

# Boral Youth at the Zoo (YATZ)

Thanks for inquiring about the Boral Youth at the Zoo (YATZ) Program!

## Taronga Vision

*‘Securing a Shared Future for Wildlife and People’*

### **Our role**

Our role in conservation is to create direct and positive connections between wildlife and people.

Through our efforts we protect endangered species, increase understanding of wildlife and inspire community action.

Central to Taronga’s role are the strategic pillars of *Wildlife* and *People*.

### **Wildlife**

We breed, manage and care for wildlife, and undertake research, to deliver tangible conservation outcomes.

### **Communities**

We create unique, dynamic and engaging learning experiences to positively influence and change behaviours.



### **Habitats**

We work directly with organisations that restore, reserve and preserve habitat areas.

## Mission Statement:

*“Through working together we will help others to take positive actions for the conservation of wildlife and their environments.”*

Taronga Zoo’s YATZ program is for young people aged 13 to 19 years old who love animals. YATZ is designed to give young people the opportunity to gain knowledge and experience of how zoos work, with a focus on the importance of animal conservation.

**Please note that there is very limited interaction with, and no handling of, Taronga Zoo’s animals.**

Each YATZ member can expect to be rostered on 2-3 days each school holiday period. During school term there are opportunities for members to be rostered on for special events, however these events do not run on a regular schedule.

Provided below is a general outline of what can be expected as a YATZ member as well as your responsibilities while involved in the program.

## Induction Day

As a new member, all YATZ are required to attend Induction before volunteering. Induction provides new members the opportunity to meet the YATZ co-ordinator, other new and existing members and become familiar with Taronga Zoo. Attendance is compulsory to ensure all new members understand their roles and responsibilities.



## Training Sessions

Certain activities in YATZ require further training. Please see the descriptions of activities for more information on this.

## Activities available for YATZ members

### YATZeD

YATZeD are educational themed workshops where members can acquire new skills and knowledge. Examples of past YATZeD workshop topics include Animal Photography, Science Day, Mammal Day and Animal Philosophy. YATZ can expect to learn via classroom presentations and hands on experiences. YATZeD generally runs from 10:30am to 3:30pm, but some dates will vary. Numbers are limited to around 30 YATZ per workshop to enhance learning.



### Guest Experience Operations

Once YATZ have been in the program for 6 months and receive training, YATZ members are offered the opportunity to volunteer in Guest Experience Operations. YATZ can expect to work at the entrance section of the zoo, welcoming and greeting visitors, handing out maps, and providing information and advice.

In addition to this, once YATZ are aged 16 or older, they can receive further Visitor Services training that will give them further skills in the roles above, plus spot guiding and manning touch tables in the zoo grounds.

Volunteering in this area teaches YATZ vital skills for interacting with the public.



Guest Experience Operations Training



Handing out maps

## Zoo Adventures

Zoo Adventures is a Taronga Zoo school holiday program for children aged 5-10. YATZ members have the opportunity to assist in running this program. YATZ members help to supervise the children, run craft activities and guide the Zoo Adventure children through the zoo. Working on Zoo Adventures offers YATZ the opportunity to gain experience working with children. Zoo Adventures runs throughout the holidays from at 8:30am until 3:30pm.

## Campaigns

Each year Taronga Zoo supports national and international campaigns such as 'They're Calling on You', 'Fish for Good' and 'Wildlife Witness'. These campaigns help raise awareness of serious conservation issues and YATZ members can support this work by raising public awareness. By working on campaigns YATZ gain knowledge of important local and global issues and gain skills in interacting with people from different ages and backgrounds as well as public speaking.



## Overnight programs

### 'ZoosnooZ' and 'Roar & Snore' and 'Keeper for a Day'

Taronga Zoo offers two overnight programs- *ZoosnooZ*, a school based program and *Roar&Snore*, an overnight stay open to the public. "Keeper for a Day" is a day program for young people interested in Zoo keeping as a career. To volunteer for these shifts YATZ members must be over 16 years of age and have completed additional training.

## Section

Section enables members to gain hands on experience working alongside keepers in different sections/divisions throughout the zoo. You are required to be in the YATZ program for at least 12 months before applying for section shifts. Before commencing Section, YATZ members are required to undertake Section Training to learn what is required of them while working alongside the keepers. Section is held every weekday morning throughout the school holidays from 8:15am to 11:15am. Places on Section are very limited due to its popularity and members should not expect to be placed on Section every school holidays.

