

# CHILD'S PLAY

TURN OUR CHILDREN ON TO THE MAGIC OF THE NATURAL WORLD







# WELCOME!

A WORLD OF NATURAL MAGIC STARTS HERE...



David Joffe, Founder, Natureworks

**NATUREWORKS** designs and manufactures an incredible array of lifelike sculptures based on nature's wonders. These range from life-size animals, rocks and trees to themed props and big things designed to make a big impression!

We can help you create amazing experiences for recreation, education, tourism, business promotion and public enjoyment. Our sculptures enhance playgrounds, wildlife parks, cultural centres, zoos, aquariums, shops, homes, hotels, mini-golf courses, theme parks and tourist attractions.

## 40+ years experience in the theming industry

Founded in 1979 by experienced museum preparator David Joffe, Natureworks is a unique enterprise. We combine the creativity of exceptional artists with a deep passion for natural history, backed by extensive practical experience of the built environment. As a result, we have created thousands of highly original sculptures and projects for clients around the world.

Over the years, Natureworks has amassed an unparalleled collection of natural history sculptures and oddities. This collection of ready-made resources, together with the expertise of director David Joffe and his team, means Natureworks can create engaging experiences for client projects in an efficient, cost-effective way.

## The art of the natural world

Natureworks has an extensive collection of animal, bird and marine life castings. Our range includes sculptures of endangered fauna and replicas of extinct life such as dinosaurs, megafauna and fossils.

We also have realistic sculptures of environmental elements such as trees, roots, rocks, ponds, fungi, corals, termite mounds, and crystals. These are perfect for recreating beautiful natural habitats and environments inside or outdoors, particularly for wildlife habitats, themed displays or play areas.

## Turning kids on to nature's magic

As the world's natural habitats dwindle, demand for nature-based products increases. To encourage future generations to engage with nature, we produce a range of child-friendly animal art, play equipment and nature-themed furniture.

Our play items include animal seats, cubby houses, slides, fossil digs, climbing logs, giant animals and much much more. Many of our sculptures can be manufactured to meet playground standards, or adapted for use in mini-golf courses and water parks.



**CONTACT NATUREWORKS TO SEE HOW WE CAN ADD NATURAL MAGIC TO YOUR PROJECT!**

*Natureworks is based in Brisbane northside, and delivers products and projects for customers throughout Australia and around the world.*

*Please visit our website to view our range of products and project case studies, or contact us to enquire about custom design services.*

### Address

732 Mt Glorious Rd,  
Highvale, QLD 4520,  
Australia

### Email

info@natureworks.com.au

### Telephone

+61 (0)7 3289 7555

### Website

natureworks.com.au

Pirate treasure chest



## MORE TREASURES ONLINE!

Click the pictures and buttons in this brochure to view products on the Natureworks website.





# INSPIRING NATURE-BASED PLAY

SHARE THE MAGIC OF THE NATURAL WORLD, AND FIRE CHILDREN'S IMAGINATION!

At Natureworks, we want to stimulate kids' love of nature and encourage them to play!

In a world of concrete and electronics, many children are being protected from the smell of the bush and the beauty of the natural world. This means they are growing up with little interest in wildlife, and a lack of connection to the natural environment.

To encourage kids to relate to nature through play, we produce a range of child-friendly animal art and nature-themed play equipment. These items can be used as functional or decorative elements in indoor or outdoor play spaces.

## HUNDREDS OF NATURE PLAY ITEMS

Our sculptures range from friendly animals and fantasy characters to climbing logs, rocks, caves and cubby houses. We can also adapt many of our stock products to suit playgrounds, water parks or other play areas – see the range on our website!



Giant Striped Marsh Frog



"Yurtle" turtle shell cubby house





# SAFETY AT PLAY



Flying Pelican  
post-topper

## DESIGNING, BUILDING AND SELECTING SAFE PLAY PRODUCTS

### IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTE

Not all of our sculptures are designed to be climbed on or played with by young children. Whilst many items are ideal as play items, clients often simply use them as décor.

Making products suitable for climbing on incurs extra time and cost resulting from heavy duty fabrication techniques. But this may not be necessary if a sculpture is not likely to be climbed on or is not easily accessible. For example, an item mounted overhead is hard to climb on, as is the giraffe shown in the picture, due to its long legs.

