

zoo scape

Photo by Tony Britt Lewis

WONDERS from DOWN UNDER

The Australasia section is home to some of the Zoo’s most popular residents. Koalas, kangaroos, and wallabies are icons of the land down under, and these species have long been an important part of the Zoo’s collection. But Australia is full of fascinating, distinctive, highly endangered wildlife, and recent renovations in Australasia have made it possible to introduce new creatures, and exhibit others that the Zoo has worked with for some time behind the scenes.

The Tasmanian devil once ranged over much of the Australian mainland, but is now found only on the island of Tasmania.

See pg. 2 ➔

Photo by Jamie Pham



City Councilman Tom LaBonge and wife Brigid.

Make It a Date Beastly Ball 2015

This year’s Beastly Ball will honor Los Angeles City Councilman Tom LaBonge and 99 Cents Only Stores. The 2015 Tom Mankiewicz Leadership Award will be presented to Lance Bass, whose accomplishments epitomize the spirit of this

award, which recognizes entertainment industry professionals for outstanding leadership in local or global wildlife and environmental conservation, or for efforts to promote civic pride and harmony in our multicultural community. An ardent philanthropist, Bass is passionate about pet adoption and is a huge animal lover, while the Lance Bass Foundation meets the health needs of low-income children. Enjoy fine refreshments, engaging entertainment, and guest appearances by some of our charismatic resident creatures. Individual tickets cost \$1,000 each, and table reservations start at \$7,500. For details, contact Special Events Manager Maricela Vazquez at 323/644-4753.

**June 20 (Saturday)
6 p.m.**



Special Notice

In order to prepare for this year’s Beastly Ball, the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens will close early on Saturday, June 20. Ticket sales will end at 3 p.m. Gates will close at 4 p.m. We apologize for any inconvenience and hope to see you at the Ball!



Western tanager

MEMBERS ONLY Happy Bird-Day!

International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) spotlights one of the most spectacular events in the Americas. Since it began in 1993, more than 600 sites from Canada to Argentina now observe IMBD. You can celebrate with a bird walk at the Zoo, home to a dazzling array of local birds and migratory guests. This tour is free to GLAZA members, but space is limited. For reservations, phone 323/644-4773 or e-mail docents@lazoo.org. Specify “Bird Walk” in the subject line and include the following in your e-mail: your name, membership number, number of members in your party, ages of attending children, and your phone number. Please gather at the group entrance to the Zoo. Learn more about IMBD at www.birdday.org.

**May 9 (Saturday)
8–10 a.m.**



Roaring Nights

Three wild summer evenings feature live music from local up-and-coming bands, a DJ-fueled dance party, live animal encounters, pop-up keeper talks, and full bar service, plus food trucks and Animal Artistry Paint Party. Ticket price for GLAZA members is \$17. Price for nonmembers is \$20. You must be at least 18 years of age to attend this event. For details, visit www.lazoo.org/roaringnights.

**June 26 (Friday), July 24 (Friday), August 21 (Friday)
7–11 p.m.**

zoo update

by Connie Morgan,
GLAZA President



Although nearly 9,000 miles and the vast Pacific Ocean separates Southern California and southwest Australia, we have much in common. Both regions are biodiversity hotspots with some of the most distinctive and endangered species on Earth.

Of course Australia's wildlife is particularly unique, as Curator of Mammals Jeff Holland points out in the cover story of this issue.

So we are very excited to open Australia House and share a small pocket of the land down under with you.

We are also pleased to be able to soon introduce you to our Tasmanian devils, a species that the Zoo has been working to include in the collection for some time. The new arrivals will join the kangaroos, wallabies, koalas, cassowary, echidna, and Komodos that reside in the



Since it began in 1990, Bowling for Rhinos has generated more than \$5.4 million to control poaching and protect rhinos and the species that share their habitat—and the Los Angeles Zoo has led the way for the past six years, consistently raising more funds than any other participating zoo. This year, the Los Angeles chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK) hopes to raise even more funds with a night of bowling at Jewel City Bowl in Glendale. Festivities will include a silent auction, raffles, food, costumes—and, of course, bowling! Learn how to help by contacting Kris Willis (AAZKLosAngeles@Gmail.com), or leave a message with your name and phone number at 323/644-6004. Registration information is available at www.AAZKlosangeles.org/BFR.

