

ZOOSNOOZ



TEACHER INFORMATION DOCUMENT 2023

Contact details:

Please feel free to contact us with any further questions or to discuss your schools need.

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INTRODUCTION

ZooSnooz is the ultimate overnight excursion that your students will remember for years to come! Fall asleep to the sounds of nocturnal marsupials and wake to the morning roars that can only be heard from inside the Zoo!

To secure a booking in our ZooSnooz program a minimum of 20 students (excluding adults) is required; the program has a maximum capacity of 90 including supervising adults.

Set in the picturesque grounds of Billabong Camp, ZooSnooz provides an exciting Aussie bush camping experience without the fuss. Through evening and morning walks students will learn about the care and conservation of native animals and those from around the globe.



Your ZooSnooz experience will include:

- A classic Aussie BBQ dinner cooked by our Billabong Camp Hosts
- Night walking tour visiting some of our Australian native animals
- Supper under the stars
- Continental breakfast overlooking the Billabong
- Exciting morning walking tour
- Entry onto the Zoo Circuit either the day of arrival or the day after your ZooSnooz

SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS

Billabong Camp hosts a maximum of 90 people.

Each tent has two stretcher beds with thick high-density camping mattresses.

Depending on availability and number of attendees on the night, three students could be allocated to each tent. If a third child is to be included, then another mattress is laid on the ground between the two stretcher beds.

Two camping chairs per tent are provided on the front porches of each site.

The school teachers/additional adult supervisors are the primary source of supervision. Your Zoo hosts will provide your ZooSnooz experience. Between the hours of 10pm and 6am a host will be available for emergency assistance. Please ensure all attending teachers are aware of this.



OTHER SCHOOLS OR GROUPS

Please be aware that your school may not be the only group attending ZooSnooz on the same night. Whilst all efforts are made to ensure minimal contact between schools, please note you may not have the site to yourselves.

ONSITE FACILITIES

The Dinning Shed is centrally located within the camp and has a large covered area with cement flooring which provides protection from the sun and rain. There are tables and seating as well as portable heaters during the colder months.

Billabong Camp is equipped with basic kitchen facilities. These are not generally made available to the public, however, in the event fridge/freezer facilities are needed these can be requested in advance and are subject to availability.

There is a shared bathroom facility on site consisting of eight large toilet/shower cubicles. There is an accessible toilet within this facility.

Tent sites are not powered. If power is required i.e. for medical reasons please contact twpzeducation@zoo.nsw.gov.au.

Billabong Camp Hosts stay onsite in the staff tent, located in between tent site one and the entry gate.

Coach parking is located directly outside the entry to Billabong Camp.

WHAT TO BRING

For the night:

- Bedding (for students) - pillow, sleeping bag or sheets and blankets

Note – adults are provided with bedding (pillow, sheets and blankets)

- Pyjamas
- Toiletries for showers including a towel
- Weather appropriate clothing (for wet weather, wind, warm clothes for cooler months)
- Enclosed shoes
- Torch (battery operated only)
- Optional – camera, book or games

For the day:

- Backpack
- Refillable water bottle
- Hat and sunscreen
- Optional: pencil case and notebook

EXTREME WEATHER

ZooSnooz is an all-weather program. Please bring appropriate clothing e.g. rain jacket/poncho. The program will be altered to accommodate for wet weather.

In the event of catastrophic fire conditions, the Billabong Camp program will be cancelled. The decision will be made and communicated by Taronga Western Plains Zoo. In this instance a full refund or change of date will be offered.

CHECK-IN AND OUT

ZooSnooz program start – 4:00pm

ZooSnooz program finish – 9:00am the following morning

1. EXPLORING THE ZOO CIRCUIT BEFORE THE START OF YOUR ZOOSNOOZ

On arrival at the Zoo please have a teacher check in at the Information Desk in the Savannah Visitor Plaza.

Please aim to arrive at Billabong Camp by 4:00pm to meet your hosts. Please note that the Zoo does not provide transport for your group or their luggage to the site, which is 3.7km around the Zoo's circuit.

Please inform the Zoo at time of booking if you have any accompanying teachers travelling in their own vehicles, so that we can arrange Zoo access.

Luggage must arrive with the students at the program start time of 4:00pm. Luggage storage prior to the program start time is not available. Luggage storage on the day of departure is available at the Billabong campsite until 12pm.

