

Kevin's Wilderness Journeys

KEVIN'S WALK ON THE WILDSIDE



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<http://www.kevinwilderness.com>

Welcome to the new issue of 'Kevin's Walk on the Wildside.' Most people probably thought that the ezine had joined the ever-increasing scrap heap of Internet-based ezines that go nowhere and fall away into complete obscurity. Well, 'Kevin's Walk on the Wildside' hasn't quite gone that far just yet. An argument could possibly be made that it deserves to go that way, but that's a debate for another day :-)

It has been some 15 months since I posted Issue 13 of the ezine and you would think that a lot may have happened in that time - though that is undoubtedly the case in the world of wilderness and wilderness-based activities, it has hardly been the case for myself. Illness and other things have prevented me from getting out there to any degree at all, save for the last couple of weeks when illness forced me to withdraw from the wilderness which was quite disappointing to say the least. Still, there are some things to share with you from my latest foray into the Australian bush.

Of course, the environmental world has been shocked in the last couple of weeks with the death of Australian conservationist Steve Irwin at the age of 44. I have some thoughts on this tragedy which will also be mentioned later in the ezine. Another tragic death, though of a lesser-known adventurer, occurred in an 800m deep canyon in Mexico in the last few days - this I will mention later also.

There are some updates concerning the web site which I will bring to your attention later on the ezine, including a change of address and host.

For now, please enjoy the latest issue of 'Kevin's Walk on the Wildside.' If you have any feedback on the site please let me know about it. All you have to do is send an email to me at the address below:

nrbcpastorkev@yahoo.com.au

CONTENTS:

1. Wilderness News
2. Kevin's Wilderness Journeys: Web Site
3. Kevin's Wilderness Walkers Mail Group
4. Greenie Watch
5. Other Interesting Web Sites
6. Subscribe/Unsubscribe Information

1. WILDERNESS NEWS

In this section of the newsletter I try to bring you important conservation, environmental and wilderness news, as well as links to more information.

Australia: Steve Irwin Dead (1962-2006)

The world over has been shocked by the sudden death of renowned Australian conservationist Steve Irwin. The 'Crocodile Hunter' was killed while diving at Baff Reef (Port Douglas) off the Queensland coast when

a barb from a bull Sting Ray's tail pierced his heart. Irwin was filming for a documentary series when he died, having pulled the barb from his heart.

The Queensland headquarters for Steve and Terri Irwin is Australia Zoo, just north of Brisbane. Since Steve's death, the zoo has become the international focus for millions of people around the world who have wanted to pass on their thoughts to the Irwin family, Australia zoo staff and to pay tribute to the Australian legend. Khaki shirts with messages penned on them, flowers, balloons, flags and posters, have all been pouring in from fans that live in the area or have to the zoo to do so. Those who have been unable to make the pilgrimage to Australia Zoo have left millions of messages and tributes on message boards all over the world.



ABOVE: Tributes are arriving on a daily basis at Australia Zoo

Incredibly, at a time when Steve Irwin is no longer able to answer his critics in person, some self-proclaimed experts have been attacking the 'Crocodile Hunter' over his typically Australian approach to conservation, even claiming that the wildlife he allegedly harassed had stuck back in killing him. Understandably Australians have been outraged by such unfeeling and unwelcome comments, especially coming when the wholeheartedly committed conservationist is no longer able to defend himself. However, Australians and fans worldwide will be able to remember Steve Irwin through his legacy - the many conservation projects he was involved in and through Australia Zoo. Family and staff of Australia Zoo have already committed themselves to continuing Steve's work, with fans the world over pouring money into appeals set up to continue his legacy.



ABOVE: Just part of the memorial set up by fans at Australia Zoo.

Steve Irwin's greatest legacy is his beloved Australia Zoo on the Queensland Sunshine Coast at Beerwah, 74km north of Brisbane. The zoo is in the process of expanding and will be one of Australia's premier zoos. Steve was not just involved with Australia Zoo. He has played a major role in many conservation projects, many of which have remained out of the public eye. The Australia Zoo web site is a wealth of information concerning the work going on at Australia Zoo and on other projects that Steve was involved in, many of which he had financed himself. These projects include various organisations that Steve was involved in and other sites within Australia that Steve has bought and set up for wildlife conservation. For further information on Australia zoo and these other projects visit the web site listed below.

One of the major vehicles of Steve's work in conservation was the Steve Irwin Conservation Foundation, now known as Australia Zoo Wildlife Warriors Worldwide. The Irwin's set up the foundation in 2002 to encourage people to get involved in conservation. It is now an independent organisation, which is heavily supported by Australia Zoo. Donations to continue Steve Irwin's work in conservation around the world can be made by visiting the Wildlife Warriors web site listed below. Details on how to become a Wildlife Warriors member are also available from the site.

The Australia Zoo web site includes links to other sites detailing further aspects of Steve's work, including his role as the now legendary 'Crocodile Hunter.' It was this role that made Steve Irwin a superstar the world over.



