

Students cook up a storm for Tasmanian Devils

By Gregor & Cooper Year 3

Haberfield Public School set a goal to raise \$2,500 for conservation organisation, Devil Ark in a bid to help Tasmanian Devils survive DFTD.



Customers created their own biscuits in black, red and white as yummy treats to enjoy. Photograph: Gregor

The 8 students organising the fundraising had a genius idea to run a black, white and red cake stall on 27th of October, 2015 where children could decorate their own biscuits and buy delicious cakes and sweets.

In the first half an hour the cake stall raised \$1,000 with large crowds buying up almost everything. The crowds were so immense that parents began to volunteer their time to help serve alongside the students.

If Haberfield Public School raise \$2,500 they could get a live Tasmanian Devil to come to their school. "After studying them [Tasmanian Devils] I felt like they really needed our help and so we're raising money to help them get rid of their cancer," said one of the students who helped organise the event. "I did like raising money for the Tasmanian devils because I just like helping animals," said another student.

The facial tumour cancer for Tasmanian Devils is known as Devils Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD) and is contagious. They can catch it by eating from the same food and from biting each other. It affects Tasmanian Devils as they are unable to care for themselves, swelling up on the face and developing red spots and rashes. Eventually they will die as they are no longer able to eat they need for survival.

Devil Ark is a conservation organisation in NSW who are helping Tasmanian Devils through a captive breeding program. They educate the public on their situation and try to encourage people to sponsor these amazing animals. Devil Ark, together with these 8 dedicated students have definitely made Haberfield Public School take notice of what is happening to these endangered Australian mammals.



Large crowds gathered around the stall, buying up almost all that was on offer. Photograph: Cooper