

Performing the baby elephant walk Jamie First

Taking your first steps is never an easy feat, especially when you weigh 131kg.

But, for the newest addition to Melbourne Zoo, the baby shuffle seemed to come naturally.

The Asian elephant calf, born in the early hours of Thursday morning last week to mum Num-Oi, is even venturing into the water. Wading in the shallow pool, the yet-to-be-named jumbo-sized bundle of joy lapped up his first bath.

An estimated 15,000 people have visited the elephant, which has gained the nickname "Dougie" after his favourite pastime of digging in the dirt.

Elephant curator Jan Steele said he had proved to be a typical little boy.

"He's kind of already done a few mock threats at the keepers and put his head down as if to say 'I'm a boy. Stay back,'" Ms Steele said.

You can see the pachyderm tot at 11am-12.30pm or 2pm-3pm daily, but viewing times are subject to change based on the calf's sleep schedule.

The newborn is the first for Num-Oi, but the fourth for bull elephant, Bong Su.

The baby will be named by the public.