



Connecting the Teachers of Victoria with Wildlife Conservation Partners

The Zoo Crew

Caitlin Jung
Sarah Tarantino
Hunter Trautz
Jacob Tutlis

Advisors

Professor Fabio Carrera
Professor Stephen McCauley

Sponsor

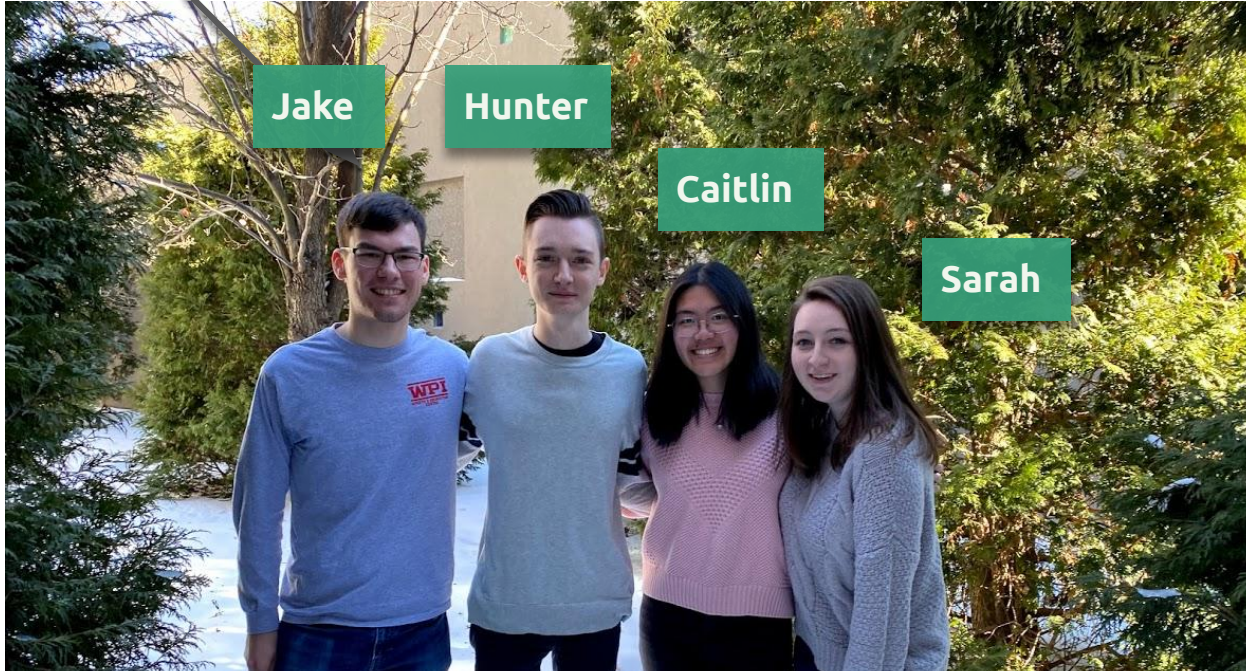
Zoos Victoria

May 13, 2020



WPI

Meet the Team



Where We Are



What is an IQP?

- Stands for **Interactive Qualifying Project**
- Typically completed in the **third** year of university
- **Interdisciplinary** project that gives every WPI student the experience of working in teams to **tackle a problem or need** that lies at the intersection of science and society
- We were supposed to travel to Melbourne pre-COVID to complete our IQP



Photo of previous WPI students in Melbourne

A white bird, possibly a cockatoo, is perched on a branch with green leaves in the background. The bird is facing left and is partially obscured by a semi-transparent white text box.

Zoos Victoria is dedicated to conservation education

Part of Zoos Victoria's mission is to deliver profound zoo-based experiences that connect people with wildlife and provide meaningful conservation messages. Zoos Victoria aims to be a part of every Victorian child's education.

