

# Junior Field Naturalists SA

Newsletter - July 2021

Hi Junior Field Naturalists,



## July's Delayed Meeting

**When:** Tuesday 10 August, 7.00pm, in the Gym of the **Bellevue Heights Primary School**

**Topic:** AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ANIMALS

**Presenters:** Educators from **Animals Anonymous**

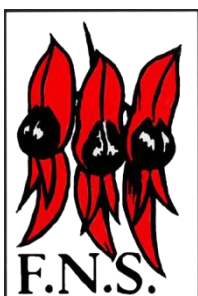
**Overview:** You're going to meet some adorable native animals!



**Animals Anonymous** is a mobile team of wildlife demonstrators and environmental educators who provide presentations with a diverse range of friendly Australian native animals. Their aim is to raise awareness about our Australian wildlife and the reason it is so important to conserve the local ecosystems and habitat around us.

Meet a baby saltwater crocodile, a monitor, a gecko, a frogmouth, two pythons, a bettong and a squirrel glider.

*It will be a fantastic experience not to be missed!*



## Thanks to Field Naturalists Society of SA

Our upcoming meeting with native animals is sponsored by the **Field Naturalists Society of SA**. Our Club extends our thanks and appreciation to the Society for this substantial support, as well as their financial contribution towards the cost of our insurance this year, which is our largest annual expense.



## 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.

10 August - **AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ANIMALS**

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

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

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

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

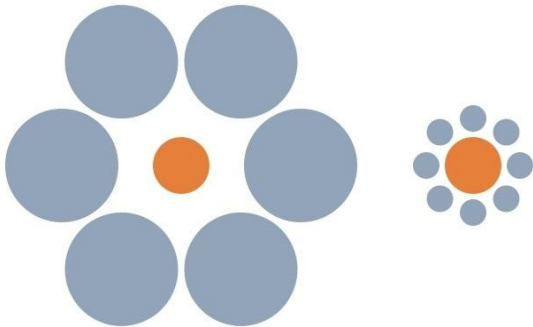
26 October - tba

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

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



## Which Orange Circle is Bigger?



This illusion takes advantage of our perception of relative size. The circle on the left is surrounded by larger circles, making it seem like it's smaller than a same sized circle with smaller circles around it.

## Just for Fun

**Why can't Leopards win at hide and seek?**

Because they're always spotted!

**What do you call a dog who goes to the beach in the summer?**

A hot dog.

**What is black and white and looks like a penguin?**

A penguin.

**What do you call a monkey at the North Pole?**

Lost.



# National Science Week is almost here!

*Here is just a small sample of the huge range of exciting events coming up in National Science Week. Don't forget - in SA, Science Week runs for almost the whole of August! Check out [www.scienceweek.net.au](http://www.scienceweek.net.au) for further information.*

## Donut Shooting Robots

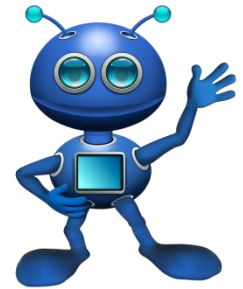
*When:* Sat 14 Aug, 11am - 4pm

*Where:* Adelaide Showground, Wayville

*Cost:* Free

*More Info:* <https://www.roboroos.org.au>

Feed your competitive spirit and thirst for scientific and engineering knowledge. Participate in robot competitions (enter your robot); workshops (demystifying robots for adults and how to build a robot in 9 complicated steps); and interactive robot-driving in an expo-type setting. Workshops will run throughout the day - one stream for adults and one for students.



## Space School for Kids

*When:* Sat 14 Aug & Sat 21 Aug, 10am - 2pm

*Where:* Adelaide Planetarium, Mawson Lakes

*Cost:* \$15 per child

*More Info:* <https://www.unisa.edu.au/connect/galleries-museums-and-centres/adelaide-planetarium/>

Four-hour fun-filled space sessions for kids aged between 7-12 years. Attendees will join highly experienced astronomers to learn about the stars and make a constellation. In the Planetarium they can marvel at the immense scale of the universe and observe the breathtaking beauty of the night skies projected on the eight-metre domed ceiling, as well as watching a full dome movie. Then they will create their own Solar System.



