



EDGARLEY ASSISTED LIVING

Specialising in complete quality aged care and independent living.

NEWSLETTER

February 2024

HAPPY
Valentine's Day
.....
14 FEBRUARY

73—85 Jackson Street , Casterton Vic 3311

Phone: 03 55 811211, Fax: 03 55 812050

From the CEO



Hi Everyone,

Welcome back to a brand new year. I hope everyone had a happy and fun beginning to 2024 and that you made your New Year's resolutions!

It has been a huge start to the year that I would like to share some of the initiatives and hopes for the future of Edgarley.

Firstly – you will see a number of new staff commencing as we are going through the Visa Sponsorship process to employ at least 12 new Staff that will finally allow us to admit new Residents into the new wing “Henty”.

I hope everyone will make them feel welcome not just to Edgarley but the wider community.

Secondly – the Department of Health and Aging released new Grant opportunities for Rural / Remote Aged Care Facilities to redevelop and build new Resident Facilities and Staff Accommodation (seeing as Accommodation in rural areas is a significant challenge for Facilities). Edgarley has submitted an application, we should hear possibly by April if we are successful in our application. If successful **our** focus will be Resident Facilities including new Independent living Units and Independent living communal areas as well as Staff quarters.

I am really excited for the opportunity to upgrade our Resident facilities and I am keeping my fingers and toes crossed that we will be successful.

2024 is a leap year with 29 days in February – remember the folklore around this- GIRLS you get to ask your partner to get married- So good luck with that.

My little joke for the month: “ Did you hear about Mrs Potato Head’s recent trip to the nurse? They discussed the results of her annual yammogram!”

Susan
CEO

February Trivia

February has 28 or 29 days. The 29th day is every 4 years during a leap year. February is named for the Latin word februum which means purification

Quote of the Day

*Act as if what you
do makes a
difference.
It does.*

In February, we celebrate birthdays with:

7th Feb - Joan

22nd Feb - Tom

22nd Feb - John Z

27th - Elva



Abraham Lincoln, U.S. President, 12th February 1809

Ronald Reagan, U.S. President, 6th February 1911

Michael Jordan, Basketball Player, 17th February 1963

Rosa Parks, Activist, 4th February 1913

Johnny Cash, Musician, 26th February 1932

John Travolta, Actor, 18th February 1922

George Harrison, Musician, 25th February 1932

Elizabeth Taylor, Actress, 27th February 1955

Yoko Ono, Artist, 18th February 1933

Steve Irwin, TV Personality, 22th February 1962

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 18)

Aquarians are shy & quiet deep thinkers who love helping others.

Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20)

Pisces are friendly and selfless. They are always willing to help others.

Product Birthday Spotlight: The Telephone

In February 1876, Alexander Graham Bell applied for a patent on his

telephone apparatus, the “speaking telegraph,” less than three hours before Elisha Gray filed a caveat at the Patent Office for a similar device. After a long legal battle, the United States Supreme Court eventually upheld Bell’s patent, leaving him the official inventor of the telephone.

WOW!

LADIES AUXILIARY

We are a very small band of volunteers that work towards supplying equipment to Edgarley or help with assistance to the residents in many forms. We would really like to get some new members to help us in this endeavour.

We hold monthly meetings on the first Monday of the month in the Alma Vickery function room Edgarley at 2 pm. If you feel you cant commit to this maybe you could help us out on an adhoc basis with some of our fundraisers. You don't have to have a connection to Edgarley to join our group. We look forward to any enquiries you may have. Please contact our Secretary Leanne Richardson for a membership form on 0418 813 870 or toot21@iinet.net.au. Membership is \$5 for the 12 months.

FOOD REGISTER BOOK

Any fresh food brought into our facility for the residents will need to be entered into the register accordingly. The books can be found to the right of the Glenelg door

Thank you for your co-operation

Residents meeting

GLENELG Thursday 1st February 1.30.

We wish to invite family members to these meetings which will be held on the first Thursday of each month.

Judy Smith is the resident/family

representative on the

Medication Advisory Committee.

If any resident or family member has any questions or issues regarding their medication management at Edgarley (this does not include pharmacy accounts, they are to be taken up directly with the Pharmacy) Please contact Judy on 0429 192 841 and she will bring those question/issues to the meeting.



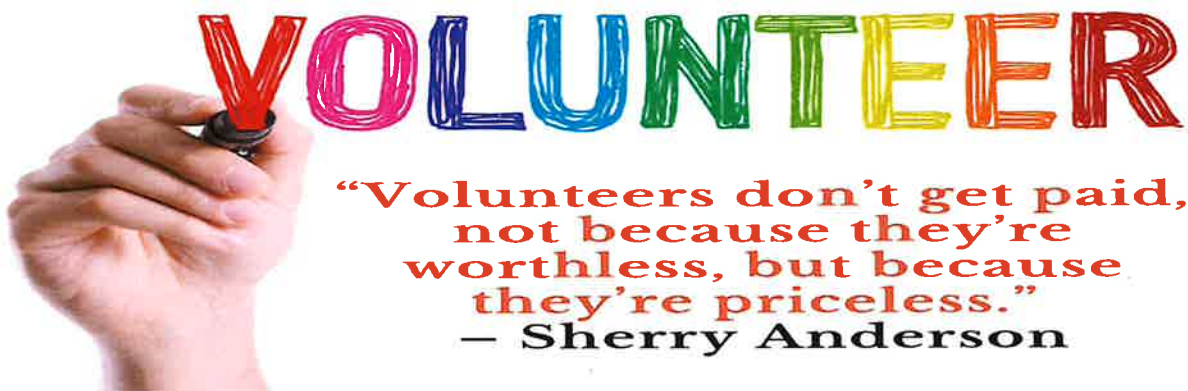
CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE?

Contributions to our newsletter are encouraged and appreciated!

Articles, photos, reports on community outings, staff news, trivia, poems, or jokes are most welcome.

Please email your contribution to office@edgarley.com.au

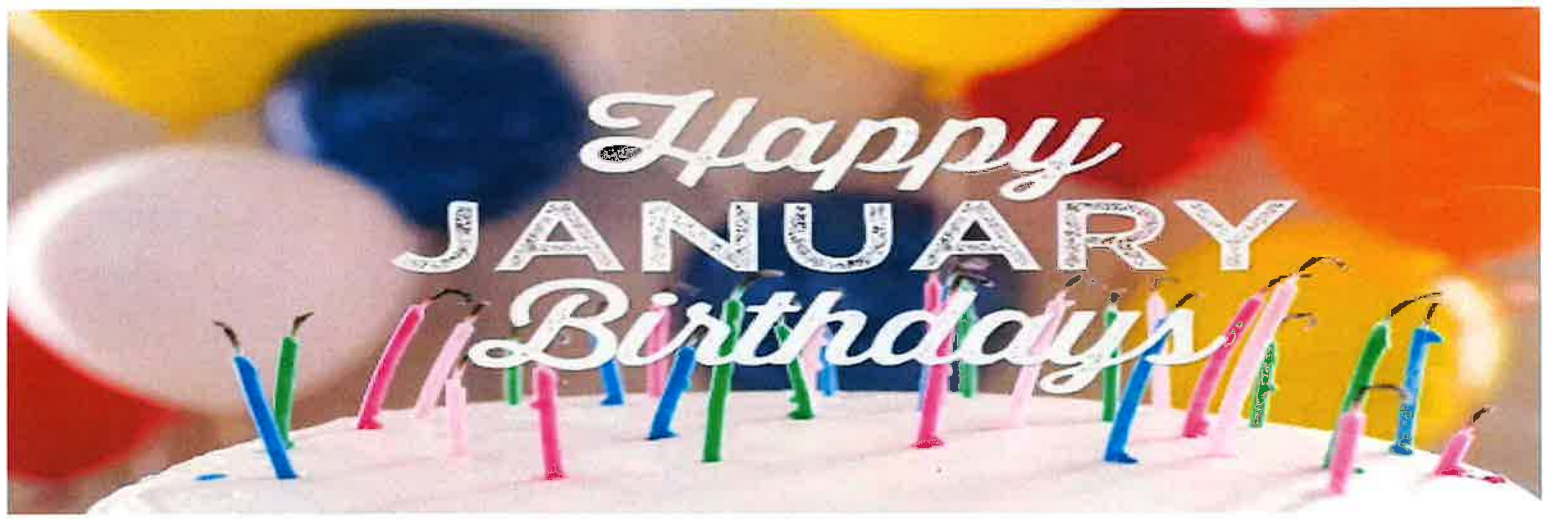
Thank you!