Product design also has an impact on safety. Playground items should not have sharp edges, parts that can break off, surfaces where water can pool, or features that may trap small fingers. If an item is climbable, its height and 'fall zone' will dictate the soft-fall surround surface area it needs.

To determine which play products are suitable for your purpose, please read the product descriptions or ask us for guidance. We understand this discipline extremely well, and can advise on product selection, finishes, certification and safety considerations.



18ft giraffe

### PLAYGROUND CERTIFICATION

A number of our products are formally certified to the Australian Standard for playground equipment (AS4685). If required, Natureworks can custom build other suitable pieces to meet the standards, and arrange certification paperwork. Ask us if your project requires certification.





# OUR CHILD'S PLAY RANGE

CHILD-FRIENDLY ANIMAL SCULPTURES, PROPS, FURNITURE AND PLAY EQUIPMENT



## ANIMAL PLAY

Realistic life-size and larger than life animals, birds and marine life.



## PLAY EQUIPMENT

Nature-themed slippery slides, cubby houses, play vehicles and more...



## CAVES & ROCKS

Rock walls, climbing rocks and artificial caves that encourage kids to explore.



## TREES & PLANTS

Artificial trees, climbing logs, giant mushrooms, enchanted forests!



## FURNITURE & PROPS

Seats, benches, tables and shade shelters that add a touch of natural magic.



## PREHISTORIC PLAY

Dinosaurs, dinosaur eggs and bones, fossil replicas, and fossil dig sandpits.



## FANTASY PLAY

Mythical creatures, storybook characters and pirate themed play items.



## WATER PLAY

Marine creatures and squirting sculptures that make splash parks fun!

Natureworks can customise many of our standard products to meet specific needs. For example, we can provide you with play sculptures that are...


- ✓ Purpose-built for climbing on, with reinforced steel substructure and safety-conscious design features suitable for young children
- ✓ Manufactured to meet Australian standards for playground equipment (AS4685)
- ✓ Adapted for a splash park or water play area, to spray water and withstand the elements
- ✓ Designed as decor to be mounted out of reach of kids or potential vandals
- ✓ Capable of being integrated into existing built or natural structures
- ✓ Turned into mini-golf course props, with holes added
- ✓ Designed to encourage photo opportunities

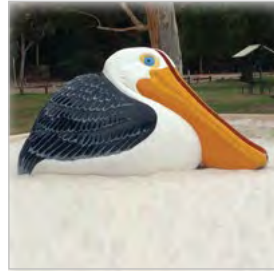


*Stegosaurus with saddle*



# HERE ARE JUST A FEW ITEMS IN OUR CHILD'S PLAY RANGE...

Click pictures to   
view products on the  
Natureworks website.





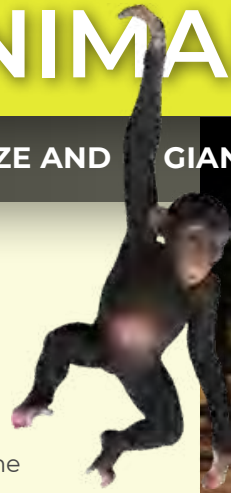


# ANIMAL PLAY

LIFE-SIZE AND GIANT-SIZED ANIMALS FOR CHILDREN TO ENJOY

Natureworks produce a wide range of child-friendly animal art. Our realistic sculptures are based on accurate references from the natural world.

Farm animals, jungle beasts, reptiles, birds on posts, giant-size insects, marine life, cute animal characters – we have them all! We are particularly proud of our Australian native mammals, which look at home in nature-themed playgrounds.



*Giant Thorny Devil*

Please note: if you want pieces for children to climb on, or for use in water parks and public playgrounds, contact us to confirm which sculptures are most suited to your needs.



*Giant Phascolonus Wombat*

## THE WORLD'S TALLEST MAMMAL!

This giant 18ft giraffe was installed at a childcare centre to add an element of natural fun and act as a focal point for entertainment activities.

Although pictured here with acrobatic adult performers, it's too tall for young children to climb on, so is suitable for a childcare setting.



