



PROJECT UPDATE: Aug 8



## As praise floods in, Foundation takes shape

THOUSANDS of congratulatory emails are flooding in from around the globe at the Balnarring (VIC) home of ranger and first time documentary film maker Sean Willmore after the July 31 simultaneous worldwide premiere of The Thin Green Line.

In all, 315 screenings were held in 35 countries across the globe on July 31, including Kenya, Nigeria, Uruguay, Romania, San Francisco, the Canadian Yukon and – the worldwide hub – Melbourne’s Astor Theatre, where more than 1000 people gave a standing ovation.

A total of about 12,000 people saw the documentary across the globe on July 31. Sean said this was made possible by the world family of rangers, the International Rangers Federation, and “because of vital community support”.

Importantly, thousands of dollars are now flowing to the Thin Green Line Foundation’s account to help the families of rangers killed and injured in the line of duty, and other ranger-supportive programs.

Early indications are that the worldwide premiere events, with DVD sales and donations, will take The Thin Green Line Foundation’s fund from zero to more than \$100,000 (AU).

This grassroots independent first time documentary has even had a hand in persuading the ‘Governator’ of California, Arnold Schwarzenegger, to declare July 31 California State Park Ranger Day’.

With his state hosting dozens of The Thin Green Line screenings on International Rangers Day, Governor

Schwarzenegger honoured the 400 men and women protecting more than 270 Californian protected areas, or 1.5 million acres, “enjoyed every year by 76 million visitors”.

“Their service to our state is truly remarkable, and their stewardship of our natural resources honors our proud environmental heritage,” Gov. Schwarzenegger said.

Endorsing The Thin Green Line project is The International Union of Conservation Nations (IUCN), World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) as well as the International Rangers Federation.

### Building on premiere success – DVD sales and ongoing screenings

Buoyed by the massive response to the documentary, The Thin Green Line project enters the coming three months with a target of 5000 DVD sales .

Sales from the DVD, as with the premiere events, go towards The Thin Green Line Foundation’s fund to support the families of rangers killed or injured in the line of duty, and other ranger supportive projects. This will be distributed in direct coordination with the International Ranger Federation

The DVD can be purchased online at [www.thingreenline.info](http://www.thingreenline.info) To host a screening and raise more money for the foundation, you can register online. You’ll then receive a host’s kit, including promotional material, instructions and a copy of the DVD.

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**Anecdotes and feedback from around the globe**

MEDIA: A range of pics from premieres worldwide are available for use including excellent high res pics from Melbourne’s Astor Theatre event.

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## Thin Green Line gets a little thicker – The ‘Governator’ makes a stand!

### Schwarzenegger proclaims CA State Park Rangers Day

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One of those Californian rangers, Steve Bier, wrote:

“I’ve been playing Ranger for over 10 years here in California, the last five for California State Parks at Anza Borrego Desert State Park. I was lucky enough to come in at a time when there still exists some ‘Old Timers’ that uphold the creed of what we call the traditional Generalist Ranger. We are the last stronghold of the Peninsular Bighorn Sheep, and one of the largest repositories of Pleistocene fossils in the world. Our natural and cultural resources are many, and we are daily tasked with their protection and preservation. . . thank you for reminding us that we are not alone . . . can’t wait for the sequel.”

### Murdered gorillas top story in DC

A Washington DC American University screening saw 50 people attend. It followed a July 22 cover story from the Washington Post about a family of mountain gorillas murdered in Uganda, apparently for no other reason than as a warning to rangers protecting the last 700 of this species.

### Everist survivor opens Blue Mtns event

Well-known adventurer and Everest survivor Lincoln Hall launched a screening in the Blue Mountains of New South Wales, with a joke about losing his fingers to frostbite. He mused at being finger-printed at a protest rally some years ago, and wondered how the police would go these days: they have his finger prints, but he doesn’t.

About 270 people watched The Thin Green Line raising more than \$3000 at this event. Blue Mountains screening organiser Duncan Scott-Lawson, himself ranger of the Warragamba Special Areas said: “Please accept the congratulations from the Blue Mountains community on a job well done. You have been instrumental in raising the profile of International rangers, their struggle and commitment. One common theme to the discussion was that all people (including other rangers and NPWS staff) had no idea about the international deaths, injuries while serving on the thin green line”.

### Lake St Clair viewing

It was snowing at Tasmania’s famous Lake St Clair National Parks, yet 20 people saw the premiere there.

### BBC Scotland praise

“It’s a wonderful fast moving film with some great images. Thank you for allowing us to use it. I’ve just used a few sequences, maybe lasting 30 - 40 seconds, with a credit caption, and my voice-over saying it’s being shown tonight in two places in Scotland, Hopetoun House, Edinburgh and Glenmore Lodge, Aviemore. We went to the John Muir Country Park at Dunbar for our main filming for the feature, 1.20 long. It ran in our news bulletin today at 1.30pm and will run again at 6.30pm.

- John Knox of the BBC, Scotland

Nial Loble, Scottish ranger, was rapt: “We were headline news on the Radio on the morning - so mentions on the hour and half hour, as well as a 10 minute piece, TV at lunch, TV in the evening, we had double page spreads in some of the newspapers ... it was a very good day in the end - with two Members of the Scottish Parliament coming along in the evening!”

### ‘Remarkable’ response

Wisconsin USA Ranger Bob Krumenaker organised a screening at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, Ashland, supported by the rangers of the Apostle Islands National lakeshore: “The remarkable thing is that when the film ended, no one moved. After a few minutes, people burst into applause. A few said they were inspired, and many thanked us for showing it. One said she had no idea what things were really like ‘out there’.”

