

Werribee Open Range Zoo

Werribee, Australia



Nose-to-nose with lions on their turf

Victoria's Open Range Zoo turned to AldrichPears and wildlife landscape architects to help them create an outdoor experience that looks and feels like Africa. The goal was to give visitors an insight into this unique environment. The zoo wanted visitors to experience lions first-hand and gain a better understanding of the unique challenges facing lions and humans.

APA responded with a design focused on a visit to the fictional "Pula" reserve, which is modeled on Botswana's grasslands and dry river area. The adventure begins when visitors arrive at an accidental opening in a stone wall, which hints they are leaving the nature reserve. Next, a sign warns them about the lions in the area. Visitors now know they have left a nature reserve and will discover how lions live. Interpretive graphics along the way engage visitors in the complex relationships between people and lions in the wild and at the Zoo.

