

**Dr. Jane's 2008 Tour of Australia**  
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Our tour of Australia took Dr. Jane Goodall first to Perth, where she enjoyed many wonderful times, including a day with the press at the Zoo. Dr. Jane displayed her painting technique along with Puteri a beautiful Sumatran orangutan. Their combined abstract expressionist painting fetched \$3000. At a corporate luncheon, Dr. Jane and Andrew O'Keefe highlighted the need to understand basic primate instincts in order to maximise potential in the work place. Dr. Jane also spoke at the Perth Concert Hall where our first R&S group in Perth, the Blue Gum Monetssori School, welcomed her and displayed their beautiful Giant Peace Dove to the guests. The local heroes represented the WA Threatened Seed Bank, many endangered local fauna, swamp tortoise and the Silvery Gibbon.

Next step was Dr. Jane's first visit to the centre, which she has wanted to do for years. Here she released a mala (rufous-hare wallaby) into its new breeding centre and spoke to 300 guests. The local heroes highlighted the issues with buffel grass and the mala. Dr. Jane also met with some local indigenous elders and was given a most wonderful tour of the Desert Park as well as surrounding women's lands. She discussed Roots & Shoots with the Minister for Education, and meetings have now been set up in February 2009 to develop this program specifically in Aboriginal schools.

Adelaide was the next stop with a wonderful family fun day at Monarto, the open-plains zoo. Dr. Jane was able to view the new state-of-the-art chimp exhibit, which will open next year. Dr. Jane spoke to over 1,000 people at the Town Hall, and the local heroes highlighted local endangered fauna, and frogs. Jane also made a special meeting to the town of Milang where students are saving local turtles from death due to the increased salinity of the diminishing Murray River.

The desert town of Alice Springs provided the JGI team—Dr. Jane, JGI-Australia CEO Polly Cevallos and myself—with a real “outback” experience. The lecture was delivered in the Desert Park under a beautiful rainbow with school children from the local indigenous school welcoming Jane to the lectern. The heat was hard to take if you are used to cooler, wetter climate, as Jane is accustomed to.

We traveled onto Melbourne, and two majestic Giant Peace Doves ushered Dr. Jane into the Dallas Brook Hall to deliver her lecture. Roots & Shoots youth members Thom Woodroffe and Lucie Cutting, who attended the first-ever Jane Goodall Global Youth Summit in Florida in 2008, introduced Dr. Jane to a packed audience, with the Murrindindi R&S group singing an African welcome song.

This year Brisbane introduced a green festival showcasing the many things we can do in our lives to “go green,” and Dr. Jane was invited to open the festival. It was a wonderful welcome by the Indigenous people of Brisbane and looks set to become an annual event. Dr. Jane was also able to meet with one of the few R&S members in Queensland which

will be part of a children's television show called "Totally Wild."

Sydney was special, as the venue for the lecture was the world-famous Opera House, and Dr. Jane spoke and inspired over 900 fans. She was welcomed by the two Sydney R&S youth ambassadors J.J. Debenham and Jayne, as well as the R&S Giant Peace Dove from Newcastle.

In Canberra, Dr. Jane and the Federal Minister for the Environment launched the book *The Ten Commitments* outlining the Australian Government's promise to take action on certain environmental issues. Dr. Jane also met with the Minister for Youth and planted the seeds for future discussions. A luncheon was also held where, for the first time, we were assisted by our local Canberra R&S group—the young girls were fantastic. A special dinner was also held by a friend of Dr. Jane's in Gundaroo, where we also visited the local R&S school.

The "down under" tour concluded in New Zealand with a lecture at the Wellington Zoo, where Jane shared the stage with a tuatara (the oldest species in the world) and the local heroes highlighted this and many other local species that are endangered. We hope to start up Roots & Shoots groups in New Zealand with the help of Wellington Zoo and Dr. Jane's family there.