2. EXPLORING THE ZOO CIRCUIT THE DAY AFTER YOUR ZOOSNOOZ

On arrival at the Zoo at 4:00pm please have a teacher check in at the Information Desk in the Savannah Visitor Plaza.

As the Zoo circuit closes at 4:00pm, ZooSnooz Hosts will meet your group at Savannah plaza and escort you to Billabong Camp.

Please note that the Zoo does not provide transport for your group or their luggage from Savannah Plaza to the site, which is 3.7km around the Zoo's circuit. ZooSnooz Hosts will escort your vehicles around to the site.

Luggage must arrive with the students at the program start time of 4:00pm. Luggage storage prior to the program start time is not available.

SAMPLE ITINERARY (subject to change)

4:00pm Check in at the Savannah Visitor Plaza (map reference E22)

NOTE – if you plan to explore the Zoo circuit on the day of your arrival, you would have checked in at Savannah Plaza prior to 4:00pm. Please meet ZooSnooz hosts at Billabong Camp at 4:00pm.

5:00pm Arrive at Billabong Camp (map reference T15)

6:15pm BBQ Dinner

7:10pm Night Walking Tour - get up close with a range of native Australian animals by visiting the Zoo's Aussie Walkthrough and search for native animals by spotlight

9:00pm Supper

9:30pm Shower time

9:50pm Lights out

6:00am Breakfast and time to pack up

7:15am Morning Walking Tour - see some of the amazing Asian species

8:30am Pack up and check out

9:00am Explore the Zoo

For security reasons students will not be able to leave the program early unless in the case of an emergency. All students attending are required to stay for the duration of the program. Students who wish to attend the Zoo during the day **only** can join their school at the end of the ZooSnooz program at 9:00am at the main entrance. They are unable to join the group earlier.

SICK OR ILL STUDENTS

Wherever possible, sick or ill students should be asked to refrain from attending for the health and safety of all students, school and Zoo staff and animals.

Should a situation arise whereby a student becomes sick during the program, ZooSnooz staff must be notified so proper hygiene practises are maintained. If a student/guest is showing flu-like symptoms, they will be immediately sent home from the site and will be permitted to return only once well again or if they have been cleared of having COVID-19 if this is a concern.

SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS OR GROUPS

We welcome the opportunity to support special need students and groups. Please contact our team to discuss your group's individual needs and we will do our best to accommodate you. Email twpzeducation@zoo.nsw.gov.au to discuss options.

CATERING (Subject to change)

As part of the program, dinner and breakfast are provided. Tea and coffee is available for adults.

Next day lunch and snack packs can be pre-ordered at an additional cost (see pp 11 for options).

Dietary requirements are to be **confirmed fourteen (14) days prior to your arrival date**. The catering for ZooSnooz is conducted through a different division in the Zoo. Last minute dietary or medical requirements cannot be provided on the night of your visit.

While we endeavour to cater for allergies we are a working Zoo, and are therefore unable to guarantee a nut/allergen free environment. We encourage all those with severe allergies to provide their own food (refrigeration can be provided) and bring medical action plans as necessary. We encourage you to discuss options as early as possible with our team by contacting twpzeducation@det.nsw.edu.au

We encourage students to bring their own food if they are unable to consume from the list below:

BBQ Dinner

- Gluten free sausages
- Marinated chicken (adults only)
- Bread rolls
- Garden salad
- Pasta salad
- Chef selection salad (adults only)
- Shredded cheese
- Onions
- Cordial — orange / lime
- Ice cream or lemonade ice block (lactose intolerant option)

Supper

- Chocolate and strawberry milk in summer (soy milk available as lactose intolerant option)
- Hot chocolate in winter
- Assorted cream biscuits (gluten free can be supplied if requested)
- Marshmallows (winter program only)

Breakfast

- Cereals (gluten free option available upon request)
- Toast (gluten free option available upon request)
- Margarine, Vegemite, Strawberry Jam and Honey
- Orange and Apple juice
- Tinned fruit (2 fruits)
- Milk (soy milk available as lactose intolerant option)
- Platter of watermelon

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Taronga Conservation Society Australia is strictly a PREPAID vendor for School Groups.

A deposit of \$500 is required to secure your booking, paid within two weeks of invoicing. The remaining balance will be required 14 days prior to your arrival date.

Preferred payment can be made by Direct Debit or Credit Card. Other payment options include Cheque or Department of Education Share Service LMBR.