Zoos Victoria uses the Connect-Understand-Act framework to teach conservation through Real-world learning



Connect

Provide learners with powerful opportunities that inspire a deep interest in the topic



Understand

Repeated practice transforms working memory to long-term memory



Act

Applying learned skills in real-world contexts



Real-world learning provides memorable experiences and incites a deeper interest in the subject

Effective access to real-world learning is limited by a teacher's individual knowledge

Where do I start to find information about real-world learning?

What type of information am I looking for?

Are there resources in my area?



Mission Statement

The goal of this project is to assist Zoos Victoria in **raising awareness for wildlife conservation** in the state of Victoria by **developing a web application** that connects teachers with local conservation groups and provides them with **real-world learning opportunities.**



SWIFFT seminars



Join the free and interactive quarterly seminar series (in-person or online) and learn about great projects, research and activities from across Victoria and beyond.

[Read More](#)

Threatened Species



Explore the Victorian threatened species feature pages and find out more about threatened species listings.

[Read More](#)

Teams and projects



A dedicated space for biodiversity conservation groups around Victoria to share detailed information about their projects.

[Read More](#)

Bio-Calendar



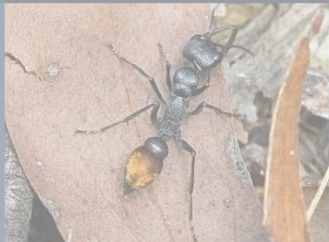
Bio-calendar is a resource that can assist in recognising natural biological processes that plants and animals undergo in response to seasonal variations in the environment.

[Read More](#)

[About](#)[Learn](#)[Participate](#)[Contribute](#)[Contact us](#)

However, SWIFFT is built mainly for scientists

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State Wide Integrated Flora and Fauna Teams (SWIFFT) is a network for knowledge sharing and information exchange that supports conservation and management of threatened species, biodiversity and the natural environment across Victoria.

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Project Development Process

User Needs Assessment

Mockup Development

Mockup Assessment

Future Development

Goals of the Sponsor

Identifying Resources
from Conservation
Groups

Teacher Feedback

Additional Features

Initial Design
Specifications from
Zoos Victoria

Creating Real-world
Wildlife Conservation
Lesson Plans

Incorporate User
Feedback into
Mockup

Implementation

Teacher
Questionnaire

Adobe XD Mockup

CeRDI/SWIFFT
Engagement

Maintenance Plan

Project Development Process

User Needs Assessment

Goals of the Sponsor

Assist busy teachers to understand the species and habitats in their local communities by identifying:

- Relevant partner organisations that are active in their area and could work with them and their students
- Available resources that can help with learning program development
- How to easily build learning and engage with these activities

Project Development Process

User Needs Assessment

Goals of the Sponsor

**Initial Design
Specifications from
Zoos Victoria**

Education Strategic Team at Zoos Victoria

Project Development Process

User Needs Assessment

Goals of the Sponsor

Initial Design
Specifications from
Zoos Victoria

Teacher
Questionnaire

- Do you currently use any applications to assist you in creating your curriculum? Likes/Dislikes?
- Do you currently incorporate wildlife conservation topics in the classroom?
- Would you use an application to aid you in this process?

These are the features that teachers desire in an application



Categorise the needs of school teachers



Quick and **easy** access to information and real-world learning opportunities



Creating **relationships** within the community



Identify **local** organizations that offer programs to **engage** students



Sharing information and advice with other teachers



Information about their **local** natural environment and projects

Project Development Process

User Needs Assessment

Mockup Development

Goals of the Sponsor

Adobe XD Mockup

Initial Design
Specifications from
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Teacher
Questionnaire

SWIFFT Teacher tab has three main components



Home / Teachers

Login/Sign Up 

Explore Resources



Activities to bring real world experiences into the classroom

My Workspace



Tailored educational resources/ lesson plans based on location and grade level

Community



Connect and share with other teachers

Component 1: Explore Resources Page



Explore Resources



Activities to bring real world experiences into the classroom

An area for teachers to search for resources with categories such as:

- Real-world learning opportunities
- Citizen Science Initiatives
- Threatened species information
- Lesson plans
- Classroom activities


Component 2: My Workspace Page



Home / Teachers

Login/Sign Up 

My Workspace



Tailored educational resources/
lesson plans based on location
and grade level

A personalized space for teachers to:

- View their favorited resources
- Organize resources into folders

Component 3: Community Page



A community forum for teachers and community members to:

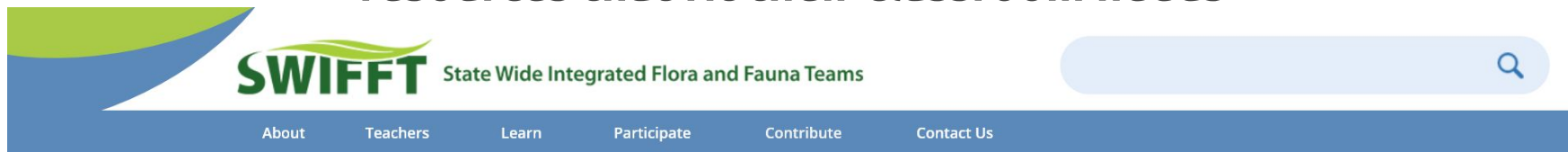
- Ask questions
- Receive feedback
- Collaborate

Community



Connect and share with other teachers

The Explore Resources page is a place for teachers to find educational resources that fit their classroom needs



Home / Teachers

Login/Sign Up 

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Search results... 

Category

- Real World Learning Opportunities (RWL)
- Citizen Science Initiatives (CS)
- Threatened Species Information
- Lesson Plans
- Classroom Activity

Location

3000

Alpine Shire within 

Education Level(s)

- Early
- Foundation - Year 2
- Year 3 & Year 4
- Year 5 & Year 6
- Year 7 & Year 8
- Year 9 & Year 10
- VCE
- Tertiary
- VCAL


Learning Area

- Biology
- Biodiversity
- Camps
- Critical & Creative Thinking
- Design and Technologies
- Environmental Science
- STEM

Apply Filters

Want to contribute to this database? Click below to share your resources!

Share



Local Legends
Melbourne Zoo | Year 3, Year 4

RWL 28 Jan - 18 Dec, Mon-Fri

In this new version of the Local Legends program, students will discover animals that are Local Legends and learn how they can become a hero in the lives of these unique creatures.

Links to Victorian Curriculum levels 3-4 Geography and Science and Intercultural Capabilities



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Victoria, AUS | All Ages

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SPECIES

Learn more about the threatened fauna found in the Alpine Shire

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iNaturalist Lesson Plan
Primary/Secondary | Year 5, Year 6

LESSON

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Shared by Catlin Jung

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Categorized needs of teachers with filters

Explore Resources

Search results... 

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Location

3741
Alpine Shire within 10 km 

Education Level(s)

- Early
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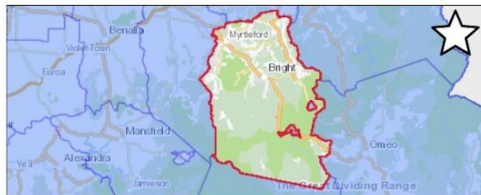
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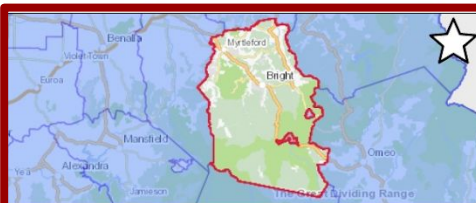
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Information about the local environment and projects

