

Vivid to light up Taronga Zoo's Centenary

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1pm

Charlotte Year 6



Vivid Sydney and Taronga's vision of Vivid in the zoo. Photograph: Vivid Sydney

For the first time ever, Vivid Sydney is to brighten the zoo with a spectacular light show.

Taronga Zoo celebrated its 100 year anniversary on Wednesday 10th February with a stunning announcement: for the first time ever, Sydney's annual light show, Vivid Sydney, will be spreading to New South Wales' iconic Taronga Zoo.

NSW Minister for Trade, Tourism and Major Events Stuart Ayres and Minister for the Environment Mark Speakman spoke at the ceremony announcing the news. “Visitors to Vivid Sydney at Taronga Zoo will be welcomed by a grand projection on to the facade of the heritage-listed main entrance building,” Ayres said.

Haberfield’s journalism students, Freya and Charlotte, were able to get an interview with Minister Speakman, the only student journalists to do so.

Hosted at Taronga, this year Vivid Sydney will feature large macro-lantern versions of the 10 critical species that Taronga has made a long-term commitment to.

These 10 legacy species have been chosen from Sumatra and Australia. They will be the focus of major conservation efforts for at least the next 10 years.



Ministers with primary school students and their colorful heritage species lanterns. Photograph: Taronga Zoo

There are five species from Sumatra, including the Sumatran Tiger and the Sumatran Rhino, and five from Australia such as all species of Australian Marine Turtles, the Regent Honeyeater and the Bilby.

Minister Speakman said, “The zoo’s going to invite primary school students across New South Wales to design lanterns, and a number of those lanterns will be on display here [Taronga Zoo during Vivid Sydney] accompanying the 10 macro-lanterns.”

Haberfield Public School was one of the first schools to take up the lantern program, with four students attending the launch with Minister Speakman and Minister Stewart Ayres.

Vivid Sydney is an annual lights, music and ideas festival which illuminates major Sydney landmarks including the Sydney Opera House. And now they are turning their attention to the next generation for ideas this year.

This year’s Vivid Sydney will be more spectacular than the last, and will truly be a light show of a lifetime.