May 16 (Saturday)
Jewel City Bowl, Glendale
6–12 a.m.



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Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association Annual Memberships: Individual \$55, Individual Plus \$75, Family \$126, Family Deluxe \$165, Contributing Associate \$250, Wildlife Associate \$500, Conservation Associate \$1,000. Each membership category includes unlimited admission to the Los Angeles Zoo for one year, one-year subscriptions to *Zoo View* and *Zooscape*, 10-percent discount at Zoo restaurants and shops, and invitations to special events. Students and seniors receive \$10 off an annual membership.

The Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens is located in Griffith Park at the junction of the Ventura (134) and the Golden State (I-5) freeways. We are open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except December 25.

For information, phone 323/644-4200, or visit us on the Internet at www.lazoo.org.

Sandy Masuo, Editor
Pickle Group, Graphic Design
Tad Motoyama, Zoo Photographer
Jamie Pham, GLAZA Photo Editor

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Make Some Memories

From now through June 30, Shutterfly promotional cards good for a free personalized, hardcover photo book will be distributed (one per household/family) at the ticket window and membership entrance. This offer, available for both new and existing Shutterfly customers, is good through July 27, 2015, and can be used for a free 8-by-8-inch hardcover photo book (worth \$29.99) or credited toward a larger photo book offered by Shutterfly. It's a great way to capture your Zoo adventures!

Sugar gliders are fond of flower nectars and, like North America's flying squirrels, can glide through the air thanks to flaps of skin on the sides of their bodies.



Photos by Jamie Pham



Also known as woylies, brush-tailed bettongs are critically endangered.

sturdy, short legs. They reach about three feet in length and can weigh up to 70 pounds. Australia is discerning about allowing its wildlife to leave the country, and few zoos in North America have wombats—notably Toronto Zoo in Canada and Brookfield Zoo in Chicago, which was the previous home of Murray, the southern hairy-nosed wombat who arrived at the Zoo in 2013. He can be found in the first exhibit space in Australia House. The second enclosure is a mixed species exhibit that features some even rarer, equally beguiling creatures.

The echidna is one of only two surviving monotremes—the other is the platypus. These egg-laying mammals are holdovers from some 65 million years ago. Monotreme babies, known as puggles, are tiny and

Southern hairy-nosed wombats are the smallest of the three wombat species.



Photo by Tony Britt Lewis



The Tasmanian devil is the largest carnivorous marsupial in the world, and can weigh about 25 pounds.

WONDERS from DOWN UNDER

Continued

After much anticipation, this year Tasmanian devils will be taking up residence in the Zoo's Australasia section. The yard that was most recently occupied by Visayan warty pigs (who have returned to their hillside exhibit) will be modified to meet the needs of these charismatic carnivores. Solitary and nocturnal, Tasmanian devils have a reputation for being ornery, especially when threatened, which is how they earned their common name. As tough as they might seem, wild populations are slowly recovering from devil facial tumor disease (DFTD)—a fatal, cancerous condition that results in tumors around the mouth that interfere with the animals' ability to feed. Though the disease has been dwindling in some regions, it has reduced devil numbers by roughly half over the past decade and still poses a threat. Captive breeding programs established in zoos are maintaining healthy populations as a hedge against a severe crash in the wild.

Australia House is now open, and the two indoor enclosures house some less familiar creatures. Three species of wombat are found in Australia: the bare-nosed (or common) wombat, the southern hairy-nosed wombat, and the northern hairy-nosed wombat. Like so much endemic Australian wildlife, all three face increasing challenges from habitat loss, human development, and introduced species. Wombats are burrowers with stout bodies and



Two types of echidna (short-nosed and long-nosed) and the platypus are the world's only egg-laying mammals.

underdeveloped when they hatch.

They must be tended closely by their mothers until they are mature enough to leave the safety of a burrow. The L.A. Zoo is one of only three zoos in North America to have successfully hatched a puggle, back in 1992. That female is still at the Zoo and shares an outdoor exhibit with koalas.

In addition to the male and female echidnas, Murray's next-door neighbors include a female yellow-footed rock wallaby (a senior who is more comfortable away from the boisterous group outdoors), woylies (also known as brush-tailed bettongs), and sugar gliders.

