Dear Members & Friends:

We invite you to explore Australia with us in 2012 for a wildlife adventure and opportunity to see the Total Solar Eclipse on November 14, 2012. This expedition will be a wonderful introduction to Australia, from its aboriginal heritage to its animals and the modern era. We will also discover classic Australian landscapes from the harbors of New South Wales to the tropical northeast in Queensland!

The trip will culminate in the Total Solar Eclipse in Cairns, overlooking the Great Barrier Reef!

Our trip will include:

- **Sydney**, cosmopolitan heart of Australia—discover the historic Rocks area, and Australian animals at Wildlife World, the Sydney Aquarium, and the Taronga Park Zoo.
- **Lamington National Park**—discover the wildlife and flora of this UNESCO World Heritage mountain retreat in the Gold Coast hinterland. Walk through ancient Antarctic beech forests, look for koalas in the wild, and delight in the birds and wildlife in the park.
- **Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary & Dreamworld**—see hundreds of native Australian animals on display in natural bushland and rain forest settings at Currumbin and the large population of koalas at Dreamworld.
- **Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary**—have a special visit to this renowned zoo and see platypus, feed kangaroos, hold a koala, and more!
- **Mareeba Wildlife Sanctuary**—on the Atherton Tableland, a renowned natural area and World Heritage Site, the Mareeba Wetland was established in 1994 to create a large wetland of biodiversity value. It has a profusion of birdlife and is one of the top roosts of statuesque brolgas in tropical Queensland.
- **Tjapukai Aboriginal Park**—enjoy this showcase of fascinating culture in tropical Queensland.
- **Green Island**, a delightful coral cay on the Great Barrier Reef, surrounded by a multicolored world of coral, giant clams, seabirds, tropical fish, crabs, and sponges—an extravaganza to relish while snorkeling or by glass bottom boat.
- **Cairns and the Total Solar Eclipse**—from a base in Australia’s tropical resort city, at the edge of the Atherton Tableland and Great Barrier Reef, see the Total Eclipse from the oceanfront.

The optional New Guinea Extension will give a delightful introduction to this fascinating country, with Tufi Lodge as our home base. Amazing cultural experiences await you, as well as a look at New Guinea’s superb natural heritage!

We hope you will join us to explore Australia & New Guinea and see the 2012 Total Solar Eclipse!

Sincerely yours,

Amy Parrott
Director of Individual Giving Development Department
San Diego Zoo Global

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**Australia Wildlife & Eclipse 2012**

November 3-16, 2012

with optional New Guinea Extension, November 15-20, 2012
November 3-4  Los Angeles to Sydney, Australia
Expedition members depart Los Angeles on a nonstop evening flight to Sydney, Australia. Cross the International Date Line en route.

November 5 Sydney & Wildlife World
Arrive in Sydney in the morning. Transfer to the Sydney 4 Points Sheraton Hotel (3 nights). Today, we will visit Wildlife World on Darling Harbour where we will see a wide variety of Australian animals. Welcome dinner. D

November 6 Sydney Aquarium & Historic Rocks area
We will explore the Sydney Aquarium which preserves some of the unique aquatic life of Australia, from the tropical north to icy currents off the south coast. In the historic Rocks area, learn about Captain Cook’s exploration of Australia and see Sydney Cove, the site of Australia’s first European settlement. Visit the Old Sydney Observatory, situated on a hill in the Rocks. B,L,D

November 7 Wild Australia
This morning we will ferry from Darling Harbour to the Taronga Park Zoo for a look at the wildlife unique to Australia. We will take a close up look at birds of the wetlands (from Australian kookaburras to cockatoos), animals of the interior (including wallabies and red kangaroos), Australian nocturnal animals (from Tasmanian devils to brush-tailed bettongs), and birds of the rain forest (lornets,bowerbirds, and crimson rosellas). B,D