18ft giraffe





# PLAY EQUIPMENT

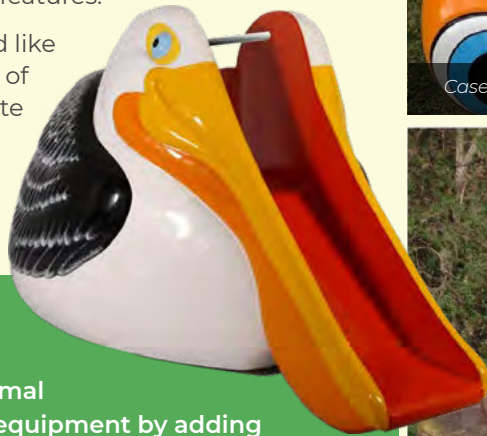
LOTS OF FUN WAYS TO ENCOURAGE ACTIVE PLAY

Our colourful slides, cubby houses, giant animals, climbing logs and replica vehicles will make children want to get out and play!

A number of these items are playground certified. Many others can be manufactured to suit certification standards if required.

We can also turn suitable animal or tree sculptures into play equipment by adding slides, steps or safety features.

Just tell us what you'd like and we'll add a touch of natural magic to create a fun play space!



*Pelican slide*

Looking for unique play equipment? We can turn suitable animal sculptures into play equipment by adding slides, seats or safety features. Additionally, we can design custom play equipment to suit specific age groups or local settings. Just tell us what you'd like and we'll throw in some ideas!



*Casey the car*



*Australian Green Tree Frog slide*



*'Yurtle' turtle shell cubby house*



*Giant Mushroom cubby house*



*Yawning tree slide*





# WATER PLAY

MARINE SCULPTURES

AND PROPS FOR WATER PARKS



Seal pup with whiskers squirting water

Marine animal sculptures – such as our life size whale tail, killer whale, giant crabs, turtles and dolphins – are perfect for a water park or beachside playground.

We can also custom build caves or other surrounds for a water play area. Ask us about water play designs that will provide the maximum fun factor!



Caves and water play features at Exmouth Water Playground, WA



Loggerhead turtle

As well as designing custom water play sculptures, we can adapt many of our standard products for a splash park or water play area.

This involves adding water spray spouts, checking the design for play safety issues and building the pieces with appropriate reinforcing and finishes to suit a wet environment.



Dolphins squirting water at Exmouth Water Playground, WA



Marine-inspired abstract sculptures at Keppel Kraken, Yeppoon



## LIFELIKE DETAILS

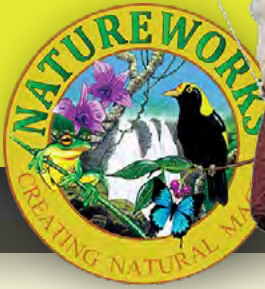
This brightly coloured octopus is true to life, revealing its underside suction cups. Details like this add texture, and appeal to young and old.

The octopus is part of a series of realistic local sea creatures with spurt and spray features. Natureworks installed these in the shallow water park at Broadwater Parklands on Queensland's Gold Coast.

The sea life characters provide a functional, sturdy and attractive playground for children to enjoy, and could be used for any nature themed play area.







# FANTASY PLAY

LET THEIR IMAGINATION RUN WILD!

Our extensive range of sculptures includes imaginary characters, novelty props and fantastic beasts. With these, you can create play spaces or child-friendly displays around a range of themes. Popular themes include fantasy animals, fairies, pirates, storybook characters, ancient Egypt, Christmas and Easter.

Fantasy themed sculptures are ideal as interior decor items, but some can be made suitable for playing on, or displaying outside. Please ask us for advice on sculptures to suit your needs.







# PREHISTORIC PLAY

FOSSIL DIGS, DINOSAURS AND OTHER EXTINCT CREATURES

Most children are fascinated by dinosaurs and prehistoric creatures. To encourage this interest, Natureworks has created a wealth of dinosaur sculptures, replica fossils and other pieces reflecting prehistoric life. Some of these are enormous life size statues, while others are scaled-down, climbable items suited for indoor or outdoor play areas.

Our fossil digs are very popular, as they provide an opportunity for creative, exploratory play. Just fill a pit with sand and watch the children's excitement as they uncover ancient bones!

Many of these items can also be used as wall decor or props for prehistoric themed displays.



