

Hero dad saves baby son from wild dingo

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A father in Australia is being hailed as a hero after saving his baby son from the jaws of a wild dingo. The baby was dragged from his campervan on Australia's Fraser Island on Friday. His father awoke and heard his son's screams outside. He

rushed to his son's aid and dragged his son from the dingo's jaws. He also fought off other animals in the pack. The 14-month-old baby boy was rushed to hospital and underwent surgery for a fractured skull and deep cuts to his neck and head. Doctors report he is now in a stable condition and is expected to make a full recovery. The father said: "Our son is doing well....We ask the media to please respect our family's privacy while we focus on our son's recovery."

The recent attack on the infant boy is the third such incident this year. Fraser Island residents are worried that the attacks could threaten the island's heritage status. Long-term resident, Hannah Robinson, said many visitors did not realize they should not camp in unfenced areas with children under the age of 12. She said there was not enough education about how to be aware of the threat of the animals on the island. She added: "We have been calling for a visitors' center for years. This is one of the most-visited national parks and there is nobody around to give people information about what they can and cannot do. People who do the wrong thing are either naive or stupid."

Sources: smh.com.au / theaustralian.com / nzherald.co.nz

Writing

Everyone is a hero. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

father / hero / jaws / screams / animals / hospital / skull / cuts / doctors / recovery / recent / infant / resident / heritage / education / island / national park / wrong / naive

True / False

- a) The baby boy was in the paws of a dingo. T / F
- b) The boy was taken by a dingo from a tent. T / F
- c) The baby boy had a fractured leg. T / F
- d) The father asked the media to respect his family's privacy. T / F
- e) There have now been three attacks on the island this year. T / F
- f) A resident said children under the age of 16 should not camp. T / F
- g) Fraser Island does not have a visitors' center. T / F
- h) An island resident suggested some people were naive or stupid. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. hailed | a. cracked |
| 2. dragged | b. normal |
| 3. fractured | c. particulars |
| 4. stable | d. unworldly |
| 5. recovery | e. pulled |
| 6. infant | f. praised |
| 7. realize | g. danger |
| 8. threat | h. baby |
| 9. information | i. improvement |
| 10. naive | j. notice |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What is a hero?
- b) Do you think the father in this story is a hero?
- c) Who is your hero?
- d) Are heroes important?
- e) Can we all be heroes?
- f) What do you know about dingoes?
- g) Have you ever needed surgery?
- h) Have you ever injured yourself?

Phrase Match

1. The baby was dragged
 2. underwent surgery for
 3. Doctors report he is now in a stable
 4. expected to make a full
 5. please respect our family's
 6. the third such
 7. threaten the island's heritage
 8. be aware of the threat
 9. one of the most-
 10. either naive
- a. a fractured skull
 - b. privacy
 - c. or stupid
 - d. status
 - e. condition
 - f. visited national parks
 - g. incident this year
 - h. recovery
 - i. of the animals
 - j. from his campervan

Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Are we all heroes?
- c) How safe is it to camp near wild animals?
- d) What is your favourite island?
- e) Who was your hero when you were a child?
- f) Are you a hero to anybody?
- g) Have you ever been called naive or stupid?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the father?

Spelling

1. being iahled as a hero
2. rushed to hospital and underwent urgsrey
3. a afutcrred skull
4. he is now in a taslbe condition
5. make a full veeocrry
6. respect our family's rivapcy
7. the third such ndiceint this year
8. eiredsnts are worried
9. threaten the island's eritahge status
10. education about how to be waare
11. the most-visited aoitnnal parks
12. either vanei or stupid

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. e	3. a	4. b	5. i
6. h	7. j	8. g	9. c	10. d

Role Play

Role A – World Leaders

You think world leaders are the biggest heroes. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their heroes. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these to be a hero (and why): activists, religious leaders or family members.

Role B – Activists

You think activists are the biggest heroes. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their heroes. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these to be a hero (and why): world leaders, religious leaders or family members.

Role C – Religious Leaders

You think religious leaders are the biggest heroes. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their heroes. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these to be a hero (and why): activists, world leaders or family members.

Role D – Family Members

You think family members are the biggest heroes. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their heroes. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these to be a hero (and why): activists, religious leaders or world leaders.

Speaking – My Hero

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest hero at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- a friend
- a business leader
- a singer
- a religious leader
- an activist
- a member of the public
- a world leader
- a family member

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.