

PLANE TALKING

ADELAIDE AND PARAFIELD COMMUNITY AND STAFF NEWSLETTER APRIL 09



PG 2

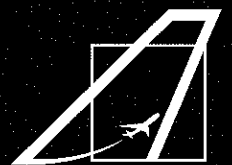
A TEAM SUCCESS

PG 4

A REVISED PLAN

PG 10

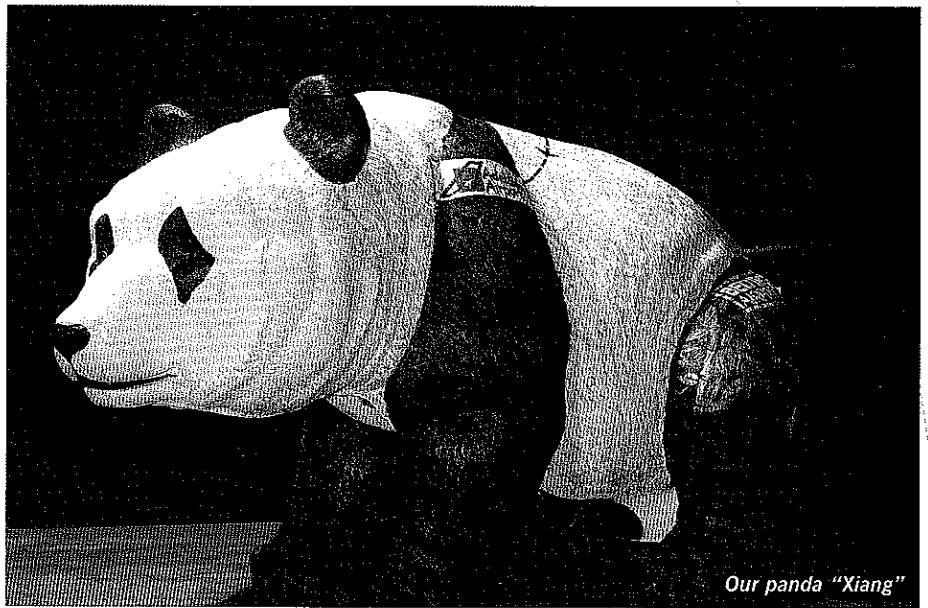
CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY AT PATAWALONGA CREEK



RECYCLED WHEEL CHOCKS

Virgin Blue Engineering & Maintenance staff have come up with an environmentally friendly way of replacing worn out timber aircraft wheel chocks. Wheel chocks are used to secure parked aircraft when they are on the apron and are generally made of timber or plastic. Old timber chocks tend to wear out quickly and splinter therefore posing a hazard to ground staff. Instead of sourcing replacement chocks from overseas a number of innovative staff including Les Payne, Jeffrey Aquilina and Peter Donahoo put their heads together and came up with the idea of sourcing locally made recycled plastic chocks.

Across Australia approximately 1,000 timber chocks are currently in use by the airline. An initial order of 500 plastic chocks was placed with Advanced Plastic Recyclers and delivery is expected shortly. Over two tonnes of PET bottles, plastic wrap and old irrigation pipes will be recycled as part of the production of the initial 500. This is a great example of a solution that is cheaper and better for the environment, as well as demonstrating a useful product that is made from recycled plastics.



Our panda "Xiang"

AND PANDAS CAN FLY!

Giant pandas, world renowned and globally admired icon of China, are among the world's most endangered species. Once inhabiting the widespread bamboo forests of China, clearing and development has restricted the giant panda habitat to but a few central mountain ranges. It is estimated that the wild population is only 1500 – 3000. China has 239 giant pandas in captivity, with 27 residing in zoos outside of China. This number is soon to rise to 29.

In late 2009 giant pandas Wang Wang & Funi, bred in captivity at the Wolong Nature Reserve in China, will be taking up residence at the Adelaide Zoo. Wang Wang & Funi's new outdoor \$20 million habitat, currently under construction, will feature a refrigerated rock and a cubbing den. That's right, a cubbing den! It is hoped that a fruitful romance will blossom between the two. The zoo will house the two pandas for 10 years as part of a worldwide breeding program under a cooperative agreement signed between the China Wildlife Conservation Association and Zoos SA.

Building their open-air enclosure, feeding and caring for the pandas is a huge financial challenge. Adelaide Airport

Limited has opted to support this worthy cause by becoming a part of 'Pandas on Parade'. This is a year long event developed to generate funding to help ensure not only a great future for Wang Wang & Funi, but pandas in the wild and breeding programmes worldwide. As part of this event, AAL have sponsored a panda model, for which AAL is now 'the keeper'. Our panda has been named Xiang (pronounced "Sheahng") meaning "to circle in the air (like a bird)." Xiang has been painted by Adelaide artist Emma Hack, and AAL was introduced to their panda at a presentation event hosted at Adelaide Zoo on February 6th. Xiang is now ours for the duration of the Pandas on Parade event which will culminate with the arrival of Wang Wang and Funi at Adelaide Zoo – via Adelaide Airport from Beijing Airport - around October 2009.

There are other keepers who have adopted and named their decorated pandas. The keeper group who is the highest fund raiser over the entire Pandas on Parade event will be presented with their panda to keep forever. In addition they will win some great benefits to allow them to enjoy Wang Wang & Funi at Adelaide Zoo for the duration of their stay with us.