



**SCHOOL COPY**

# Hobart Zoo and Aquarium

Stuart Webster has been enchanted by animals and zoos since a young age. Growing up with limited means, he found immense joy wandering Melbourne Zoo alone, promising himself that one day he would own one. That promise became his lifelong mission — pursuing the dream through keeping animals and travelling the world to study hundreds of zoos.

His journey was far from simple. After leaving school early and facing addiction and personal hardship, he rebuilt his life, found stability, and created the financial footing that eventually allowed him to buy the dream.



In 2024, Webster purchased Zoodoo Zoo in Tasmania and rebranded it as Hobart Zoo & Aquarium. He has since launched major upgrades, from new exhibits and an aquarium with future plans for accommodation beside the lion habitat and plans for future species including red pandas, otters, cheetahs and eventually gorillas.

Stuart reinvests everything into creating a world-class, welcoming zoo with a team that share his fierce passion for animal conservation and education. He is finally living the dream he held onto for 50 years!





Our team of conservationists are committed to providing exceptional habitats that respect each animal's needs and natural behaviours. We are passionate about inspiring and educating visitors on wildlife conservation and sustainability, creating a meaningful legacy for future generations.

We are proudly affiliated with leading conservation programs and organisations including:



## Collaborating with Tasmanian Schools

Through our Conservation Education Program, students engage in curriculum-aligned learning experiences that foster curiosity and build understanding of sustainability within their local community. The program supports the Tasmanian Government's Lifting Literacy framework and is aligned to version 9 of the Australian Curriculum.

Schools can bring students for an excursion at a discounted admission rate where they will participate in an animal encounter and lesson taught by a Conservation Educator.

This is enhanced with a full unit plan with printable resources.



# Hobart Zoo and Aquarium



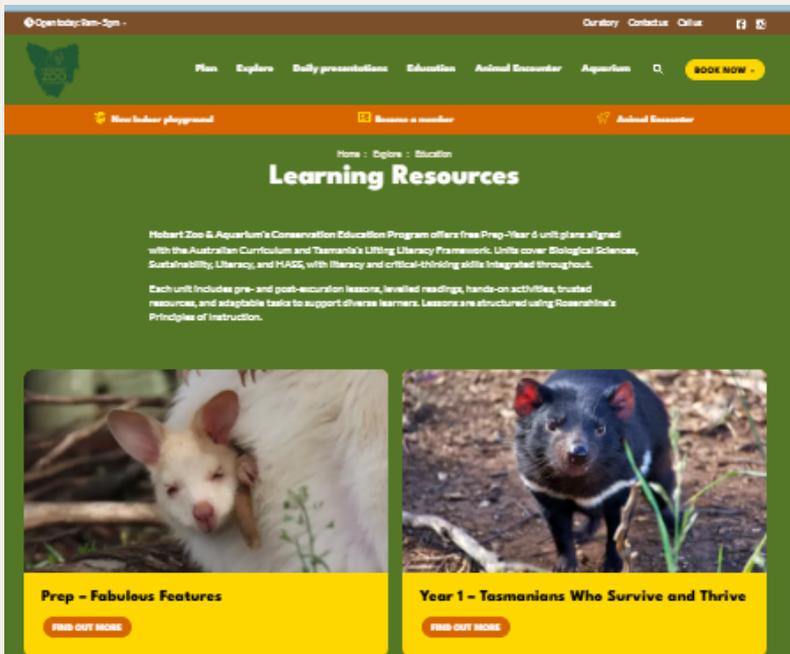
# Free Education Resources

Hobart Zoo and Aquarium's Conservation Education Program provides free, downloadable Prep–Year 6 unit plans aligned to the Australian Curriculum.

Units focus on Biological Sciences, Sustainability, Literacy and HASS, with Science and Sustainability priorities embedded throughout.

Literacy skills—such as expressing ideas, phonics and word knowledge, engaging with literature, and creating texts—are integrated into all activities. HASS skills are a throughline, including questioning, researching, analysing, evaluating, concluding, and communicating.

Each unit includes pre and post-excursion lessons, Flesch–Kincaid–levelled readings, hands-on activities, links to reputable sources, information reports, photographs, manipulatives, list and excerpts of fiction texts to support key learning. tasks with a series of optional adjustments. Lessons are structured to follow Rosenshine's Principles of Instruction.