LEISURE AND LIFESTYLE VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Being a volunteer in Edgarley can offer companionship, and help with recreational activities. Volunteers can also provide emotional support, social engagement, and help to enhance the overall quality of life for residents. By offering their time and skills, volunteers can make a significant difference in the lives of the elderly and contribute to a positive community.

For further information, please phone Edgarley on 55811211, to speak to our Leisure and Lifestyle team.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY ROBERT



Make a Wish



Original art & short story - Lizzie Jayne
(c)



Look Up"

"How do you do it?" asked the rabbit.

"Do what?" replied the sunflower.

"Stand tall and strong after all you have faced."

"I don't in understand? What do you mean?" said the flower.

"Well, you've endured the birds pecking at your seeds and being trampled on when you were small, you've fought off all sorts of things that would ravage your leaves and faced the harshest of storms, yet here you are standing tall and strong and beautiful. I do admire you. What's your secret?"

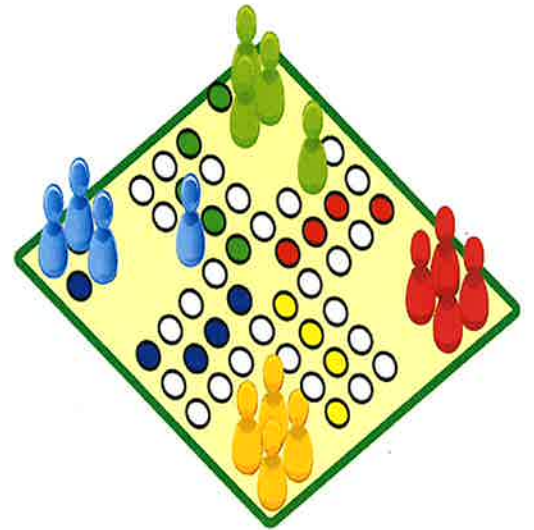
The sunflower looked down at the little rabbit and smiled. "Ah, now that I do understand! Just turn your face towards the light that shines hope and love, then you can face anything life throws at you."

"How often must I do this?" enquired the rabbit.

"Every single day," the flower replied, and lifted his head back towards the sun.

Original art & short story - Lizzie Jayne

February Fun



NEWS FROM THE PAST

Lewis Court Fund makes inaugural grants to community Two organisations in the Glenelg Shire received an inaugural allocation of funds from the newly formed Lewis Court Fund. Grants totalling close to \$11,000 addressed both remoteness along with isolation and encouraged older citizens to be active volunteers and to engaged in the community.

The grants are the result of the establishment of the Lewis Court Fund set up with the disbursement of funds from the sale of the Lewis Court Home for the Aged in 2012.

Edgarley Homes in Casterton purchased a mini bus so they can transport their residents to medical and general appointments and social outings and functions. "The bus has a hydraulic ramp that allows residents in wheel chairs to be easily transported and not have to be taken from chair to vehicle and vice versa" said Mr Steven Toope, CEO of Edgarley Homes.

"The bus has a further capacity to take seven residents" Mr Toope concluded. The mini bus will give the residents access to participate and attend community events and enjoy recreational outings for the day. Leisure and Lifestyle coordinator, Ms Judy Jones is thrilled at the opportunities it will open for the residents for outings and the less physical demand it will place on staff. Resident safety and comfort will be greatly enhanced. The staff and Board at Edgarley Home Inc are very grateful to the United Glenelg Way Lewis Court Fund for their allocation of funding .



**If any residents require assistance with anything electrical,
ask to speak with one of our dedicated wizards,**

Lesley Harris or Tim Crick.

This could be for computers, TV, remotes, phones, tablets etc.



**AND THE
WINNER IS...**

Congratulations to Ashlea Dodd who is our
winner of the Family Friendly Feud
Competition feature in Last Months
Newsletter



Edgarley Roses

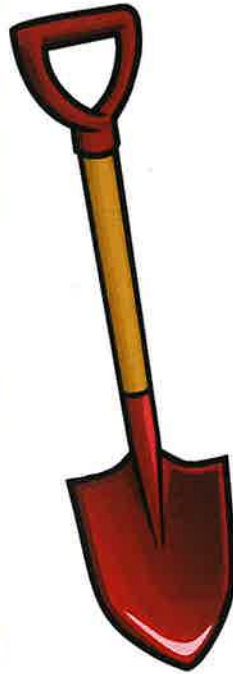
If you are popping into Edgarley or walking past, you will not miss seeing all the beautiful Roses out at this time





Lorna Picking Roses for the Residents Dinning Table







Can you spot Milo the Cat in the photo below ?