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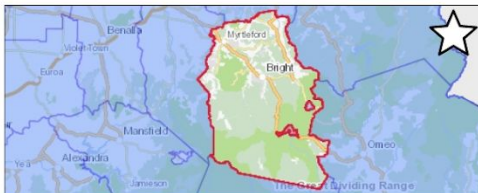
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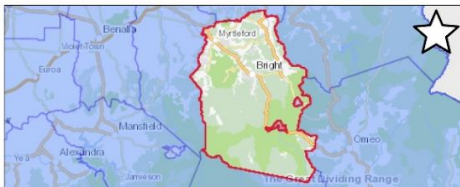
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Share resources with other teachers

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Explore Resources



Activities to bring real world experiences into the classroom

My Workspace



Tailored educational resources/ lesson plans based on location and grade level

Community



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The My Workspace Page enables quick and easy access to information

Home / Teachers / My Workspace

Hello, Fabio!



My Workspace

My Folders

- Add New
- Local Species Unit
- Zoos Victoria Campaigns
- Outdoor Activities
- Reptiles

Real World Learning Opportunities

Caring for Animals | Terms 1 and 2 2020

Equip your students with new STEM skills and knowledge whilst designing solutions for Zoo animals.



Saving Endangered Species | Terms 1 and 2 2020

Explore Healesville Sanctuary, meeting our unique, endangered wildlife and learn what you can do to help fight extinction. Are you up for the challenge?



Eat or be Eaten

In the wild it's a case of eat, or be eaten. Animals are specially adapted to digest their favourite food and avoid being eaten themselves.



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Teachers can
create and view
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Add New



Biodiversity Unit



Local Species Unit



Outdoor Activities



Potential Class Activities



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Hello, Fabio!



Community

Search results...



Category

- Real World Activities
- Lesson Plans
- Conservation Organizations
- Questions

Apply Filters



Create Post

Supporting Local Wildlife

posted 8 hours ago by Ms. Frizzle

Hi! I am a Year 1-2 primary teacher in Ouyen and my students are interested in improving our school ground to support local wildlife. Any suggestions for me and my class?

Comment Share Save

Collingwood Children's Farm Trip

posted 16 hours ago by Dr. Antle

Collingwood Children's Farm is definitely an awesome place to explore. With lots of animals around the property (for kids to chase and play with), it also includes scheduled "meet & greet" times with animals too.

Comment Share Save

Endangered Species Unit Question

posted 18 hours ago by Joe Exotic

Hello everyone. I am a Year 9 teacher at Ballarat secondary. My students would like to focus on a local endangered species in Science this term. Does anyone have any lesson plan or activity suggestions?

Comment Share Save

Big Cat Activities?

posted 2 days ago by Carole Baskin

Has anyone had any good experiences with real world big cat activities around the Melbourne area? I'm also looking for in class activities if y'all have any.

Comment Share Save

VCAA has released updated VCE study


posted 3 days ago by KoalaLover

It looks like subjects have generally had a reduction in the number or complexity of tasks in Unit 4, with the Unit result being marked out of 70 or 75 rather than 100, and Unit 3 having greater weighting than...


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 Create Post




Supporting Local Wildlife posted 8 hours ago by [Ms. Frizzle](#)

Hi! I am a Year 1-2 primary teacher in Ouyen and my students are interested in improving our school ground to support local wildlife. Any suggestions for me and my class?

Comment  Share  Save 




Collingwood Children's Farm Trip posted 16 hours ago by [Dr. Antle](#)

Collingwood Children's Farm is definitely an awesome place to explore. With lots of animals around the property (for kids to chase and play with), it also includes scheduled "meet & greet" times with animals too.

Comment  Share  Save 




Endangered Species Unit Question posted 18 hours ago by [Joe Exotic](#)

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Comment  Share  Save 




Big Cat Activities? posted 2 days ago by [Carole Baskin](#)

Has anyone had any good experiences with real world big cat activities around the Melbourne area? I'm also looking for in class activities if y'all have any.

Comment  Share  Save 

VCAA has released updated VCE study posted 3 days ago by [KoalaLover](#)

It looks like subjects have generally had a reduction in the number or complexity of tasks in Unit 4, with the Unit result being marked out of 70 or 75 rather than 100, and Unit 3 having greater weighting than...

