

# Gumnut Gazette

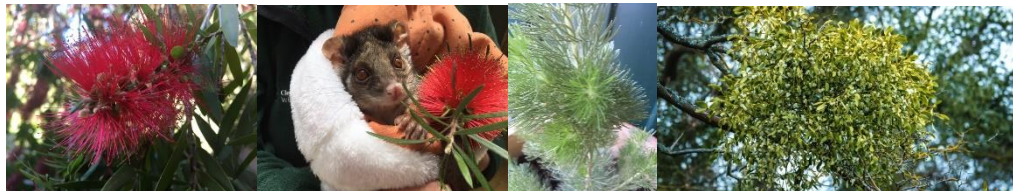
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## Christmas at Cleland

### 'Twas the night before Christmas

- ✚ 'Twas the night before Christmas in the Australian scrub, not a creature was stirring, except the nocturnal club;
- ✚ The lorikeets were nestled in their hollows with care, in hopes that St. Nicholas soon will be there.
- ✚ The joey koalas were snug in their beds; while visions of eucalyptus danced in their heads.
- ✚ The wombats were wandering all looking for grass; while the possums were looking for Santa through their spyglass.
- ✚ Presents were left in their hollows with care, while others were placed outside their burrows unaware.
- ✚ Up in the sky the bandicoots saw red, as Father Christmas flew past; he bellowed 'Merry Christmas' and waved from his sled.
- ✚ The sun then rose up in the Aussie scrub, presents were found and enjoyed by all those in that Australian scrub club.



Photos Left to right: Bottlebrush, Burny the Ringtail possum, Woolly Bush, Mistletoe  
Photos at top of page: Kanga the koala, Burny the Ring tail possum and Draco the Bearded dragon.

### Acknowledgement to country

The Department for Environment and Water acknowledges Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and waters we live and work upon and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and respect the deep

spiritual connection and the relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country.

The Department works in partnership with the First Peoples of South Australia and supports their Nations to take a leading role in caring for their Country.

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#### FUN FACT

A group of possums are called a 'passel.'



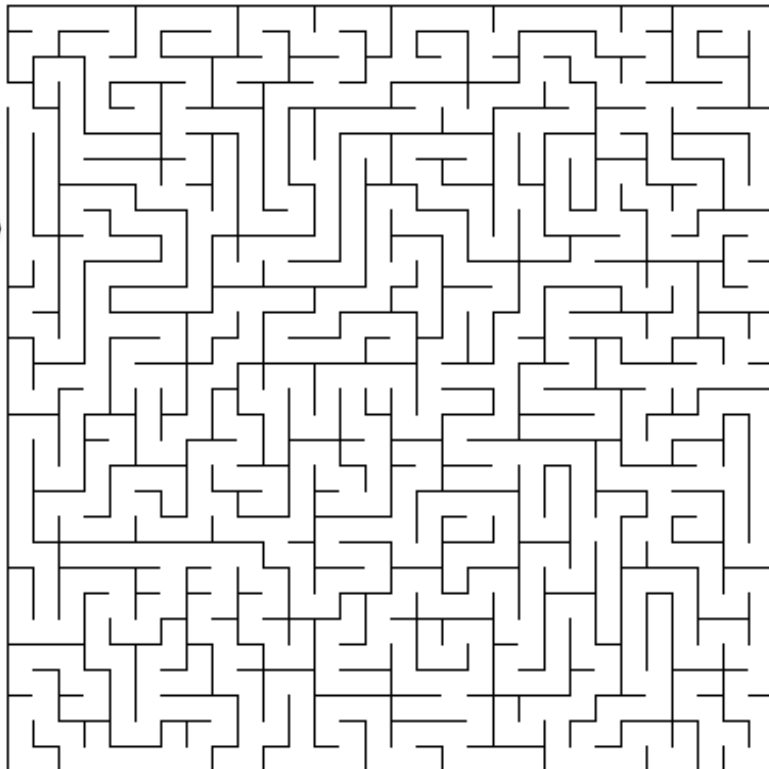
# Fun and games

## Amazing Maze

Maze

Can you help Santa find his presents - which are hiding in the kangaroo pouch?