Baby T-Rex



Triceratops with saddle



Dolphin fossil dig



Dinosaur eggs



Brachiosaurus





# FURNITURE & PROPS



Giant apple & pear props

## FUN AND FUNKY NATURE OR FANTASY-THEMED CHAIRS, TABLES, SHADES & NOVELTY PROPS

Our child-friendly furniture comes in all shapes and sizes, from cute fairy mushroom stools and tables to animal-shaped benches and food themed chairs. We also have a range of colourful props, such as giant fruit, shells or crazy characters to brighten up a play space.

These products are not just fun to look at, they're functional too!



Crab chairs



Giant mushroom shade shelter

'Cowch' Friesian cow seat



Black bear seat



Ice cream chairs and table



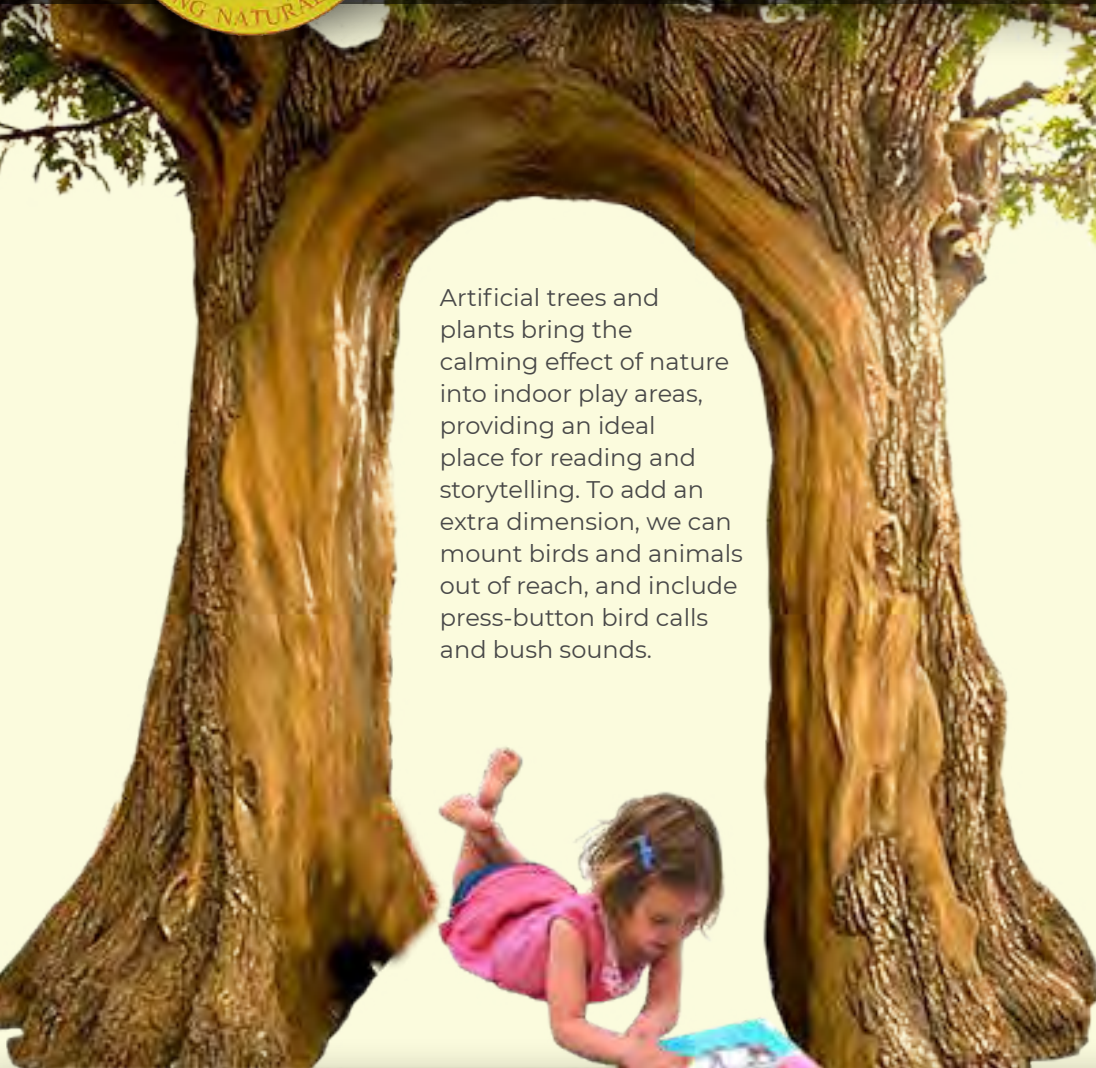
Colourful Smarty Seats





# TREES & PLANTS

## ARTIFICIAL TREES TO ENHANCE PLAY AREAS OR NATURE-THEMED SPACES



Artificial trees and plants bring the calming effect of nature into indoor play areas, providing an ideal place for reading and storytelling. To add an extra dimension, we can mount birds and animals out of reach, and include press-button bird calls and bush sounds.



*Tripod tree log climber*



*Enchanted forest tree*



*Tree with mushroom stools*

