

# Junior Field Naturalists SA

Newsletter - June 2021

Hi Junior Field Naturalists,



## June Meeting

*When:* **Tuesday 29 June**, 7.00pm, in the Gym of the **Bellevue Heights Primary School**

*Topic:* **WILDLIFE HOLLOWS - A Critical Resource**

*Overview:* Over three hundred vertebrate species rely on tree hollows. More than a third of these species are endangered or critically endangered. This presentation will focus on the importance of tree hollows, how they form, the species that use them and what we can do to support these species in the absence of naturally occurring hollows.



*Speaker:* Our speaker is **James Smith**. He is committed to understanding urban ecology and sharing that knowledge with the broader community. James runs **fauNature**, a company dedicated to assisting people in attracting and engaging with local wildlife. In recognition of his outstanding endeavours, James was awarded the **Unsung Hero of SA Science Communication** in 2010. He is also a **Whitely Award winner** for his comprehensive wildlife book, **Wildlife of Greater Adelaide**.

In addition, James works at the **Discovery Centre** at the **South Australian Museum**, identifying specimens for the public, educating them on their finds and inspiring others to learn about our local species. James is fascinated by our fauna, whether it crawls, walks, swims, runs or flies. He encourages greater understanding and conservation of our remarkable native wildlife, whether they are found in a world-renowned national park or your own backyard.



# Program of Talks and Activities

Below is our current schedule of dates for 2021. We will be including more activities as the year progresses, so this list will be updated as we lock in additional dates and programs.

Monthly meetings are held at 7pm in the **Bellevue Heights Primary School Gym**.

*Have a particular topic or field trip you would like us to include? Let us know and we'll see what we can do to make it happen.*

## **Sunday 27 June: FUNGI FORAY FIELD TRIP (Belair National Park)**

29 June - James Smith: **HOLLOW DEPENDANT WILDLIFE**

27 July - **ANIMALS ANONYMOUS**

## **Sunday 29 August: BIRD BANDING (Frahns Farm, Monarto)**

31 August - Rosalie and Robert Lawrence: **WILD ORCHIDS**

## **Saturday 4 September: WILD ORCHID FIELD TRIP**

21 September - Paul "Starman" Curnow: **THE PLANETS**

26 October - tba

30 November - **DAVID CHRISTOPHEL MEMORIAL QUIZ NIGHT**

*Parents attend meetings and field trips with their children and are responsible for their supervision.*



## **Hubble Space Telescope**

Did you know that the **Hubble Space Telescope** weighs the same as 11 fully grown polar bears?

It can observe the most distant galaxies ever seen.

*From thefactsite.com*



## **Just for Fun**

How do you cut the sea in half? *With a see saw*

What goes zzub, zubb? *A bee flying backwards*

What has a bed that you can't sleep in? *A river*

How do scientists freshen their breath? *With Experi-Mints*



*from sciencefun.org*



*The following school holiday events might be of interest to club members:*

## **Fun with Kites and Nature amongst the Wetlands at Warriparinga**

Enjoy kite decorating, treasure hunts and guided walks throughout the 3.5 hectares of reserve at Bedford Park.

Make sure to take along everything you need for a picnic and enjoy a winter's day out. Along with kite decorating there will be nature treasure hunts, plus guided environmental and history walks throughout **Warriparinga**. There is plenty of open space to fly kites, kick a ball and picnic amongst the beautiful trees.

*When:* Fri 9 July, 11am to 1pm

*Where:* Living Kurna Cultural Centre and Warriparinga Wetlands, Warriparinga Way, Bedford Park

*Cost:* \$8 per person

*More info and bookings:* At Eventbrite



## **GooRoo Animation Workshops at the National Motor Museum**

These FREE **GooRoo Animation** workshops will be held during the middle weekend of the holidays (10 – 12 July) where you will learn how to create your very own movies. GooRoo will teach you about what goes into making a film, giving you a behind-the-scenes glimpse into producing an animated movie at a professional level. Be inspired by the vehicles on display, and create your own plasticine car to be the star of the show!

