



# Wet and Wild



## 2021, Week 4 – Answers A Wet & Wild Birthday Bash

### Gold Christmas beetle *Anoplognathus aureus*

1. I live in North Qld from Cairns to Innisfail, and even in Broome in Western Australia.
4. My species name is Latin, *aureus* meaning "golden".
10. The male is 12.5–14 mm long, but the female is bigger at 14.5–16.5 mm long and I often buzz loudly in flight.
13. I am a gold, brass-gold or shiny red-brown colour with red-brown legs.
19. I'm heard from December to January and highly prized by entomologist and collectors around the world.
21. The larvae feed on grass roots and most adults on eucalypt foliage.

### Golden Penda *Xanthostemon chrysanthus*

2. I'm endemic to coastal rainforest in north Queensland from Townsville to Cape York.
3. My species name is Greek; *chrysos*, gold and *anthos*, a flower, referring to the flower colour.
12. I grow to 10–15 m high and 5–8 m wide in the wild, but usually much more compact in gardens.
20. I was selected as the theme plant for Expo 88 and planted throughout Brisbane to create a 'sea of gold'.
22. I grow well in subtropical gardens with fair drainage and a sunny spot.
23. Flowers appear any time of year in clusters near the ends of the branches, are bright yellow and very showy.

### Australian golden orb-weaving spider *Trichonephila edulis* or *Nephila edulis*

5. Females can reach a body length of up to 40 mm, males only about 7 mm.
6. My cephalothorax is black, a white pattern on the back and yellow underside; my abdomen is grey to brown.
9. I prey on flying insects. Then food remains are strung into a small tangle of old insect bodies on the web.
11. My species name *edulis* means "edible" in Latin. Considered a delicacy when lightly roasted over a fire.
15. I'm reluctant to bite, but symptoms are very mild local pain, numbness and swelling.
17. My web is remarkably strong and has a characteristic yellow colour.

### Goldspeckled Shrimpgoby, *Ctenogobiops pomastictus*

7. I live in tropical marine waters of the Western Pacific, including the north-west of WA, around to the southern Great Barrier Reef, Qld.
8. I share my burrow with shrimp in silty or sandy subtidal reefs and lagoon.
14. I'm pale grey with rows of brown spots along my side, a middle row of larger dashes with some gold spots encircled with brown.
16. I live in water up to 20 m deep but I'm only 7cm long and eat small invertebrates.
18. I stand guard while the shrimps continually dig and clean the sand from the burrow. I will signal when predators are near.
24. I'm collected from the reef to be sold for the pet, marine aquarium trade.