Our Tripod artificial log climber (above) mimics natural elements found in the surrounding bush environment.

This piece challenges the child to tackle a climbing surface that replicates the naturally occurring knots and crevices of a tree stump.

It requires soft-fall surround and is certified to Australian playground standards.





# ROCKS, CAVES & WALLS



Pebble seats

CUSTOM CAVES, PREFABRICATED CLIMBING WALLS, ROCKS AND BOULDERS



Artificial rocks and caves bring the ruggedness of nature indoors and can promote stimulating play if carefully designed and correctly installed.

Each individual item for rock climbing and general play must be carefully assessed and certified for playground use.

Requirement for softfall will vary according to the specification and heights of each piece.



Custom built cave at the Early Discovery Centre, University of Wollongong



Climbing rock with fossils inset



Columnar jointing formations - stepping stones





# CREATIVE PLAY CONCEPTS

## SKETCHES AND VISUALISATIONS

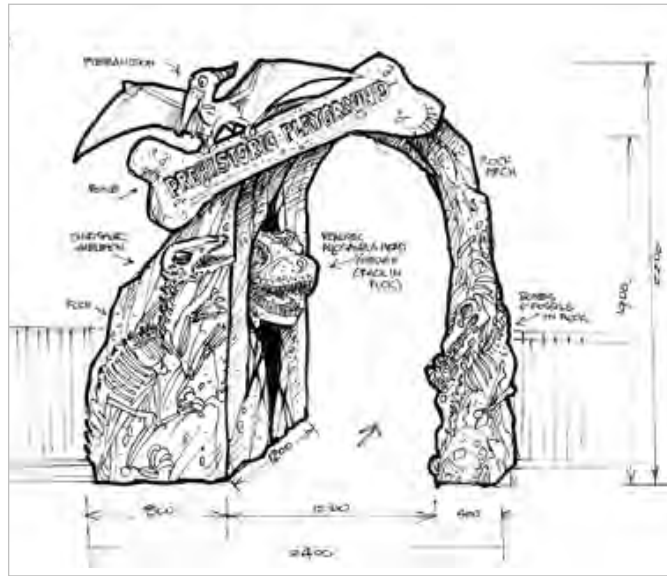
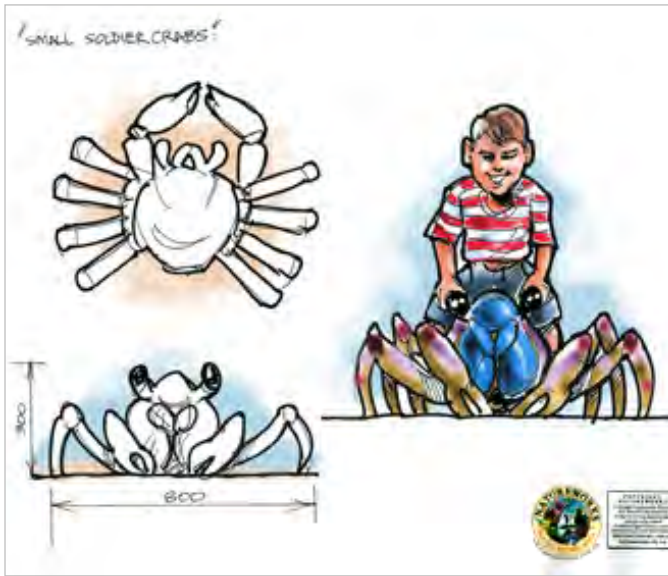
Before sculpting a new product or preparing an estimate, we generate a few creative solutions. These concept drawings help us and our clients visualise options and determine specific project requirements.

