



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 - **the Dingo OR Platypus**

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.

DON'T FORGET THE CHECKLISTS ON PAGES 5-6

Submit your design via our Taronga website
ENTRIES CLOSE **Friday 27 September 2024 at 5 PM (AEST)**

taronga.org.au/enrichment



DINGO

RESOURCES

Read the [FACT SHEET](#)

Watch their [NATURAL BEHAVIOUR](#)

Learn about the Dingoes at [TARONGA](#)

DINGO EXHIBIT

Taronga Zoo Sydney.



EXAMPLE OF ENRICHMENT DESIGN

Enrichment for the dingo should be behaviour-based enrichment.



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



PLATYPUS



RESOURCES

Read the [FACT SHEET](#)

Watch their

[NATURAL BEHAVIOUR](#)

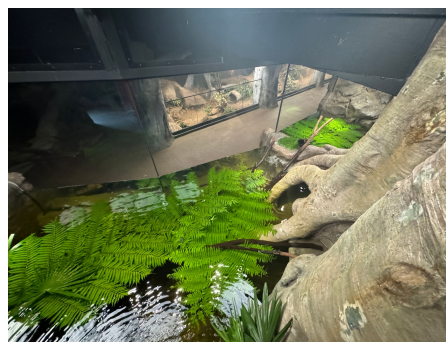
Check out some enrichment:

[RAFT ENRICHMENT](#)

[ICE ENRICHMENT](#)

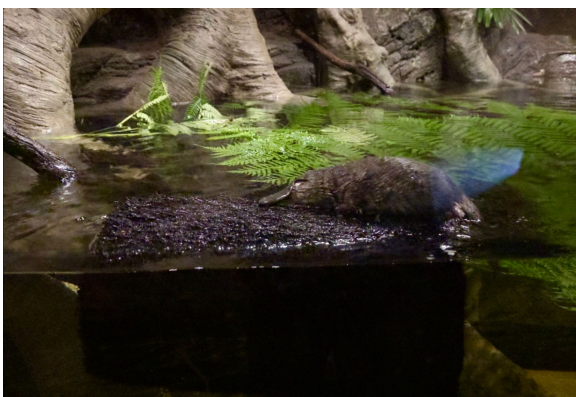
PLATYPUS EXHIBIT

Taronga Zoo Sydney.



PLATYPUS ENRICHMENT

Taronga Zoo Sydney.



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

DINGO

CHECKLIST

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

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

- This item includes rapid movement which offers the dingo the opportunity to display its natural hunting and chasing behaviours.

AND/OR

- This item offers the dingo the opportunity to display its natural behaviour of using their sense of smell to investigate them.

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.

PLATYPUS

CHECKLIST

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

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

- **The enrichment object can go in water, is buoyant and easy to mount above water.**
- 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 Platypus the opportunity to display its natural behaviour in water.

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 the **Behavioural Husbandry Supervisor** from Taronga.



Brendan Host
Behavioural Husbandry Supervisor
Taronga Zoo
Sydney



Anthony Britt-Lewis
Dingo Keeper
Taronga Zoo
Sydney



Sam Bennett
Platypus 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 (Platypus and Dingo).

Email
education@zoo.nsw.gov.au

or call
02 9978 4578

Submit your design via our [Taronga website](https://www.taronga.org.au).
ENTRIES CLOSE FRIDAY 27 September 2024 AT 5PM (AEST).

[taronga.org.au/
enrichment](https://www.taronga.org.au/enrichment)