

# The

# UNIVERSITY of TASMANIA



# WONDER WEEKLY

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Get your groove on and dance: Page 2

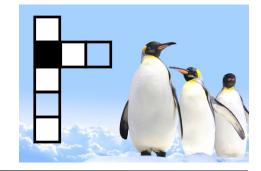


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Marine life crossword puzzle:

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# NAME GAME TO SAVE OUR FISH

YOU have met Professor Finn, The Wonder Weekly mascot, but the Peter Underwood Centre now has another red handfish to take care of.

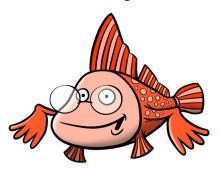
Obviously we are not telling Professor Finn that he is a caricature, but this red handfish is the living, breathing type, and we need your help to name it.

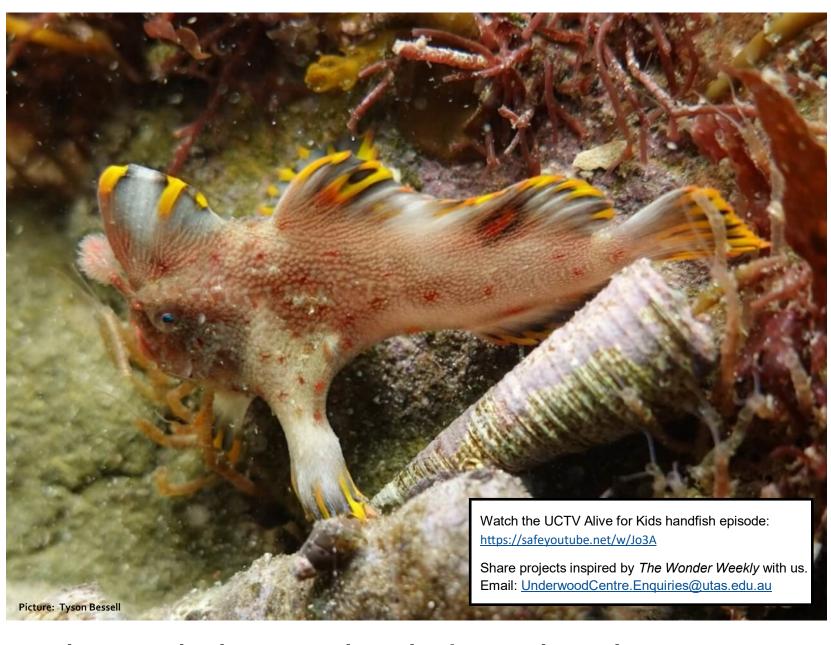
A photo of our handfish, right, might help.

Scientists at the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, at the University of Tasmania, and the CSIRO are among the people working hard to save three endangered species of handfish - the red handfish, spotted handfish and Ziebell's

You can find out more about the Handfish Conservation Project here: handfish.org.au

**Continued Page 2** 





# Scientists provide tiny babies with a helping hand to survive

BABY red handfish are being raised in a University of Tasmania aquarium to help save the species.

The tiny red handfish hatched in November last year, after scientists collected eggs from Frederick Henry Bay.

Institute for Marine and Antarctic protecting the baby handfish.

Studies and CSIRO researcher Dr Jemina Stuart-Smith said the hatchlings were 3-4mm, smaller than your smallest finger nail.

"I measured them last week and they are now almost 2cm long," Jemina said.

The scientists are feeding and

"The plan is to release them back into the wild later this year," Jemina said.

"Hopefully by doing so we've allowed a greater number of babies to survive."

The 55 hatchlings are the second group of juvenile handfish to be raised in a captive **Continued Page 2** 

environment, after another egg mass was collected and hatched at the CSIRO in Hobart in 2018.

Those hatchlings are currently being cared for at Seahorse World, a Children's University Tasmania learning destination at Beauty Point, near Launceston.



LIFE CYCLE: A red handfish attends to her eggs. Picture: Antonia Cooper

"Education perhaps more than anything else is a passport to a better life." - Peter Underwood AC

## The challenge of naming our handfish

#### From Page 1

All three species are only known to exist in waters off southern Tasmania, and are among the rarest fish on the planet.

