

Educating and delighting visitors for many decades





Australian Reptile Park



Pacific Highway, Somersby, NSW, 2250 Australia



2019

PROJECT CASE STUDY

Sharing a love of nature through fun, hands-on experiences

Whether it's a giant lizard sculpture, creative educational display, or practical animal habitat, we are proud to have worked with the award-winning Australian Reptile Park for many years.

This case study showcases just a few of the projects we have completed, including the Lost World of Reptiles exhibit, Komodo Dragon enclosure and animal sculptures for various displays.

One of the most recognisable examples of our work at the Park is the enormous 9 metre long frilled lizard sculpture that sits atop the entry sign. Having guarded the park for over 20 years, the frill-necked lizard makes a bold statement, delights visitors and provides a memorable photo opportunity.

"The Australian Reptile Park is Australia's original hands-on zoo. We're home to over 2,000 animals and located in a natural bush setting on the scenic Central Coast of NSW."



Australian Reptile Park



Themed animal habitats for Lost World of Reptiles display



Enormous Frilled Lizard entry statement



Indonesian themed Komodo Dragon temple



Themed habitat for Komodo Dragons

Another project the Natureworks team was thrilled to work on was the Indonesian themed Komodo Dragon habitat. The world's largest lizards, Komodo Dragons originate from the forests and savanna of Indonesian islands. Naturally, the Australian Reptile Park decided an Indonesian-themed enclosure was perfect for their Komodo Dragons. But a standard animal enclosure was not good enough for these magnificent creatures – they needed their own temple!

Known as the 'Dragon's Lair', the enclosure Natureworks helped to create reflects design features of a Balinese Indonesian temple. The temple is intentionally styled to look old and is decorated with Indonesian masks, ornamental features, a lizard-themed frieze and a 3D Komodo Dragon sign, all made by Natureworks.

Most impressive of all is the 6m long Komodo Dragon atop the wall. This giant lizard sculpture is twice the size of a living Komodo Dragon (adult males are usually around 3m). The sculpture has a long curved tail that wraps around to frame the sign below. Although sculpted as a realistic replica, the lizard has a stone-look finish to blend in with the temple design.



Detail of 3D sign



Creating the sculpture frieze



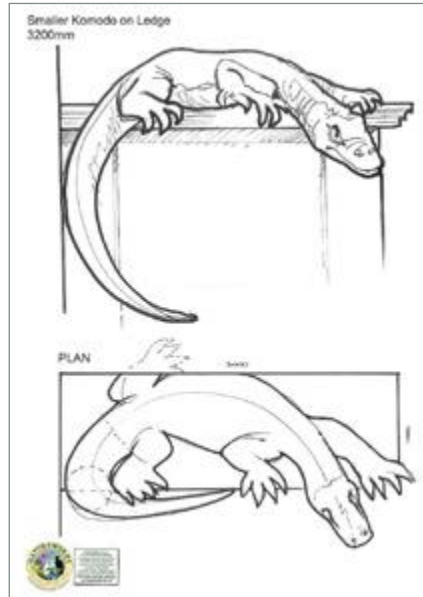
Sculpting the Komodo Dragon



Temple details in production



Installing the lizard sculpture



Concept art



Unpainted sculpture



Temple concept



The finished temple facade



Inside the Komodo Dragon's lair

The Park's Komodo Dragons live in beautiful Balinese-inspired habitats complete with murals, artificial trees and rock structures by Natureworks.

The habitat even includes a replica water buffalo carcass lying on the ground, to complete the scene.

We're told the Park's Komodo Dragons regularly venture out of these lush surroundings for a stroll through the grounds (with their keepers of course), much to the delight of visitors!



A replica water buffalo skeleton lies on the ground



Artificial rocks blend into the mural



Painting the mural



A real Komodo Dragon inspects the habitat



Installing artificial trees

Did you know..

Komodo dragons hunt and ambush invertebrates, birds, and mammals. They lie and wait for long periods of time and when an animal walks past they pounce. They use their powerful legs, sharp teeth and claws to grab onto their prey. Their venom attacks the animal slowly, so it dies a slow death. The Komodo dragon will then use its forked tongue to track its prey and find the dead or dying animal to then feed upon.



Lost World of Reptiles

Back in July 2000, the Australian Reptile Park was devastated by a fire. However, the reconstruction process presented a rare opportunity to create something truly original. The Park's aim was to offer a fresh and unique approach to zoo displays that enhances an appreciation, and understanding of nature, while providing an unforgettable day out. As a result, a new reptile exhibit – conceived as a fun, educational family experience – was reborn in 2001 as the *Lost World of Reptiles*.

Natureworks, along with a team of skilled workers and Reptile Park staff, helped to build this unique zoological attraction. The building includes artificial stone walls, rock features, fibreglass ponds, sculptures and habitats for a variety of reptiles. This collection includes Australia's most venomous snakes, a reticulated python, iguanas and various lizards, crocodilians, turtles and tortoises.

Themed reptile habitats

A variety of themed sculptures, including Egyptian mummies and animal replicas, appear alongside animal enclosures with real reptiles. While admiring living examples of frilled lizards and goannas, visitors encounter extinct animals such as the frighteningly realistic 7m long model of the extinct prehistoric Megalania. This giant lizard sculpture is a reminder of the largest ever monitor lizard that lived in Australia.



Megalania sculpture



Reptile habitats inside the enclosure



Giant crocodile in the foyer

"The ground-breaking 'Lost World of Reptiles' bravely sought to do what possibly no zoo had done before – to provide an educational experience that was wrapped in adventure, fun, and above all, a good laugh."

Australian Reptile Park



Egyptian crocodile god, Sobek

A unique visitor experience

One of the most unusual sculptures Natureworks created was the ancient Egyptian god of crocodiles, Sobek, who presides over the reptile temple.

Watched by Sobek, reptiles from around the world are displayed within the context of long-lost civilisations, often in a slightly humorous setting. Although immersed in the Lost Worlds theme, each of the many exhibits accurately recreates aspects of the natural world.



Summary of our theming work for Australian Reptile Park

As presented in this case study, Natureworks has worked on a variety of projects for the Australian Reptile Park, and we've enjoyed every one of them! Here is a summary of the range of work we've done:

- Giant lizard sculpture for entrance (Fried Lizard)
- Stone effect masks and decorative elements for Komodo Dragon Indonesian temple
- Larger-than-life Komodo Dragon – giant lizard sculpture for temple wall
- Murals, artificial rocks and trees, and general habitat theming for Komodo Dragon enclosure
- Water buffalo skeleton for Komodo Dragon enclosure
- Reptile enclosures and themed sculptures for Lost World of Reptiles
- Giant crocodile god sculpture for Lost World of Reptiles
- Realistic Komodo Dragon – giant lizard sculpture inside the Reptiles exhibit
- Platypus house enclosure
- Various sculptures of pythons, dinosaurs and other animals
- Many giant frog sculptures around the park.

We are proud of our association with this unique institution, especially their dedication to protecting endangered species and teaching the public about the natural world around us.

Beautiful murals and realistic replica animals help to set the scene in animal habitats and nature displays



The giant frilled lizard always attracts attention!

Promoting natural history

Natureworks is a long-term supporter of educational projects, zoos, wildlife centres, museums, cultural centres and community groups that promote awareness of natural heritage. Our realistic sculptures attract and educate visitors, promoting awareness of biodiversity and the need for conservation. Contact Natureworks to see how we can help you do the same!