START



FINISH



### Aussie Bush

The Woolly Bush originated from the south coast of Western Australia and is ideal to be used as a native alternative for a Christmas tree.

**Answers from marsupial issue:** Jumble word- pouch, possum, and bandicoot. True or False - A dingo is marsupial FALSE. A dingo is a placental animal. Sudoku-

2	4	1	3
3	1	2	4
4	2	3	1
1	3	4	2

### Fill in the Blanks

E \_ \_ \_ N A  
\_ \_ \_ R C H  
S \_ M M \_ \_

### What am I?

I am an invertebrate which means I have no back bone.

I have wings but no feathers.

I come in many different colours.

I like to be out when it is warm.

I start my life as something else, something that doesn't fly.

What am I?

\_\_\_\_\_



# Dating a Butterfly

We are coming into summer, its warm, which means the butterflies are coming out of their dormant (inactive) state.

We know butterflies have an amazing life cycle, but do you know how butterflies find their partners to start the whole metamorphosis cycle? Well let's find out!

One of the easiest ways for butterflies to find a mate is by being the most colourful. Colours allow butterflies to recognise their own species in their busy habitat.

However for those species who are nocturnal (are active at night), colours are not helpful because they can't see in the dark. Instead they use chemical signaling to find mates, kind of like a nice smelling perfume to attract the right type of mate.

Another cool way, is making sounds. Some males can create acoustic signals to let females know they are looking for their perfect match.

## Did you know?

Butterflies have four wings.



Photo: Top Dainty Swallowtail butterfly. Below - Monarch

# Summer Shakes

Snakes don't have visible ears like us, but rather they have inner ear structures (not visible from the outside). They are not deaf, they hear differently to us. Their inner ear is connected to their lower jawbone, which allows them to detect and 'feel' deep vibrations through the ground.

Spring is the season to be snake aware, as snakes are out and active. When the weather gets warmer, snakes come out of their dormant state looking to breed, find food and warmth.

You will often see snakes relaxing in the sun on rocks or logs. When it is too hot and dry, they often seek places with moisture. They are trying to hydrate and stay cool, just like us.

Remember the Australian bush is their natural habitat, and so it's important to remember that you are the guest in their home. Snakes are generally shy and will not attack unless provoked. So if you spot a snake it's best to leave them be. It is recommended that if you see a snake, **freeze**, wait for it to pass and after **alert** others.

There are many ways to avoid coming into contact with snakes when walking, such as keeping an eye on the trail ahead, stick to the designated track at all times and avoid venturing out into grassy, covered areas.

## Did you know?

Spring is usually the most active season for snakes, as they are seeking a mate and looking for food.



**Photo:** A young Olive python, being handled by our trained Education Officer Andrea.

## Did you know?

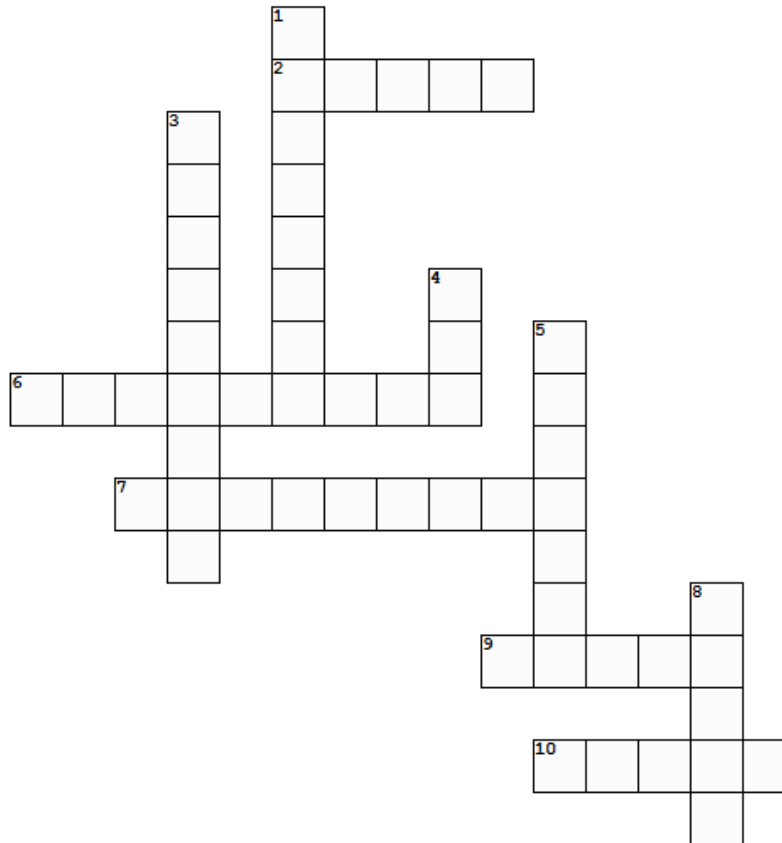
There are no snakes in New Zealand, Antarctica Iceland or Ireland