Movies will be filmed and uploaded to YouTube via the GooRoo Animation Workshops channel so you can share them with all your friends and family!

*When:* Sat 10 - Mon 12 July, 4 sessions per day between 11am & 3pm

*Where:* National Motor Museum, Birdwood

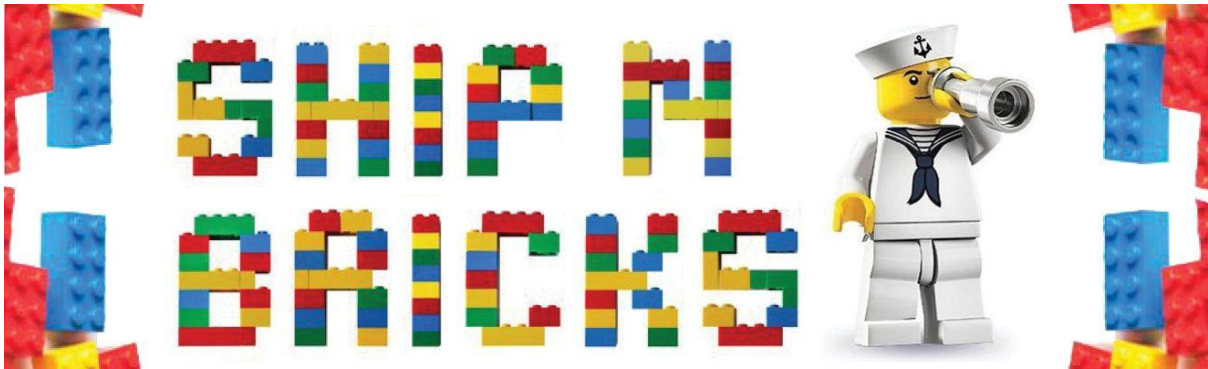
*Cost:* Free with Museum admission

*More info and bookings:* At Museum website



# Ship N' Bricks Lego Scavenger Hunt

It's time to get out your spyglass again – the **South Australian Maritime Museum** has got a new **FREE** scavenger hunt for you!



These July school holidays, the displays at the Museum will be taken over by all sorts of maritime characters – of the Lego kind. There are 12 mini-figures stowed away among the collection, each with their own hiding spot and story to tell. Follow the clues in your Ship N' Bricks guide book to discover all their secret spots.

One lucky adventurer will also win a **Ship in a Bottle Lego set** of their very own to build at home. Simply fill in the form on the back of your guide book and place it in the box at the front counter for your chance to win.

*When:* Sat 3 - Sun 18 July; open 10am to 5pm daily

*Where:* South Australian Maritime Museum, 126 Lipson St, Port Adelaide

*Cost:* Activity free with entry

*More info:* At Museum's web site

## Did you know ...

- \* **Shark teeth** are as hard as steel.
- \* **Lobsters** have blue blood.
- \* 2 and 5 are the only **prime numbers** that end in 2 or 5.
- \* The **peanut** is a member of the bean or legume family and is not a nut.

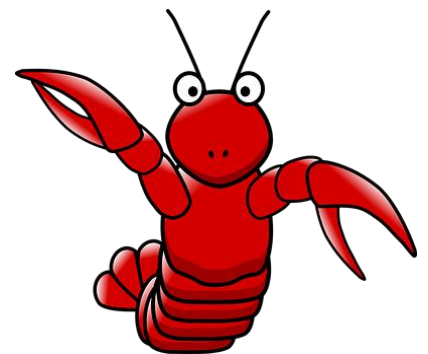


\* The prefix '**numbus**' in a cloud name means the cloud produces precipitation.

\* **Oxygen** is the most common element in the Earth's crust.

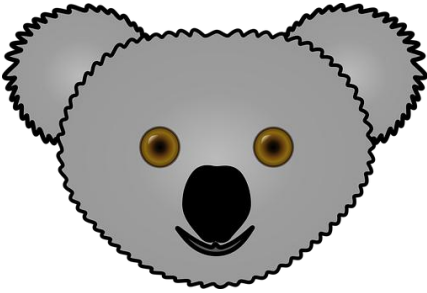
\* You could theoretically lose weight eating **celery** since it takes more calories to digest celery than are contained in the vegetable.