Note that if you're hoping to get funding for a playground project, proposals accompanied by concept art are the ones that get to first base in the chase for grants!





# CONCEPT ART



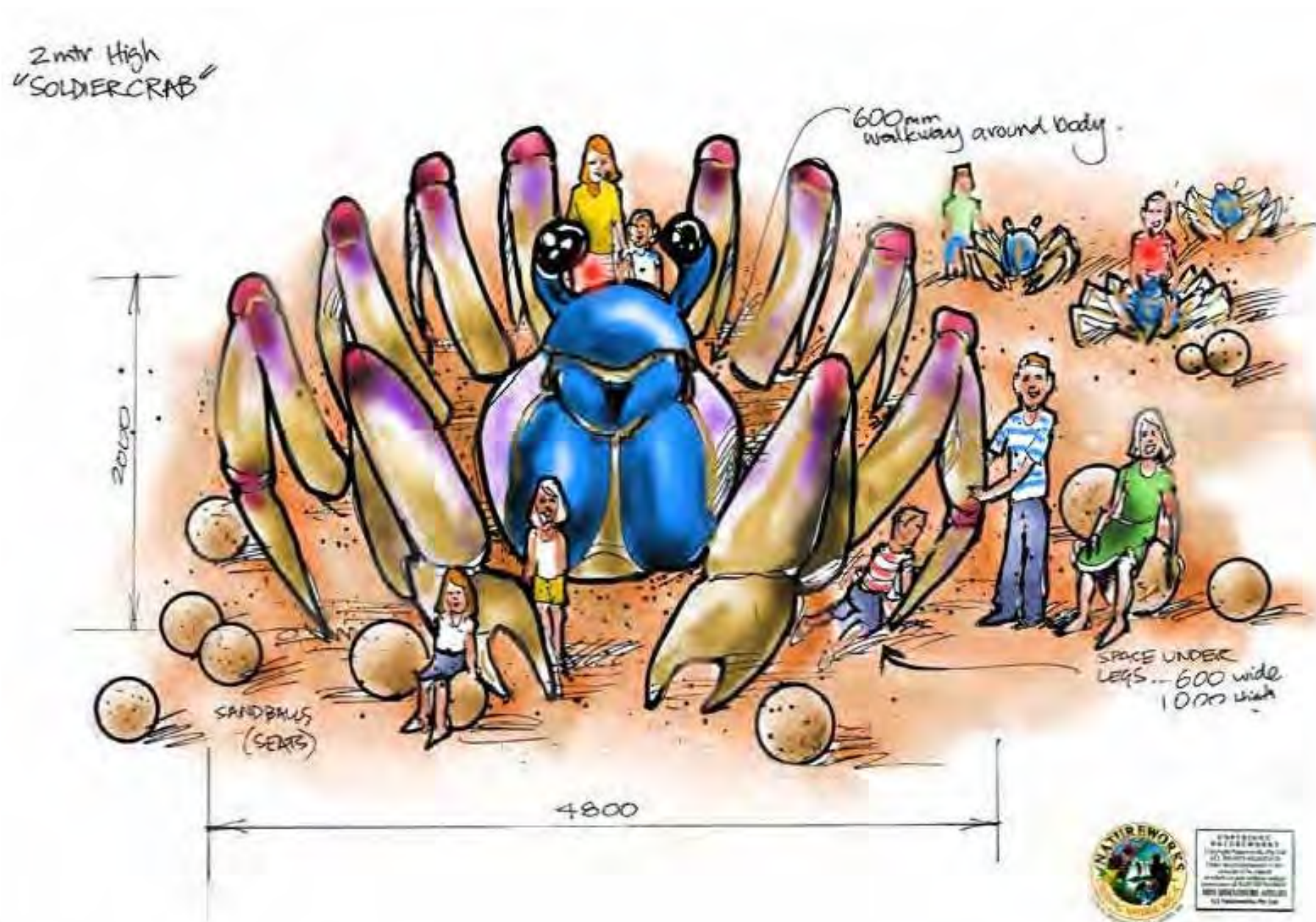


## CONCEPT ART

This concept of a giant soldier crab would make a magnificent piece for seaside playgrounds and foreshore street art. Investing in a town's art is a fun way to spark people's imagination and awareness of the area's natural inhabitants.