November 8 Sydney to Brisbane
Dreamworld & Lamington National Park
Today, we’ll fly to Brisbane and then head to Dreamworld, which has one of the largest populations of koalas in the world. See southern hairy-nosed wombats in the Australian wildlife enclosure, plus red kangaroos, emus, dingoes, hills, and Tasmanian devils. In the Nocturnal House, see squirrel gliders, tawny frogmouth, and other Australian night dwellers. Continue to Lamington National Park and Binna Burra Lodge (2 nights). B,L,D

November 9 Lamington National Park
Lamington is a refuge for the various populations of Gondwana-derived ancient flora and fauna in Australia. There are more than 900 species of plants in the park and more than 100 bird species. Today, we will have the opportunity to explore on excellent trails as we look for wallabies, wild orchids, bee-eaters, crimson rosellas, pademelons, and koalas in the wild! B,L,D

November 10 Kururrubin Wildlife Sanctuary
Depart for the Gold Coast and one of Australia’s top wildlife sanctuaries, Kururrubin. Here, we will discover native Australian animals in natural bushland and rain forest settings, and have a behind-the-scenes visit. There are numerous interactive displays and wildlife encounters. We will look for flying foxes en route to Brisbane.

Rendezvous Hotel, B,L

November 11
Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary
This morning we will visit Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary, one of the finest zoos in Australia, and home to over 130 koalas. You can also hold a koala! In the afternoon, we’ll explore Boodall Wetlands. Here migrant shorebirds, kingfishers, Australian kestrels, and possibly a wedge-tailed eagle may be seen as we stroll on boardwalk trails. Also learn about the aboriginal uses of native plants and animals. Evening flight to Cairns. Cairns Aquarius Apartment Hotel (4 nights). B

Optional New Guinea Extension
November 15-20, 2012

November 15 Cairns to New Guinea
Fly from Cairns this morning, over the Torres Strait to Port Moresby, the capital of New Guinea. Take a charter flight to Tufi, 155 miles to the east, on a headland above spectacular fjords. Tufi Resort (4 nights). B,D

November 16
McClaren’s Harbour Otrigger Safari
We will begin to explore the natural area surrounding Tufi by traditional outrigger. Here nature is at its finest—huge palms, wild orchids, and birds as well as local villagers in traditional dress will fill your day with adventure. Then enjoy a traditional singing celebration. B,L,D

November 17 Jebo & Orotoaba Villages
We will have an all-day adventure to three local villages. Meet village head men and view the spectacular Ibura Fjord. B,L,D

November 18 Rain Forest Walk or Snorkeling
We will depart this morning by boat into Tufi Fjord to Old Tufi Village. See jungle vegetation, hornbills, and parrots. You will also be shown a variety of trees and plants used for traditional house building and plants and herbs used in traditional medicine. Festive dinner this evening. B,L,D

November 19-20 Tufi to Port Moresby, Brisbane & Home
We’ll take return flight to Port Moresby today, connecting with a flight to Brisbane for overnight. Then fly home. B
November 12 Mareeba Wetlands
We will venture onto the renowned Atherton Tableland to the Mareeba Tropical Savanna and Wetland Reserve, established in 1994. The Mareeba Wetlands attract a rich and diverse birdlife and provide a sanctuary for a wide variety of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife. We will explore Mareeba by boat and 4 wheel drive. B,L.

November 13 Aboriginal Park & Cairns Eclipse Festival
Have a special visit to the Tjapukai Aboriginal Park, which showcases indigenous culture. Here we may watch theatrical performances and engage in interactive activities to learn about the traditional customs of the Tjapukai people. Special eclipse lecture this evening. B,L.

November 14 Total Solar Eclipse & Great Barrier Reef
We will rise early for the Total Solar Eclipse. All participants will receive solar viewing glasses. We will look for special phenomena of the eclipse. As the moon slowly comes between the sun and the earth, you will see the dark crescent of the moon cross the sun and slowly advance to block all of the sun’s direct rays. The sunlight passes through craggy surface features of the moon, and may create a phenomenon called “Baily’s Beads.” Sometimes the depression of the moon is so great that it produces a larger phenomenon called the “Diamond Ring.” During the Total Eclipse, the rays of the sun produce a corona or crown of light radiating outward behind the dark globe of the moon. This rare event can be seen only with a Total Solar Eclipse.

