

On Tuesday the 23rd of November, 3B went on the Zoo Snooze! The Zoo Snooze is when you sleep overnight at the zoo. We left school at 4:30pm and got on the bus. When we got to the Melbourne Zoo we met our guides Sarah and Ash who welcomed us!

At 4:30pm, we got on the bus to go to the zoo. We surprisingly got there in at least 15 minutes. We waited half an hour for the ranges to come and collect us. We played games, such as 'guess my animal' while we waited. We also saw our first animal of the trip, a dog (not Hank!), a beautiful Bull Arab called Bentley.

When the rangers (Ash and Sarah) picked us up, they welcomed us and we immediately started our tour! First, we put our suitcases in the back of the ute and walked to the entrance.

When we got to the entrance, we saw a family of Swallows in their nest, the cheeky Meerkats, the Squirrel Monkeys and Red Pandas.

Then they showed us to the tents and we were sorted into Tribes. They were: Tasmanian Devils, New Holland Mice, Orange Bellied Parrots and Spotted Tree Frogs. Each tribe was allocated a colour: red, yellow, blue or green.

When we settled into our tents, we put suitcases in, we took our soft toys out, our sleeping bags out and our pillow. When that was done, we put them onto our mattresses. I (Matteo) put my pj's on my bed. We zipped up our bug net and our possum net, so no possums or bugs got in. The tents were massive! Then we were taken to a lodge for dinner!

First on the way to dinner we saw the loud macaws and parrots and Ash swallowed a bug while explaining how the birds came to live at Melbourne Zoo. The Macaws were rescued from a traveller's suitcase who was trying to bring them to Melbourne and sell them as pets!

We were given challenges to solve in our tribes. The dinner challenge was called meal or no meal. The winners were the New Holland mice (Sophie, Charlie, Xavier, Ishan, Linda's team.) We all got cordial as a reward!

Then we had a delicious dinner including sausages, chicken, corn, potatoes, salad and bread. We all enjoyed it and then for dessert we had frozen swirlie lemonade icy poles.

We went back to camp and got our torches and jumpers for the night tour.

Next we went on a night tour. We went straight to the elephants and one of the zoo keepers said that elephants only sleep for 4 hours each night! Then we started to sing low music for the elephants. The elephants actually like low music. The songs we sang were 'Row, Row, Row Your Boat', 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star' and the Star Wars theme song. One elephant flapped its ears and when they flap their ears they are really excited. Then we had a tribe challenge called Giants Treasure. We were in tribes so when one tribe member gets caught the whole team goes back and when a tribe member gets the treasure the whole team wins.

Then we saw some other elephants and Ash played low music off her speaker. Next, we went to the peccaries. They are in the pig family and have big tusks. Sarah said they are one of the most dangerous animals in the zoo. Then we went to see the tapir. They are really rare animals and they are nocturnal so you don't normally see the animal at the zoo. We tried feeding it a carrot but the possum got it. Luckily she scared it away. Then we went to the lion enclosure where we saw two lions. One lion was on a branch and the other was on the ground. Sarah told us a story before we went back to camp. The story was about a man who went into the lion enclosure and the lions almost ate him. The zoo keeper told him to get out so he climbed the fence and got out. Then he did it again and got banned.

After that we went back to camp and went to 'sleep'!

## DAY TWO

At 7:00am the next morning, we 'woke up' to the song 'The Circle of Life' from the Lion King. Then we changed our clothes and when we got out of our tents we saw a new challenge. The challenge was to make our tents tidy. The winners of the challenge got to choose their breakfast first. After we knew what the challenge was, we immediately cleaned up our tents. We started to put all our clothes back in our bags and suitcases and we also had to put our mattresses back and sweep the leaves from the floor with a dustpan and broom. Once all the tents were tidied, we were shown where we would have breakfast, it was in an old elephant enclosure!!

The breakfast we had was cereal, bread, fruit, milk and jungle water (very cold water) . We could choose from vegemite, honey or strawberry jam to put on our toast, I (Joseph) had vegemite and jam and Tristan had jam.

We also packed up for the day because it was our last day at the zoo. We had to pack up our bags and suitcases and put them into the ute to get taken to the gate. We had to make sure we had all of our belongings as well as what we needed for our long day ahead, like our hat, snack and sense of wonder!

After we finished getting ready, we started our morning tour with Ash and Sarah. We saw lots of animals such as Lions who were perched up high observing us! Penguins, Seals, and the reticulated python. We personally think that Bella the seal was the cutest because she came right up close to us and spoke! There was one particular penguin named Edward. He is a rescue penguin because he has a twisted beach Ouch! The man that found Edward put him in a shoe box and gave a chicken nugget to eat until the zoo came to the rescue.