Artificial 'sand balls' around the crab are seats that can be made from concrete and shaped with a flat bottom to aid stability. Maybe your local businesses could sponsor a ball?

Natureworks can brainstorm ideas for a unique play space, and help turn your vision into reality. Contact us to ask about custom project design services.







# Planning your play space

## A PRACTICAL CHECKLIST FOR PLANNING A CHILD-FRIENDLY PLAY AREA

This checklist covers the basics you should consider when planning an interior or exterior play space.

See also our blog post about [playground safety](#).

Please contact us to enquire about custom design services and certified installation of play equipment.

### LOCATION

- Indoor or outdoor?
- Fixed or portable?

If used outdoors, Natureworks sculptures require weather protection to reduce fading and damage. We recommend 2Pac finish and regular maintenance.

### BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

- Planning and design cost
- Play equipment and props/decor
- Surfacing (e.g. soft-fall surround)
- Certification (adds time/money to base cost)
- Delivery and installation

Natureworks can supply a full design service, from initial consultation through to prototyping, CAD drawings, and obtaining certification if needed.

### INSTALLATION FACTORS

- Mounting (e.g. fixing plates, concrete base, etc)
- Permanent or temporary installation?
- Professional installation by certified installers

An approved certifier can manage the whole process, and advise on suitability of items relative to planned positioning, usage and likely access by children.

### EQUIPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Total site space, number of play items and 'fall zone' around each piece of equipment
- Number of children using the play space
- Age-appropriate equipment/activities
- Material, construction and finish
- Certification of climbable items

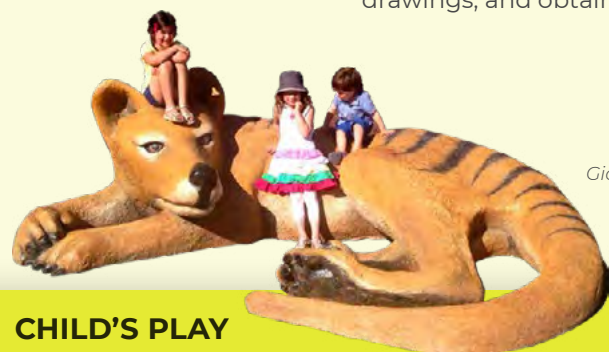
Natureworks use a range of fabrication materials and methods appropriate to product usage. These include fibreglass, glass-fibre reinforced cement (GFRC), hard-coated polystyrene, polyurethane foam, cast bronze, polymer modified concrete, timber, ply, synthetic foliage and structural steel substructures.

#### An overview of our custom design process

1. Briefing to identify your requirements
2. Initial design concepts
3. Detailed design and prototyping
4. Sculpting and fabrication
5. Finishing

#### Typical sculpting and fabrication process

1. Plasticine and clay sculpture of original
2. Silicone moulds and fibreglass jackets
3. Final cast in fibreglass
4. Custom airbrush and hand painted



Giant Tasmanian Tiger





# ADDITIONAL EXTRAS

## PRODUCT CUSTOMISATION OPTIONS

Nearly all of our products can be customised to suit your needs. This page lists the main options available, but if you need something special or aren't sure what's the best option, just ask. We'll happily create a variation on a sculpture, provide different fixings, or come up with a completely new design for that extra wow factor.



### **Mounting plate or other fixings**

A steel mounting plate lets you fix a sculpture to a flat surface, increasing safety and security. Some products are suitable for wall mounting, or suspended from above using hooks and wires.



### **2Pac finish**

If your product is going to be used outside, 2Pac finish is a must, as it will help protect it from the elements. Even for internal use, 2Pac can help reduce the effects of sunlight or sticky fingers! See our product care guide for more information.



### **Custom size or format**

Want it smaller, larger or giant size? Need a sculpture facing the other way, or in a different pose or ratio? We can create variants of most products; just say what you need when enquiring.