There are different sections you can be allocated on the day of your shift:

- Backyard to Bush
- Bird Show
- Australian Fauna
- Primates and Ungulates
- Marine Mammals
- Serpentaria
- Education
- Bush Regeneration
- Exotics



Raking



Food Preparation

## Special events

YATZ members have the opportunity to be rostered on for fundraising events, planting/ bush regeneration days, social events and other activities that may arise.

## Camps

In the past, YATZ have travelled to Dubbo NSW, Chiltern VIC, Bellingen NSW and Nepal. These camps are offered to all YATZ and incur an additional fee to offset transport, accommodation, food and other costs. Camps are great opportunities for YATZ to develop their relationships with one another and gain knowledge, skills and positive attitudes toward conservation.

## Social Nights

YATZ holds two social nights per year for members to get to know each other. At these events, YATZ hear from a wide range of guest speakers from within the zoo and from other organisations. An award ceremony at each event rewards YATZ for their hard work and enthusiasm in the program.

## How to sign up for Activities

The YATZ program uses an online Volunteer Management System called Volgistics. The YATZ coordinator will send out an email with a link to a VICNet webpage where YATZ members can show their availabilities for particular days and activities they would like to volunteer for. For this reason, communication via email is critical to the running of the YATZ program. All YATZ members must check their emails regularly to ensure they do not miss roster deadlines.

Due to the large number of members and the limited number of days and activities available, YATZ members may not receive all their requested/desired days and/or activities. However, care is taken to ensure equality and fairness between all YATZ members.

Some activities, such as YATZeX require the return of Permission Forms or other details. If the deadline for date submission is missed then YATZ members will not be able to volunteer for that associated activity. There is a strict deadline in place due to the large number of YATZ members and the amount of time and effort taken to accommodate each member's roster requests.

## Attending activities

YATZ members are required to attend all their self selected dates as in their VICNet Calendar and to arrive on time. The option to 'remove' yourself from pre-chosen shifts exist and will be explained to you at Induction. Unexplained Absences or lateness to your allocated volunteer day will be noted and if repeated on a number of occasion's discussion with the YATZ coordinator may occur regarding your commitment and suitability for the program.

The ability to 'remove' yourself from activities online is only possible 48 hours before the shift. After this time, if YATZ members cannot attend a rostered activity due to sickness or unforeseen circumstances, a phone call or email to the YATZ coordinator is required to explain your absence.

## Uniform

All YATZ are required to wear the supplied uniform while volunteering. The YATZ uniform consists of the YATZ t-shirt and jumper, identification badge, and shorts (to knee length) or long pants. YATZ members should wear a hat and shoes which are enclosed, comfortable and suitable for the work they will be doing while volunteering.

## Communication

Regular communication is critical to the running of the YATZ program. YATZ members must be aware that they are responsible for regularly checking their emails so they do not miss deadlines for membership renewal, rosters, events and other important happenings.

YATZ have the option of becoming friends with 'Yatz Taronga' on Facebook. This will provide the opportunity for further communication as well as building relationships between YATZ members.

## Behaviour

As a YATZ volunteer, members will regularly be seen by, and interact with, the public. As a YATZ member you are required to act in an appropriate manner at all times. Failure to act in appropriate manner while volunteering will result in a meeting with the YATZ coordinator and potential loss of membership.

As a volunteer you have a responsibility to:

- support Taronga's values, staff, animals, students and other volunteers;
- Ensure your own safety and the safety of those around you;
- be respectful and courteous to visitors at all times;
- avoid religious, racial or political comments;
- wear your uniform and badge in accordance with policy;
- behave in accordance with the volunteer code of conduct and abide by Taronga's policies and procedures (integrity and honesty; respect for people; appreciation of the public interest; responsibility and accountability; fairness and impartiality; conscientiousness and efficiency; and compassion);
- be aware of safety requirements at all times, including sun protection;
- maintain an up-to-date tetanus shot;
- not enter non-public areas without prior permission;
- avoid smoking on the zoo site;
- enhance the experience of the visitors;
- contribute to a high level of care and respect for our animals;
- strive to inspire others about wildlife and its conservation; and
- enrich your own learning, experience and enjoyment.

## How do I apply to become a YATZ

Applications to join the program are held twice yearly in May and November.

If you wish to be contacted when Applications are open and Intake occur, you MUST enter a few basic contact details into the waitlist using this link:

<https://www.volgistics.com/ex/portal.dll/ap?ap=1923229381>

ONLY applicants whose details are entered into this link will be notified when the application process begins.

Please note, YATZ must be 13 when they apply but you may be younger to be added to this waitlist. We do intakes each year in May and November so we will be in contact with you about joining the program after you have turned 13.

Once contacted that let you know applications are open, instructions will be given about the process which will include making a short YouTube video, completing an online profile, returning a membership fee payment form and attending a mandatory Induction date.