Comment  Share  Save 

Teachers can sort and filter the posts to easily find relevant posts

Community

Search results...



Category

- Real World Activities
- Lesson Plans
- Conservation Organizations
- Questions

Apply Filters



Community

Search results...



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Comment Share Save



Create Post

Share ideas and advice
with other teachers

Citizen Science for Biodiversity posted seconds ago by [Charlotte Smith](#)

Hi everyone! I'm looking for citizen science initiatives specifically pertaining to biodiversity. I want to get my students more interested in biodiversity by providing them with real-world learning opportunities...

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Comment Share Save

**Direct communication
between teachers and
community members**

Project Development Process

User Needs Assessment

Mockup Development

Mockup Assessment

Goals of the Sponsor

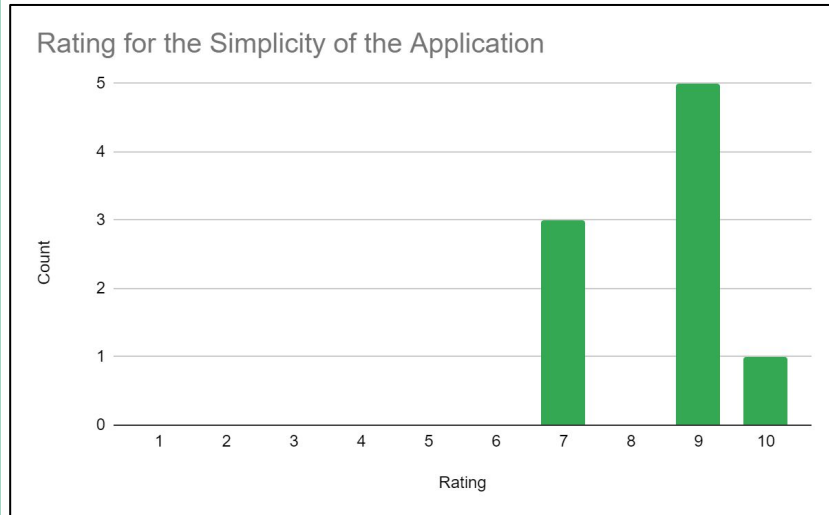
Adobe XD Mockup

Teacher Feedback

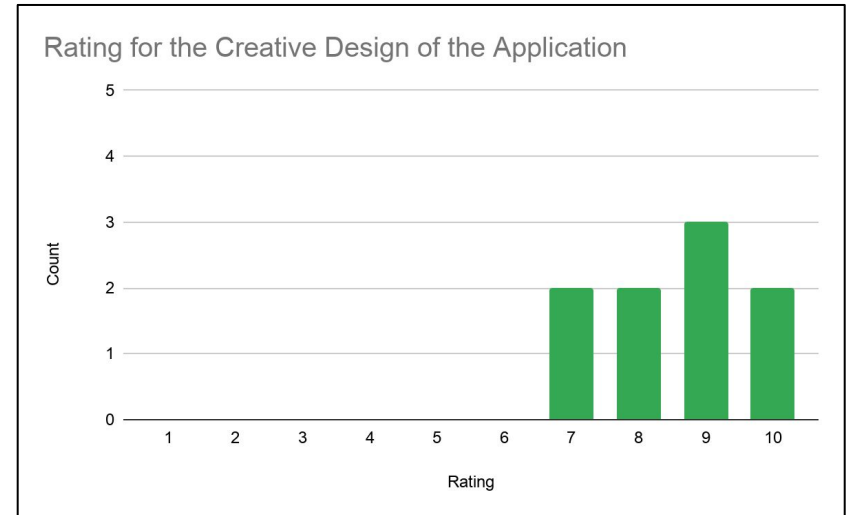
Initial Design
Specifications from
Zoos Victoria