After the eclipse, we will depart for Green Island on the Great Barrier Reef, a fantastic creation of coral polyps which formed over thousands of years, creating the colorful reef gardens which enchant us today. Festive dinner this evening in celebration of the Eclipse! B,L.

November 15-16 Cairns to Sydney & Home
Transfer to the airport for return flights to Sydney for overnight and fly home on November 16. Or begin the New Guinea Extension November 15-20, 2012.

Kea Spurrier
associate director of individual giving for the Development Department, is an avid world traveler who has lived in Greece and traveled extensively through Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America, China, and Australia, which is one of her favorite destinations. She is passionate about animals and conservation, and has helped generate support for the San Diego Zoo, San Diego Zoo Safari Park, and the conservation efforts of the San Diego Zoo Global Wildlife Conservancy.

Kea's travel interests include exploring rain forests and other ecosystems to see animals in the wild, visiting archeological or historically significant sites, and browsing through museums that house amazing art.
Dear Members & Friends:

MCZ Australia 2012, Betchart Expeditions Inc.

This expedition will be a wonderful delight to this fascinating country, and see the Total Solar Eclipse on November 14, 2012. Led by an excellent naturalist, explore renowned sites in Australia from Sydney to Brisbane and tropical Cairns in Queensland. Visit renowned zoos, wildlife parks, national parks, and wetlands including the Great Barrier Reef. Typically, it will be summer weather in the 80s to 90s with the possibility of some rain. There is an excellent chance of clear skies, but it may be obscured by clouds. (No smoking in lectures, at meals, or in buses.)

Tufi Resort in New Guinea:
Is a boutique resort, a hidden oasis overlooking an ocean inlet, with panoramic views of the sea and mountains. It is a one-hour charter flight from Port Moresby. Tufi has comfortable bungalows with polished teak floors. The walks are lined with traditional woven material. The resort is charmingly rustic.

Air Fare & Airline Ticketing: Group flights from Los Angeles are on Qantas, the Australian airline. Passengers on the New Guinea Extension will return Port Moresby to Brisbane for Qantas flights to the USA. For air information, contact Taunya@betchartexpeditions.com, or telephone (800) 252-4910. Air Fare quoted is approximate and will be confirmed by January 15, 2012. AIR FARES, AIR TAXES, and FUEL SURCHARGES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Reservations, Deposits & Payments: To reserve a place on this expedition, please mail a deposit of $1,000 per person for Australia and $500 per person for New Guinea with the completed reservation form to:

SDZ Australia 2012, Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014

Final payment is due 150 days before departure (June 3, 2012).

Questions? Call Taunya DeVYoung, Betchart Expeditions Inc.
Telephone (800) 252-4910, Fax (408) 252-1444
Email: Taunya@betchartexpeditions.com

Cancellations & Refunds: The initial deposit is refundable up to 150 days before departure, less a handling fee of $300 per person. There is no refund for any cancellation within 150 days of departure. Trip cancellation insurance will be offered. No refunds are made for unused services.

Responsibility: Betchart Expeditions Inc. and the Zoological Society of San Diego are only agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels, and exercises every care possible. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, delays, strikes, breakdowns, changes in airline schedules, weather, earthquakes, or any other circumstances used in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept any responsibility for loss or additional expenses due to delays or changes in other services, sickness, weather, strikes, war, quarantine, terrorism, acts of God, or any cause beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to substitute another leader of similar expertise or to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligations on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour cancelled by the passenger. A full knowledge of the itinerary is based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, or fuel surcharges will be passed on to participants as occurs at the owner’s risk entirely. It is understood that the air tickets when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance.

Sincerely yours,

Taunya DeVYoung, Director of Individual Giving

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Map by Apr陈某.