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## Learning Resources

Hobart Zoo & Aquarium's Conservation Education Program offers free Prep–Year 6 unit plans aligned with the Australian Curriculum and Tasmania's Literacy Framework. Units cover Biological Sciences, Sustainability, Literacy, and HASS, with literacy and critical-thinking skills integrated throughout.

Each unit includes pre- and post-excursion lessons, levelled readings, hands-on activities, trusted resources, and adaptable tasks to support diverse learners. Lessons are structured using Rosenshine's Principles of Instruction.

**Prep – Fabulous Features**  
FIND OUT MORE

**Year 1 – Tasmanians Who Survive and Thrive**  
FIND OUT MORE

All unit plans are available for download from our website:

<https://www.hzaa.com.au/explore/education/learning-resources/>





**KNOW - WANT TO KNOW - LEARNED**

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

**Know**  
What do you know about the topic?

**Want to know**  
What would you like to know about the topic?

**Learned**  
What have you learned about the topic?

- unit plan - pre-visit and post-visit activities
- readings that have been adapted to the Flesch-Kincaid Year level
- activities that are hands on, inquiry and literacy based
- list of high-quality picture books including multi-modal and hybrid texts
- structured and open-ended visual thinking organisers - these can be used in all curriculum areas
- Australian Curriculum V9 links
- learning intentions and success criteria

- PowerPoint structured into tuning in, modelling/I do, guided practice/We do, independent task/You do and plenary sections.
  - Includes tasks to check for understanding.
- current information texts
- lesson adjustments to adapt to the needs of all students
- social story
- references to accredited Tasmanian and Australian resources

## Tasmanian Devil

SARCOPHILUS HARRISII

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Tasmanian devils get the most scratches on their white markings when they fight. Scientists think the white spots act like targets, keeping their important organs safe!

**Australia**

**RANGE & HABITAT**

Tasmanian Devils once roamed across mainland Australia, but are now found only in Tasmania. They live in a variety of habitats, including dry forests and coastal shrubland. In 2020, 26 Tasmanian Devils were released into a protected area in New South Wales.

**DIET**

Tasmanian Devils are primarily scavengers and feed on any carcasses they come across, these are usually mammals, birds and reptiles. They have very strong jaws, allowing them to bite through bones, and can consume up to 40% of their bodyweight in one sitting.

**SOCIAL STRUCTURE**

Tasmanian Devils are usually solitary, only coming together to breed and to fight over food. Females give birth to up to 40 joeys at once, but can only rear four. Joeys stay in the pouch for around four months, and after exiting they will ride on their mother's backs.

EXTINCT - EXTINCT IN THE WILD - CRITICALLY ENDANGERED - **ENDANGERED** - VULNERABLE - NEAR THREATENED - LEAST CONCERN

# Contents of Unit



# Prep - Fabulous Features

Students in Prep will learn to identify features and group animals based on similarities.

## CONSERVATION LESSON

Your Conservation Educator will take students to the following animals, discussing their observable features particularly mammals and how humans are mammals:

Koala

Capuchin Monkeys

Bolivian Squirrel Monkeys

Emperor Tamarins



## BARNYARD ENCOUNTER

Students will be invited to feed, pat and interact with our barnyard animals:

Alpacas

Miniature Horses

Miniature Highland Cows

Rabbits

Guinea Pigs



## Australian Curriculum Links

### Achievement Standard

By the end of Foundation students group plants and animals based on external features.

### Content Descriptor

Students learn to observe external features of plants and animals and describe ways they can be grouped based on these features.

(AC9SFU01)4



Students in Year 1 will learn to identify how living things meet their needs in their habitats.

### **CONSERVATION LESSON**

Your Conservation Educator will take students to the following animals to discuss what they need to survive and compare contrasting environments including Tasmanian and Aquatic habitats:

Endangered Native Tasmanian Animals

- Tasmanian Devils,
- Spotted Tail Quoll
- Eastern Quoll
- Aquarium
- Clown Fish
- Silver Dollar



### **NATIVE TASMANIAN ANIMAL ENCOUNTER**

Students will be invited to feed, pat and interact with:  
kangaroos  
Bennetts wallabies

### **Australian Curriculum Links**

Achievement Standard

By the end of Year 1 students identify how living things meet their needs in the places they live.