\* There are 97,000 kilometres of **blood vessels** in the human body.



# Interesting Koala Facts

From [sciencekids.co.nz](http://sciencekids.co.nz)



- **Koalas** are native to Australia.
  - Koalas are not bears.
  - Koala fossils found in Australia have been dated as long ago as 20 million years.
  - Koalas eat **eucalypt leaves** and almost nothing else.
  - The **brain size** of modern koalas has reduced substantially from their ancestors, possibly as an adaptation to the low energy they get from their diets.
- The closest living relative of the koala is the **wombat**.
  - Koalas have **sharp claws** which help them climb trees.
  - Koalas have similar **fingerprints** to humans.
  - Koalas have large **noses** that are coloured pink or black.
  - Outside of breeding seasons, koalas are quiet animals.
  - A baby koala is called a **'joey'**.
  - Joeys live in their mother's pouch for around six months and remain with them for another six months or so afterwards.
  - Koalas cannot be kept legally as pets.



Say the Color of each Word!

(Don't read the word)

How Fast can you say it?

black white yellow green red blue  
yellow red black green white red  
white green red black yellow green  
black white yellow green red blue  
white green red black yellow green  
yellow red black green white red  
white green red black yellow green

*Have fun with science ...*

## STALACTITE PROJECT

**Stalactites** and **stalagmites** found in caves are an impressive feature of nature, but they take a long time to form. Let's speed up the process by making our own stalactites and stalagmites. With enough time they might even join in the middle and form a **column**.

### Make Stalactites and Stalagmites

#### *You will need:*

- ❖ Two glass jars
- ❖ A saucer
- ❖ Woollen thread
- ❖ Either baking soda, washing soda or Epsom salts



*Image from blogspot.com*

#### *What to do:*

1. Fill both jars with hot water. Dissolve as much soda or salts as you can into each one.
2. Place the two jars in a warm place and put the saucer between them.
3. Twist together several strands of woollen thread before dipping the ends into the jars and letting the middle of the thread hang down above the saucer. The ends can be weighed down with various small, heavy objects to keep them in the jars.
4. The two solutions should creep along the thread until they reach the middle, and then drip down onto the saucer.
5. Watch what happens to the experiment over the next few days.
6. Don't forget to wash your hands when you've finished.

#### *What's happening?*

Over a few days the dripping water will leave behind the baking soda, forming a tiny **stalactite** (which forms from the roof) and **stalagmite** (which forms from the ground).

With enough time, these may eventually join to create a single **column**.

Stalactites and stalagmites are columns of stone which form in underground caves. They are made from minerals dissolved in rainwater that slowly drips from the roofs and walls of caves.



*From sciencekids.co.nz*

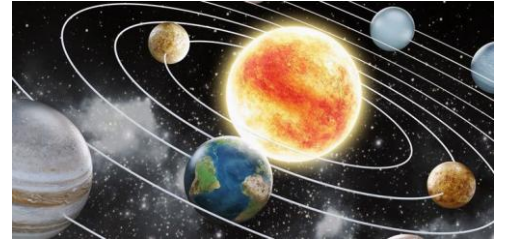


# Interesting Facts

from thefactsite.com

## Solar System

Our **solar system** is 4.57 billion years old. Scientists estimate that, in about 5 billion years, our Sun will expand to become a Red Giant. In about 7.5 billion years its expanding surface will swallow up and engulf the Earth.



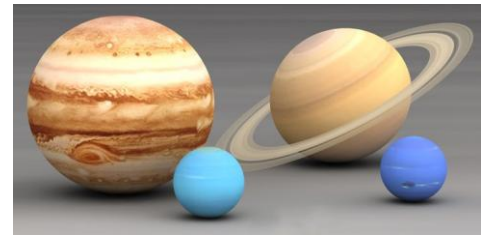
## Venus



The hottest planet in our solar system is **Venus**. Most people think that this would be Mercury, as it is the closest planet to the Sun. However Venus has a lot of gases in its atmosphere which creates a "**Greenhouse Effect**" that causes a constant temperature of 462° Celsius everywhere on the planet's surface.

