

AUSTRALIA – OVERVIEW

Exhibit

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| Opening: | 28 March 2018 |
| Planning & Construction: | 4 years |
| Total area: | 5,500 m ² |
| Cost: | CHF 9.9 million, fully funded through donations |

The Australia exhibit has been created out of the former Africa House. For this purpose, the building, first opened in 1965 and listed in the municipal inventory of historic preservation as potentially worthy of preservation status, was redesigned, alongside with the grounds. With its two shell-like roof elements, the house is reminiscent of the iconic Sydney Opera House. One might almost think that the former Zoo director Heini Hediger foresaw the future use of the building when planning it over fifty years ago.

The outdoor enclosure for Bennett's wallabies and Emus is accessible to visitors, as is the Lori Aviary located close by that was opened a year earlier. On several information boards along the visitors' path in Australia House, a conservation exhibition illustrates the issue of invasive species.

Animals

Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*):

- Maisy (f), *1.2.2016 at Australian Reptile Park, in Zurich since 7.6.2019;
- Pippa (f), *12.11.2017 at Australian Reptile Park, in Zurich since 7.6.2019.

Rainbow lorikeet (*Trichoglossus haematodus moluccanus*)

Bennett's wallaby (*Macropus rufogriseus*)

Emu (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*)

Kookaburra (*Dacelo novaeguineae*)

Northern Pilbara rock monitor (*Varanus pilbarensis*)

Perentie (*Varanus giganteus*)

Shingleback lizard (*Tiliqua rugosa*)

European rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)

Conservation

Closely linked to the Australia exhibit is the Australian Ark project. As part of this project, Zoo Zürich is committed to preserving the Tasmanian devil and other endangered marsupials in Australia. It is a breeding project with its partner Australian Reptile Park (reptilepark.com.au). The project focusses on species that have died out in Australia and survived only in Tasmania or that have a threatened species status. (📄 zoo.ch/en/aussie-ark)

Exhibition

The conservation exhibition in the Australia House addresses the problem of invasive species. Information points along the visitors' path in the Australia House show the devastating effect introduced species have on the original wildlife of Australia. European rabbits are shown as one example of an invasive species. (📄 zoo.ch/ausstellung-australien)

Activities

(📄 zoo.ch/veranstaltungen, zoo.ch/event)

- Animal presentation: Animal keepers inform visitors about the fauna of Australia and the issues of invasive animal species.
- Lori feeding: In the Lori Aviary, visitors can feed the Rainbow lorikeet with nectar, supervised by the FTZ volunteer team.
- Guided tours & events: Custom private and business events and guided tours.

📄 **Exhibit overview:** zoo.ch/anlagen-australien

📄 **Media releases, media doc:** zoo.ch/medien-australien