



TARONGA
ZOO
SYDNEY

For the Wild

STEM
STUDENT
ENRICHMENT
DESIGN
COMPETITION

Zookeepers and volunteers at Taronga Zoo Sydney spend a large amount of time creating enrichment for the animals in their care.

It induces as near to natural behaviour as possible to make life at the zoo as stimulating as possible, as well as promoting **mental** and **physical activity**.

Enrichment provides **species-appropriate challenges, opportunities and stimulation** and is an important part of **animal husbandry** in zoos. Visit the [Wild Welfare website](#) to learn more.

Put your **design** and **production skills** to the test by submitting a new and exciting **enrichment design** for animals found at Taronga Zoo Sydney.

GETTING STARTED

IDENTIFY & DEFINE

Select which animal you would like to design enrichment for - **an Echidna OR Sun Bear**

Then **use the stimulus information** in this competition resource to familiarise yourself with their needs.

RESEARCH & PLAN

It is important to have sound knowledge of the species' **natural behaviours and physiology** when developing an enrichment tool. Undertake **further research** about the animal as well as **existing enrichment designs and materials** before designing a device that will **encourage natural behaviour** as well as **promising mental and physical activity**.

NOTE: the enrichment object must be able to be added and removed from the animals' exhibit.

PRODUCE & IMPLEMENT

Prototype or create your enrichment design.



TEST & EVALUATE

Use the **enrichment design checklist** at the end of this document to ensure your design meets all the criteria.

Submit your design via our [Taronga website](#).
ENTRIES CLOSE **Friday 22 September 2023 at AT 5PM (AEST)**.

[taronga.org.au/
enrichmentcomp](http://taronga.org.au/enrichmentcomp)



ECHIDNA

RESOURCES 

Read the [FACT SHEET](#)

Watch their [NATURAL BEHAVIOUR](#)

**DON'T FORGET
THE CHECKLIST
ON PAGE 5**

ECHIDNA EXHIBIT

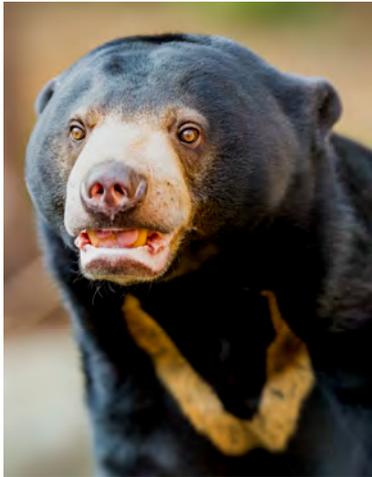
Taronga Zoo Sydney.



EXAMPLE OF ENRICHMENT DESIGN

Enrichment for the echidna should be behaviour-based enrichment.





SUN BEAR

RESOURCES

Read the [FACT SHEET](#)

Watch their [NATURAL BEHAVIOUR](#)

DON'T FORGET
THE CHECKLIST
ON **PAGE 6**

SUN BEAR EXHIBIT

Taronga Zoo Sydney.



SUN BEAR ENRICHMENT

Taronga Zoo Sydney.



ECHIDNA

CHECKLIST

Only complete this checklist if you are designing enrichment for the Echidna

Safety

- Products used for the device are free from wax, staples, glue, paint or plastic tape.
- The device (including fixing/attachments) will prevent animals from becoming entrapped or entangled.
- The item's holes will not entrap body parts.
- The enrichment object can be added and removed from the animals' exhibit easily.
- The size of the item is large enough that it cannot be swallowed by the animal.
- The enrichment item does not contain ingredients that may be toxic or pose an allergenic risk to the animal.
- The enrichment item is not likely to carry disease.

Construction

- I have included ALL the measurements for the object (height, length, width) and all the openings (diameter)**
- I have included the weight of the object**
- The item is sturdy and durable. Parts are firmly secure and cannot be detached.
- The fixings and attachments cannot be ingested.
- The item is non-toxic (including plant material).
- The item is able to be placed into water.

Behaviour

- This item offers the echidna the opportunity to display its natural behaviours.

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Dignity and respect / exhibit aesthetic

- The enrichment item maintains Taronga's philosophies in displaying animals in a way that celebrates the nature of the species and promotes natural behaviour.
- The item is natural-looking and compliments the exhibit design.

SUN BEAR

CHECKLIST

Only complete this checklist if you are designing enrichment for the Sun Bear.

Safety

- Products used for the device are free from wax, staples, glue, paint or plastic tape.
- The device (including fixing/attachments) will prevent animals from becoming entrapped or entangled.
- The item's holes will not entrap body parts.
- The enrichment object can be added and removed from the animals' exhibit easily.
- The size of the item is large enough that it cannot be swallowed by the animal.
- The enrichment item does not contain ingredients that may be toxic or pose an allergenic risk to the animal.
- The enrichment item is not likely to carry disease.

Construction

- I have included ALL the measurements for the object (height, length, width) and all the openings (diameter)**
- I have included the weight of the object**
- The item is sturdy and durable. Parts are firmly secure and cannot be detached.
- The fixings and attachments cannot be ingested.
- The item is non-toxic (including plant material).

Behaviour

- The item offers the Sun Bear the opportunity to display its natural behaviours.
- The item is strong enough that the Sun Bear won't be able to tear it apart

Dignity and respect / exhibit aesthetic

- The enrichment item maintains Taronga's philosophies in displaying animals in a way that celebrates the nature of the species and promotes natural behaviour.
- The item is natural-looking and compliments the exhibit design.

MEET *the* JUDGES

The winning enrichment designs will be chosen by a panel of judge **Zookeepers** and **Behavioural Scientists** from Taronga.



Dr. Ben Pitcher
Behavioural Biologist

Behavioural Studies Unit
at Taronga



Andrew Daly
Keeper

Taronga Zoo
Sydney



Deborah Price
Keeper

Taronga Zoo
Sydney

WINNERS

Need to get in touch?

Winners will be contacted using the **classroom teacher's details**, via email.

Chosen enrichment designers will receive **FREE entry for their whole class** to visit Taronga Zoo Sydney, meet the judges and observe their enrichment being given to their chosen animal(s).

Only **one (1) winner** will be selected per animal (Echidna and Sun Bear).

Email
education@zoo.nsw.gov.au

or call
02 9978 4578

Submit your design via our [Taronga website](https://www.taronga.org.au).
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enrichmentcomp](https://www.taronga.org.au/enrichmentcomp)