In 2007 the Reef Live Survey started recruiting divers to assist research by locating handfish.

There could be fewer than 100 red handfish in two areas near Hobart, and scientists have established a database of each individual and will be tracking their movements.

To assist this research it is now possible to sponsor a red handfish, and name it.

Your challenge is to create a poster and provide the Peter Underwood Centre with a name for its handfish.

Tell us in one or two sentences why you chose the name, and include a drawing of the handfish, as well as your first name.

You can use an A4 or A3 page and any materials you like.

Once you have completed your poster, take a photograph of it and send it to:

UnderwoodCentre.Enquiries@ut as.edu.au

First prize will include the honour of officially naming the Peter Underwood Centre's red handfish.

Children's University Tasmania members will receive one hour in their passports for creating a handfish poster.



DANCING is great fun and great exercise

Humans have been dancing since prehistoric times.

Archaeologists have found 9000-year-old paintings which show people dancing at the Bhimbetka rock shelters, an important archaeological site in India.

Some dances have a really important meaning for groups of people, and are performed at special occasions or ceremonies.

For example, song and dance is an important cultural tradition of Tasmanian Aboriginal peoples.

Some of you might go to dancing classes, where you learn steps and other dancing movements

You might be learning classical

dance like ballet, or modern dance. If you are learning

modern dance, the dance movements have probably been designed by your dance teacher.

Some people dance professionally (dancing is their job), and the talented people who design dance movements for professional dance companies are known as choreographers.

Your challenge is to design your

The complicated looking graphic on the left shows the steps for the waltz, but your dance can be as simple or as complex as you wish.

Draw the steps on a page using feet shapes and, like the graphic, indicate your left foot steps with an L and right foot steps with an

Numbers are useful to show the order of the steps, and arrows are of course a great directional tool.

You could draw stick people to show other movements of your arms and body.

If you like you could do your dance steps design to 1:1 scale, by using a large sheet of paper, or several sheets joined together, and drawing around your own feet.

You could also design a dance to your favourite music.

Perhaps you will come up with the next pop dance craze to rival Macarena or Gangnam Style.

When you have finished your dance design, you might like to reveal it to a family member, and then teach them the steps.

### Babies given a helping hand

#### From Page 1

Scientists are also looking at ways of protecting red handfish habitat.

Red handfish live on rocky reefs or in seaweed, which is a popular fascinated by handfish. location for another marine species.

"We have noticed that native urchins are increasing in

number," Jemina said.

Images: iStock.com/

"Urchins eat the seaweed that red handfish rely on for cover and to lay their eggs on."

Michaeljung/ Rainer Lesniewski

Jemina is a marine biologist and

"They are unique, quirky little creatures and they are critically endangered, so they are an appealing research subject."

#### Tune in to our interactive live show

The Peter Underwood Centre has a new, weekly broadcast, UCTV Alive for Kids.

This week's program will feature engineering student Edwina Knevett, discussing her participation in an Engineers Without Borders humanitarian project in Cambodia.

#### Crossword No.7 solution

12. Japan **Across** 4. Islander

7. Islet Down 10. Madagascar 1. Hawaii 11. Flinders 2. Sarah

To find out more head to our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/ UnderwoodCentre/



3. Fraser 5. Greenland

6. Heard

8. Pacific 9. Tasmania

#### **Crossword No.8 - Marine life**

#### **Across**

2. Large seabird

7. Dangerous reptile. The saltwater ...

9. The ... handfish

11. Group of fish swimming together

12. The largest animal ever known. The ... whale

13. The Great Barrier Reef is located in the ... Sea

#### Down

- 1. A male elephant seal
- 3. Common name for a group of saltwater molluscs
- 4. Common fish (plays a trumpet)
- 5. The venomous blue-ringed ...
- 6. Organs fish (and some amphibians) use to breathe
- 8. Emperor ...
- 10. Another common name for a killer whale

Solution next week.