The Lions were huge and were only four years old! Lions are fully grown when they turn seven years old. We all think that the zoo snooze was really fun. We all want to go back there.

Back at the campsite from the morning tour we said our grateful goodbyes to our leaders Ash and Sarah. We were let loose and explored the zoo ourselves. We saw...

- ☆Penguins
- ☆Seals
- ☆Platypus
- ☆Lions
- ☆Snow leopards
- ☆Lizards
- ☆Frogs
- ☆Snakes
- ☆Giant tortoise
- ☆Lemurs
- ☆Cassowary
- ☆Gorillas
- ☆Pygmy hippopotamus
- ☆Squirrel monkeys

- ☆Elephants
- ☆Orangutans
- ☆Butterfly house
- ☆Otters (They weren't there)
- ☆Spider monkeys

First, we saw the excited, energetic seals. First, we can all agree they were boring. They were not doing much, until Bella appeared. She showed her good skills off to us proudly. Then she came up to us, she made a cute strange sound, that Miss Biggs claimed to be hers when we woke her up at 3am in the morning.

We read about Bella, and naturally felt sorry for her. She was left all alone on the beach, we read as well as seals, we saw penguins who weren't as interesting as the 2nd time. We slowly walked to the aquarium, we were welcomed by dark colours leading us to the real part of the aquarium, we saw the inside of the seal's enclosure, and Bella impressed us again with her skills. We reluctantly left her and explored the other sea animals. The most outstanding fish there was a striped black and white fish with strange fins and an odd shape, another highlight was the seahorse.

We excitedly went to the most disgusting one yet... We slowly entered the platypus enclosure. No, it wasn't the platypus, it was the yabby. The yabby had clawed things at the front like a crab. It had a tail like a fish. It also had translucent skin with 6 lines through it. Then we started paying attention to the platypus, swimming around in circles, distinctive bubbles bubbling up from it.

We then set foot for the majestic, sleepy, powerful bold lion. The lions were 4 years old and needed to be 7 to be fully grown (3 more years). Zueberry and Indini were their unique names. They took the best sleeping spots but were not very active despite being pretty interesting. We completed the short walk to the python cage. It was mildly busy, although not many could see it. It was brown and very long, not very interesting, as it was hiding behind a tree.

Next, the brown nosed coatis, brown and striped their speed was very quick my eyes couldn't catch up!

Next, was the beautiful, grand, snow leopard. It sat sleeping on a far away rock. It was white and spotted. Lots of us were excited about this creature, with her bloody breakfast. Poor birds!

After that we saw wild dogs from Africa. They had dark brown spots and light brown fur. It roamed the grass within its enclosure.

Frogs and reptiles were close after, along with popcorn and juice snacks. We weren't that engaged in the frogs but we were competing who could spot the camouflaged snakes first. Giant tortoises were a great animal to see as they stepped ever so slowly to get their food, we walked eagerly as the tortoise just yawned.

After the slowness, we needed some action lemurs. We opened door after door, finally opening the door to the grassy, lovely home of Melbourne zoo lemurs. Chloe almost ran over a littler child.

After the relief from Chloe, we saw a more protective parent, the black gorillas were overly protective of their newborn young. The big black creatures sat against the grass, not giving us a great view.

Speaking of big animals, hippo's are our next mammal. Grey and white. This hippo was considered small. His name was Felix, although we didn't see Felix. But we read his description.

After the pygmy hippo, we saw a cassowary. Anabelle thought the rainbow looked odd on the uncommon bird, but still enjoyed watching it walk.

Sadly we didn't see the otters, or the tigers in the 2nd enclosure, but we saw loads of butterflies. They landed on Chloe, Emily, Lucy and Shaynee and many others. They were purple, black, orange, they were many colours! It was an extremely hot area so we chilled out outside for a bit.

The monkeys were fun too, they were old, young and newborn. White, red, and black, they were active and funny.

After our tour with Miss Biggs and Miss Mason we went to have lunch

People bought their own lunch. We could buy hot chips, chicken nuggets, burgers and even hot dogs! When Charlie had his yummy chips and nuggets. He dropped one of his nuggets and a seagull ate his nugget then seagulls started to swarm around him. And he had to throw his lunch away and they ate his lunch:( then we went to the gift shop and bought stuff. Xavier bought a crystal butterfly for his

mum and slime for his brother and himself, AJ bought a tiger grabber for him and Charlie bought a mask for his Mum.

Sadly soon after we got our luggage and went on the bus and headed back to school.

Thank You to the zoo staff, Mr Millar, Miss Mason, Paul Mapley and Miss Biggs and Ash and Sarah from the zoo who helped us make wonderful memories. We highly recommend camp to other Year 3 students next year because it is very fun!

Written by the students in 3B.