Teacher
Questionnaire

The nine participants of the feedback form generally believed that the mockup was simple and creative



Simplicity of the Application
Average: 8.44



Creative Design of the Application
Average: 8.56

Project Development Process

User Needs Assessment

Mockup Development

Mockup Assessment

Goals of the Sponsor

Adobe XD Mockup

Teacher Feedback

Initial Design Specifications from Zoos Victoria

Incorporate User Feedback into Mockup

Teacher Questionnaire

CeRDI/SWIFFT Engagement

The Community page became a forum and the resources from this page moved to the Explore Resources page

SWIFFT State Wide Integrated Flora and Fauna Teams

Search by topic...

Home / Teacher / Community

Community

Category

- New World Learning Experiences
- Resources and Lesson Plans

Location

Education Levels

- Link Challenge
- Foundation - Year 2
- Year 3 & Year 4
- Year 5 & Year 6
- Year 7 & Year 8
- Year 9 & Year 10
- VCE
- VCEA
- Tertiary

Learning Area

- Abioge
- Biome
- Conservation
- Earth & Climate Change
- Earth & Climate Systems
- Design and Technologies
- Geography
- Science
- VCEA

Apply Filters

Results

Activity: Color and Label a Chicken
 April 5, 2023, 10:48 AM
 Download the chicken outline and color it in. There is both a version with blank areas and a version with labels below for you to choose from. Once downloaded by the chicken. Do the word bank to label the chicken. You can check your label with the answer key linked below.
 Shared by Collingwood Children's Farm

Activity: Create Your Own Weather Chart
 April 5, 2023, 10:28 AM
 Create a Weather Chart to keep track of daily weather patterns. Print out the blank weather calendar template!

Activity: Building Farm Animals with Natural Elements
 April 5, 2023, April 5, 2023, 10:48 AM
 Create an animal made with leaves and sticks. Use your imagination and imagination you can have animals. Don't forget to name your animal!
 Shared by Collingwood Children's Farm

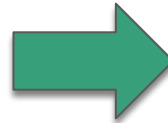
Activity: Draw the Water Cycle
 April 5, 2023, April 5, 2023
 Learn how the Earth's water is constantly being recycled! Draw the water cycle on a page of paper.
 Shared by Collingwood Children's Farm

Plains Wanderer Lesson Plan
 Across Middle School - Year 7, Year 8
 Students explore their curiosity to learn more about the Plains Wanderer, what is an endangered species in Australia!
 Lesson by Catherine Corbridge - 7-8 Science, Endangered Animals, Plains Wanderer, Endangered
 Shared by Vates

Alpine She-oak Skink Lesson Plan
 Year 7, Year 8
 Encourage your students to learn more about the Alpine She-oak Skink which is an endangered species in Australia!
 Lesson by Catherine Corbridge - 7-8 Science, Endangered Animals, Alpine She-oak Skink, Endangered
 Shared by Vates

Want to contribute to this database? Click below to share your resources!

Share



SWIFFT State Wide Integrated Flora and Fauna Teams

Search by topic...

Home / Teacher / Community

Community

Search results...

Category

- Real World Activities
- Lesson Plans
- Conservation Organizations
- Questions

Apply Filters

Create Post

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 Hi! I am a Year 1-2 primary teacher in Ouyen and my students are interested in improving our school ground to support local wildlife. Any suggestions for me and my class?
 Comment Share Save

Collingwood Children's Farm Trip posted 10 hours ago by Dr. Aude
 Collingwood Children's Farm is definitely an awesome place to explore. With lots of animals around the property for kids to chase and play with, it also includes scheduled 'meet & greet' times with animals too.
 Comment Share Save

Endangered Species Unit Question posted 10 hours ago by Joe Exotic
 Hello everyone, I am a Year 9 teacher at Ballarat secondary. My students would like to focus on a local endangered species in Science this term. Does anyone have any lesson plan or activity suggestions?
 Comment Share Save

