

I saw nothing : the extinction of the Thylacine

(Lothian Books)

Crew, Gary

Research Background

I Saw Nothing is a 32 page colour illustrated book based on the extinction of the Thylacine in 1936. Research for this non fiction work included visits to the Australian National Museum, Canberra, and the Florentine Valley, Tasmania, where the last known Thylacine was captured (later published as a chapter in It's Alive at the National Museum of Australia, National Museum of Australia publication, 2003) Of particular value in this research was Paddle's The Last Tasmanian Tiger. (Cambridge. 2000)

Research Contribution

The innovation in this text was to take an issue from the Natural Sciences (the extinction of a species and its causes) and express that in such a way as to be accessible to readers between the ages of 10 – 15 years. While such topics appear in print, those works such as that of Paddle (above) are expressed in adult terms that are too complex for young readers to fully appreciate.

Research Significance

I Saw Nothing: The Extinction of the Thylacine is the first in a trilogy which has been awarded the:

Children's Book Council of Australia Notable Children's Book 2004.

The Wilderness Award for Children's Writing. 2004

The Royal Geographic Society Whitely Award 2004