



**MEDIA RELEASE: 23 June 2011**

**AUSTAR for schools and Nat Geo Wild's animal expert Ben Britton to visit Bendigo**

AUSTAR for schools is excited to announce that Nat Geo Wild's animal expert Ben Britton will be travelling to schools in Bendigo as part of the AUSTAR for schools Wild Animal Encounters Month.

Ben will be hosting native animal workshops on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June for lucky students at Lightning Reef Primary School (Nolan St Campus)(9.30am – 11.30am) and Kalianna Special School (1.30pm – 3.00pm).

Ben will feature native Australian animals including crocodiles, native mammals, pythons, birds and lizards live in the classroom. Students will explore biological characteristics of the different animal groups, and will have the chance to touch and hold a variety of native Australian reptiles whilst learning about these fascinating animals.

This is the first year that Ben has been involved in the AUSTAR for schools program and Ben is looking forward to visiting schools in Victoria as part of Wild Animal Encounters Month.

*"I'm really looking forward to visiting schools in Ballarat and Bendigo and giving students the chance to come face to face and get closer to some of our amazing native wildlife while promoting the importance of conservation."*





Upon completion of each school visit AUSTAR for schools will present \$2000 to the participating school to be used for educational resources for the students.

The AUSTAR for schools Wild Animal Encounters Month is an expansion of the existing curriculum based schools program which includes a free of charge subscription to a 25 educational channel package provided to schools in the AUSTAR service area.

The program also includes exciting extracurricular activities with AUSTAR personalities visiting schools across the country helping to inspire students and further bring education to life as well as making learning fun.

One of the main objectives of the AUSTAR for schools program is to recognise and support the important issues and interests of the students, teachers, parents and wider community from a grassroots education perspective and address these with initiatives that are in line with the core values of the AUSTAR brand.

AUSTAR believes that quality education for regional Australian children is integral to the bright future of Australia and AUSTAR for schools is our way of making a positive contribution to this future.

### **AUSTAR for schools channels**

- ABC 1
- Aljazeera
- Animal Planet
- The Australian Public Affairs Channel
- Aurora Community Channel
- BBC Knowledge





- BBC World News
- CNN
- Discovery Channel
- Discovery Home & Health
- Discovery Science
- Discovery Travel & Living
- History
- LifeStyle
- LifeStyle FOOD
- LifeStyle HOME
- National Geographic Channel
- Nat Geo Wild
- National Indigenous Channel
- SBS One
- SBS Two
- Sky News
- Sky News Business
- STVDIO
- The Weather Channel

To find out more about the AUSTAR for schools program and the other exciting interactive activities planned for 2011, visit the AUSTAR for schools website

[schools.austar.com.au](http://schools.austar.com.au)

**For further information please contact:**

Gabriella Facchini  
PR and Community Relations Executive  
AUSTAR Entertainment  
Ph: 02 9394 9884 M: 0413 016 487  
E: [gfacchini@austar.com.au](mailto:gfacchini@austar.com.au)

[www.schools.austar.com.au](http://www.schools.austar.com.au)