### **Custom colours**

Our animal, plant and rock sculptures generally feature colours from nature, but we can finish products in any colour you want. You can specify corporate or team colours, glow-in-the-dark finish, extra bright colours or other variations.



### **Product signage**

We can provide a custom sign with your branding, educational information or wayfinding guidance. Signs can be integrated or provided separately, depending on the product.



### **Internal steel armature**

An internal armature made of steel gives extra strength and is standard for sculptures designed to be climbed on, such as artificial rocks or playground items. This extra can be added to any product we create, to make it more robust.



### **Playground use and certification**

At Natureworks we're passionate about the value of nature-based play, and many of our sculptures are ideal for childrens' play areas. We can advise which products are most suitable, discuss safety features, and certify products to meet Australian standards for use in playgrounds and child care facilities.



### **Movable fixings or design**

If you need to be able to move the product around, we can provide relevant fittings. For example, we can provide a wheeled base, or adjust the design to make it more movable.



### **Delivery**

Natureworks can deliver anywhere in Australia or around the world, or you can pick up from our premises in Highvale, near Samford on Brisbane's northside. Shipping costs depend on the type, size and number of products ordered, as well as the delivery location and insurance requirements. In many cases we will make custom-built crates to protect your items. Please ask for a quote.

Our address is: 732 Mt Glorious Road, Highvale, Queensland 4520, Australia.



### **Installation**

For larger projects, we can provide a professional on-site installation service. We have a range of construction equipment to suit different sites and installation types. Please discuss your needs when requesting a quote.



## ADD A SPLASH OF COLOUR!

Although our animal and plant sculptures are based on nature, they don't have to be painted in natural colours.

If you want to have a bit of fun, or draw attention to your sculptures, we can paint them in any colour or pattern you like.

Fancy a leopard print giraffe or a lime green elephant? Simply specify the colour or pattern you want when ordering.







# Product care

## GUIDANCE ON HOW TO LOOK AFTER NATUREWORKS FIBREGLASS SCULPTURES

Take good care of your Natureworks fibreglass sculpture and you'll have many years of enjoyment, as well as protecting your investment.

### Maintenance tips

Fibreglass sculptures require little maintenance if kept indoors, however there are a few things you can do to keep them looking like new, especially if used outside in the weather.

- Most stock items are painted with standard acrylic paint, so if used outdoors pieces require a protective coating to assist in preserving integrity and colours of paint. Natureworks can apply a commercial grade hard-wearing polyurethane clear coating, called '2 pac finish'. Make sure you specify 2Pac finish when ordering items that will be used outdoors (unless this is shown as standard for that product).
- If products are going to be exposed to the public and/or climbed on, they may need to be reinforced and have fixings installed to secure them to a solid footing. This can be quoted as an additional modification at time of ordering. We can also build items to meet Australian Playground Certification standards, where appropriate.
- Paint finishes will not tolerate submersion under water and it is imperative that no water is allowed to pool on any painted surface. If the product is to be used for water play, we will use an appropriate finish



Giant friendly snail

- Annually at least, wash with warm, soapy water or sugar soap if required using a soft cloth.
- Do not wash with steel wool, or any other materials which may scratch or damage the surface.
- If kept outside, you will need to re-coat the clear protective coating every 12 to 18 months depending on your climate. This can be done with a good quality enamel clear gloss (a spray can is alright). Test it on a small inconspicuous area first. The replica needs to be cleaned before you re-coat with the clear coat. We use Resene Uracryl Clear Semi-Gloss for our protective coating.
- Give your replica a light hand sand using 240 grit sandpaper, then clean off any excess dirt and grit and repaint per the paint manufacturer's specs. If you desire a high polish or glossy look use a high gloss Uracryl instead.
- Note the colour red and its derivatives are at the greatest risk of fading.
- Colour finish touch up kits are available for small chips or scratches.
- Note that we can do repaints and repairs depending on the scope of work required

### More info

- ▶ [FAQs on our website](#)
- ▶ [Product care sheet](#)

### Address

732 Mt Glorious Rd,  
Highvale, QLD 4520,  
Australia

### Email

info@natureworks.com.au

### Telephone

+61 (0)7 3289 7555

### Website

natureworks.com.au

VISIT OUR WEBSITE