Woylies once ranged over 60 percent of the Australian mainland, and are now found in less than one percent. Though they look rodent-like, they actually belong to the kangaroo family, and, like most Australian mammals, are marsupials. In the branches above the woylies and echidnas, a pair of sugar gliders can be glimpsed. These small, omnivorous, arboreal, and nocturnal marsupials are one of about 70 species of possum (as compared with the North American opossum) endemic to Australia and surrounding islands. The common name refers to their penchant for nectarous foods and ability to glide through the air, much like a flying squirrel.

"The wildlife of Australia is in a serious crisis with one in four mammal

species and one in seven bird species threatened with extinction," comments Curator of Mammals Jeff Holland. "The L.A. Zoo has partnered with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy to help stem that extinction rate. By working with a variety of Australian species, we hope to show our visitors how unique these critters from down under are and inspire people to ensure their protection for future generations."

Australasia section.

In addition to sharing the status of biodiversity hotspot, we also share a Mediterranean climate with parts of Australia, which means that not only are many of the Aussie animals perfectly at home outdoors, but we are also able to grow many native

Australian plants. I hope you will take a little time as you stroll through the section to appreciate the familiar eucalyptus, but also silk oak, Queensland lacebark, grass trees, and grevillea.

As I write this, our unseasonably warm spring is making it seem like summer in

March, but when you read this, summer will be setting in, which means time for the annual Beastly Ball. This year we will be honoring our long-time Zoo booster, Los Angeles City Councilman Tom LaBonge, as well as perennial sponsor 99 Cents Only Stores. This year’s Tom Mankiewicz

Leadership Award will be presented to Lance Bass. If we don’t see you at the Ball, I hope you will enjoy one of the Roaring Nights or our Family Jam with us during the summer months.

Photo by Sandy Masuo

1.



MONARCHS and MILKWEED

Plants provide food and shelter, directly or indirectly, for every animal on Earth, but some plants and animals are so intimately connected that without one, the other can’t exist. This is the case with the monarch butterfly and milkweed.

About 140 species of milkweed grow wild in North America—15 native to California. The plants produce attractive flowers that develop into large, showy seedpods that open and disperse masses of seeds covered in fluff. The fluff catches the wind and carries them aloft for great distances until they can settle in a suitable spot and start the growing process all over.

Here in the Zoo, I have taken to the task of scattering milkweed seeds. I love watching the seeds catch the breeze and blow away. Near the Rainforest of the Americas, a small group started from one seed. Many more plants appeared, and with them came the butterflies, flitting from plant to plant and depositing their eggs. You see, although the adults feed on nectar from many types of flowers, milkweed is the only plant that the emerging young will eat.

Milkweeds have an interesting adaptation. Many contain compounds that are toxic to most bugs looking to make them into a meal. This defense mechanism helps protect the plant from being over-consumed. But monarch larvae are immune to the toxins. In fact, the toxins build up in the caterpillars and remain in their bodies so that the adult butterfly tastes bad and is also toxic. Their bright colors are a warning to predators not to eat them.

The monarch butterfly is currently being considered for inclusion on the Federal Endangered Species list. This is significant because it is one of the first insects to be listed. Growing some milkweed in your yard will help increase monarch populations and look good in the garden—a win/win. Learn more about milkweed at www.xerces.org/milkweed.

—Andrew Lyell, Senior Gardener

1. Populations of the iconic monarch butterfly have dropped from an estimated one billion in the mid-1990s to just 35 million in early 2014.

2. Monarch caterpillars feed exclusively on milkweed plants.



Photo by Sandy Masuo

2.



3.

3. Showy milkweed is one of about 15 species of milkweed native to California.

ADOPT AN ANIMAL

Celebrate spring by ADOPT-ing an animal!

Help the Los Angeles Zoo’s wildlife preservation efforts by making a gift to the ADOPT (Animals Depend On People, Too) program. Starting at \$35, recipients get a personalized ADOPT-ion certificate and fact sheet; additional benefits are available at various levels (\$35-\$1,000). Funds help the Zoo participate in more than 30 international conservation efforts working to protect endangered species and their dwindling habitats. For more information, please visit www.lazoo.org/support/adopt or contact the Development Division at 323/644-6035.

