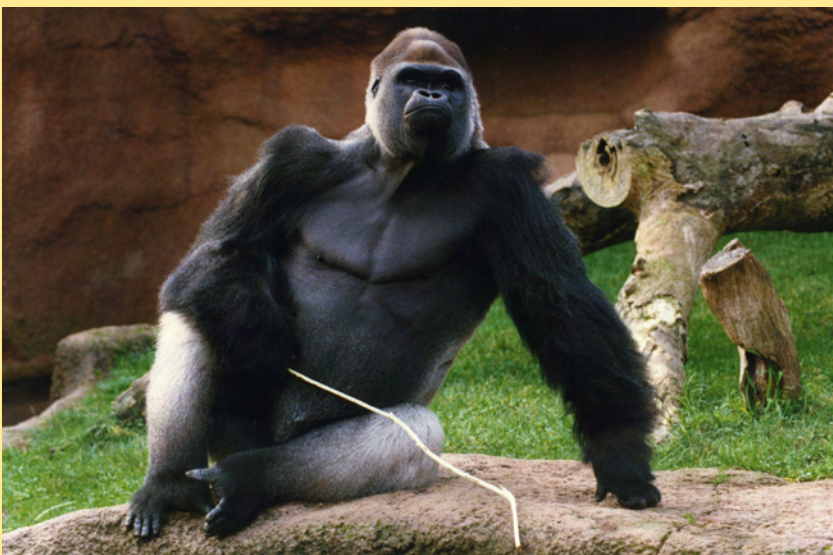
## Fauna and Marine Parks Association

Our congratulations to several members of the NSW FMPA who won awards at the recent NSW Tourism Awards Gala Dinner, held at Sydney Convention Centre Darling Harbour in November 2011. The winners were Taronga Zoo who won the Gold Award in the Category of Major Tourist Attraction and Mogo Zoo who won the Silver Award in the Tourist Attractions Category. Sally Padey and her Mogo Zoo staff were overjoyed to also receive the highly coveted Sun-Herald Readers' Choice Award. Taronga Western Plains Zoo (Central NSW) won the Silver Award in the category of New Tourism Development for their Savannah Visitor Plaza and Free Access Area.

Three members of the NSW FMPA Executive committee attended the last meeting of the Exhibited Animals Advisory Committee. The invitation was provided to all prescribed organisations under the Exhibited Animals Protection Regulation including ZAA, the Mobile Wildlife Educations Association, the Circus Federation and the NSW Fauna & Marine Parks Association Inc. A number of industry related points were discussed with the Committee and it was agreed at the last general meeting of the FMPA that the opportunity for our members to meet with the EAAC had been very beneficial.

**Lisa Christie**

Secretary  
- NSW Fauna and Marine Parks Association



*Western Lowland Gorilla*

Photo Credit – Stephen Jackson



Anthony Stimson giving a presentation

Photo Credit  
– Anthony Stimson

## Announcing the incorporation of the Mobile Wildlife Educators Association (MWEA Inc.).

The MWEA was formed in February 1998 by NSW mobile wildlife exhibitors independent from the zoos, aquariums and wildlife parks to formalise their contribution to the exhibited animal industry and to conservation education. In 2010 the MWEA was recognised by NSW

DPI through its inclusion within the Exhibited Animals Protection Regulation as a “prescribed organisation” alongside existing associations such as the Zoo and Aquarium Association. However, it is only recently that the MWEA can announce its official Incorporation as recognised by NSW Fair Trading. This Incorporation has inspired a renewed vigour for the association to raise the bar for the ethical exhibition of wildlife, and increase the legal validity of its contribution to the relationship with NSW DPI. The Mobile Wildlife Educators Association is a cooperative of individual mobile wildlife exhibitors that share a common goal. To ensure, that our accredited members offer the public the highest calibre of service and professionalism, whilst delivering a sound environmental message. Our members exhibit both native and exotic wildlife in a variety of public forums, with a primary goal to educate the public on the importance of action for the conservation of wildlife and the environments in which they live.

**Anthony Stimson.**  
President, MWEA Inc.

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### Animal Roundabout is complimentary

The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up-to-date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Primary Industries or the user’s independent adviser.

## Exhibitors meet with the Exhibited Animals Advisory Committee

At its last meeting of 2011 the Exhibited Animals Advisory Committee sent out an invitation to each of the prescribed exhibitor organisations (ie those from which a member can be chosen to sit on the Committee). These organisations include the Circus Federation of Australia, Mobile Wildlife Educators Association, NSW Fauna and Marine Parks Association, and the Zoo and Aquarium Association. Of these organisations three were able to individually meet with the Committee and discuss the major issues that they would like to be resolved, which included:

- Wanting an equal voice in discussing issues relating to the exhibit industry.
- Concerns over the policy on the exhibition of animals managed under the Australasian Species Management Program.
- Assessment periods for applications and the ability to extend this time via negotiation with the applicant.
- Potential changes to the mobile standards.
- Standards for exhibiting reptiles in NSW.
- Potential impact of new policies
- Inspection of licensed premises.

The Exhibited Animals Advisory Committee appreciated the opportunity to discuss various issues with the industry and the resulting transfer of information to and from the industry. Issues raised during the discussions will be addressed in due course.



Snow Leopard

Photo Credit – Mark Stone



Primary Industries