

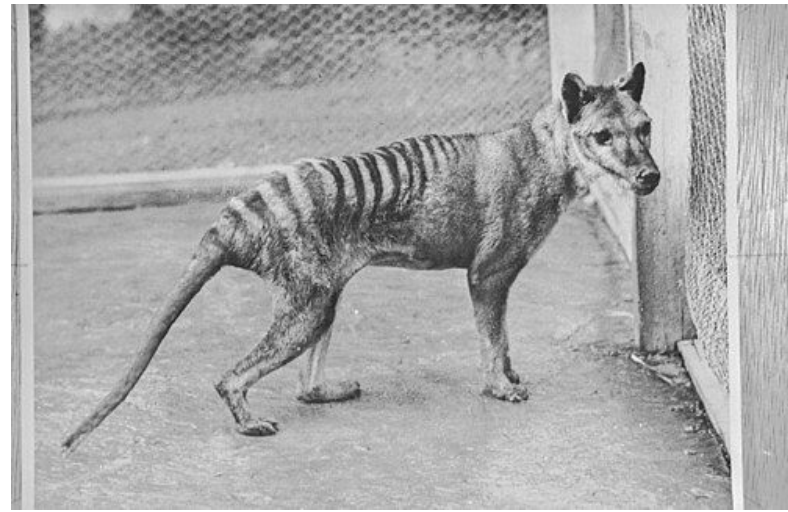
MONDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER

Pictured is the last known living Thylacine, otherwise known as the Tasmanian Tiger, taken in May 1936 in a zoo in Hobart, Tasmania.

Thylacine were dog-like striped marsupials (animals that carry their premature young in a pouch) that were actually more closely related to Kangaroos than dogs. Their dog-like features are a good example of 'convergent evolution' where their dog-like features were useful for hunting in the same way as dogs and wolves.

European colonists to Tasmania blamed thylacine for loss of sheep, so in 1888 the Tasmanian government offered £1 for each adult killed. By 1926 the Tasmanian Tiger was so rare London Zoo paid £150 for a live animal. But it was not until July 1936 that the Thylacine became protected. But by then this emaciated individual was the last of its species, an **endling**. It died 59 days later on this day 1936. The species was extinct and lost forever due to human hunters.

Australia now marks 7th September as National Threatened Species Day, using the date to focus attention on animals and plants that can still be saved. 5 years ago, a short section of film taken in 1935 of the last Thylacine was colourised and released.



- How does this picture and video make you feel?
- Do you know of any other endlings?
- What should we do when conservation conflicts with human activity such as energy or agriculture?

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- How does this picture or this later coloured film make you feel?
- What should we do when conservation conflicts with human activity such as energy or agriculture?