# Fun and games

## Christmas is Coming

Complete the crossword puzzle below



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

### Across

- 2. Santas helpers
- 6. I have wings but no feathers.
- 7. A small Australian nocturnal animal, with fur.
- 9. I am a reptile with no legs.
- 10. An animal who only eats eucalyptus leaves

### Down

- 1. The month of christmas
- 3. T'was the night before \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_ to the world
- 5. one of sanatas reindeer
- 8. Jingle \_\_\_\_\_

### Did you know?

The Australian magpie breeds from June to December and they mate for life! This time of the year they will be protecting their nests, so be aware try to avoid their nesting areas.



### Did you know?

Magpie geese often breed in trios rather than pairs. Two females lay their eggs on a floating platform of reeds made by a single male.

## FROM THE CREW to YOU!

On behalf of the amazing Cleland Wildlife Park Team, we wish you all a Merry and safe Christmas!

## SUMMER HOLIDAYS

**Self-guided trail:**  
'Scats and tracks'  
December 12<sup>th</sup> 2020–  
January 25<sup>th</sup> 2021

**Wildification:**  
Wed, Thurs, Fri  
**Starting:** 5<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>  
January 2021

**BUSH BUDDIES:**  
Term 1  
**February 1<sup>st</sup> 2021**  
Mon (11am), Tues, Fri  
(10am)

## ANIMALS ON THE ROAD-

In hot weather reptiles will be looking for places to warm their bodies and roads are a popular place for them to bask and heat up. So keep an eye out.

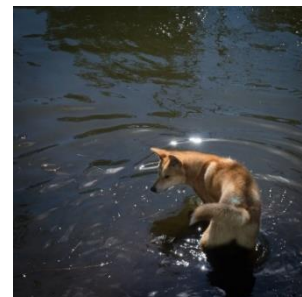
Kangaroos are most active during dawn and dusk– so be cautious at these times but always be aware, don't speed and drive safely on the roads. Animals share our world too.

## Summer at Cleland

On really hot days the mammals get an ice-block to keep them cool, or to eat for enrichment, as well as a nice cold mist spray to cool their bodies. Birds also get a cool mist spray and the nectar eaters get extra nectar to fill their bellies.

Here at Cleland Wildlife Park, our dedicated keepers work every day to care for our amazing animals; that includes Christmas Day.

Even though the Park is closed to the public on Christmas day, our furry, scaly and feathered friends get to spend the festive day with our keepers. How lucky are they!



Photos left to right: A resident koala enjoying a light water misting to keep cool, resident dingo Warrigul taking a swim in the pond and munching on a special ice-block.

Photos bottom: Woody the koala and Fred the wombat.



Don't forget to look out for our wildlife during the hot season, drive safely and leave water out. If you are ever unsure or worried about an animal there are a variety of animal care and rescue organisations in South Australia, which can be searched for online.

Merry Christmas and a safe New Year Everyone!