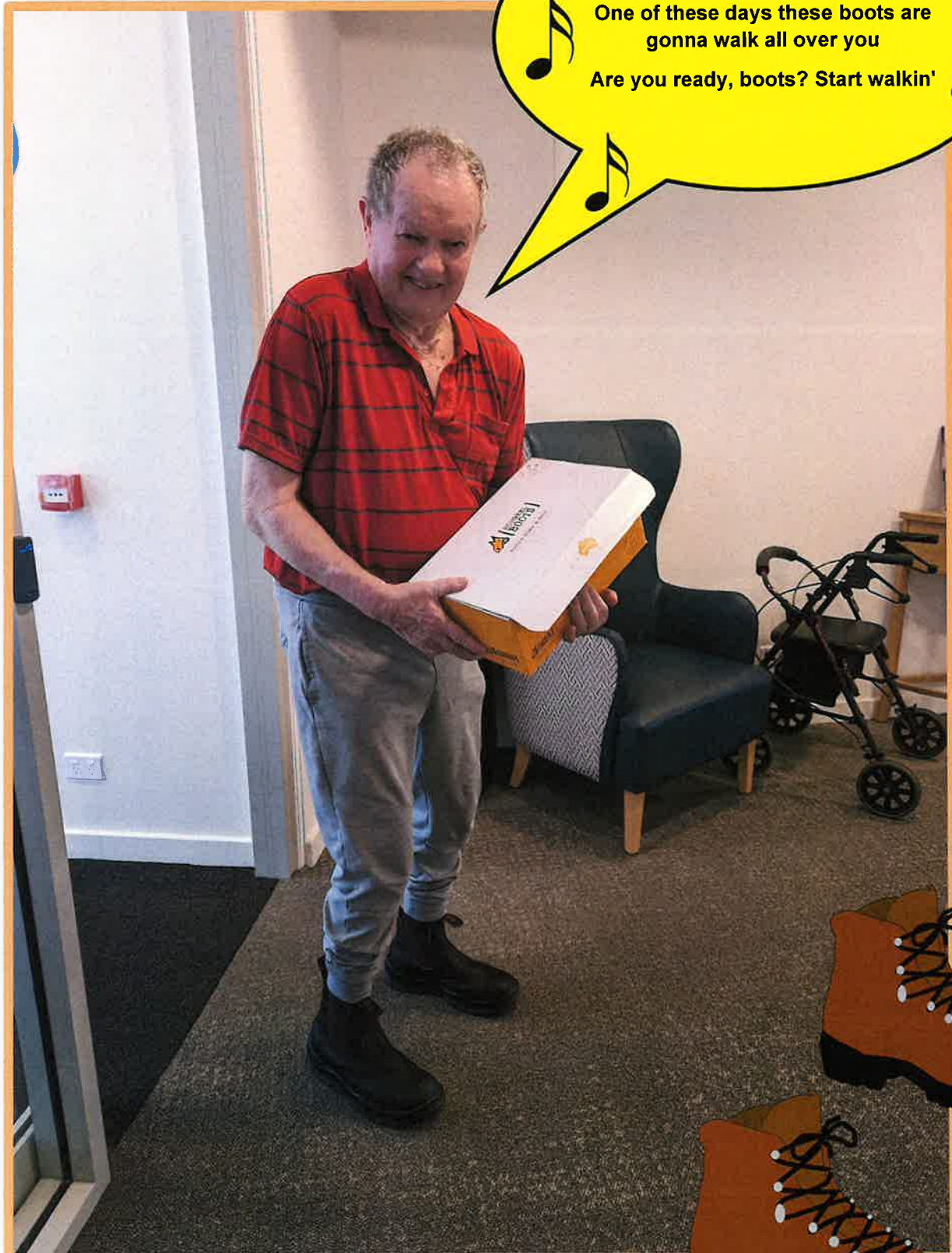


John's New Boots

These boots are made for walkin'
And that's just what they'll do

One of these days these boots are
gonna walk all over you

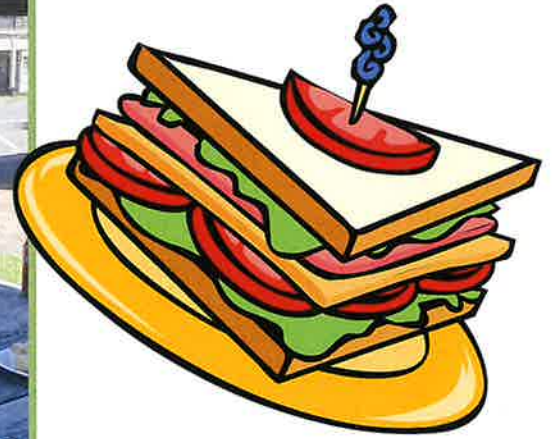
Are you ready, boots? Start walkin'



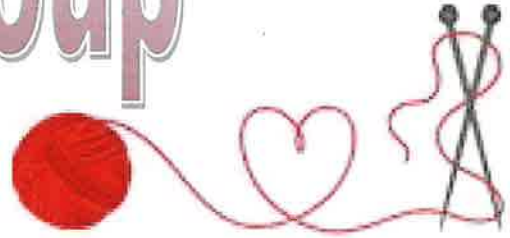
Bus Trips To Element Cafe







Knitting Group



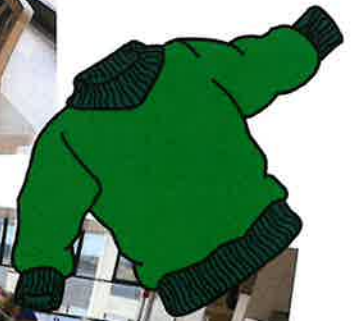
Thank you

We would especially like to
thank Helen Devereux for her
large donation of wool for our
Residents Kitting Group.





 *Knit and Chat*



FLOWER POWER!

Beautiful Flower Arrangements

Created by Elva, Margaret, Ann, Lorna, Peter & Beth

(On Display Opposite Reception)



Steady
As
he
Goes





Our Edgarley Florist





FLOWER POWER!



FIND 30 DIFFERENCES





Australia Day



One of our unit residents, Margaret Lockett had a visit from her great grandson and great granddaughter who enjoying Edgarley's play equipment .



Lorna sharing a joke with staff



This is a photo of the gazebo that Lez has organises to be installed out the back of the facility. The residents are very excited to use it.

Our unique button art



EDGARLEY HOME INC.
RESIDENT'S MEETING
January 11th 2024

Present: J. Humphries, T. Baugh, E. May, A. Bull, A. Peden, B. Wilkinson, L. Mackie, V. Madex, G. Smith, J. Smith.

Staff: L. Power and T. Crick

Apologies: DON Amanda Lee, S. Curry

Meeting begins at 1.42 PM

Previous meeting read and passed, seconded by A. J. Humphries.

Apologies made for meeting being delayed by a week, Covid made meeting on the 4th unfeasible

Business arising from previous meeting:

- Resident had issues last month with noise levels – slamming doors, TV sounds leaking from other rooms, etc – but little can realistically be done about this. Staff will be more mindful when closing doors, but other residents are entitled to have their TVs/radios at volumes that suite them, and the walls of the new building are thin.
- Take-away pizza will be ordered as a treat 4 times a year for resident's dinner. First date upcoming, to be announced.
- Vegetables still not always being properly drained. This feedback has been passed on to kitchen.

General Business:

01: Laundry Policy: A resident was curious about the precise details regarding Edgarley's laundry and cleaning policy as it pertains to residents, as she feels it is perhaps overzealous and damaging to the clothes.

02: Garden and Gazebo: Lez officially announces his plans to install a garden and gazebo out the back of the new building, passed a picture of the gazebo he has purchased around the table for residents to see. News was met with general excitement and interest.

03: Music During Meals: A resident recently had a CD player set-up in the dining area so that music may be played during mealtimes. This move was controversial, with some residents feeling the music was disruptive and overly loud, and other residents enjoying the CDs. No agreement was reached during the meeting, though a compromise will have to be made.

04: Front Door: Residents and staff feel that the automatic front door of the new building closes too fast, often rushing residents or otherwise making entrances/exits awkward and even dangerous, as this is a safety issue.

04: Salt and Pepper: It has been noticed that there is a shortage of salt and pepper shakers available to residents during mealtimes. J. Smith says that The Ladies Auxiliary group will be able to provide funds for extra shakers.

Meeting closed 2.05 PM

Next meeting February 1st 2024

Get to know Edgarley Staff

Cherie



In what town were you born in? I was born in Adelaide and moved to Warrnambool.

What did you do when you left school? I worked in a Bakery.

In which place did you live most of your life? Hamilton, Victoria.

What is your job role at Edgarley? Individual Support Worker.

What do you like best about your job? Getting to know all the residents and their life stories.

What are or have been your favourite past times? Gold detecting, camping and fishing.

What is the most exciting thing that happened in your life? Having my three Children.

Who is your hero or the person you most admire? My father who was an entrepreneur.

What is or has been your greatest achievement? Being a professional runner when I was a child.

What do you think is the most important thing in life? Family is the most important thing in my life.

What words of wisdom can you share with other readers? Never give up your dreams. If you fall down get back up again.

Get to know your Neighbour

Ron Jordan



In what town did you live in? I was born and lived in New Castle New South Wales.

What did you do when you left school? When I left school, I worked in an Abitur although I had quite a variety of jobs over the years.

What was your main occupation? The jobs I have had over the years include working in the industrial industry in the mines making cables, farm cropping, a porter at a hospital, the Sydney mail exchange 1968-1970, PMG installation 1970-1993

What are or have been your favourite past times? Aviation has been my favourite hobby.

What is the most exciting thing that happened in your life? I once held a live bomb in my hand, that I had found as a school child whilst at the RAAF.

Who is your hero or the person you most admire? My parents, they raised me right.

What is or has been your greatest achievement? Being able to help and take care of my own parents the way they took care of me.

What do you think is the most important thing in life? Close friends and helping each other.

What words of wisdom can you share with other readers? We are all oneness right through and through.