## Drainpipe Dragsters

*When:* Sun 22 Aug, 12.30pm - 2pm

*Where:* Dock 2, Port Adelaide

*Cost:* \$20

*More Info:* [heard.14.au@gmail.com](mailto:heard.14.au@gmail.com)

Suitable for ages 6 to 12. Participants will assemble small model vehicles from supplied kits, then race their vehicles on the multi-lane PVC-pipe dragstrip. Each vehicle will carry a numbered flag and, after participants have had several practice races, numbers will be drawn from a hat to select the competing vehicles for each race. Participants will take their vehicles home to enjoy on any flat surface.



## Dinner with Dinosaurs

*When:* Sun 29 Aug, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

*Where:* Adelaide Botanic Garden

*Cost:* Free

*More Info:* <https://heapsgood.com.au>

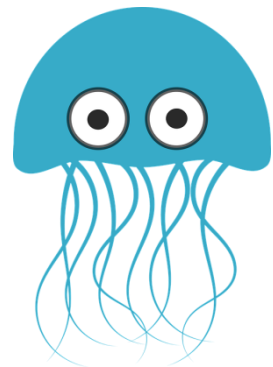
A family-friendly theatrical production that explores the concept of plant adaptation & sustainability in an ever-changing world, live at the Adelaide Botanic Garden. This performance features renowned singing palaeontologist character, Professor Flint, supported by performers from the Australian Classical Youth Ballet. Additional activities include Dig a Dino and Animals Anonymous. It will look at the plants of the prehistoric world, as experienced through the eyes and tastebuds of the creatures that devoured them! Several palaeontologists will be on hand to provide additional information to members of the public. Professor Flint will also conduct a live-streamed tour of relevant parts of the Garden.



## Interesting Jellyfish Facts

*From sciencekids.co.nz*

- Jellyfish live in the sea and are found in all oceans.
- Some jellyfish live in fresh water.
- Jellyfish look a little like umbrellas.



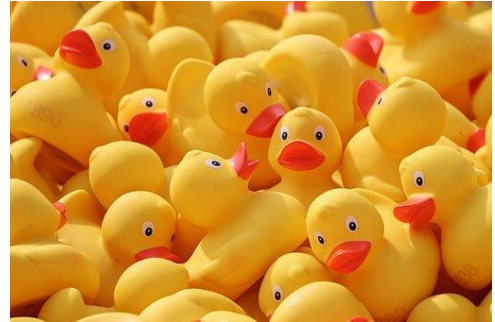
- Jellyfish can be large and brightly coloured.
- They can often be transparent (see-through) or translucent (semi-transparent).
- Some can be very hard to see, nearly invisible to the human eye.
- Although the word is mentioned in their name, jellyfish are not fish.
- A group of jellyfish is called a 'bloom', 'swarm' or 'smack'.
- Large blooms can feature over 100,000 jellyfish.
- Jellyfish don't have brains.
- Jellyfish use their tentacles to sting. Most are harmless to humans but stings from some species, such as the box jellyfish, can be very painful and sometimes fatal.
- Box jellyfish are almost transparent (see-through).
- Jellyfish eat plankton. Some sea turtles eat jellyfish.

## *Have fun with science ...*

### **DUCK IN A CUP**

#### ***You will need:***

- ❖ Plastic cup
- ❖ String
- ❖ Wet paper towels
- ❖ Tool to punch a hole in the bottom of the cup
- ❖ Paper clip



#### ***What to do:***

1. Drill or punch a hole in the centre of the bottom of the cup. The hole needs to be big enough to put the string through.
2. Tie one end of the string to the paper clip.
3. Push the other end of the string through the hole in the bottom of the cup. The paper clip will stop the string from pulling all the way through.
4. Hold your **Duck In A Cup** in one hand. This will allow the string to dangle beneath the cup.
5. Wrap the wet paper towel around the string and pull down firmly in sharp little movements.
6. Your **Duck In A Cup** should start quaking!

#### ***What's happening?***

The string vibrates as you pull the wet paper towel down. While these vibrations are usually almost undetectable, the cup amplifies the sound, making a loud and distinct duck quacking sound.



#### ***Make this a science project***

What happens if you use a different sized cup? What happens if you use a different length of string? What happens if you use a different type of string?