Content Descriptor

Students learn to identify the basic needs of plants and animals, including air, water, food or shelter, and describe how the places they live meet those needs (AC9SIU01)



# **Year 1 - Tasmanians Who Survive and Thrive**



# Year 2 - Behind the Scenes at Hobart Zoo and Aquarium

Students in Year 2 will learn the purpose of zoos and wildlife parks including how we use Science in daily life.



## CONSERVATION LESSON

Your Conservation Educator will take students to the following animals to discuss the purpose of zoos and wildlife parks to conserve species by visiting a variety of habitats including:

Aviaries - Macaws

Australian Habitat - Koala and Tasmanian Devils

African Habitat - Meerkats and Lions

## ENCOUNTER

Students will be invited to feed and interact with our:  
budgies  
cockatiels



## Australian Curriculum Links

### Achievement Standard

They describe how people use science in their daily lives.

### Content Descriptor

Students learn to describe how people use science in their daily lives.  
(AC9S2H01)





Students in Year 3 will explore contrasting life cycles of animals. When possible, the conservationist will discuss and share the babies we may have at the zoo.

### **CONSERVATION LESSON**

Your Conservation Educator will take students to the following animals and their habitats to discuss the contrasting life cycles of:

Monotremes - Echidna

Mammals - Wombat and Bennetts Wallaby

Fish - Pot Bellied Seahorse



### **ENCOUNTER**

Students will be invited to touch and interact with aquatic animals in our Touch Tank. Possible interactions include:

starfish

sea urchins

sea cucumbers



### **Australian Curriculum Links**

#### Achievement Standard

By the end of Year 3 students classify and compare different life cycles.

#### Content Descriptor

Students learn to examine the differences between the life cycles of plants and animals. (AC9S3U01)

# Year 4 - Who Eats Who?

Students in Year 4 will learn about the roles of organisms in a habitat and food chains.

## CONSERVATION LESSON

Your Conservation Educator will take students to the following animals and their habitats to discuss the roles and interactions of consumers, producers and decomposers in the food chain:

Tasmanian Devils - including education on the Facial Tumour Disease and recovery efforts

Marine Ecosystems - coral reefs, fresh water



## Australian Curriculum Links

### Achievement Standard

By the end of Year 4 students identify the roles of organisms in a habitat and construct food chains.

### Content Descriptor

Students learn to explain the roles and interactions of consumers, producers and decomposers within a habitat and how food chains represent feeding relationships (AC9S4U01)



## ENCOUNTERS

Students will participate in observing a Tasmanian Devil feeding on a carcass as they would in the wild, through a secure safety wall specifically designed for this purpose.

Students will be invited to explore and interact with aquatic animals in our touch tank.





Students in Year 5 will learn to explain how the form and behaviour of living things enables survival including current Tasmanian conservation efforts for the Swift Parrot.

### CONSERVATION LESSON

Your Conservation Educator will take students to the following birds to feed them and discuss the structural adaptations of their beaks and feathers that enable their survival including:

Swift Parrots

Macaws

Black Cockatoos

Kookaburras

Tawny Frogmouth

Finches



### ENCOUNTER

Students will be invited to feed and interact with the following bird species in our walk-in aviary to see their beaks in

action:

budgies

cockatiels

parrots

finches

doves

parakeets



### Australian Curriculum Links

#### Achievement Standard

By the end of Year 5 students explain how the form and behaviour of living things enables survival.

#### Content Descriptor

Students learn to examine how particular structural features and behaviours of living things enable their survival in specific habitats.

(AC9S5U01)

# Year 6 - Balancing Act

Students in Year 6 will learn how human behaviour impacts animals and how conservation programs around the world are working to sustain the populations of vulnerable species.

## CONSERVATION LESSON

Your Conservation Educator will take students to the following animals and their habitats to discuss how they are being affected in the wild through habitat loss and the conservation programs that we directly support to ensure their survival in the wild:

Cotton-Top Tamarins - Proyecto Titi Program

Lions and Servals - Zambian Carnivore Program

Aquarium - Conservation of the Great Barrier Reef



## ENCOUNTER

Students will participate in observing a lion being fed through a secure safety wall, specifically designed for this purpose.

