



Australia Zoo

STATEMENT

4 September 2009

Steve's Legacy - Three Years On

Australia Zoo reflects on the year that was and the future that is!

In September 2006, Australia Zoo's legendary Croc Hunter, Steve Irwin passed away, leaving behind a world class zoological facility and many dreams to be made a reality.

Steve Irwin was a remarkable man whose enthusiastic personality, passion for his family, life and conservation saw through many amazing projects. His legacy lives on, as the team here at Australia Zoo continues to work on Steve's conservation projects, aiming to protect wildlife and its habitat.

The Irwin family and Australia Zoo have received enormous amounts of support over the years from all over the world, with millions of heartfelt tributes and many supporting messages.

"I would like to say thank you to everyone who sent messages of love and support, over the past three years, we greatly appreciate it," Terri said.

Now, Terri, Bindi and Robert Irwin are calling for support to protect a living monument to the original Wildlife Warrior – the Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve.

The Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve was declared a Reserve to honour Steve, and is an important ecological site, which needs to be preserved to protect Australian habitat which is in danger of severe degradation and ruin.

Terri Irwin has been leading the fight to Save Steve's Place, to ensure that Steve's legacy is honoured and remembered.

“This wetland conservation property is a tribute to Steve. I will do whatever I can to protect it. We need to stand as a nation, a state, a community – to protect wildlife and wild places for our children,” Terri said.

With both Hollywood actor Russell Crowe and environmental crusader Erin Brockovich publicly voicing their support this year, and over 210,000 signatures on the petition, the support to Save Steve’s Place has been widespread and welcomed.

“I would like to say thank you to everyone who has supported us. The support has been inspiring,” Terri said.

“It is only with your help that we can achieve the vision of one man who truly made a difference.”

“We will be celebrating Steve’s life and achievements through Steve Irwin Day on November 15. I would encourage you all this Steve Irwin Day to wear khaki and make a donation to continue Steve’s legacy.”

About Steve Irwin Day

Khaki is a symbol of Steve Irwin, the original Crocodile Hunter and Wildlife Warrior. At Australia Zoo and Australia Zoo Wildlife Warriors – we continue the legacy of Conservation, Family and Fun that Stevo created – and every day – we **KHAKI IT!**

This Steve Irwin Day, November 15, wear khaki and start fundraising to continue Steve’s legacy. Check out www.australiazoo.com.au for more details and to register. All proceeds raised will go to Australia Zoo Wildlife Warriors Worldwide.

Reflecting on the year that was...

SAVE STEVE’S PLACE! – Australia Zoo continues its fight to save the Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve, a conservation property and tribute to Crocodile Hunter Steve Irwin, which is being threatened by strip mining. This year, we achieved over 210,000 petition signatures! To sign the petition to Save Steve’s Place – go to www.savestevesplace.com

Crocodile Research - Each year Steve devoted a month to crocodile research in the field. Recently, Terri and the Australia Zoo croc research crew returned from the Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve, where they caught 31 crocs using all of Steve’s capture and release techniques, and sharing the techniques with Indigenous rangers on the Reserve.

Opening of the Wildlife Hospital – Steve Irwin Day in 2008 saw the opening of the brand new Australia Zoo Wildlife Warriors - Australian Wildlife Hospital. The \$5 million project greatly expands the surgical, rehabilitation, research and training capabilities of the Hospital and now has the scope to double patient numbers to 10,000.

Brand new Red Pandas - Want to get up close and personal with our Rascally Red Panda boys: Pasang and Yoddah? Now you can! At Australia Zoo you can get closer than ever to these amazing animals. During a Red Panda Encounter you will be able to pat and feed these cuties! What a ripper!

New Giraffe – This year saw the arrival of two amazing Giraffe: Mapenzi and Forrest.

Bindi was nominated for an Emmy – Bindi was again nominated in the US for an Emmy award for *Outstanding Performer In A Children's Series* for “Bindi: The Jungle Girl”.

Looking into the future...

Australia Zoo is currently in the planning stages of an open-range safari experience like nothing else in the world, incorporating the landscapes and animals of the world’s most famous wildlife from places like Africa, South East Asia and North America encompassing a 135 hectare area.

We are currently planning stage one, comprising of a 300 room hotel, complete with a wildlife experience, transforming 35 hectares of vacant land into a wildlife oasis.

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