



Wet and Wild



2021, Week 3 - Clues A Wet & Wild Birthday Bash

The year 2021 commemorates the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Solve 24 clues each week and discover the four Australian organisms they belong to.

1. I live in remnant floodplain habitat near salt-lakes in the west of Vic in only two small locations.
2. My nest is a shallow bowl, made of twigs, grass and bark, bound together with spider web and lined with fine grass.
3. I can produce a spray of foul smelling liquid from my tail to deter potential predators.
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.
6. I have a golden stripe down my tail, which contrasts with the rest of my black and silver body.
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.
9. I weigh 5-7 g, 50-70 mm long and have no claws to help me climb.
10. The upper side of my wings are brown with iridescent blue colouring and golden veins.
11. The male is sulphur-yellow and olive-green body plumage, with a white throat and black head markings.
12. I'm a cultivar which is a plant variety that has been produced in cultivation by selective breeding.
13. I'm nocturnal, arboreal, and preyed on by larger lizards, cats, dogs, and birds.
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.
16. A common songbird, my call sounds like 'we-we-we-tu-whit' and a rising 'seep'.
17. My common/cultivar name is also an important item at a birthday party.
18. Due to a lack of eyelids, I have the ability to lick my red eyeballs with my tongue!
19. I catch insects, spiders and berries are also eaten.
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.
22. I'm a good food source for bees and nectar feeding birds.
23. I live in woodlands, grasslands, forests, and shrublands in SE Qld.
24. My genus is named after Sir Joseph Banks, English naturalist, botanist who voyaged on the Endeavour.