For payment instructions, please refer to our **School Excursions Teachers Guide**, found under at Useful Links (Dubbo) at www.taronga.org.au/education/dubbo-excursions/plan

BOOKING TERMS AND CONDITIONS

A minimum of 20 paying students (excluding adults) must be booked to secure a ZooSnooz booking. The program has a maximum capacity of 90 including supervising adults.

Changes to the number of people attending your school excursion can be made up until 14 days prior to your arrival date. No further changes can be made to your invoice within 14 days of your visit.

Tent allocation and dietary requirements are required no later than 14 days prior to your arrival date.

Cancellation policy:

- All cancellations must be notified in writing to twpzeducation@zoo.nsw.gov.au and will result in the loss of the deposit fee of \$500.
- Full costs will be charged for cancellation within 48 hours of your arrival date.
- No refunds will be given to students or adults who do not attend on the day.

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

For more information for all optional extras please refer to our **School Excursions Teachers Guide**, found under Useful Links (Dubbo) at www.taronga.org.au/education/dubbo-excursions/plan

- 1. NEXT DAY EDUCATION WORKSHOP** If you are interested in curriculum focused lessons, next day workshop options are available with a qualified Zoo teacher and cost \$8/student. Further information can be found on our website www.taronga.org.au/education/school-workshops-dubbo

2. BIKE AND CART HIRE

Getting around by Bike:

Exploring the Zoo by bike is a great way to see the animals as you can easily traverse some of the paths and trails off the main circuit.

Getting around by Cart:

For the ultimate experience, hire an Electric Cart. Our Carts are easy to park and hop on and off at different exhibits with parking available around the Circuit. Drivers must be over the age of 21 with a full driver's licence.

More information (including rates) can be found at <https://taronga.org.au/dubbo-zoo/bike-cart-hire>

3. EXTRA ACTIVITIES

- Savannah Safari Bus Tour
- Guided Bus Tour – this runs for 2 hours

A price list can be found at www.taronga.org.au/education/dubbo-excursions/pricing

4. NEXT DAY CATERING (LUNCH AND SNACK PACKS)

<u>Lunch</u>	
Lunch Option #1: <i>Packed lunch to be grabbed on the go includes:</i> Assorted sandwiches will include: ham and cheese, cheese and tomato, plain chicken Fruit drink popper Piece of fruit	Lunch Option #2: <i>Pre-cooked and to be collected from café at Savannah Plaza at 12pm. This option includes:</i> Sausage and bun Fruit drink popper Piece of fruit
<u>Other</u>	
Snack Attack: <i>Packed snack to be grabbed on the go includes:</i> Bag of popcorn Fruit drink popper Piece of fruit A Muffin and/or Icpole can be added for an additional charge	

A price list can be found at www.taronga.org.au/education/dubbo-excursions/pricing

WHS

- Please find a copy of our **Day and Overnight Excursion Risk Assessment**, under Useful Links (Dubbo), at www.taronga.org.au/education/dubbo-excursions/plan
- Please call our ZooSnooz mobile on 0404 472 691 in the event of an emergency or if you are running late.
- It is advised that all teachers need to have current first aid awareness. It is also advisable to bring at least one teacher/adult supervisor with a current senior first aid certificate.
- A compulsory safety briefing given by your ZooSnooz hosts will occur at the commencement of the evening. Our hosts are available in the event of an emergency to assist with Taronga emergency procedures.

SUPERVISION

- **Duty of Care for all participating students is the responsibility of the organising teachers.** It is the school's responsibility to select appropriate adults with an updated Working with Children Check and who are equipped to be active supervisors of the group. Teachers and extra adults are required to actively supervise students at all times, helping with group management, punctuality and general arrangements.
- There must be equal or more teachers than parents in attendance.
- It is expected that all teachers and supervisors follow the directions of all Zoo staff at any time during your visit.
- Participating in additional tasks, such as meal serving and learning activities is required by teachers and supervising adults.
- All persons are required to be in tents by 10:00pm. Between the hours of 10:00pm and 6:00am teachers and supervising adults are the primary source of supervision.
- Due to the location of the camp site we are unable to have teachers/parents swapping or leaving the Zoo during the duration of the program.

- Taronga staff sleep on site and are fully contactable overnight in case of an emergency situation.
- Smoking within Zoo grounds is strictly prohibited.
- No alcohol is supplied for teachers/parents and no BYO alcohol is permitted on the ZooSnooz program.