

Sam the bushfire koala to become museum exhibit

澳洲「希望象徵」成博物館標本



In this Feb. 11, 2009 file photo, Sam the koala is treated at the Mountain Ash Wildlife Center in Rawson, Australia. PHOTO: AP

今年二月十一日，無尾熊珊姆在澳洲羅森市的花楸樹野生動物之家接受治療。

照片：美聯社

在澳洲史上死傷最慘重的一場森林野火中倖存下來，被澳洲首相陸克文譽為「希望象徵」的無尾熊，日前在手術中喪生，未來將被製成標本存放在博物館展覽。

今年二月，消防隊員發現口渴又全身嚴重燒傷的珊姆，之後隊員餵她喝礦泉水的影片在網路上廣為流傳後，讓她迅速竄紅。

珊姆因患有衣原體囊腫而動刀，陸克文對她的死表示相當惋惜，他說在造成一百七十三人喪生的維多利亞省野火浩劫時，她對世上許多人而言是一個希望的象徵。

維多利亞省省長約翰·布倫比表示，這隻四歲的有袋動物將被製成標本，存放在墨爾本市立博物館，與澳洲傳奇賽馬法拉同館展出。

布倫比對《前鋒太陽報》表示：「珊姆的故事能讓我們了解並記得二〇〇九年二月，該省居民所經歷的這場浩劫，以及他們走出傷痛、繼續迎向人生的驚人毅力。」

該博物館展覽總監羅賓·赫斯特表示，珊姆是「那艱困時刻人們心目中的重要形象」，應當被好好保存下來。

短短兩天內，影音網站YouTube上，戴著頭盔的消防隊員戴夫·崔伊餵珊姆喝水的影片就有將近十五萬人次點閱，之後又登上全球各大電視新聞。

這隻人見人愛的無尾熊在動物收容所動完手術後過世，她自今年二月被燒傷後就一直在這邊休養。

墨爾本外郊的大片灌木林被大火席捲時，市鎮都被大火摧毀。據估算，有數百萬當地特有動物也在這場大火中喪生，包括無尾熊、袋鼠和袋熊等。

救援人員本來希望把珊姆送回維多利亞省東南部的史崔雷琪山區：她屬於特殊品種，毛比其他無尾熊蓬鬆、體型也較大。

(法新社/翻譯：袁星豐)

An Australian koala that Prime Minister Kevin Rudd called a “symbol of hope” during the nation’s deadliest-ever wildfires will be stuffed and mounted in a museum after dying in surgery.

Sam was found thirsty and severely burned in February, and shot to fame when footage of her drinking bottled water offered by a fireman **circulated** widely on the Internet.

Rudd described her death after surgery for chlamydia-related cysts as a tragedy, saying she had been a symbol of hope for many around the world during the deadly Victoria state blazes which claimed 173 lives.

Victoria Premier John Brumby said the four-year-old marsupial was to be stuffed and displayed at Melbourne City’s museum, where the body of legendary racehorse Phar Lap was also on show.

“The story of Sam will help us to understand and remember the devastation that the events of February 2009 had on the people of this state, and their extraordinary determination to recover and move forward with their lives,” Brumby told the *Herald Sun* newspaper.

The museum’s exhibitions director Robyn Hirst said Sam ought to be preserved, as a “very important image from those terrible times.”

Footage of helmeted fireman Dave Tree giving Sam water scored almost 150,000 hits in two days on the video Web site YouTube, and was shown on TV news bulletins the world over.

The cuddly marsupial finally **gave up the ghost** after surgery at the animal shelter where she had been recovering since February from her burns.

Entire towns were flattened when fire swept through vast tracts of bushland outside Melbourne. Millions of unique native animals, including koalas, kangaroos and wombats, were also estimated to have **perished**.

Rescuers had hoped to return Sam, who was of an unusual breed that is fluffier and larger than other koalas, to her home in the Strzelecki Ranges in southeast Victoria state. (AFP)



TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. circulate /'sɜ:kjə,let/ v.

流傳 (liu2 chuan2)

例: The environmental activists circulated thousands of fliers to bring attention to their campaign.

(環保人士散發了數千張傳單宣傳他們的活動。)

2. perish /'perɪʃ/ v.

喪生 (sang4 sheng1)

例: Investigators are still trying to figure out how many people perished in the blaze.

(調查員仍在試著算出這場大火的罹難者人數。)



IDIOM POINT 重要片語

give up the ghost
與世長辭

Somebody **gives up the ghost** if they die. In the article, Sam the koala **gave up the ghost** after dying in surgery.

若說某人「give up the ghost」，就代表他們死了。文章中提到，無尾熊珊姆在一場手術後與世長辭。