

NEWS RELEASE

CURRUMBIN SANCTUARY LEAPS INTO YEAR OF THE FROG

FROGS ARE FOREVER – DON'T LET THEM CROAK!

DATE RELEASED: MONDAY MARCH 10TH 2008

WITH the official launch for the *Year of the Frog* at Sydney's Taronga Zoo, Tuesday 11th March 2008, Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary is introducing a number of new conservation initiatives including the addition of Stage 1 of a frog recovery facility in the park.

Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary CEO, Jonathan Fisher, has approved plans for the *first stage of the* new facility that will be overseen by Curator of Life Sciences, Matt Hingley and will exhibit and study the husbandry requirements of a variety of Australian frog species with a focus on *addressing* Queensland's Frog population crisis.

"We are seeking corporate support to expand the facility, but because of the urgency for something to be done to safeguard Queensland's frog populations, we are committed to taking the first step in establishing the frog recovery programs," Mr Fisher said.

Mr Hingley said, "The new amphibian research facility will enable us to contribute to securing the future of endangered frogs as they currently face a worldwide threat responsible for catastrophic decline of amphibians the world over."

In 2004, the Global Amphibian Assessment revealed that one-third to one-half of the world's 6,000 amphibian species are currently threatened with extinction and over 120 have already disappeared.

The Sanctuary's Education Department is also getting involved with *Year of the Frog* activities by offering a 'Frog Focus Forum' for school students.

"Students who participate in the forum will discuss life cycles, threats to amphibians and what they as individuals can do to protect the endangered species.

"They will also have the opportunity of a meet-and-greet with a beautiful green tree frog named Handsome," Hingley said.

Students or teachers can book their group's place in the forum by phoning (07) 55340846.

"These classes would make a fantastic educational school excursion or extracurricular activity for budding conservationists.

"With the launch of *Year of the Frog* at Taronga Zoo, many zoological parks all around Australia are combining their efforts to unite the conservation initiatives to ensure these creatures do not become extinct.

“The main goal of these campaigns is to generate public awareness of the amphibian extinction crisis which perhaps represents one of the greatest conservation challenges in history,” said Mr Hingley.

Mr Fisher said the frog recovery facility was an important commitment to the Sanctuary’s ongoing conservation work.

“Our focus is as much about conservation and research as it is about providing a great day out for our guests – and through this work we can provide a public face for the hard work going on behind the scenes to help save Queensland’s frog populations,” Mr Fisher said.

ENDS