February 2024

| | Date | Activity |
|-----|-----------|---|
| 1. | Thursday | Lower Floor: RCL 10.30 am Lower Floor: Residents meeting 1.30 followed by Bingo |
| 2. | Friday | Upper Floor: Cover the Numbers 10.30 am Lower Floor: Uno 1.30 pm |
| 3. | Saturday | Lower Floor: Anagrams 2.00 pm Upper Floor: Shooting Hoops 3.00 pm |
| 4. | Sunday | Lower Floor: Dice 2.00 pm Upper Floor: Jacks 3.00 pm |
| 5. | Monday | Upper Floor: Quoits 10. 30 am Lower Floor: Table Games 1.30 pm L+L Meeting 10.00 am |
| 6. | Tuesday | Lower Floor: Bingo 10.30 am Upper Floor: Art Group Painting |
| 7. | Wednesday | Lower Floor: Liar's Dice 10.30 am Upper Floor: RCL 1.30 pm |
| 8. | Thursday | Lower Floor: Cognitive Puzzles 10.30 am Alma Vickery Room: Jonathan Choir 1:30 pm |
| 9. | Friday | Lower Floor: Cards 10.30 am All Areas: Happy Hour 2 pm |
| 10. | Saturday | Lower Floor: Golf 2.00 pm Upper Floor: UNO Flip 3.00 pm |
| 11. | Sunday | Lower Floor: Dominoes 2.00 pm Upper Floor: Table Hockey 3.00 pm |
| 12. | Monday | All Areas: Morning Tea Bus Run 10.30 am Upper Floor: Battleships 1.30 pm |
| 13. | Tuesday | Lower Floor: Anything Goes Games Upper Floor: Valentines Day Cooking |
| 14. | Wednesday | Lower Floor: Dice 10.30 am Upper Floor: Bean-Bag Toss 1.30 pm |
| 15. | Thursday | Lower Floor: Hangman 10.30 am Alma Vickery Room: Jonathan Choir 1:30 pm |
| 16. | Friday | Lower Floor: Uno Flip 10.30 am Upper Floor: Dominoes 1.30 pm |
| 17. | Saturday | Lower Floor: Find-10s 2.00 pm Upper Floor: Table Games 3.00 pm |
| 18. | Sunday | Upper Floor: RCL 2.00 pm Lower Floor: UNO Shuffle 3.00 pm |

February 2024

| | | |
|-----|-----------|---|
| 19. | Monday | Lower Floor: UNO Shuffle 10.30 am Upper Floor: Mixed Table Games 1.30 pm |
| 20. | Tuesday | Lower Floor: Snakes & Ladders Upper Floor: Knitting Group |
| 21. | Wednesday | Lower Floor: Hoy 10.30 am All Areas: Lunch in Penola 12.00 pm |
| 22. | Thursday | Lower Floor: Pairs 10. 30 am Alma Vickery Room: Jonathan Choir 1:30 pm |
| 23. | Friday | Lower Floor: Cognitive Puzzles 10.30 am Alma Vickery Room: BBQ Day 12:00 |
| 24. | Saturday | Lower Floor: Dice 2.00 pm Upper Floor: Dominoes 3. 00 pm |
| 25. | Sunday | Lower Floor: Hangman 2.00 pm Upper Floor: Cover the Numbers 3.00 pm |
| 26. | Monday | All Areas: Chocolate Factory Bus Run 10.00 am All Areas: History Group 1.30 pm |
| 27. | Tuesday | Lower Floor: Bingo Upper Floor: Scrapbooking |
| 28. | Wednesday | Lower Floor: Shooting Hoops 10.30 am Upper Floor: Cards 1.30 pm |
| 29. | Thursday | Lower Floor: Table games 10.30 am Alma Vickery Room: Cinema Day 1.30 pm |

Suggestions for New Activities are always welcome!

Movies

This month is Romance Movie month.

On your TV, tune in to channel 100 at 1.30 every Friday, to watch the movie of the week.

If you require assistance, please ask staff.

EXERCISE WITH THE PHYSIO

Mitchell - Wednesday 11.15 am

Glenelg - Monday and Wednesday 9.30 am

Wannon - Tuesday and Thursday 9.30 am

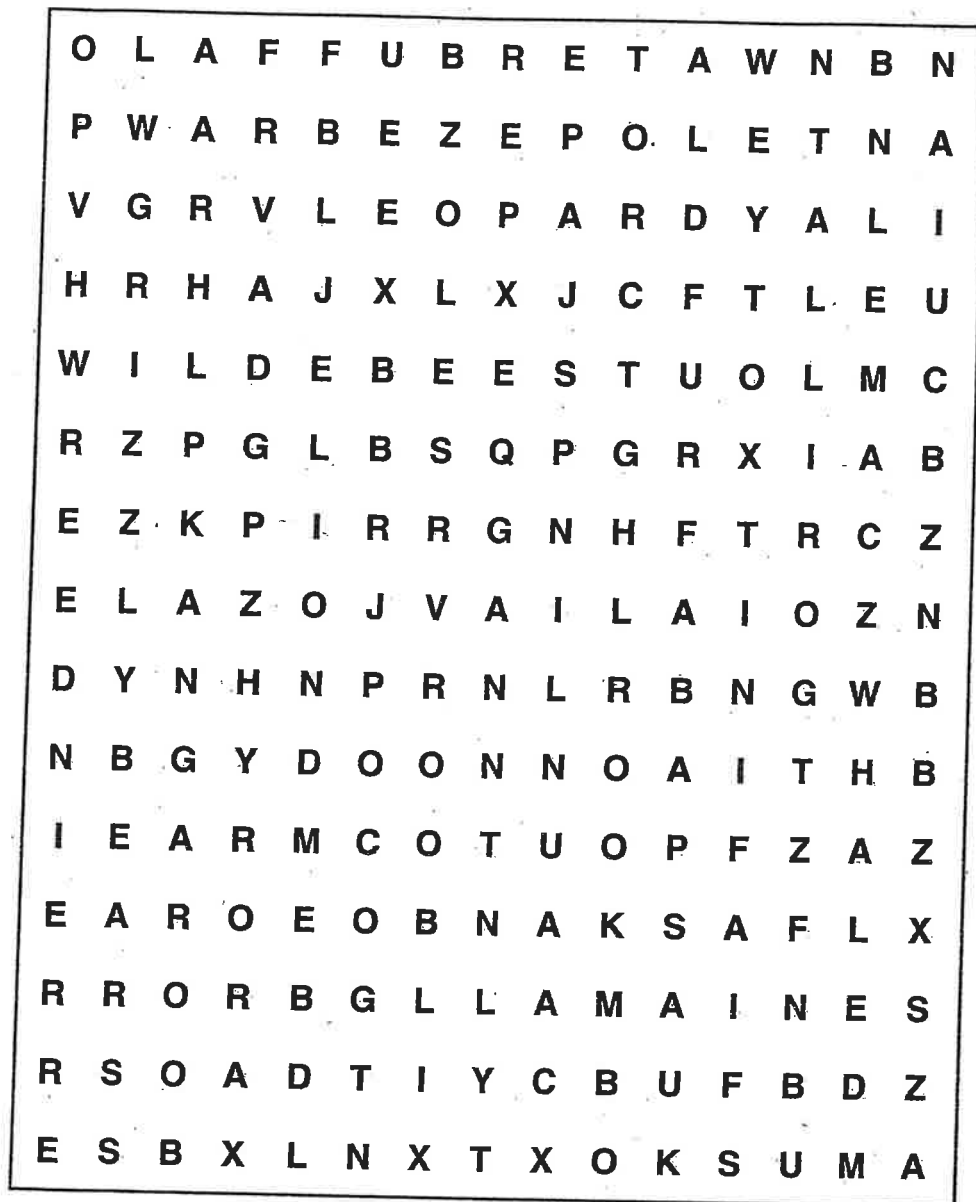
*Kerri from Hairwize
will be here at 9.15am Monday
February 5th February*