### Big effort from Rottnest Islanders

Rottnest Island copped a hammering, and still the tiny community raised \$500 for The Thin Green Line Foundation: “With torrential rain, gale force winds, 5-7 metre swell for 3 days now, with many ferries cancelled due to the bad weather AND heavy rain down pours before, during and just after the event we are stoked to report that we had 50 people attend the event! During our quietest time of year and from a local resident population of around 80 people, we thought this was a great turn out.”

- Sallyann Gudge, Rottnest Island Ranger, WA.

### World Scout Jamboree screening

Roger Cole wrote from England: “I screened The Thin Green Line last evening at The 21st World Scout Jamboree and must have had 100 young scouts and leaders through the venue - a marquee in the middle of a city of 10,000 other tents at Hylands Park, Chelmsford.”

### Inspired, excited

South Australian ranger for the Northern Lofty District Eric de Smit wrote: “Everybody after the film was inspired and excited about what rangers do worldwide and I think were very proud to be part of the fight towards making that line thicker.”



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## Thin Green Line gets a little thicker – from Darwin to Croatia, praise rolls in

### Green heart

The Simpsons Gap ranger team held a screening in The Desert Park, Alice Springs with more than 100 attending.

### A story that needed to be told

Sgt Scott Davis of Victoria Police was at the Astor Theatre screening, and was moved to write afterwards: "I suppose I was always aware that those who hold ranger positions would be faced with threats of violence and death, but your film told a story that needed to be told. As you said at the start of the film, yes it is about the animals and their environment, but the places wouldn't exist without those rangers. My son has just completed a Diploma in Environmental Management, unfortunately he couldn't be there last night, but I will be sitting down with him tonight in front of the DVD to inspire him, as I have been inspired."

### Adults impressed & inspired, children learnt

A screening held at the home of an employee of the Federal Department of the Environment and Water Resources in Canberra was well received: "The adults were impressed and inspired, and the children learnt lots about our world that they would not get from their usual information sources" wrote Richard Webb.

### Deckchair report: bloody good effort mate!

Anton, himself a ranger, organised a screening at Darwin's famous Deckchair Cinema and reports 100 people raised \$1000 for the TGL Foundation: "what a bloody good effort mate - you are a champion" he wrote to Sean in Darwinese. Deckchair manager Jett "is included in those people inspired and will now study to become a park ranger ... amazing how much change one person can effect with some initiative, and a lot of hard work!"

### IRF co-founder impressed

Co founder of the International Rangers Federation Gordon Miller reported from Edale Village, England: "my modest village hall event raised £150 and there is demand for a repeat, perhaps in early winter - well done mate".

### Forget coalface, we now have the greenface

Nathalie Cuthebertson of New South Wales reported: "My daughter (16) and I (53) saw your movie last night at Kuringai Library. What a wonderful experience ... an inspiring group world-wide who are on the front line - the greenface (forget coalface, those days should be over) - of our planet."

### Congratulations from NT

Jo Whelan, a Geologist with the Northern Territory Geological Survey team wrote: "I have to say I am glad Dad is a ranger here. It seems like Oz is the only country where you're not going to get shot at.... Congratulations ... I was definitely inspired, as I am sure people all over the world were!"

### Taronga Zoo screening

"Our premiere of The Thin Green Line went well last night with 18 people, loads of barbecued sausages and \$92.50 in funds raised. We held it at our Urban House Exhibit, Backyard to Bush, Taronga Zoo. As keepers, conservationists and friends of the zoo, we all enjoyed watching and discussing such an innovative and apt documentary."

- Sarah Murray, Keeper, Taronga Zoo

### Powerful, moving

"Adelaide was fortunate enough to host a premiere of your amazing documentary. Thank you so much for presenting such an important story. It was powerful, moving and beyond words." - Beihya-Malen Yáñez, Scientific Officer, Reserve Planning, Department for Environment and Heritage, SA

### Tears in Queensland

"I attended the premiere of the Thin Green Line this evening at the University of QLD's Gatton campus, and I can honestly say that it was the most amazing documentary I have EVER seen! I had tears in my eyes from the first footage of the mountain gorillas until the final footage of the gorillas at the end of the movie. I am studying Wildlife Science at University, and hope to, one day, be a Ranger for National Parks. Ideally I would like to be a ranger in North QLD's rainforests. Keep up the good work. You are an inspiration to all of us!" - Caitlin Weatherstone, Queensland.

### Gobsmacked in Karratha

"I think the words to describe the groups reaction after the finish was 'gobsmacked'. Some, even the rangers, had no idea what was going on outside of their patches."

Pat and Geoff Gregor, Karratha, WA

### Feeling part of a greater family

"I just want to let you know, though, how deeply your film affected me. It has reconfirmed my commitment to what I do and why I do it. As part of the National Park Service, and a member of the Association of National Park Rangers, I truly feel part of a greater family. And I now feel part of an even larger, more global one. I'm fairly sure that my family doesn't understand why I do what I do - my mother, I think sort of understands. My plan is to order additional copies of The Thin Green Line to send to my family and friends, partly to increase and raise their consciousness, partly to support the ranger fund that helps families in need, but partly also to share with my family and friends my passion."

- Leslie Green, Chief of Administration,  
Great Basin National Park, Nevada, USA

### Croatians proud of their part

In Croatia about 50 people watched the doco, according to Papuk nature Park rangers Branko Stivic and Goran Pavic: "we collected 185 Kijuna (about \$40 AUD)" they said proudly.

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