



Wet and Wild



2021, Week 3 – Answers A Wet & Wild Birthday Bash

Golden-rayed blue butterfly *Candalides noelkeri* (Not *heathi*. Marker was tough)

1. I live in remnant floodplain habitat near salt-lakes in the west of Vic in only two small locations.
10. The upper side of my wings are brown with iridescent blue colouring and golden veins.
14. I'm critically endangered and rely on only one species of plant known as Creeping Boobialla.
15. I lay eggs beneath and on the plant, larvae eat the flower buds and adults feeds on nectar from its white star-shaped flowers.
20. Eggs hatch in about 6 days during early summer. They are small, initially pale green and later turn white.
21. Degraded habitat is the biggest threat to my survival, mainly through cropping, grazing and invasive paperbark trees that reduce the sunny, open areas.

Australian golden whistler (*Pachycephala pectoralis*) or golden whistler

2. My nest is a shallow bowl, made of twigs, grass and bark, bound together with spider web and lined with fine grass.
7. The scientific name for the family means 'thickhead'! I'm a rather short bird with a round head and a short strong bill.
8. I live in forest, woodland, mallee, mangrove and scrub throughout east and south-eastern Australia.
11. The male is sulphur-yellow and olive-green body plumage, with a white throat and black head markings.
16. A common songbird, my call sounds like 'we-we-we-tu-whit' and a rising 'seep'.
19. I catch insects, spiders and berries are also eaten.

Golden spiny-tailed gecko *Strophurus taenicauda*, or the golden-tailed gecko

3. I can produce a spray of foul smelling liquid from my tail to deter potential predators.
6. I have a golden stripe down my tail, which contrasts with the rest of my black and silver body.
9. I weigh 5-7 g, 50-70 mm long and have no claws to help me climb.
13. I'm nocturnal, arboreal, and preyed on by larger lizards, cats, dogs, and birds.
18. Due to a lack of eyelids, I have the ability to lick my red eyeballs with my tongue!
23. I live in woodlands, grasslands, forests, and shrublands in SE Qld.

Banksia* 'Birthday Candles' is a dwarf cultivar of *Banksia spinulosa

4. I'm 0.5 m high x 1 m across and originally grow in open forests and woodlands of the coasts and mountains of NSW, southern Qld and eastern Vic.
5. The flower spikes are 75-100 mm wide, up to 450 mm long and yellow or orange/reddish in colour.
12. I'm a cultivar which is a plant variety that has been produced in cultivation by selective breeding.
17. My common/cultivar name is also an important item at a birthday party.
22. I'm a good food source for bees and nectar feeding birds.
24. My genus is named after Sir Joseph Banks, English naturalist, botanist who voyaged on the Endeavour.