## Gas Giants

In our solar system there are 4 planets known as **gas giants**: Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. A gas giant is a large planet that is made up mostly of gases like hydrogen and helium, and has only a relatively small rocky core.

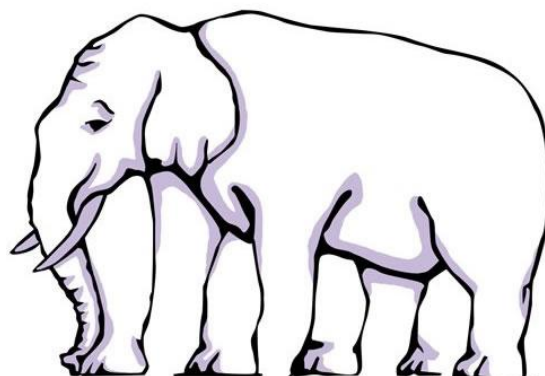


## Triton



Neptune's moon, **Triton**, orbits the planet backwards. Triton is the only large moon of any of the planets that does this. This is known as a **retrograde orbit** and astronomers are unsure as to why Triton orbits Neptune this way.

**How many legs does the elephant have?**





## Facts about the planet MARS

**Mars**, or the "**Red Planet**" as it is sometimes known, has a dusty, rocky surface and a thin atmosphere. Its relatively calm conditions and close proximity to earth make it the most likely destination for future planet exploration by humans.

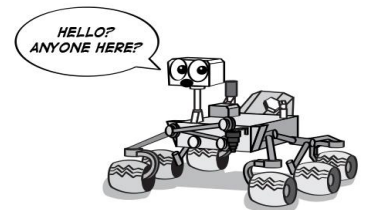


It has already been visited by a number of **Mars Rovers** in successful (and unsuccessful) robotic missions. These highly advanced robots gather samples and record important scientific data for scientists back on Earth to study.

- \* Mars is nicknamed the "**Red Planet**" because it is covered with rust-like dust. Even the atmosphere is a pinkish-red, coloured by tiny particles of dust thrown up from the surface.
- \* Mars experiences **violent dust storms** which continually change its surface.
- \* Mars has many **massive volcanoes** and is home to **Olympus Mons**, the largest volcano in our solar system. It stands 21km high and is 600km across the base.
- \* Mars has a very thin atmosphere, made mostly of **carbon dioxide**. It is not thick enough to trap the Sun's heat like Venus, so the planet is very cold. Temperatures range from -120 Degrees Celsius on winter nights to 25 Degrees Celsius in the summer.



\* Mars has many channels, plains and canyons on the surface which could have been caused by water erosion in the past.



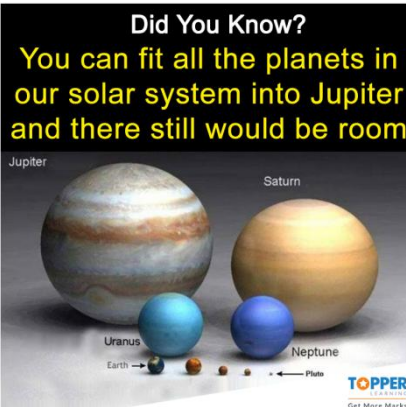
\* Mars has **very weak gravity** which cannot hold onto the atmosphere well.

- \* The **polar ice caps** consist of frozen CO<sub>2</sub> (dry ice) which lies over a layer of ice.

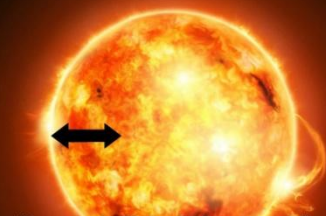
*From sciencekids.co.nz*

Every year  
about **98%**  
of atoms  
in your  
body are  
replaced.

eDidYouKnow.com



How large is the Sun?



If you took all the 8 planets and lined them up side by side, they would only span the distance of the black arrow.

#thespacekiosk  
@ mention a friend who'd like this!

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*Patron: Prof Chris Daniels*