

MY NAME

Animal Magnetism, page 14

Paul Sinclair used to work at Taronga Zoo in Sydney. Now he plans to bring his love of animals, education and Aboriginal culture to our television screens in the show *Animals of the Dreaming*.

TELEVISION

ANIMAL MAGNETISM



HE USED TO BELONG IN A ZOO – NOW PAUL SINCLAIR WANTS TO SHARE THE STORIES OF OUR NATIVE ANIMALS WITH THE WORLD.

NITV's *Yaarnz* series presenter Paul Sinclair reckons he's going to be the Aboriginal version of Steve Irwin.

This is no idle boast – he's already getting professional schooling in how to handle dangerous animals like crocodiles and venomous snakes. Crikey!

It's been a short ride and a steep learning curve for Paul, who has basically learnt all about making documentaries – from storyboards through to final editing – in just nine short months.

Now he and his wife Jade Rose have set up their own production company, Mirri Mirri, (meaning "star") and their first series, *Animals of the Dreaming*, is under consideration with some of the big networks, including NITV.

"There will only ever be one Steve Irwin," Paul says. "You could never replicate him or replace him. But my great passions are animals, education and culture and, worldwide, I don't think there's anyone on television presenting the relationship between Indigenous people and animals."

Like Steve, Paul – an Anaiwan man from northern NSW – grew up chasing bugs, spiders and snakes on his grandparents' property near Armidale.

Originally thinking he might work on the property, Paul instead studied

teaching. It was while he was teaching Aboriginal Studies and PDHPE at Tempe High School in Sydney that he received the call to join Taronga Park Zoo.

Paul became the zoo's first Aboriginal Education Officer in 2004, developing and delivering shows for up to 1200 people a day.

It was while he was delivering a NAIDOC week show "How the Birds Got Their Colours" with live birds flying onto the stage on cue, that his presentation skills attracted the attention of Keith Salvat, who had produced the Aboriginal Nations animation series of Dreaming stories.

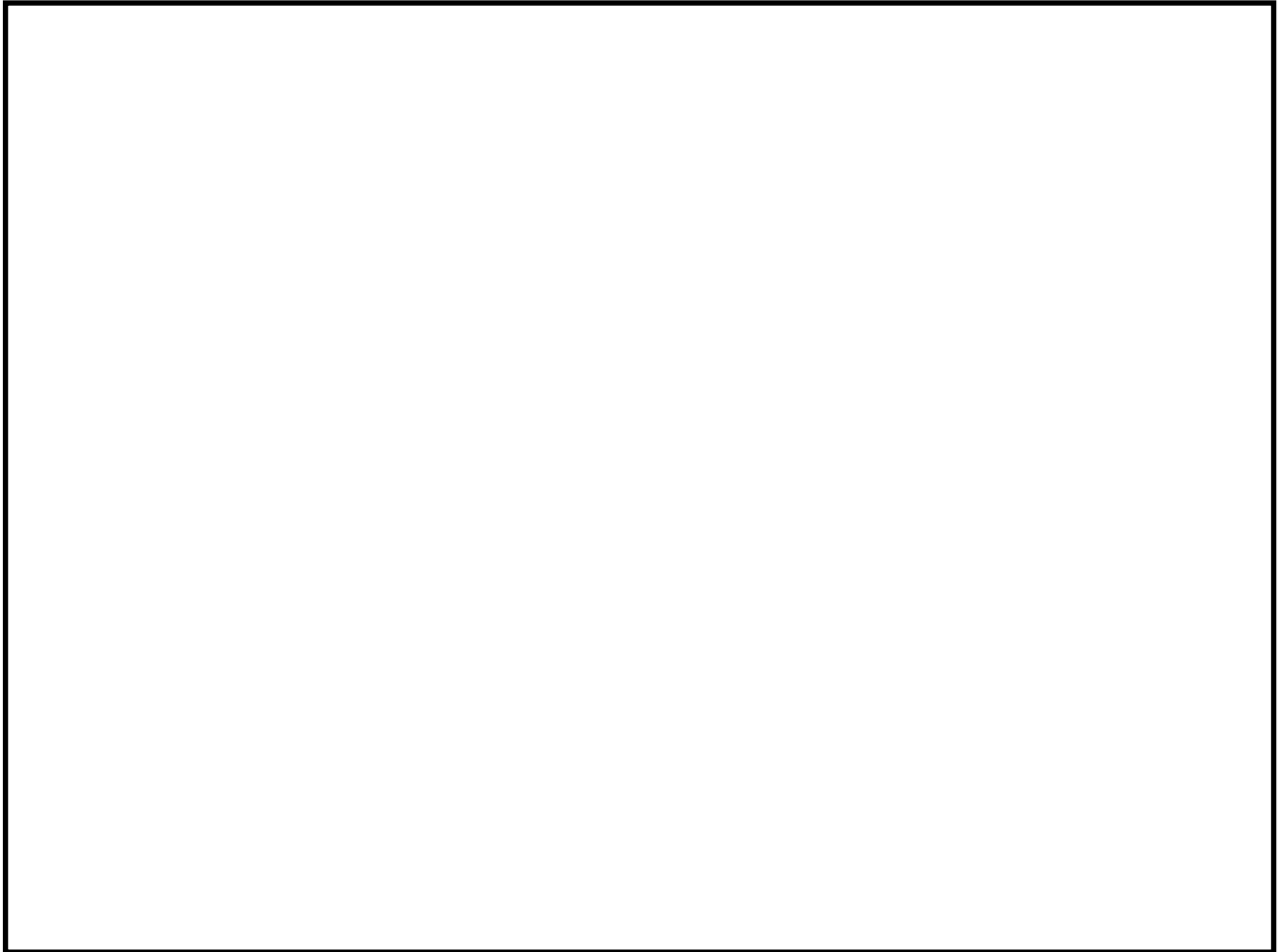
"Keith asked me to do top and tail presentations for a short series he was producing for screening in Canada and we shot it in half a day at the zoo," Paul recalls.

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Activity 1. Draw a picture of you and your favourite animals at the zoo.



Write a sentence or two to describe your favourite animals.

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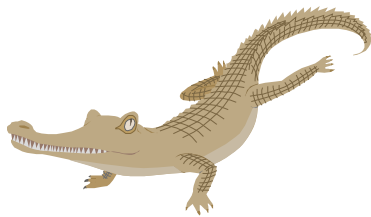
Activity 2. Here are some animals you might find in the zoo.

Label each one from the list:

snake

frog

crocodile



Activity 3. Paul Sinclair grew up near Armidale in NSW and he used to work in Sydney.

Show where Armidale and Sydney are on the map below. Show where you live.





Activity 4. Reading for meaning

Read Animal Magnetism, page 14

1. What is the name of Paul Sinclair's production company?

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2. What will Paul call his new television series?

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3. Why do you think Paul loves animals so much?

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Activity 5. Spelling

Cut out the words, their syllables and their sounds.

Arrange the words correctly.

Write each word three times.

crocodile

snake

croc | o | dile

sn | ake

cr | oc | o | d | ile

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