Making Dreams Come True

The L.A. Zoo is proud to announce our first-ever Dreamnight, a concept launched in 1996 at the Rotterdam Zoo and now celebrated around the globe. On June 5, more than 1,000 patients and families from Children’s Hospital Los Angeles will have an opportunity to explore the Zoo privately at Dreamnight. These individuals will enjoy an evening of respite from their healthcare worries during a special evening created just for them. They will meet animals, hear firsthand how animal keepers provide care, and enjoy dinner and refreshments—all in an enchanting environment designed to invigorate their minds and spirits. Munchkin®, an innovator in baby and toddler products, has made a generous contribution as the presenting sponsor of Dreamnight and anyone can support the work of both the Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association and Children’s Hospital Los Angeles by making a donation at www.lazoo.org/dreamnight.



animal activities at your Zoo

January 1 – February 28

Births for January and February included four **Peninsular pronghorn** (two sets of twins), three **Chacoan peccaries**, a **red-flanked duiker**, a **Calamian deer**, two **colobus monkeys**, a

howler monkey, a **Panay cloud rat**, and a **yellow-footed rock wallaby**. Two **knob-tailed geckos** hatched, as did four groups of **sunburst diving beetles**.

Five **California condors** arrived from the wild in need of medical treatment, plus two additional birds transferred from San Diego Zoo’s Safari Park. These are juveniles who will remain in L.A. for about six months before being released in Arizona. Other arrivals include two male **guinea pigs**, four **Prevost’s squirrels**, a male **sarus crane**, four **yellow-and-blue poison dart frogs**, and

a **desert blond tarantula**.

Four **California condors** were returned to the wild, and the four **reindeer** visiting for winter festivities returned to their ranch in Oregon. The last of the **Komodo dragon** youngsters hatched at the Zoo was transferred to Singapore Zoo. Three adults remain in the Dragons of Komodo exhibit. Other departures included a **tufted deer**, a **koala**, a **sarus crane**, a **yellow-blotched palm pit viper**, and two **Dunn’s hog-nosed pit vipers**.



Photo by Ian Reechio

knob-tail gecko hatchling



calendar of events



MEMBERS ONLY

Members Appreciation Morning

Early morning is the ideal time to see many of the Zoo's residents at their best, and GLAZA offers three opportunities a year for our members at all levels to explore the Zoo before it opens to the public. RSVP for this event by phoning 323/644-4770.

**May 3 (Sunday)
8:30–10 a.m.**

Member Tours

Docent-led tours are available to GLAZA members only, and are free for everyone eligible on your membership. No confirmations will be mailed. Please make reservations at least two weeks in advance by phoning 323/644-4244.

**May 2 (Saturday)
May 3 (Sunday)
May 16 (Saturday)
May 17 (Sunday)
June 6 (Saturday)
June 7 (Sunday)
June 14 (Sunday)
July 12 (Sunday)
July 18 (Saturday)
July 25 (Saturday)
July 26 (Sunday)**
(Meet at the waterfall near the entrance to the International Marketplace at 10:30 a.m.)

FAMILY JAM

Join us for a family-friendly evening of live entertainment, food trucks, and fun under the stars! For ticketing information, go to www.lazoo.org.
**July 11 (Saturday)
6–9 p.m.**

SPECIAL TOURS

These docent-led tours are free to GLAZA members but space is limited. For reservations, phone 323/644-4773 or e-mail docents@lazoo.org. Specify “Summer Glory” or “Bat Walk” in the subject line and include the following in your e-mail: your name, membership number, number of members in your party, ages of attending children, and your phone number. Please gather at the group entrance to the Zoo.

Summer Glory

The Zoo is at its floral peak in late spring with colorful flowers, foliage, and even some ripening fruits. Enjoy a garden tour to celebrate the onset of summer.

**May 30 (Saturday)
8–10 a.m.**

Bat Walk

Griffith Park is an important oasis for local and migratory wildlife, including bats. Strolling Zoo grounds at dusk is a perfect opportunity to see resident bats take to the air.

