

Fun and naughty' day at Taronga

UL TATNELL

S not often the animals at Taronga Zoo are more scared than visitors who come to see them at a man dressed as a nun will that.

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence visited the zoo on Thursday part of their annual Mardi Gras grimage.

The sisters, including Sister Rome of the 9th Mystic Rhine and Sister Rowena, Keeper of the Holy Doily, led a group of more than 120 acolytes on a tour of the zoo.

Alpha Bott, also known as Sister Rome of the 9th Mystic Rhine, said visiting Taronga was a highlight of their Sydney trip.

Taronga Zoo is one of the best places in Sydney for anyone to visit," Sr Salome said.

We also receive great support from the zoo and are always made to feel welcome with wonderful, caring zookeepers that are only happy to show the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence their enthusiasm for their animals."

After touring with Zoo Friends



Sister Rowena, Keeper of the Holy Doily, blesses an echidna.

Picture: DAVE SWIFT -PP251400

volunteers, the sisters and their flock finished at the bird show where they passed around a veil to raise money for the Taronga Foundation. Zoo Friends volunteer manager Judy Gibson de-

scribed the visit as "lots of fun and a little bit naughty". "Over the years the group has donated hundreds and hundreds of dollars to wildlife during their visits," she said. More than 70 zoo staff were

in the Mardi Gras parade on Saturday on a float named "The Devil Made Me Do It" to raise support for the plight of the Tasmanian Devil in the wild.

Eisteddfod chance to kickstart career

MANY brilliant careers have had their beginnings at the McDonald's Performing Arts Challenge.

Talent from the lower north shore is well represented, including young ballerinas from the Mosman Dance Academy who won the junior classical ballet section on stage at the Opera House last year.

The challenge, otherwise known as Sydney Eisteddfod, is on again this year and entries close next Monday.

Among this year's highlights will be an operatic aria category, with more than \$57,000 in prize-money, and ballet scholarships worth more than \$36,000.

» Details: 9261 8366 or www.sydneyeisteddfod.com.au

Music to the ears

THE crowd of more than 330 who went to the Abba's Back performance at North Sydney Leagues Club on Sunday, March 1, raised \$7000 for the Victorian Bush Fire Appeal. The show featured the music and hits from the 1970s group Abba.