We look forward to getting in contact with you closer to the Intake date after your 13<sup>th</sup> Birthday and hopefully meeting you soon!

## Contact Details

Email address: [yatz@zoo.nsw.gov.au](mailto:yatz@zoo.nsw.gov.au)

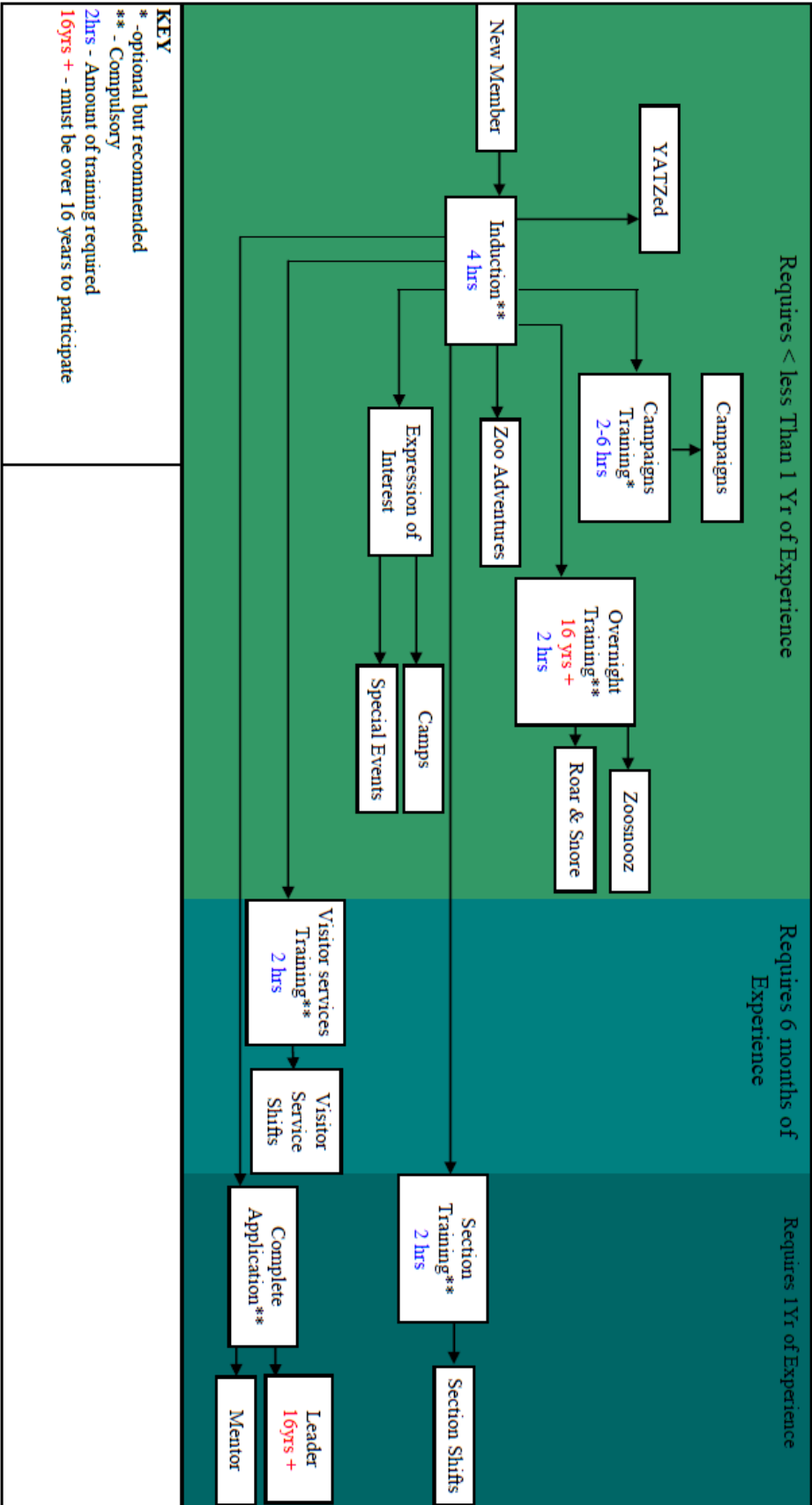
Phone number: 9932 4289

Facebook: 'Yatz Taronga'

Postal Address: YATZ Coordinator, Taronga Zoo, PO Box 20, Mosman NSW 2088.



# YATZ Activity Structure



**KEY**  
 \* - optional but recommended  
 \*\* - Compulsory  
 2hrs - Amount of training required  
 16yrs + - must be over 16 years to participate

