

Animal ROUNDAABOUT



ISSUE No. 19, Summer 2007

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

Introducing Colin Hyde

Photo courtesy of Perth Zoo

Colin joined the EAPA office in January 2007 as a Project Officer and many of you will meet him as he makes his way round inspecting animal exhibits in New South Wales. Colin has been in the zoological industry since 1982 when he first joined Western Plains Zoo as an animal keeper. Colin worked at Western Plains Zoo till 1995. During this time he worked with all the species in the collection and was promoted to the position of Manager, Animal Collection. In 1995 Colin was appointed Director of Life Sciences at Perth Zoo where he was head of the keeping staff and from time to time the horticulture and research staff as well.

Colin was educated at the Bathurst campus of Charles Sturt University completing a Bachelors Degree in Environmental Science in 1992 as an external student. He also holds a relevant trade qualification, Certificate III Zookeeping, from Box Hill TAFE.

Colin has attended the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust training school in the UK.



While at Perth Zoo Colin was an active member of several boards and committees including, WA RSPCA Animal Ethics Committee (Chair); Technical Sub Committee to CIKA (the Committee for the Introduction and Keeping of Animals); Fauna Rehabilitation Foundation Inc (board member); Western Swamp Tortoise Recovery Team; ARAZPA (board member); ASMP committee member; Artiodactyl TAG (chair); ARAZPA Accreditation Committee

(member); Perth Zoo Animal Ethic Committee; Perth Zoo Research Subcommittee (leader of behavioural and genetic research lobe); and the Town of Victoria Park Brass Band.

Colin is looking forward to his new role and its challenges.

Animals held with DPI and DEC



Photo of Gecko – Courtesy of Stephen Jackson

The Department of Primary Industries and the Department of Environment and Conservation are considering the introduction of a system that will prohibit an exhibitor authorised under the Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986 from holding a species for display if animals of that species are being

simultaneously held at those premises on a license issued under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974.

Under this arrangement, each species held at a premises must be on only one of these authorities but not both at any one time. Animals can still be transferred between these licences, as long as it does not result

in animals of the same species being held concurrently on the two types of licence.

We are interested in feedback on this proposal so if you have any queries/comments please contact Stephen Jackson at the Department of Primary Industries Head Office on (02) 6391 3474.

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The Department of Primary Industries is currently in the final stages of developing standards for exhibiting pinnipeds (seals) in New South Wales. This process is coming along well, with excellent input from Pet Porpoise Pool, Taronga Zoo and Sydney Aquarium.

After an extensive consultation process with zoos and fauna parks and mobile exhibitors the *Standards for Exhibiting Animals During Temporary Removals in NSW* and *Standards for Exhibiting Animals at Mobile Establishments in NSW* are nearing completion.

It is hoped that these standards will also be finalised later in 2007.

Elephant importation to Taronga Zoo

A shortage of elephants within the Australasian region led a consortium of Australian zoos to consider sourcing suitable captive bred elephants from other regions. This process eventually led to a decision to obtain animals from Thailand. A Memorandum of Agreement between the Thai Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the Ministers for the Environment in NSW and Victoria was subsequently signed to allow the transfer.

The elephants were sourced from the many animals that have become 'unemployed' as a result of the banning of logging. Unfortunately many of the Thai elephants used for the tourism industry to provide walks or perform tricks for tourists are exposed to serious injury or death through being hit by motor vehicles or falling into holes. Once the elephants were selected a pre-export quarantine facility was required to be designed and constructed in Sai Yok province in western Thailand at the Mahidol University. The elephants were transferred there in October 2004 to commence a planned three month quarantine period. A further three month quarantine period was also required on the Cocos Keeling Islands prior to the importation of the elephants onto mainland Australia.

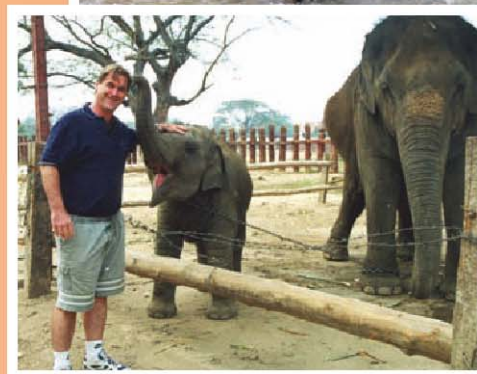
The proposed importation of the elephants however caused great controversy, with an appeal being launched in July 2005 in the Commonwealth Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) by the Humane Society International, RSPCA Australia and International Fund for Animal Welfare. The appellants wanted to have the Minister's decision to allow the importation of the elephants revoked. Though unsuccessful this action added a further seven month delay to the transfer of the animals to Australia. The elephants were eventually transferred to the Cocos (Keeling) Island quarantine facility on 1st August 2006 after an earlier attempt to transport them had been blocked by local Thai protestors preventing the transport vehicles from leaving Mahidol University to meet the transport aircraft. This facility has been donated to the veterinary department of the Mahidol University to be available for domestic and wild elephant care

at the western border of Thailand and has been renamed 'Haven of the Elephants'.

After the final period of quarantine on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands the one male and four female elephants were flown to Sydney on 2nd and 5th November 2006. They were provided with a full police escort and a 'green light corridor' through Sydney to minimise the transport time to the Zoo. Upon arrival the elephants settled quickly into their \$20M exhibit that provides every need an elephant could want including heating, logs, dirt mounds and a 4m deep and 25m long swimming pool. As the elephants continue to enjoy their exhibit, planning for breeding has commenced and the prospect of the first Australian elephant calf will be a significant outcome of the conservation breeding program for the species.

During the lengthy transfer process the Thai mahouts became very familiar with the differences in techniques between their traditional and our western elephant training styles and they became so enthused that they embraced our positive training techniques and plan to transfer those skills to other elephant camps on their return to Thailand. The mahouts were a pleasure to work with, showed a real commitment to the Australian program and it is hoped that the Zoo's association with Thailand will develop into a long-term and meaningful relationship with animal welfare and conservation benefits.

*Article by William Meikle, General Manager (Life Sciences), Taronga Zoo
Top – Gary Miller, watching the elephants enjoying their new enclosure at Taronga Zoo
Below – William Meikle, meeting elephants housed in Thailand*



Photos courtesy of Taronga Zoo

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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 (January 2007). 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 NSW Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.



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PRIMARY INDUSTRIES