

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Saving the Tasmanian Devil through the power of air guitar

Cupcakes and an air guitar competition have helped the students at East Launceston Primary School raise over \$2000 for the Save the Tasmanian Devil Appeal.

Led by the school's Grade 2 students, this year's fundraising effort was their biggest yet and takes their total contribution to the effort to save the iconic animal to over \$10,000.

The school will present a cheque to the Appeal at 12.15pm tomorrow (Thursday, 12 November). The money will support the work to further develop a vaccine against the Devil Facial Tumour Disease, which has caused losses of over 80 percent of devils in the wild.

Teacher Amanda Watson said the fundraising involved all 70 Grade 2 students researching the Tasmanian Devil and presenting their work at a special devil assembly, followed by a cupcake stall and air guitar competition.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to show children that they can make a difference to their community, even at the age of 7 and 8, working towards saving a Tasmanian icon," Ms Watson said.

Appeal Manager Rebecca Cuthill will accept the cheque and speak to the students about the research and conservation programs their fundraising will support.

"Visiting East Launceston Primary School is one of the highlights of my year; I am always inspired by the genuine passion the children have for our iconic Tassie devil and the imaginative ways they raise money to help," Ms Cuthill said.

"Extraordinary progress has been made for the Tassie devil and it will be a pleasure to talk to students and explain the very real difference their fundraising can make.

“As we enter a new era for the Tassie devil, with a vision to create a vaccine against DFTD, public support is more crucial than ever and we thank the community for their support.”

The Appeal is administered by the University of Tasmania Foundation. For more information, or to make a donation, visit the Appeal [website](#).

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