*From sciencefun.org*

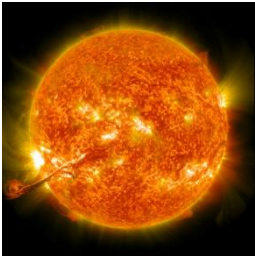


# Our Amazing Sun

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



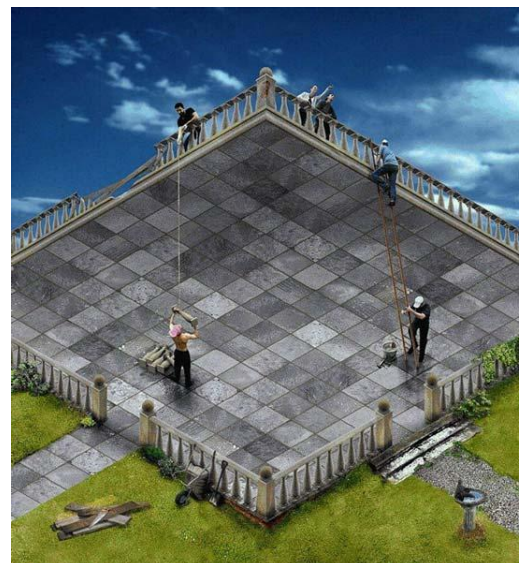
- ❖ The Sun is a star found at the centre of the **Solar System**.
- ❖ It makes up around 99.86% of the Solar System's mass.
- ❖ At around 1,392,000 kilometres wide, the Sun's diameter is about 110 times wider than Earth's.
- ❖ Around 74% of the Sun's mass is made up of **hydrogen**. **Helium** makes up around 24% while heavier elements such as **oxygen**, **carbon**, **iron** and **neon** make up the remaining percentage.
- ❖ Light from the Sun reaches Earth in around 8 minutes.
- ❖ The Sun's surface temperature is around 5,500 degrees Celsius, so pack plenty of sunscreen if you plan on visiting (remembering that the average distance from the Sun to the Earth is around 150 million kilometres).
- ❖ The Sun's core is around 13,600,000 degrees Celsius!
- ❖ The Sun generates huge amounts of energy by combining hydrogen nuclei into helium. This process is called **nuclear fusion**.
- ❖ Because of the Sun's huge influence on Earth, many early cultures saw the Sun as a deity or god. For example, ancient Egyptians had a sun god called Ra, while in Aztec mythology there is a sun god named Tonatiuh.



- ❖ The Sun produces a **solar wind** which contains charged particles such as electrons and protons. They escape the Sun's intense gravity because of their high kinetic energy and the high temperature of the Sun's **corona** (a type of plasma atmosphere that extends into space).

- ❖ Planets with strong **magnetic fields** (such as Earth) manage to deflect most of these charged particles as they approach.

- ❖ A **solar eclipse** occurs when the Moon is between the Sun and the Earth.



## Did you know ... ?



- \* There may be 1,000 **spider eggs** in an egg sac the size of a pea.
- \* No matter how much fly spray you use - you will not kill a **Funnel Web spider**. You will only make it very angry! They can hold their breath for 72 hours straight if needed, which makes such sprays useless.
- \* If our **Sun** was just 2.5cm in diameter, the nearest star would be 716 km away.
- \* There are more **tigers** kept privately as pets than there are left in the wild.

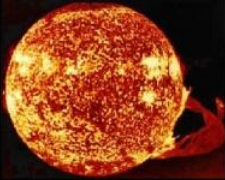


- \* Even when a **snake** has its eyes closed, it can still see through its eyelids.
- \* **Sharks** lay the biggest eggs in the world.
- \* A **spider's thread** is stronger than the same thickness of steel.
- \* The fastest speed a **falling raindrop** can hit you is 29 km per hour.



### The Sun

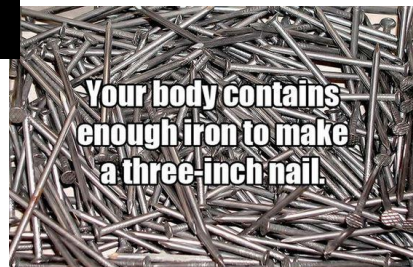
- The sun is a star.
- All stars are made of hot, glowing gases.
- The sun is NOT the largest star. It only SEEMS larger because it is closer to Earth than all the other stars.
- The sun provides energy for us in the form of heat and light.



### Futurism

If you hold up a grain of sand at an arm's length, the patch of sky it covers contains 10,000 Galaxies

[/futurism.com](#) [@futurism](#) [/futurism.co](#)



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*Patron: Prof Chris Daniels*