

# Junior Field Naturalists SA

Newsletter - November 2020

Hi Junior Field Naturalists,

## David Christophel Memorial Quiz Night

**When: Tuesday 24 November, 7.00pm, Bellevue Heights Primary School Gym**

This coming Tuesday is our last meeting for 2020 - our annual **Quiz Night**.

The evening is always a lot of fun - with a bit of learning thrown in. There will be a few changes from previous years:

- Due to the limited number of club meetings this year, the questions will not relate to speakers' topics but will be general knowledge ones. Nothing too difficult - the aim is for the children to try to answer the questions before the parents jump in to help.
- We will have up-to-date COVID plans in place in regards to distancing and sanitising.
- We will not be providing supper, but children may bring their own drink bottles along if needed.



There will be prizes, plus a small gift for each child. *Join us!*



## Annual General Meeting



At the start of the evening we will hold our club's AGM to report on activities in 2019. As we are an incorporated organisation, we are legally required to hold an AGM, but organisations have been given an extension until the end of December to do so, owing to current circumstances.

This will take less than 5 minutes - *it will be quick!* We will send out the reports beforehand and the children will have work sheets to do while we go through the formalities. We will not be holding elections for committee members. This will happen next year when we will be back to having our AGM in March or April.



## David Christophel

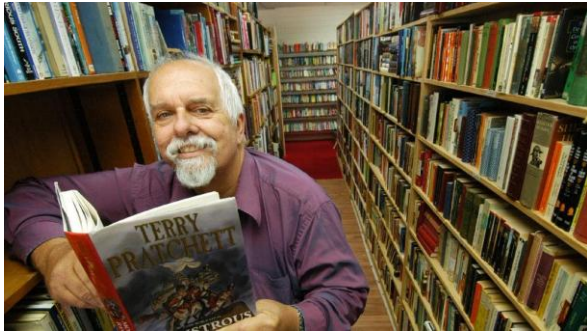


Image: adelaidenow.com.au

**David Christophel** was a gifted academic, a well-respected paleo-botanist and a popular local identity, being the owner of Blackwood Books. He was published in numerous scientific journals and was renowned for his work relating to fossil leaves and uncovering evidence of a tropical rainforest in south-east Australia that existed during the Eocene Epoch about 40 million years ago.

David had long been an invaluable support to our club in so many ways, including presenting talks, helping us to source speakers, and donating prizes. He took particular delight in being our **Quiz Master** at our end-of-year celebrations. To honour David, after his sudden passing in 2018, our club has named this function in his memory.

## Thanks to our Supporters

Our club would like to thank everyone who has supported us over the past challenging 12 months. They include:

- Our monthly **guest speakers** who generously give up their time to present talks at our meetings.
- Other scientists and experts in their fields who had planned **field trips** for our club but which unfortunately had to be cancelled this year.
- **Bellevue Heights Primary School** for the continuing use of the school facilities free of charge.
- Our club's **committee members**.
- And a very special THANK YOU to our **club families** who have continued to support us throughout this year, despite fewer meetings and cancelled field trips. *We could not have carried on without you.*



## Club Patron

A *thank you* also goes out to the Patron of our club, **Prof Chris Daniels**. Chris is:



- The Presiding Member of **Green Adelaide Landscape Board**
- CEO of the **International Koala Centre for Excellence**
- Special Advisor to **Cleland Wildlife Park**



We are privileged to have someone of Chris's calibre as our Patron. Also, it was Chris's initiative that led to each of our child members being presented with a 12 month membership to Cleland Wildlife Park.

# Adelaide City Libraries

Looking for something to keep the kids entertained in the upcoming school holidays?

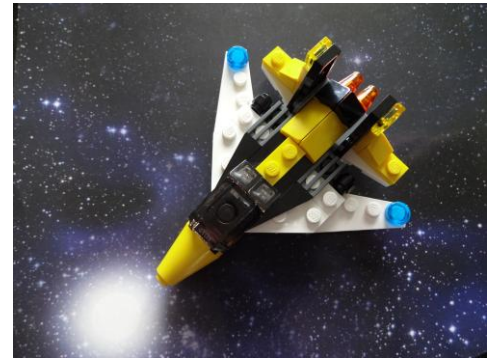
The **Adelaide City Libraries** have a huge range of fantastic online programs. Binge watch and get inspired by:

- **LEGO Club** activities
- Amazing **Science Club** experiments
- Fun **Storytime** sessions



There's something for everyone, with more content constantly being added.

Catch up on all the videos at: [facebook.com/AdelaideLibrary/videos](https://facebook.com/AdelaideLibrary/videos)



## Interesting Facts about Bats

- \* Bats are **flying mammals**.
- \* While others can glide, bats are the only mammals capable of **continued flight**.
- \* There are over 1,000 different bat species.
- \* Bats are **nocturnal** (active at night).
- \* Bats "see" in the dark using a special skill called **echolocation**. Bats make noises and wait for the sound waves to bounce back off objects (an echo). If it doesn't bounce back, then they can safely fly forward. They can tell the distance of various objects by how quickly the sound waves bounce back to them.
- \* Most bats feed on **insects**, while others eat fruit, fish or even blood!
- \* There are 3 species of vampire bats which feed solely on **blood**.
- \* **Vampire bats** have small and extremely sharp teeth which are capable of piercing an animal's skin (humans included) without them even noticing.
- \* **Vampire bats** can carry rabies, making their bites potentially dangerous.
  - \* Some bats live by themselves while others live in **caves** with thousands of other bats.
  - \* Bats can live for **over 20 years**.
  - \* **Pteropus bats** (also known as flying foxes or fruit bats) are the largest in the world.