Big Cat Activities? posted 7 days ago by Cassie Beaton
 Has anyone had any good experiences with real world big cat activities around the Melbourne area? I'm also looking for in class activities if y'all have any.
 Comment Share Save

VCAA has released updated VCE study posted 3 days ago by Kinaki over
 It looks like subjects have generally had a reduction in the number or complexity of tasks in Unit 1, with the Unit 1 result being marked out of 70 or 75 rather than 100, and Unit 3 having greater weighting than...
 Comment Share Save

Points of confusion on the Explore Resources Page were changed

Added a search bar for more advanced filter options

Added more categories for each resource

Replaced “vague” learning areas with more specific ones

Category

- Real World Learning Experiences
- Resources and Lesson Plans

Location

Zip Code

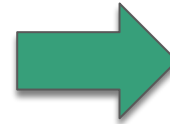
Suburb

Education Level(s)

- Early Childhood
- Foundation - Year 2
- Year 3 & Year 4
- Year 5 & Year 6
- Year 7 & Year 8
- Year 9 & Year 10
- VCE
- VCAL
- Tertiary

Learning Area

- Biology
- Camps
- Civics & Citizenship
- Critical & Creative Thinking
- Design and Technologies
- Geography
- Science
- STEM



Category

- Real World Learning Opportunities (RWL)
- Citizen Science Initiatives (CSI)
- Threatened Species Information
- Lesson Plans
- Classroom Activity

Location

3000

Alpine Shire within

Education Level(s)

- Early
- Foundation - Year 2
- Year 3 & Year 4
- Year 5 & Year 6
- Year 7 & Year 8
- Year 9 & Year 10
- VCE
- Tertiary
- VCAL

Learning Area

- Biology
- Biodiversity
- Camps
- Critical & Creative Thinking
- Design and Technologies
- Environmental Science
- STEM

Apply Filters

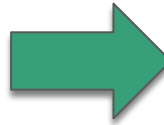
Resources are color coded and sorted by their category and date

The screenshot shows the SWIFFT website interface. At the top, there's a search bar with the text "Search by topic...". Below the navigation bar, there are several filter sections on the left:

- Category:**
 - Real World Learning Experiences
 - Resources and Lesson Plans
 - Citizen Science Apps and Websites
 - Plans and Strategies
- Location:**
 -
 -
- Education Level(s):**
 - Early Childhood
 - Foundation - Year 2
 - Year 3 & Year 4
 - Year 5 & Year 6
 - Year 7 & Year 8
 - Year 9 & Year 10
 - VCE
 - VCAL
 - Tertiary
- Learning Area:**
 - Biology
 - Camps
 - Civic & Citizenship
 - Critical & Creative Thinking
 - Design and Technologies
 - Geography
 - Science
 - STEM

At the bottom of the filters is an "Apply Filters" button. On the right, there's a user profile for "Hello, Fabio!" with a profile picture. The main content area is titled "Results" and displays a grid of resource cards. Each card includes a title, a thumbnail image, and a brief description. The cards shown are:

- They're Calling on You:** Primary/Secondary | Year 5 to Year 10. Get involved in Zoos Victoria's They're Calling on You campaign with this specially designed Teacher Resource Pack.
- Caring for Animals | Terms 1 and 2 2020:** Melbourne Zoo | Year 5, Year 6. Equip your students with new STEM skills and knowledge while designing habitats for 360 animals.
- Zoos: For People Or Animals?:** Secondary | Year 7 to Year 8. In this lesson, students bare into the topic of zoos and animal welfare.
- Saving Endangered Species | Terms 1 and 2 2020:** Healdsburg Secondary | Year 5, Year 6. Explore Huakuloa Sanctuary, meeting our unique, endangered wildlife and learn what you can do to help fight extinction.



