

Environmental and Conservation Attractions

We fund Wellington Zoo and provide land and financial support for the Karori Sanctuary. We will ensure effective project management of the major upgrades at the Wellington Zoo and the Sanctuary.

WHAT WE DID

Karori Wildlife Sanctuary

The first tuatara nest was found in the Sanctuary – this held the first eggs found on mainland New Zealand. This news has been publicised globally, and has reached as far as Alaska and Afghanistan.

The British Broadcasting Corporation and Stephen Fry came to the Sanctuary to film tuatara as part of their five-part “Last Chance to See” television series about threatened species and various techniques conservationists use to help them survive.

The Prime Minister and Mayor Prendergast launched the new consumer brand, ‘Zealandia’, at a successful industry function on 2 December. The brand will be rolled out over the next 12 months. Mitsubishi Motors New Zealand began a four-year corporate partnership with the Sanctuary, which was also launched at the same function.

The Council has agreed to a \$1.9m additional loan and transitional funds to assist the Visitor & Education Project. The application to the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board for further funding to cover contingency has been declined. The reasons given were that the visitor centre is not a priority for them and because of the level of funding the board has provided to the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary in the past. Fundraising efforts continue.

The suspension bridge was completed and was launched in November.

Wellington Zoo

The Zoo hosted internationally renowned primatologist, Dr Jane Goodall, in October, accompanied by media interviews and a talk to a sold out crowd of 325 people at the Wild Theatre.

The Zoo received a Department of Conservation Wellington Conservation Award 2008 in the ‘conservation, education and advocacy category’ for the ‘Wellington Bush Builders’ Project.

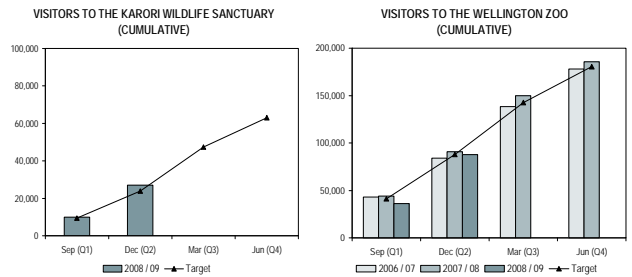
Construction on the new animal hospital ‘The Nest’ has begun and Requests for Expressions of Interests issued. The hospital is supported by a range of fundraising efforts, including a street festival run in conjunction with Kirkcaldie & Stains and the Wellington Rotary Club, poster and direct mail campaigns, and an \$80,000 grant from the Southern Trust.

The “Meet the Locals” Procurement Plan was approved. Other work in this quarter includes the first phase of the African Unity project, an upgrade to the Zoo’s power supply, and planning for the Catering & Function Facilities project.

The Zoo’s annual Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries inspection was completed in December with no major issues raised.

The estate of the sculptor Colin Webster-Watson contributed \$50,000 to the African Unity project, as well as donations of art works: a bronze sculpture of life-sized cheetahs in motion called *Mountain of Dreams* by Webster-Watson, and a cheetah wall plaque now installed in the main entrance foyer.

HOW WE PERFORMED



Note, we have corrected the visitation target for Karori Wildlife Sanctuary from 90,000 to 63,000 to match their annual statement of intent.

Attendance at the Zoo has fallen behind target due to poor weather. It is expected that the summer months will see an increase in visitors.

ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

Karori Wildlife Sanctuary

The breeding season will continue, and the Sanctuary will make its third transfer of Cook Strait giant weta into the Sanctuary.

The Visitor Centre Project building works will continue, as will fundraising efforts, and the new brand roll out.

Wellington Zoo

Work on the animal hospital will continue, as will planning for:

- “Meet the Locals – A Journey of Discovery Through New Zealand’s Backyard”
- the Catering & Function Facilities project
- Phase 2 of the African Unity project.

We expect a response from the Ministry of Education on our “Learning Experiences Outside the Classroom” proposal.

Two chimpanzees will be transferred to Monarto Zoo in Australia, and new spider monkeys will be introduced to our existing troop.

WHAT IT COST

Cost of activity \$000	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Variance YTD	Full Year Budget
Operational projects				
Cost	2,030	2,210	180	4,421
Revenue	0	0	0	0
Net Cost	2,030	2,210	180	4,421
Capital projects				
Cost	1,517	1,583	66	2,719

Operating Expenditure

This activity is under spent as the loan associated with Karori Wildlife Sanctuary has been drawn down later than anticipated, resulting in lower interest costs.

Capital Expenditure

The capital programme is under spent as the Zoo renewal program is behind schedule as early focus was on the upgrade program. Costs are expected to be in line with budget at the year end.

How It Was Funded

This activity is targeted to be 100% rates funded.