

MEDIA RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

12 February 2009

SAM THE KOALA IS NOT ALONE!!!

The Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife, Today Launched an Appeal to Help Koalas Burnt & Made Homeless by the Victorian Bush Fires



Internationally famous Victorian bushfire survivor, *Sam the Koala*, is not the only koala suffering from the devastation caused by the tragic fires that have shattered many communities in Victoria.

‘There are literally thousands of Australian native animals who have been killed or orphaned and who are suffering from dehydration, smoke inhalation and severe burns, as well as serious injuries suffered as a result of attempting to flee the fires,’ said Carmen Welss from the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife.



‘With their environment now devastated, our koalas are also at high risk of starvation with multiple koala communities at threat of being completely wiped out,’ she said.

This appeal to the community for funds will help to support life-saving care, providing burns dressings, medications and other veterinary care as well as aid with the cost of sourcing food for the duration of the rehabilitation process of the hundreds of native animals left injured or orphaned by the fires.



‘With the support of the community through donations, many of those animals that survived, can be saved, thanks to the many incredible volunteers who are willing to take these wounded animals into their homes, provide intensive care to treat their burns and nurse them through what can take up to several months of specialised care before releasing them back into their environment,’ she said.

‘It’s a lengthy process undertaken by incredibly committed people who pay for most of the equipment, feed and medication out of their own pocket,’ said Ms. Welss.

Over the past 30 years, National Parks & Wildlife have conducted extensive research into the effects of bushfires on Australian native animals providing conclusive evidence that koalas and other native animals such as possums, wallabies and kangaroos can successfully be treated and rehabilitated to be returned to their homes in the bush where they can go on to live happy, healthy lives.



The Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife is a private charity that supports conservation projects to protect Australia's natural and cultural heritage.

‘We are appealing to the wider community to continue their outpouring of generosity to all victims of the bushfires including our precious koalas and other native animals. Please donate today to help the volunteers save the lives of many native Australian animals who are suffering because of the bushfires,’ said Ms. Welss.

TO MAKE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION - PHONE: 02 9221 1949

ONLINE AT: www.fnpw.org.au

TO ARRANGE AN INTERVIEW OR FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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JOURNALIST NOTES

About Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife

The Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife exists to help save the environment.

Our vision is to be Australia's foremost philanthropic partner for national parks.

Our mission is to care for Australia's native plants, animals and cultural heritage through environmental education and conservation projects.

We achieve this by purchasing land for conservation, funding threatened species recovery actions and involving the community in the conservation of Australia's natural and cultural heritage.

We are not-for-profit, non-controversial, a-political and independent. With our supporters we look back on over three decades of creating a living legacy through:

- Purchase of over 350,000 hectares of habitat and places of natural beauty for 26 national parks and nature reserves
- Threatened Species Recovery and research for more than 32 species of birds, reptiles, mammals, amphibians and plants, many of which were saved from extinction
- Cultural Heritage Conservation for more than ten Aboriginal and European historical sites, including Fort Denison and Hill End
- Education and awareness raising for schools and the wider community
- Walking tracks, viewing platforms, interpretive signage and disabled access in many national parks.

Working in Partnership

To achieve our objectives the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife liaises with like-minded organisations across Australia.

The Foundation is a private charity, separate from the 'National Parks and Wildlife Service', which is part of the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC).

Our conservation projects are often located in national parks and managed by rangers and scientists who may be employed by government agencies, such as the DECC. The Foundation entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as a framework for the DECC administration and management of projects funded by the Foundation.

'Caring for Australia's natural and cultural heritage.'

The Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife

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