



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 29 October 2010

Beerwah Schools Khaki It in the lead up to Steve Irwin Day

With Steve Irwin Day 2010 just around the corner, two Beerwah schools have shown what the phrase 'Khaki It' is all about! Beerwah State Primary School and Beerwah State High School are leading the way in conservation.

A year two class at Beerwah State Primary School have recently finished collecting 212 old mobile phones for the Answer the Call program, to help save gorillas in central Africa from habitat destruction and poaching, just two of the factors driving the largest living primate in the world to extinction.

Coltan is a rare mineral that is used in the production of electronic devices, including mobile phones. Unfortunately, most of the world's coltan reserves are found in the same region as gorillas and the mining for this rare mineral is destroying their last remaining habitat.

By recycling the mobile phones, students at the Beerwah State Primary School are not only reducing the demand for coltan but also helping to raise funds for gorilla conservation. For every phone that is donated, Australia Zoo will donate the funds raised to gorilla conservation.

Having young people involved in this project is exciting for future generations in wildlife conservation, and according to class teacher Lisa Melville these youngsters are embarking on a mission to save the gorilla. One student in particular, Alannah McLeod showed immense dedication to the cause.

"Alannah showed a very keen interest in the program and even spent time at home with friends creating posters. She presented her collection box on parade and made her class proud. Others became interested and we were all eager to hear her tally each week." Said Lisa

This Steve Irwin Day, November 15, wear khaki and start fundraising to continue Steve's legacy. Khaki is more than a colour. It's an attitude. It's a stand to do something positive in our world and a passion to make a difference. Visit www.wildlifewarriors.org.au for more information on our conservation projects worldwide.

“I decided to register our class after Alannah independently created a collection box during extension activities.” Added Lisa

Beerwah State High School student, Terina Moana has Khaki'd It for the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital along with other school mates who are apart of the Land for Wildlife Group at the school. The group have been rallying up local residents and business to donate old towels towards the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital. In just over two weeks the group has managed to donate over 30 towels towards the hospital. Terina was more than happy to assist the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital according to teacher Laura Adler.

“The students had wanted to do something for the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital after visiting earlier in the year. They knew the hospital was always on the lookout for towels, so the students decided that was a practical way they could help out.” Said Laura

The Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital's General Manager, Gail Gipp was glad to receive the new load of towels.

“Towels are definitely one of the things that are always in short supply. We use them for a host of different purposes in the hospital, for the operating table, for bedding and transport - we can always put them to good use.” Said Gail

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About Australia Zoo Wildlife Warriors:

Australia Zoo Wildlife Warriors was established by Steve and Terri Irwin in 2002 who wanted to create a conservation organisation unlike any other. They wanted to involve other caring people to help with wildlife conservation around the world.

Australia Zoo Wildlife Warriors conducts and works in partnership with a range of international wildlife conservation programs, helping to protect tigers, elephants, cheetah, whales, orangutans, Tasmanian devils and, our biggest project, the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital.

Australia Zoo is Wildlife Warriors' major sponsor and covers the administrative costs of the charity so that every dollar donated can be used entirely on life saving conservation projects. Our success relies on the support of the wider community.

Sign up as a Wildlife Warrior! Call us today on 1800 334 350 or visit www.wildlifewarriors.org.au

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