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**Toledo Zoo, Toledo Museum of Art  
Partner on Dual Australia-themed Exhibitions**

Toledo, Ohio — Toledo will get a double dose of the Land Down Under this year, when the Toledo Zoo and the Toledo Museum of Art introduce Australia-themed exhibitions.

"Both the Toledo Zoo and the Toledo Museum of Art are incredible organizations that are respected by their peers worldwide, and beloved by their communities," Jeff Sailer, the Zoo's executive director, said. "By working together and sharing our talents, we're able to offer all our guests an even more meaningful experience."

"It was rather serendipitous that both organizations were independently planning Australian-themed exhibitions for the summer months," said Brian Kennedy, the Museum's director. "It was logical for us to work together."

The Zoo's exhibit, Wild Walkabout, presented by Mercy, is slated to open on Friday, May 24 -- bringing the fascinating natural world of Australia to Zoo visitors.

The adventure starts with a walk-through wallaby exhibit and continues with dingoes, death adders and more. A huge saltwater crocodile, brought here by Block Communications, Inc., is the center of attention in the Reptile House, while a colorful Great Barrier Reef exhibit in the Museum of Science showcases the intrigue of Australia's coastal waters. All across the Zoo, visitors explore the gems of Australia at their own pace, from kookaburras and cassowaries to bizarre stick insects and remarkable behind-the-scenes tours and up-close encounters with Australian animals.

The Toledo Museum of Art's exhibition, *Crossing Cultures: The Owen and Wagner Collection of Contemporary Aboriginal Australian Art from the Hood Museum of Art*, opens April 12. *Crossing Cultures* explores works by artists from desert communities as well as major metropolitan centers and marks the first time in 25 years that Aboriginal art has been shown in the Midwest. The approximately 120 works, most created since the year 2000, represent the many art-making practices of Aboriginal people, including acrylic painting on canvas, ochre painting on bark, sculpture and photography.

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The Museum-Zoo collaboration brings together the extensive knowledge and skills of each organization, creating a dynamic experience for all visitors. The Museum is coordinating hands-on art activities at the Zoo's Opening Weekend Celebrations, sponsored by BP, while the Zoo is taking Australian animals to the Museum for selected programs throughout the summer, such as the Museum's Family Fun Day on July 14.

The Toledo Museum of Art's Crossing Cultures exhibition opens April 12; the Toledo Zoo's Wild Walkabout, presented by Mercy, opens May 24. More information about the respective exhibitions from these world-class organizations available at [toledomuseum.org](http://toledomuseum.org) and [toledozoo.org/walkabout](http://toledozoo.org/walkabout).

**Toledo Zoo:**

The Toledo Zoo is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (on weekends starting May 4, hours will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.); it is located on the Anthony Wayne Trail (US 25), four miles south of downtown Toledo. For more information, please visit [toledozoo.org](http://toledozoo.org) or call 419.385.4040. Lucas County residents are admitted free of charge each Monday from 10 a.m. to noon. ID showing proof of residency is required.

The Toledo Zoo is committed to inspiring others to join in caring for animals and conserving the natural world. As part of that mission, The Toledo Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), a leader in global wildlife conservation. AZA member institutions are dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for visitors and a better future for all living things.

**Toledo Museum of Art:**

The Toledo Museum of Art is a nonprofit arts institution funded through individual donations, foundation grants, corporate sponsorships, and investments. The Ohio Arts Council helps fund programs at the Toledo Museum of Art through a sustainability grant program that encourages economic growth, educational excellence, and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. Glass Pavilion® and Toledo Museum of Art Glass Pavilion® are registered service marks.

Admission to the Museum is free. The Museum is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, Noon to 6 p.m.; closed Mondays and major holidays. Friday evening hours are made possible by Fifth Third Bank.

The Museum is located at 2445 Monroe Street at Scottwood Avenue, just west of the downtown business district and one block off I-75 with exit designations posted. For general information, visitors can call 419-255-8000 or 800-644-6862, or visit [toledomuseum.org](http://toledomuseum.org).