*Keep an eye out for the
shopping trolley in your
area every Friday*

*Nicki from Hair on Mane
will be here at 1pm
1st of February*

February Puzzle Pages





1. ANTELOPE

2. BABOON

3. BISON

4. CAMEL

5. CARIBOU

6. ELEPHANT

7. GIRAFFE

8. GORILLA

9. GRIZZLY

BEAR

10. HIPPOPOTAMUS

11. HORSE

12. KANGAROO

13. LEOPARD

14. LION

15. LLAMA

16. MOOSE

17. MUSKOX

18. ORANGUTAN

19. PANDA

20. POLAR BEAR

21. REINDEER

22. RHINOCEROS

23. TIGER

24. WATER

BUFFALO

25. WHALE

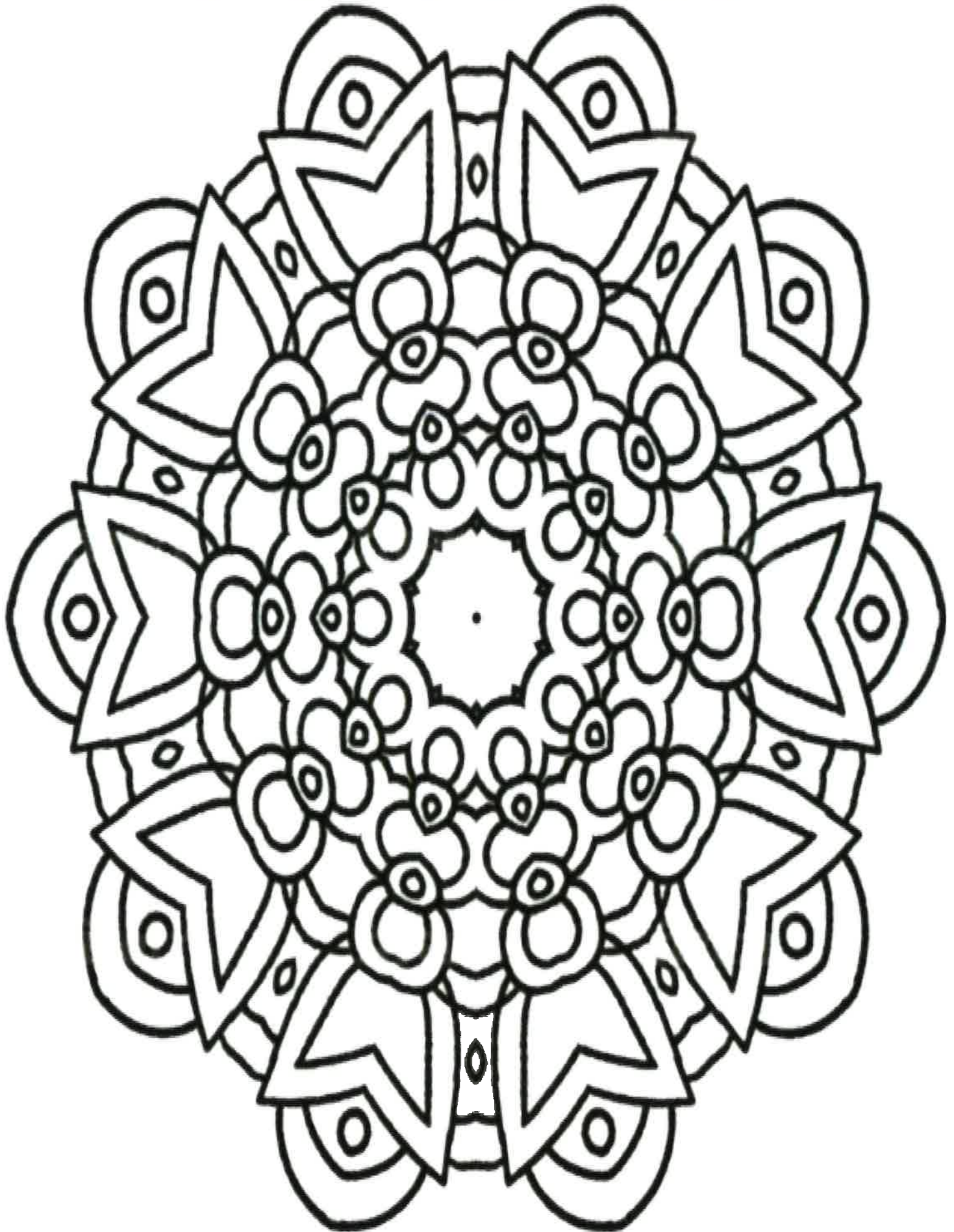
26. WILDEBEEST

27. YAK

28. ZEBRA

Solution is on page 110

Color Me





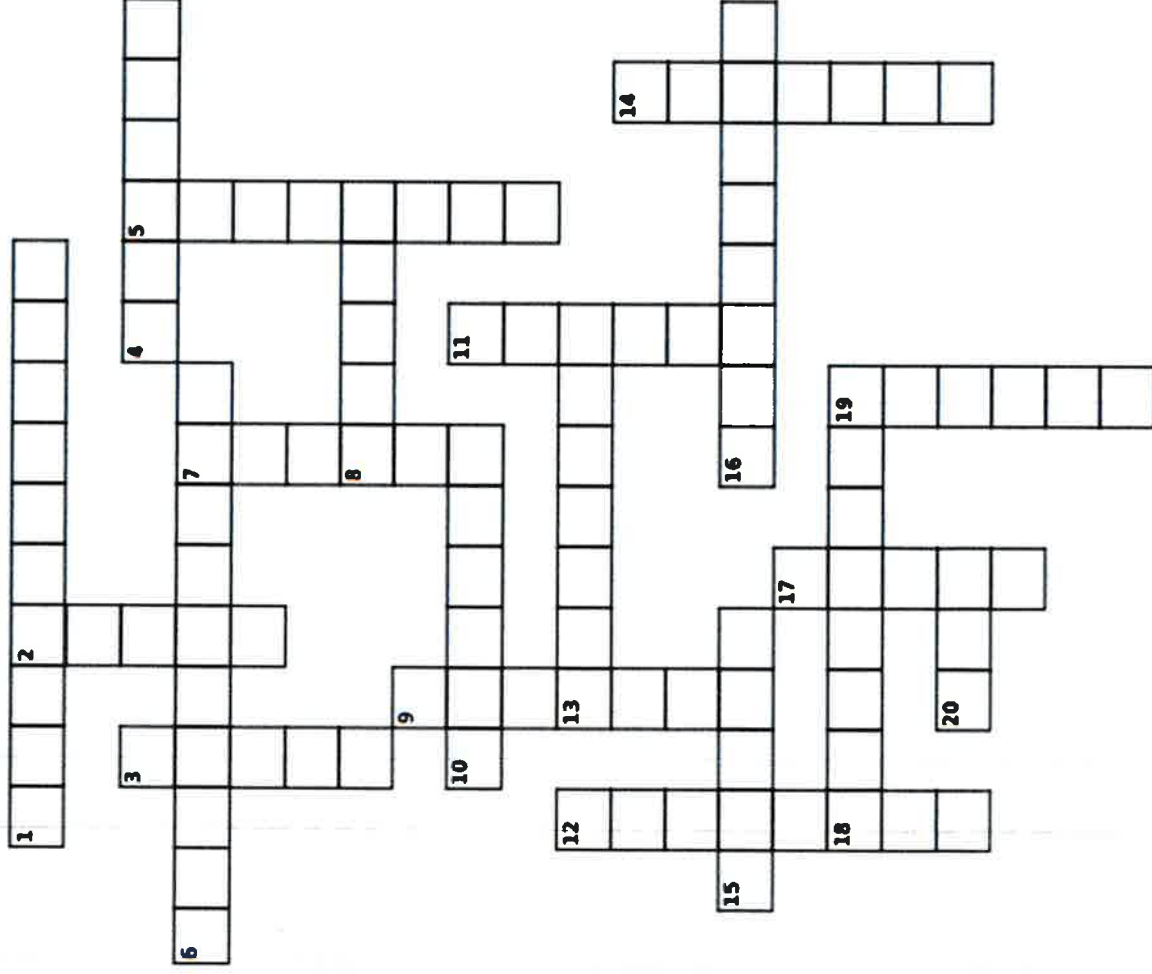
GUESS THE ANIMAL

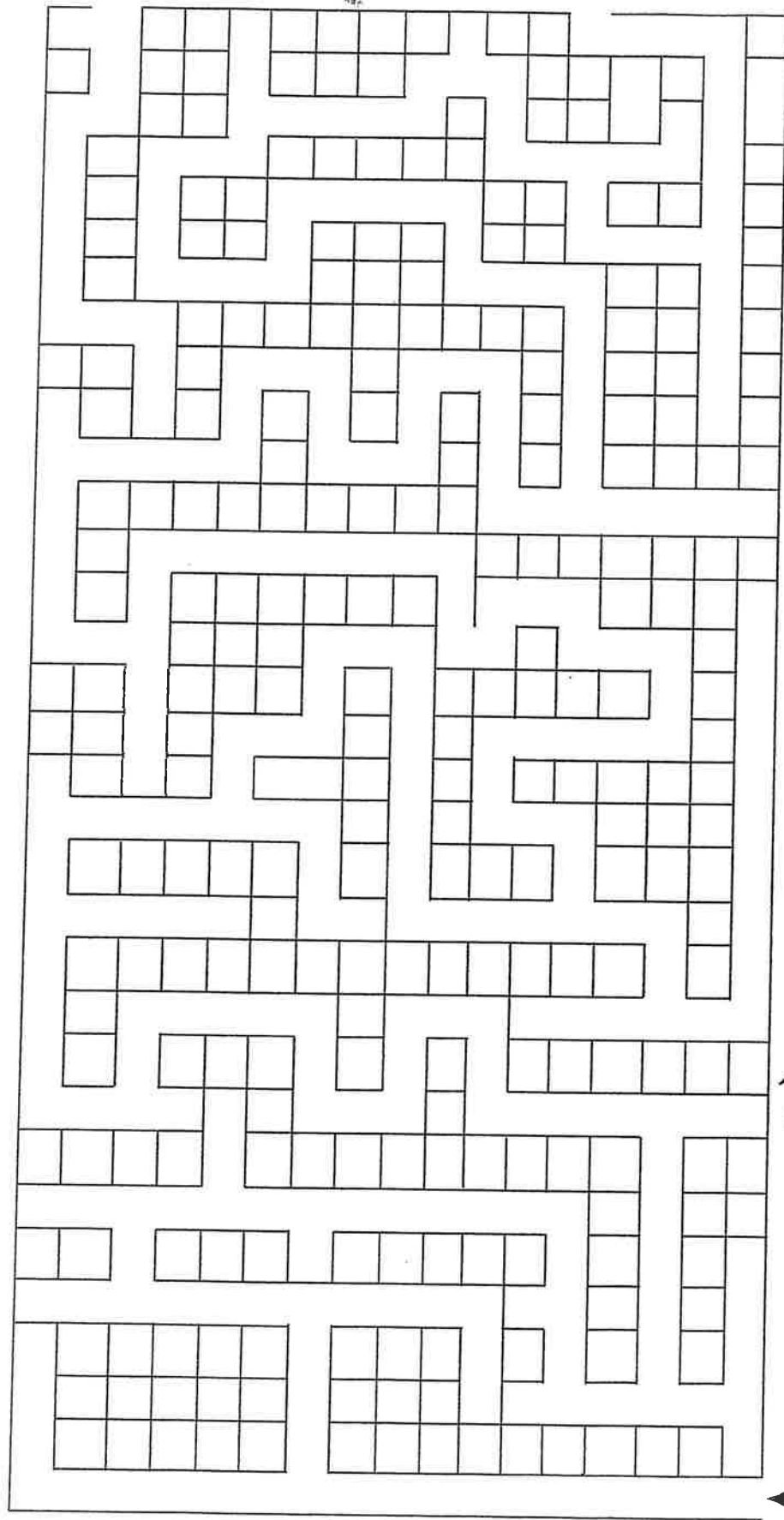
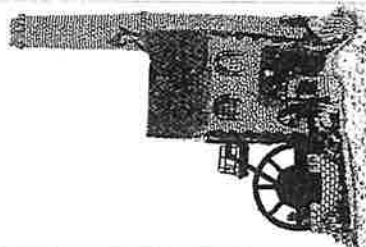
Across

1. I am a small, very intelligent African ape with black or brown fur and a slightly lighter and hairless face.
4. I am an American wild cat
6. I am the largest living shark species. I am harmless to humans.
8. I am a humpbacked shaggy-haired wild ox
10. I am rather small, I can jump and I have very long antennae. I have been quoted as one of the ten plagues of the Bible.
13. I am a flightless seabird. I use my wings as flippers under water.
15. I am a dog-like African mammal and scavenger with forelimbs that are longer than the hindlimbs and an erect mane.
16. I am an Australian songbird capable of imitating almost any sound
18. I am a large water boa constrictor from South America
20. I am a nocturnal bird with large eyes and a hooked beak. I hunt insects and small mammals for food.

Down

2. I am a deer-like animal with huge antlers
3. I am related to armadillos and I am very lazy. I live in the tropical rain forests of Central and South America. I like hanging upside down.
5. I am a spiny egg-laying mammal with a long snout and claws, native to Australia.
7. I am a burrowing plant-eating animal with long ears, long hind legs, and a short tail.
9. I live in the ocean. I have a beak-like snout and a curved fin on my back. I am known for being social and intelligent.
11. I am a large vulture of the Andes and the national symbol of Peru
12. I am a South American mammal that resembles a giant long-legged guinea pig. I am the largest living rodent.
14. I am an arctic white whale with a long spiral ivory tusk
17. I look like a small bear but I am not related to them. I only eat eucalyptus leaves.
19. I am a relative of the llama