**June 13 (Saturday)
July 18 (Saturday)
August 15 (Saturday)
6–8 p.m.**

SAFARI SOCIETY ONLY

Morning at the Zoo

Enjoy a special early morning experience at this annual event exclusively for Safari Society and Business Partners donors. Current donors, please watch the mail for your invitation with details and RSVP information. Join us for a unique morning of keeper talks, special feedings, and animals at their most active! For Safari Society information, contact Nancy Simerly at 323/644-4417 or nsimerly@lazoo.org. To learn about Business Partners, contact Jan Frazier at 323/644-4722 or jfrazier@lazoo.org.

May 16 (Saturday)

MAY-JUNE 2015

ZOOscape

Member Newsletter of the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens

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Registration Now Open

ED-ZOO-CATIONAL Adventures

FOR MORE DETAILS, GO TO WWW.LAZOO.ORG/EDUCATION/CHILDRENSCLASSES/. TO REGISTER, GO TO WWW.LAZOO.ORG AND CLICK ON “BUY TICKETS.”

Registration Policy: Registration for Ed-zoo-cational Adventures begins two months prior to the program date. Please check www.lazoo.org for class availability. For more information, phone 323/644-4211.

TODDLER TOTES

**Age 2, with an adult (limit one)
Members: \$18 per child/
adult pair
Nonmembers:
\$20 per child/adult pair
Class times: 9:15 a.m. and
10:30 a.m.**

E-ticket required for class admission.

These 45-minute classes include circle time, story time, hands-on learning, and a special guided walking tour of the Zoo. (Strollers are not provided by the Zoo, but are strongly recommended.)

**The Nose Knows
May 4 (Monday),
5 (Tuesday),
6 (Wednesday),
and 9 (Saturday)**

**Fascinating Feet
May 26 (Tuesday),
27 (Wednesday), and
30 (Saturday)**



CRITTERS 'N' KIDS

**Ages 3 to 4, with an adult (limit one)
Members: \$24 per child/
adult pair
Nonmembers:
\$27 per child/adult pair
Class time: 9:30 a.m.**

E-ticket required for class admission.

These hour-long programs include fun, age-appropriate, hands-on activities such as stories, games, and crafts, plus adventures on Zoo grounds. (Strollers are not provided by the Zoo.)

**Exciting Elephants
May 11 (Monday), 12 (Tuesday),
13 (Wednesday), and
16 (Saturday)**

**Seal Celebration
June 1 (Monday),
June 2 (Tuesday),
June 3 (Wednesday),
and June 6 (Saturday)**



PATCH PROGRAM

This program offers Junior Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts the opportunity to earn a special zoo patch while learning about zoos, zoo careers, animals, and conservation. The cost is \$15 per Scout and patches are included in the program fee. One adult leader may attend free with every ten scouts. Each additional adult leader costs \$20. For availability and registration, visit www.lazoo.org, phone 323/644-4702, or e-mail docents@lazoo.org. Attendance is limited to 45 people.

SLEEPOVERS

Creature Camp-Out

Your adventure begins with a guided Zoo tour that leads to your tent at base camp, and an evening filled with family fun, including a sweet treat and beastly bedtime stories. Wake to lions roaring and chimps hooting, enjoy a continental breakfast, greet some of the Zoo's early risers, and have a special animal encounter. Then, take your memories home along with a souvenir T-shirt. This event begins at 6:30 p.m. and ends at 10 a.m. the next day. Please note that dinner is not included in this program. Registration is now open. Visit www.lazoo.org for details, or phone 323/644-4211 for more information.

ZOOCAMP

Summer ZooCamp

Children will make new discoveries and have the time of their lives going ape over the Zoo's amazing animals. Through fun, safe, engaging activities, your campers will trail blaze through the week. Each camp is led by specially trained, experienced, adult staff. Registration for summer ZooCamp is now open. Visit www.lazoo.org for details and get ready for a wild summer of creature camp adventure!
**June 15 (Monday) through
August 14 (Friday)
9 a.m.–3 p.m.**

Morning and afternoon extended care will be available for an additional fee.

Cancellation Policy: The Zoo must receive at least two weeks (14 days) advance notice by phone (323/644-4211) or fax (323/644-4299) in order to issue a full refund. No refunds will be issued after this period. No refunds or transfers will be honored for no-shows. Prices and program dates are subject to change without notice. For more details about cancellation, transfer, refund, and booking policies, visit www.lazoo.org.