

MEDIA RELEASE

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PLAYFUL PENGUINS WELCOME NEW FRIENDS TO ANTARCTICA

Melbourne Aquarium soon expects to hear the pitter-patter of tiny penguin feet after kick-starting its breeding program with today's arrival of 16 new penguins.

King penguins, standing almost one metre tall, are stunning with their yellow plumage, and Gentoo penguins although smaller in stature, are certainly not lacking in personality as they skip across the snow with their bright orange feet.

"Introducing the new penguins into the exhibit was a strategic step in Melbourne Aquarium's penguin breeding program," said Melbourne Aquarium's Bird Curator, Tristen Bird.

"The smooth transition of the new penguins is testament to the hard work and dedication of Melbourne Aquarium staff and a tribute to the success of the state-of-the-art display."

The penguins were obtained through aquarium-bred stocks from Kelly Tarlton's Antarctic Encounter and Underwater World in Auckland, New Zealand, making the trip across the Tasman Sea last night on board a temperature-controlled air freighter.

"The state-of-the-art Antarctica exhibit is a fully-functioning Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) approved facility. The penguins will spend 36 days in quarantine blissfully unaware of the tough regulations surrounding them – another example of Melbourne Aquarium's commitment to the welfare of the animals," said Mr Bird.

Don't miss these amazing animals as they slip and slide across the snow-covered ice and dive into the penguin pool with their new friends at Melbourne Aquarium!

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