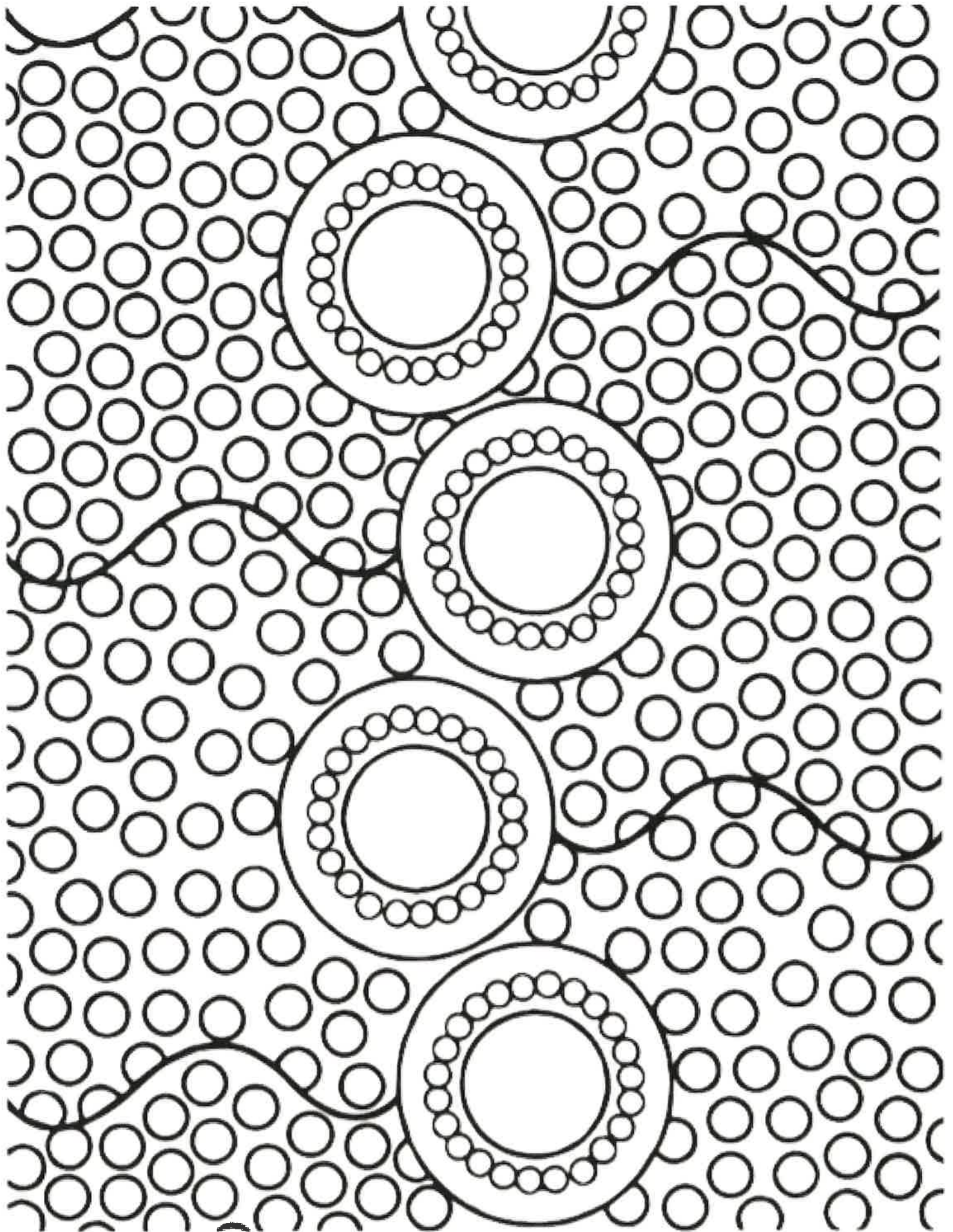




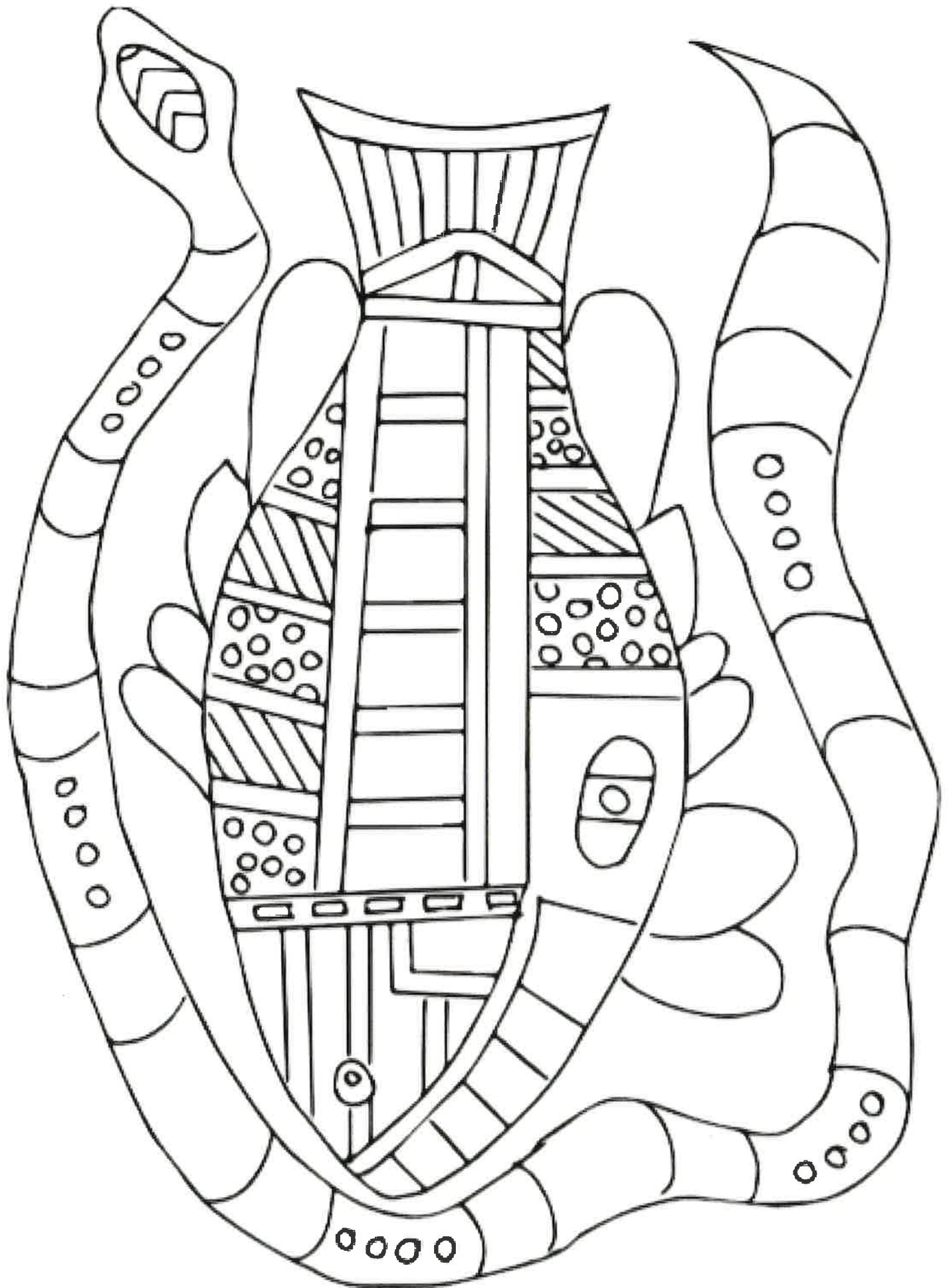
Help the Cornish Miners
find their way to the Engine House



Color Me



Color Me



A Texan farmer goes to Australia for a vacation.

He meets an Aussie farmer and gets talking.

The farmer shows his big wheat field and the Texan says:

"Oh, we have wheat fields twice as large!"

Then the farmer shows him his herd of cattle and the Texan says:

"We have longhorns that are at least twice as large!"

The farmer keeps showing his farm to the Texan when suddenly they see a herd of kangaroos hopping through the field. The Texan asks: "What are those?"

The farmer replies: "What, don't you have any grasshoppers in Texas?"

Americans: Seem to think that poverty and failure are morally suspect.

Canadians: Seem to believe that wealth and success are morally suspect.

Brits: Seems to believe that wealth, poverty, success and failure are inherited.

Aussies: Seem to think that none of this matters after several beers.

A pom arrives at the Sydney airport and is met by the customs officer who proceeds to ask him a few questions:

C.O.: "How long do you intend to stay?"

POM: "One week".

C.O.: "What is nature of your trip?"

POM: "Business"

C.O.: "Do you have any past criminal convictions?"

POM: "I didn't think we still needed to!"

Sheila walked into the kitchen to find Bruce stalking around with a fly swatter.

"What are you doing?" She asks.

"Hunting Flies" He responds.

"Oh. Killing any?" She asks.

"Yep, 3 males, 2 Females," he replies.

Intrigued, she asks: "How can you tell them apart?"

"3 were on a beer can, 2 were on the phone."

A Scotsman entered a bar and stood beside an Australian.

"Where are you from, mate?" asked the Australian, after they'd chatted for a while.

"I'm from the finest country in the whole wide world," said the Scotsman.

"Are you?" said the other. "You have a damn funny accent for an Australian."

The Ash Wednesday bushfires start in Victoria and South Australia: Wednesday, February 16, 1983

Between April 1982 and January 1983, Victoria experienced severe drought conditions and little rainfall, resulting in its driest period on record. On 8 February 1983, hot gusty winds and a severe dust storm hit Melbourne, already experiencing temperatures above 40°C, and exacerbated the intense heat and dry conditions.

16 February 1983 was, ironically, "Ash Wednesday" in the Christian calendar. On that day, eight days after the dust storm, approximately 180 bushfires broke out around the state. A number of factors contributed to the fires, among them arson, and wind gusts which either caused electric wires to clash or tree branches to hit the wires, sparking fires. The largest bushfires started at various sites around Victoria, including Cudjee, Branhholme, Mount Macedon, and areas of the Dandenong Ranges and the Otways. Around 200,000 hectares of land were destroyed, the equivalent of twice the size of Melbourne. 47 people were killed, including seventeen volunteer firefighters, over 2000 homes were destroyed and farmers experienced huge stock losses.

South Australia was also hit by fires which broke out in the Adelaide Hills and Mt Lofty, and the Clare Valley, destroying 208,000 hectares of land in farming country and another 21,000 hectares of pine forests in the state's south-east. Another 28 people died in the South Australian fires, and 380 homes were destroyed. The emotional and mental cost of the fires was equally devastating, and the Ash Wednesday fires are still remembered as one of Australia's worst natural disasters.