ABOVE: A typical tribute at Australia Zoo to Steve Irwin

For more information visit:

<http://www.australiazoo.com.au>

<http://www.wildlifewarriors.org.au>

<http://www.crocodilehunter.com.au>

<http://www.crocone.com.au/>

Mexico: Sumidero Canyon - Australian BASE Jumper Dies

Sydney-based BASE jumper Adam Gibson has been killed during a jump in Sumidero Canyon, Mexico. It is unclear whether his parachute failed to open. Apparently the jumper struck the side of the canyon before falling into the Grijalva River. Gibson was a veteran of over 400 jumps, many from all around the world.

Sumidero Canyon is one of the highest canyons in the world, stretching to 1km in height. For more information and photos of the canyon area visit the web sites below.

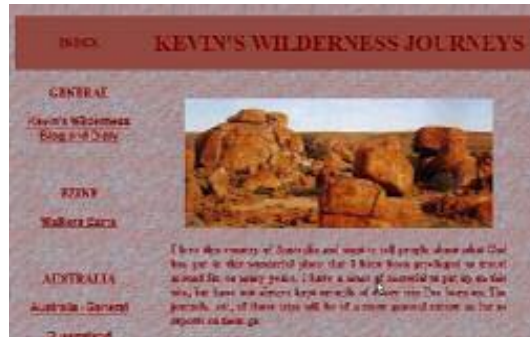
For more information visit:

http://wild-net.com.au/mexico/html/sumidero_canyon.phtml

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sumidero_Canyon

2. KEVIN'S WILDERNESS JOURNEYS: Web Site

Kevin's Wilderness Journeys web site is currently moving to a new location. Following issues relating to advertising that could not be removed from the previous location, I have changed hosts. The site is still available with advertising at the previous site for the time being, but it is no longer being updated. Only the new site is being updated. However, not everything has been moved across to the new site just yet. This progress is ongoing and will take some time to complete, especially given that I am taking the opportunity to renovate the site as I go.



Visit the web site at:
<http://www.kevinwilderness.com>

3. KEVIN'S WILDERNESS WALKERS MAIL GROUP:

Associated with Kevin's Wilderness Journeys web site is the 'Kevin's Wilderness Walkers Mail Group.' The mail group currently only has a few members and very little in the way of activity. One of the members (other than myself) has posted some photos in the photo album of her visits to the Colo and Wollemi wilderness area west of Sydney. Hopefully as more people join the group there will be an increase in activity.

Why join the mail group? A good question. The group gives an opportunity for those who love wilderness and the bush, especially in Australia, to share their experiences and perhaps pass on information about destinations, track conditions, etc, to other group members. By doing so there is an opportunity to assist others who are planning trips to the same area, etc. When you think about it, the opportunities for the sharing of information are limitless.

Visit the group at: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Kevin_wildwalkers/

4. GREENIE WATCH

Greene Watch is a 'blog site' that claims to be in favour of those things that are actually good for the environment. However, it decries most 'Greenie causes' because they are 'more motivated by a hatred of people than anything else.' Whether you believe this rhetoric or not is up to you, but I tend to understand where the site is coming from to some degree. I am an environmentalist up to a point myself; not being a particular fan of some of the more outrageous groups that seem to do more harm to genuine environmental causes and efforts than good.

The Greenie Watch site is updated on a daily basis and it is amazing just how much environmental news can be gleaned from the site. If you are concerned about genuine environmental issues then site is certainly worth checking out and perhaps adding to your list of favourites.

Yahoo, which has a personalised home page service for users of its services, gives users the option to have various news items from various categories sent to their personalised home page which are regularly updated. One of the categories available is updates from this Greenie Watch and this is one of the categories I have on my page. It is useful for keeping oneself abreast of environmental news from around the world.

For more information visit:

<http://antigreen.blogspot.com>

<http://au.yahoo.com>

<http://www.yahoo.com>

5. OTHER INTERESTING WEB SITES

The Environmental News Network

For more information on environmental issues and news items you can always go to the Environmental News Network. This site has a mass of information coming in on a daily basis and you can also subscribe to the newsletter.

For more information visit:

<http://www.enn.com>

Planet Ark

After reading a whole heap of news concerning how man is wreaking havoc on the environment, perhaps you are ready for some tips on what you can do to help save the environment. Why not have a look at the Planet Ark web site for some common sense first step activities?

For more information visit:

<http://www.planetark.com>

The Wilderness Society

When you are ready to move on from common sense first step activities in helping to save the environment, perhaps you are ready for some more 'full on' activities in environmental crusading. One such vocal group you may consider joining is the Wilderness Society. The Wilderness Society is possibly not as loud as Greenpeace, but it probably a little more 'sensible' to put it mildly.

Visit the site at:

<http://www.wilderness.org>

<http://www.wilderness.org.au>

<http://www.greenpeace.org>

6. SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE

If you would like to subscribe to 'Kevin's Walk on the Wild Side,' simply send an email to Kevin at nrbcpastorkev@yahoo.com.au and let me know. If you want to unsubscribe, simply send me an email and let me know. Members of the mail group automatically get a copy of the ezine as part of the group.