The screenshot shows the search results page. At the top, there's a search bar with the text "Search results...". Below it, there are several filter sections:

- Category:**
 - Real World Learning Opportunities (RWL)
 - Citizen Science Initiatives (CSI)
 - Threatened Species Information
 - Lesson Plans
 - Classroom Activity
- Location:**
 -
 - within
- Education Level(s):**
 - Early
 - Foundation - Year 2
 - Year 3 & Year 4
 - Year 5 & Year 6
 - Year 7 & Year 8
 - Year 9 & Year 10
 - VCE
 - Tertiary
 - VCAL
- Learning Area:**
 - Biology
 - Biodiversity
 - Camps
 - Critical & Creative Thinking
 - Design and Technologies
 - Environmental Science
 - STEM

At the bottom of the filters is an "Apply Filters" button.

Want to contribute to this database? Click below to share your resources!

The screenshot shows the "Share" section of the website. It features four resource cards, each with a star icon in the top right corner:

- Local Legends:** Melbourne Zoo | Year 3, Year 4. In this new version of the Local Legends program, students will discover animals that are Local Legends and learn how they can become a hero in the lives of these unique creatures.
- Citizen Science - General:** Victoria, AUS | All Ages. Explore SWIFFT's database of Citizen Science initiatives in Victoria, Australia.
- iNaturalist:** A logo for iNaturalist with a star icon.
- Threatened Fauna Alpine Shire:** Alpine Shire, AUS | All Ages. Learn more about the threatened fauna found in the Alpine Shire.


At the bottom of the share section, there are two more resource cards, one of which is "They're Calling on You".

Miscellaneous results from the teacher feedback form that were incorporated into the mock-up


Larger text for better readability

Hover animations for a more interactive user experience

Changed the wording of phrases to avoid confusion



Caring for Animals | Terms 1 and 2 2020
Melbourne Zoo | Year 5, Year 6

RWL  28 Jan - 26 June, Mon-Fri

Equip your students with new STEM skills and knowledge whilst designing solutions for Zoo animals.

[Links to Victorian Curriculum Levels 5-6 Science, Design & Technologies, Mathematics and Creative & Critical Thinking](#)

Project Development Process

User Needs Assessment

Mockup Development

Mockup Assessment

Future Development

Goals of the Sponsor

Adobe XD Mockup

Teacher Feedback

Implementation

Initial Design Specifications from Zoos Victoria

Incorporate User Feedback into Mockup

Teacher Questionnaire

CeRDI/SWIFFT Engagement

An Implementation Plan for the Application was Developed

Proposed Design



Mockup Manual



**Integrate in stages
to elicit more
user feedback**



The features will be implemented in stages

1.

Explore Resources



Activities to bring real world experiences into the classroom



2.

My Workspace



Tailored educational resources/ lesson plans based on location and grade level



3.

Community



Connect and share with other teachers

- Will lack the ability to favorite
- No accounts

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Maintenance Plan

Teacher Questionnaire

CeRDI/SWIFFT Engagement

Maintenance Plan for Future Development of the Website



CeRDI manages the SWIFFT site



Little to no additional storage should be necessary for resources



Account management via school emails



Ensuring that resources are keep up to date with Content Builder

Project Development Process

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Additional Features

Based on the results from the feedback form, these are future improvements that could be made to the mockup



Space for video integration



Viewing other teachers' profile pages



Adding more images



Student access for feedback from members of the conservation community

Demo



Deliverables



Adobe XD Mockup



Project Booklet



Real-world Learning Lesson Plans



Implementation and Maintenance Plans

We hope this is a first step to incorporating wildlife conservation in the classroom through real-world learning opportunities



Explore Resources



Activities to bring real world experiences into the classroom

My Workspace



Tailored educational resources/ lesson plans based on location and grade level

Community



Connect and share with other teachers



Thank you!

Special thanks to:

Professor Carrera and Professor McCauley
Project Advisors

Mel Wyatt
Zoos Victoria

Rob Milne and Paul Feely
CeRDI

**If you have any questions or feedback,
please feel free to email us at:**

mpc.zood20@gmail.com