An inquest into the disappearance of baby Azaria Chamberlain finds that she was taken by a dingo: Friday, February 20, 1981.

Michael and Lindy Chamberlain and their three children were camping at Ayers Rock when baby Azaria disappeared. Lindy claimed that a dingo had stolen her baby. No trace of the child was ever found, although her bloodstained clothes were found a week later by another tourist. Lindy Chamberlain was regarded with deep suspicion by many among the investigating party, and also by a great deal of the media and, subsequently, the Australian public. At the first inquest into her death, on 20 February 1981, coroner Dennis Barritt found that baby Azaria had been taken by a dingo.

Police and prosecutors moved for a second inquest which was held in September, 1981. This time, the new finding was made that Azaria had been killed with a pair of scissors and held by a small adult hand until she stopped bleeding. Lindy Chamberlain was convicted of murder on 29 October 1982. Her acquittal came several years later when a British tourist fell to his death from the Rock. When his body was finally located 8 days later amid an area full of dingo lairs, Azaria Chamberlain's missing jacket was also found. New evidence was presented showing that the methods of testing previous evidence had been unreliable, and no conviction could be made on those grounds. Lindy was released, and eventually awarded AU\$1.3 million in compensation for wrongful imprisonment.

Australia's first completely successful heart transplant operation is performed, under the direction of Dr Victor Chang. Friday, February 24, 1984

The twentieth century saw amazing advances in medical technology. The world's first heart transplant was performed in South Africa in 1967, by Christiaan Barnard. The patient lived for 18 days after the procedure before dying of pneumonia.

In Australia, the first heart transplant occurred under the direction of Dr Harry Windsor. The patient died within just a few days after his body rejected the new organ. The era of successful heart transplants in Australia can be attributed largely to the influence of Dr Victor Chang.

Victor Peter Chang Yam Him was born in Shanghai, China, on 21 November 1936. Chang's mother died of cancer when he was just twelve years old, and this was a deciding factor in his choice to become a doctor. He came to Australia to complete his secondary schooling in 1953, then studied medicine at the University of Sydney, graduating with a Bachelor of Medical Science with first class honours in 1960, and a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery in 1962. After further study in England, and becoming a Fellow of both the Royal College of Surgeons and American College of Surgeons, he joined the cardiothoracic team at St Vincent's Hospital in 1972.

Chang was instrumental in raising funds to establish a heart transplant programme at St Vincent's. The first successful transplant under the programme was performed on a 39 year old shearer from Armidale on 24 February 1984, who survived several months longer than he would have otherwise.

Arguably, Chang's best-known success was when he operated on Fiona Coote, a 14-year-old schoolgirl, on 7-8 April 1984. Over the next six years, the unit at St Vincent's performed over 197 heart transplants and 14 heart-lung transplants, achieving a 90% success rate for recipients in the first year. To compensate for the lack of heart donors, Chang developed an artificial heart valve and also worked on designing an artificial heart.

Victor Chang was murdered on 4 July 1991, after an extortion attempt on his family. The murder was related to transplant waiting lists. Within less than two weeks, Chiew Seng Liew was charged with the murder, and Jimmy Tan was charged as an accessory.

On This Day:



The Day the Music Died : February 3rd 1959

On this day in 1959, rising American rock stars Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson are killed when their chartered Beechcraft Bonanza plane crashes in Iowa a few minutes after takeoff from Mason City on a flight headed for Moorehead, Minnesota. Investigators blamed the crash on bad weather and pilot error. Holly and his band, the Crickets, had just scored a No. 1 hit with "That'll Be the Day." After mechanical difficulties with the tour bus, Holly had chartered a plane for his band to fly between stops on the Winter Dance Party Tour. However, Richardson, who had the flu, convinced Holly's band member Waylon Jennings to give up his seat, and Ritchie Valens won a coin toss for another seat on the plane. Singer Don McLean memorialized Holly, Valens and Richardson in the 1972 No. 1 hit "American Pie," which refers to February 3, 1959 as "the day the music died."

Nelson Mandela released from prison: February 11th 1990

Nelson Mandela, leader of the movement to end South African apartheid, is released from prison after 27 years on February 11, 1990. In 1961, he was arrested for treason, and although acquitted he was arrested again in 1962 for illegally leaving the country. Convicted and sentenced to five years at Robben Island Prison, he was put on trial again in 1964 on charges of sabotage. In June 1964, he was convicted along with several other ANC leaders and sentenced to life in prison.

In 1989, F.W. de Klerk became South African president and set about dismantling apartheid. De Klerk lifted the ban on the ANC, suspended executions, and in February 1990 ordered the release of Nelson Mandela

Elizabeth becomes Queen: February 6th 1952

On this day in 1952, after a long illness, King George VI of Great Britain and Northern Ireland dies in his sleep at the royal estate at Sandringham. Princess Elizabeth, the oldest of the king's two daughters and next in line to succeed him, was in Kenya at the time of her father's death; she was crowned Queen Elizabeth II on June 2, 1953, at age 27.

From the start of her reign, Elizabeth understood the value of public relations and allowed her 1953 coronation to be televised, despite objections from Prime Minister Winston Churchill and others who felt it would cheapen the ceremony. Elizabeth, the 40th British monarch since William the Conqueror, has worked hard at her royal duties and become a popular figure around the world. In 2003, she celebrated 50 years on the throne, only the fifth British monarch to do so.

St Valentine's Day: February 14th 278

On February 14 around the year 278 A.D., Valentine, a holy priest in Rome in the days of Emperor Claudius II, was executed.

The emperor Claudius the Cruel, had to maintain a strong army, but was having a difficult time getting soldiers to join his military leagues. Claudius believed that Roman men were unwilling to join the army because of their strong attachment to their wives and families so to get rid of the problem, Claudius banned all marriages and engagements in Rome. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret.

When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. Legend also has it that while in jail, St. Valentine left a farewell note for the jailer's daughter, who had become his friend, and signed it "From Your Valentine." For his great service, Valentine was named a saint after his death.

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn Published February 18th 1885

On this day in 1885, Mark Twain publishes his famous--and famously controversial--novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

Twain (the pen name of Samuel Clemens) first introduced Huck Finn as the best friend of Tom Sawyer, hero of his tremendously successful novel *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876). Though Twain saw Huck's story as a kind of sequel to his earlier book, the new novel was far more serious, focusing on the institution of slavery and other aspects of life in the antebellum South.

18 Snippets of Irish Trivia

- English is not the first language of Ireland.
- Irish, also known as Gaelic is the official language of Ireland.
- Ireland is known as the Emerald Isle because of how green it is.
- St. Patrick was born in Wales, not in Ireland.
- More Irish people are living abroad than there are in Ireland.
- There are 80 million Irish people outside of Ireland and only around 5 million in Ireland.
- Half of the entire population of Australia claim Irish ancestry.
- The Titanic was built by 15,000 Irishmen in Belfast, Northern Ireland.
- The Wild Atlantic Way, a stunning drive that stretches 2,500 km (1,600 miles) is the longest coastal driving route in the world.
- The official National Symbol of Ireland is the harp, although the shamrock and the Celtic cross are also well known symbols.
- 80% of Ireland's people are Roman Catholic.
- Ireland has won the Eurovision Song Festival seven times, more than any other country.
- The Irish potato famine of the 1840's decimated the population of Ireland. By the time it ended, roughly one million Irish had died and another million had left their homeland as refugees.
- Nigerians drink more Guinness than the Irish!
- 9% of the Irish population are natural redheads.
- Irish surnames that start with "Mac" means 'son of'.
- The Irish alphabet has only 18 letters - the letters J, K, Q, V, W, X, Y, and Z are not used.
- The Irish speak English but children are still taught the Irish language. 'I love you' in Irish is 'Ta cion agam ort' pronunciation: thaw kiuhn ag-gum urth
- There are 13 towns called Dublin in the United States, one in Ontario and one in South Australia.
- Ireland is a snake-free island. Due to its isolation from the European mainland, Ireland lacks several species common elsewhere in Europe, such as moles, weasels, polecats or roe deer.