SCHOOL ENRICHMENT DESIGN *Competition*

2019

TARONGA ZOO SYDNEY

For the Wild

SCHOOL ENRICHMENT DESIGN *Competition*

ZOO KEEPERS AND VOLUNTEERS AT TARONGA ZOO SYDNEY SPEND A LARGE AMOUNT OF TIME CREATING ENRICHMENT FOR THE ANIMALS IN THEIR CARE.

PUT YOUR DESIGN AND PRODUCTIONS SKILLS TO THE TEST BY SUBMITTING A NEW AND EXCITING ENRICHMENT DESIGN FOR ANIMALS FOUND AT TARONGA!

WHAT IS ENRICHMENT?

Enrichment enhances animal environments within the context of the animals behavioural biology and natural history. Environmental changes are made with the goal of increasing the animal's behavioural choices and drawing out their species-appropriate behaviours, thus enhancing animal welfare.

1999 AZA Behavior Scientific Advisory Group

Enrichment is an important aspect of animal husbandry in zoos and tries to make life at the zoo as natural and stimulating as possible.

The purpose is to induce as near to natural behaviour as possible as well as promoting mental and physical activity.

Read more about enrichment here at *The Shape of Enrichment, Inc.*

There are five enrichment categories:

- Social
- Cognitive
- Physical habitat
- Sensory
- Food

Read more about each category here.

THE PROCESS

IDENTIFY & DEFINE

Select one of the three animals below and use the stimulus information to familiarise yourself with their needs.

ECHIDNA

MEERKAT

BILBY

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 devise that will encourage natural behaviour as well as promoting mental and physical activity.

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 CHECK LIST!*

SUBMIT ALL ENTRIES BY FRIDAY 16 AUGUST 2019 5PM (AEST).

WINNERS

The winning enrichment designs will be judged by a Zoo Keeper and Behavioural Scientist from Taronga Zoo Sydney.

Winners will be contacted using the classroom teacher details in the survey. Teachers will be contacted via email.

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

*Checklist at the back of this document.

TARONGA ZOO SYDNEY
For the Wild

SCHOOL ENRICHMENT DESIGN *Competition*

MEET THE ANIMALS

Short-beaked Echidna
Tachyglossus aculeatus

Meerkat
Suricata suricatta

Greater Bilby
Macrotis lagotis

TARONGA ZOO SYDNEY
For the Wild

SCHOOL ENRICHMENT DESIGN Competition

ECHIDNA

Tachyglossus aculeatus

ECHIDNA ENCLOSURE

Taronga Institute of Science & Learning, Taronga Zoo Sydney.

EXAMPLE OF AN ENRICHMENT DESIGN

DON'T FORGET THE CHECK LIST!*

Food to be added by keepers to the enrichment object (optional):
Echidna porridge mix.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ECHIDNA

DOWNLOAD FACTSHEET

OR GO TO **https://bit.ly/tz-echidna**

LEARN MORE ABOUT ECHIDNA NATURAL BEHAVIOUR

WATCH VIDEO HERE

OR GO TO **https://bit.ly/echidna-video**

THE JUDGES

Andrew Daly
Keeper
Taronga Institute of Science & Learning,
Taronga Zoo Sydney

Dr Alicia Burns
Behavioural Biologist
Behavioural Studies Unit
Taronga Conservation Society Australia

Dr Ben Pitcher
Behavioural Biologist
Behavioural Studies Unit
Taronga Conservation Society Australia

*Checklist at the back of this document.

TARONGA ZOO SYDNEY
For the Wild

SCHOOL ENRICHMENT DESIGN Competition

MEERKAT

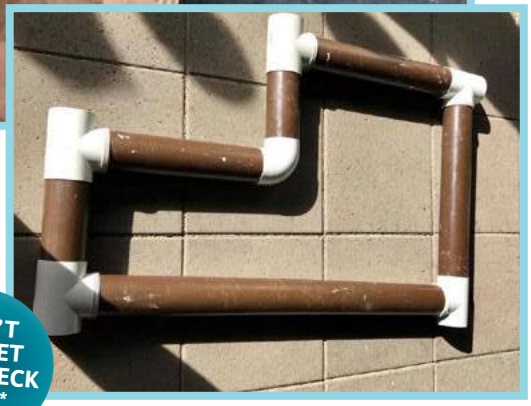
Suricata suricatta

MEERKAT ENCLOSURE

Taronga Zoo Sydney.

EXAMPLE OF AN ENRICHMENT DESIGN

Created by **Year 11 Biology students from Junee High School.**



DON'T FORGET THE CHECK LIST!*

Food to be added by keepers to the enrichment object (optional):
Mealworms.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MEERKAT

DOWNLOAD FACTSHEET

OR GO TO **https://bit.ly/tz-meerkat**

LEARN MORE ABOUT MEERKAT NATURAL BEHAVIOUR

WATCH VIDEO HERE

OR GO TO **https://bit.ly/meerkat-video**

THE JUDGES

Maz Boz
Carnivore Keeper
Exotic Fauna Precinct
Taronga Zoo Sydney

Dr Alicia Burns
Behavioural Biologist
Behavioural Studies Unit
Taronga Conservation Society Australia

Dr Ben Pitcher
Behavioural Biologist
Behavioural Studies Unit
Taronga Conservation Society Australia

*Checklist at the back of this document.

TARONGA ZOO SYDNEY
For the Wild

SCHOOL ENRICHMENT DESIGN Competition

BILBY

Macrotis lagotis

BILBY ENCLOSURE

Photo credit: Ogilvy

Desert Classroom, Institute of Science & Learning, Taronga Zoo Sydney.

EXAMPLE OF AN ENRICHMENT DESIGN

DON'T FORGET THE CHECK LIST!*

Food to be added by keepers to the enrichment object (optional):
Crickets, mealworms, seeds or small fruit pieces.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BILBY

DOWNLOAD FACTSHEET

OR GO TO **https://bit.ly/tz-bilby**

LEARN MORE ABOUT BILBY NATURAL BEHAVIOUR

WATCH VIDEO HERE

OR GO TO **https://bit.ly/bilby-video**

THE JUDGES

Grace Black
Keeper
Taronga Institute of Science & Learning
Taronga Zoo Sydney

Dr Alicia Burns
Behavioural Biologist
Behavioural Studies Unit
Taronga Conservation Society Australia

Dr Ben Pitcher
Behavioural Biologist
Behavioural Studies Unit
Taronga Conservation Society Australia

*Checklist at the back of this document.

SCHOOL ENRICHMENT DESIGN Competition

CHECKLIST

SAFETY:

- [ ] **Cardboard or paper products** are free from wax, staples, glue, paint or plastic tape.
- [ ] **The device (including fixings/attachments)** will prevent animals from becoming entrapped or entangled.
- [ ] **The items holes** will not entrap body parts.
- [ ] **The enrichment** can be removed quickly and easily in an emergency.
- [ ] **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 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).

FOOD (IF INCLUDED):

- [ ] **The device has the ability for Keepers to include food** from the animals daily food allowance.
- [ ] **The items can be cleaned to prevent disease transfer between usages** – what if it is single use?

DIGNITY AND RESPECT AND EXHIBIT AESTHETIC:

- [ ] **The enrichment item maintain 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.