Students will be invited to explore and touch a variety of aquatic animals in our Touch Tank.

## Australian Curriculum Links

### Achievement Standard

By the end of Year 6 students explain how changes in physical conditions affect living things.

### Content Descriptor

Students learn to investigate the physical conditions of a habitat and analyse how the growth and survival of living things is affected by changing physical conditions.  
(AC9S6U01)





**ARRIVAL** - 15 minutes

Students will have a short break with the chance to eat, drink and to go to the bathroom. They will leave bags in the Tasmanian Devil Terraces.

**INTRODUCTION** - 10 minutes

Your Conservation Educator will meet students and outline the goals, plan and expectations of the day.

**CONSERVATION LESSON** - 30 minutes

Your Conservation Educator will introduce you to some of our animals and discuss their features, behaviour, habitat, role in the eco-system and threats.

**ENCOUNTER** - 30 minutes

Your Conservation Educator will facilitate a hands-on encounter with our animals.

**LUNCH** - 40 minutes

Students can enjoy lunch in one of our undercover eating areas and then explore one of our 6 playgrounds, they must be supervised by a teacher at all times.



**SELF-GUIDED TOUR** - 30 - 60 minutes (At the Teacher's discretion)

Teachers will take their class for a self-guided tour of our Zoo and Aquarium.

**QUESTION TIME** - 10 minutes

Your Conservation Educator will meet you in the Tasmanian Devil Terraces to answer the many questions students will have.

**DEPARTURE** - 15 minutes

Time for a quick snack, drink and bathroom break before heading back to school.

**Please Note**

The times outlined above are a guide and our staff are on hand to help as needed. Two classes are able to book together, alternating the times for the lesson and encounter with the self-guided tour.



# Your Day at the Zoo



# Finer Details

## Pricing

- Discounted admission of \$12.50 per student including;
  - entry for the day to Hobart Zoo and Aquarium under teacher supervision
  - teacher supervised use of undercover break area and all playgrounds including indoor
    - Animal pellets are available for purchase for \$2.5 a cup, enough for two to share
- Conservation lesson during visit at a cost of \$150 per class including:
  - Conservation Educator led lesson
  - encounter with animals including pellets for feeding
  - question time
  - downloadable unit plan and resources aligned to the Australian Curriculum V9
  - total time with Conservation Educator of 1 hour and 20 minutes

Schools with a ICSEA percentile under 950 are eligible for our Education Assistance Program. Please see our website for further information. <https://www.hzaa.com.au/explore/education/education-access-program/>

## Arrival and Departure Times

We offer flexibility around arrival and departure times to suit your needs. We suggest arriving between 9:30 - 10:00am to allow for time to experience all of the wonderful facilities on offer for the day.

## Capacity

Workshops can accommodate classes of up to 32 students with a ratio of 1:16 adults per group. Two classes are able to book together alternating the workshop and encounter with the self-guided tour. This is a great option to reduce transport cost; classes may be different year levels.

## Transport Cost Support

Schools requiring support to cover transport costs are encourage to contact local charity organisations and apply for government grants for funding. Please contact [bookings@hzaa.com.au](mailto:bookings@hzaa.com.au) if you require support with this.

## Bookings

Book online via our website at:  
<https://www.hzaa.com.au/explore/school-education-programs/>

## Adjustments and Diversity

We have flat surfaces, ramps, disability toilet with space for standing changes and a quiet area for those who require a short break. Resources include a social story and adjustments to support learners of all abilities.

## Unit Plans and School Resources

For composite classes, choose the Year level offering that best suits the needs of your class, please select the Year level content you'd prefer when booking.

Head to our website to download unit plans and resources:  
<https://www.hzaa.com.au/explore/education/learning-resources/>

## Specific Requests

Specific requests can be made by emailing [bookings@hzaa.com.au](mailto:bookings@hzaa.com.au)





Stuart and the team can't wait to welcome you and your students at Hobart Zoo and Aquarium.



\$12.50 per student for full day entry with accompanying school staff free.

Add on an Australian Curriculum aligned lesson with animal encounter for \$150 per class.



**Where wildlife meets adventure!**



