

30 May 2014

## Where the wild things are

Visitors to Royal Prince Alfred Hospital's Women and Babies Unit will soon come face to face with one of the world's most dangerous and endangered beasts – a 2.5 metre long pregnant rhinoceros, grazing near the entrance.

The spectacular sculpture, painted by Lake Conjola artist Penny Lovelock, was donated to RPA by obstetrician and gynecologist, Dr Po-Yu Huang, who spent \$5,400 to help fund Taronga Zoo rhino conservation programs.

Ms Lovelock spent 10 days painting the life-sized rhino sculpture as part of Taronga Zoo's Wild Rhino community art project. The plight of the critically endangered Javan rhino, of which only 50 remain in the wild, inspired Ms Lovelock to use an Indonesian fabric style pattern on her sculpture which also features a baby rhino in the womb, representing the life cycle and breeding programs aimed at saving the species.

The sculpture – called *Beauty and Hope* – was delivered to Royal Prince Alfred Hospital this week and received a stream of visitors on its arrival. It is expected to be installed inside the foyer of the maternity unit when the area has been prepared.

"I've been at RPA for 18 years – since I was an intern – and being able to donate this to the hospital is nothing compared to what I get out of working here every day," Dr Huang said.

Ms Lovelock was one of 55 artists throughout Australia and around the world commissioned to decorate the rhino sculptures exhibited throughout the streets of Sydney's CBD in February.

A total of 45 rhino sculptures went under the auctioneer's hammer on May 14, raising an impressive \$460,000 for Taronga Zoo's world leading Black Rhino breeding and field conservation projects.

Taronga Zoo Director Cameron Kerr was delighted at the auction result.

"We were overwhelmed by the generosity of bidders and delighted to see our colourful rhino sculptures find new homes," Mr Kerr said.



**An easy delivery... the rhino sculpture *Beauty and Hope* is unpacked outside RPA's Women and Babies unit.**