*(Information from Science Kids)*

## Did you know ...?



- Rather than being carnivores (meat eaters), the **largest dinosaurs** such as the Brachiosaurus and Apatosaurus were actually herbivores (plant eaters).

- **Birds** descended from a type of dinosaurs known as theropods.

- When an insect touches the hairs of a **Venus Fly Trap** it triggers the plant to close, trapping its victim before killing and dissolving it in acid.

- The only living things capable of **powered flight** are insects, birds and bats.
- The world's largest desert (outside of the polar regions) is the **Sahara**. It covers about one third of Africa!
- Stretching out to an impressive length of 6696 kilometres long, the **Nile River** is the longest river on earth.
- **Sharks** do not have a single bone in their bodies. Instead they have a skeleton made up of cartilage, the same type of tough, flexible tissue that makes up human ears and noses.
- A **shark** always has a row of smaller teeth developing behind its front teeth. Eventually the smaller teeth move forward, like a conveyor belt, and the front teeth fall out.



*(Information from Science Kids)*

### *And some science jokes just for fun ...*

*What is an astronaut's favourite key on the keyboard?*

The space bar!

*What runs faster - cold or hot?*

Hot, because you can catch a cold.

*What can run, but cannot walk?*

Water.



*Why didn't the skeleton go to the ball?*

Because he had no **BODY** to go with.

*Why don't aliens eat clowns?*

Because they taste funny.



*From sciencefun.org*



*Have fun with science ...*

# FIREWORK IN A GLASS



## You'll need

Vegetable or sunflower oil  
Warm water  
Food colouring  
Glass or jar



## Instructions

Fill the glass or jar about 3/4 full of warm water

Carefully pour a small layer of oil onto the surface of the water and leave to settle.  
Note that oil and water don't mix!

Carefully drop small amounts of food colouring into the jar. You should see the food colouring drop through the oil into the water leaving colourful trails behind.

## Extension Task

Try with colder or warmer water, is the display different?



## Why does it work?

Food colouring is heavier than water so sinks to the bottom of the glass leaving trails (resembling fireworks) as some of the colour diffuses into the water.

Science Sparks™  
Adult supervision required. You are responsible for your own safety.  
[www.sciencesparks.com](http://www.sciencesparks.com)



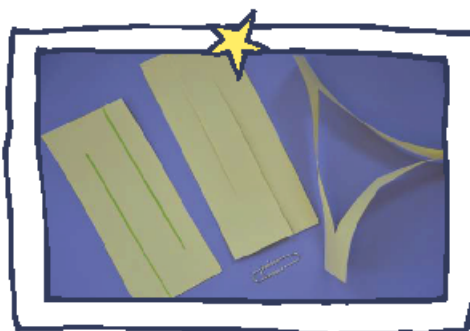
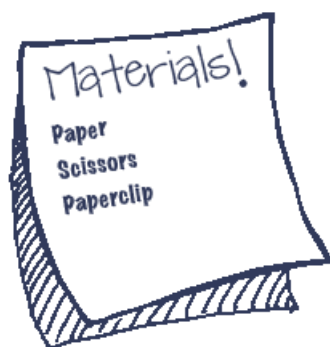
# Paper Spinners



## SCIENCE SPARKS Paper Spinners



Paper spinners are super easy to make and great fun for kids of all ages. All you need is paper, scissors and a paperclip. Drop the spinners from different heights and watch how they spin.



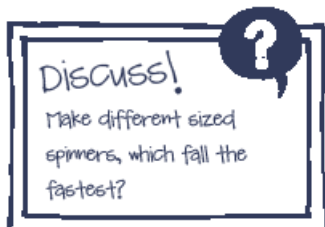
### Method!

Cut the paper into a rectangle about 6 cm across and 15 cm down.

Imagine the rectangle is split into 3, cut straight up the one third line, leaving about 1.5cm at the top.

Cut down the 2/3 line leaving 1.5 cm at the bottom.

Attach the two ends together with a paperclip.



### Extension Tasks...

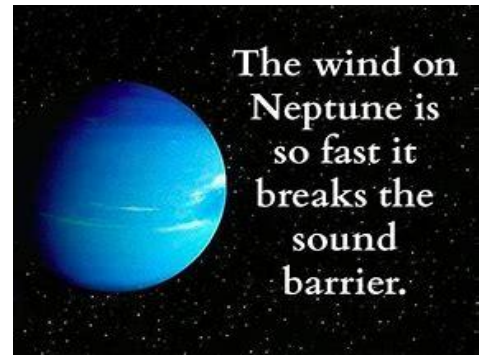
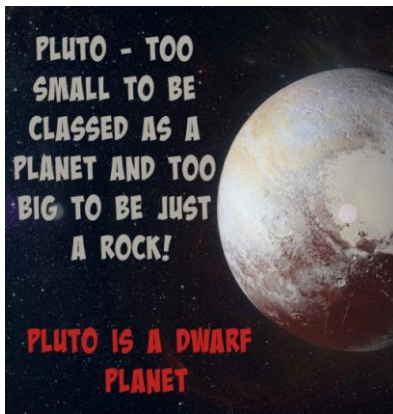
- Drop the spinners from different heights.
- Add extra weight.



## Enjoy the Holidays!

We wish all our club families a merry Christmas period and we look forward to having you back as members of our club in 2021 for lots more fun and learning.





From [bing.com/images](http://bing.com/images)



From [bing.com/images](http://bing.com/images)

**Rona Sakko, President - Junior Field Naturalists SA**

0419 827 723      [jfnsa.com.au](http://jfnsa.com.au)

[ronadel@dodo.com.au](mailto:ronadel@dodo.com.au) or [rona.sakko@gmail.com](mailto:rona.sakko@gmail.com)

*Patron: Prof Chris Daniels*