



EDGARLEY ASSISTED LIVING

Specialising in complete quality aged care and independent living.

# NEWSLETTER

## February 2025



73—85 Jackson Street , Casterton Vic 3311

Phone: 03 55 811211, Fax: 03 55 812050

# From the CEO



Hi Everyone,

Welcome to 2025 to all of our Edgarley family. It has certainly commenced with some very hot days. Edgarley and much of the town continues to struggle with the outcome of the October Hail storm. Insurance and repairs are slow to happen due to the magnitude of the event. Edgarley has several bedrooms that cannot be occupied at present. First priority for the beginning of this year will be to have the repairs from the storm completed as soon as possible to enable us to return to be fully functional again. The second priority for Edgarley is to investigate, implement and provide suitable and cost effective long term accommodation for our staff.

On a side note I would like to say what a fantastic contribution and impact our new Physiotherapist is providing to the residents at Edgarley, Sankar is a highly skilled and knowledgeable professional clinician and we are certainly benefitting from this.

Some highlights for this coming year – I have been lucky enough to be appointed to the council State & National Industry Peak Body that will now be known as “Ageing Australia” which will allow for a voice to be heard for Rural Aged Care. I will also be a Panel Speaker at a National Conference to be held in June regarding Work force Shortages. I am also hoping to be accepted as a speaker at the Advanced Care Planning International Conference being held in September on the Gold Coast. Being a voice for Rural Aged Care, as well as for Rural Health Care in general, I hope will benefit the community in highlighting the issues that are faced by small rural communities in regards to accessing medical services.

Susan

## February Trivia

February has 28 or 29 days. The 29<sup>th</sup> 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.*

EDGARLEY HOME INC.  
**RESIDENT'S MEETING**  
**January 15<sup>th</sup> 2025**

**Present:** A. Bull, R. Jordan, A. Peden, G. Brooke, D. Parham, J. Humphries

**Staff:** L. Power, R. McIntosh, A. Brody, T. Crick

**Apologies:** Amanda Lee

**Meeting begins at 1.31 PM**

**Previous meeting read and passed, seconded by A. Bull**

**Business arising from previous meeting:**

- The PA announcement for lunch and dinner has been altered; the announcement only rings out twice, 15 minutes before the meal, and now with a soothing female voice. The change was widely agreed to be for the better.
- Bus has again been shipped off for repairs, this time to Melbourne, and as such will be out for commission for the next month or so. The local hospital has been contacted, and kindly allowed use of their bus on specific dates. This way bus trips will be somewhat limited in number but still feasible.
- L&L member Ruth has spoken to the Gill family, and is hopeful that they will be performing us in the near future. Residents are excited.

**General Business:**

**01: Issues with Food:** Food served at Edgarley was criticised as going down in quality over the last few months, with meals often being over or under cooked, soggy, or tasteless. An informal vote was held at the meeting, with the median vote being around only 5/10 in quality. Food presentation was also contested, though that was generally agreed to have been ultimately improved over time.

**02: Food Portions:** A few residents feel that their food servings have been made too large. Staff explained that government legislation means that portion servings *must* be of a certain size, and that as such Edgarley is required by law to carry out these portions to the letter. Staff also explain, however, that residents are free, within reason, to eat as much or as little as they want. It is acknowledged that this creates a lot of waste, but unfortunately there is nothing that can be done about it.

**03: New Meeting Area:** Due to meeting times often coinciding with kitchen cleaning times, meeting was held in the Mitchell wing lounge as a test, and generally agreed to be a superior place for gathering, being both quieter and with more comfortable seating than the dining room. Following later discussions with DON Amanda Lee, for reasons of confidentiality, all resident's meetings will now be held in the Alma Vickery Room.

**04: Medication Times:** A resident had issues with their medication times, wondering if they could perhaps be made more flexible as they are often woken up at 9.00 PM for their pills, and would prefer an earlier hour. Nurse Raelene McIntosh explains that in the case of this particular resident times for their medications can be altered to suit their needs of leisure, but with other residents, medications are much more time sensitive and thus dealt out on a very strict schedule.

**05: Quality of Care:** Residents raised issues regarding daily moisturising and its application, feeling that while it is overall very good, it can be, at times, inconsistent, and at times incorrectly applied. Raelene McIntosh has seen to it that during handover, all staff will be made aware of moisturising BD.

Meeting closed 2.32 PM

Next meeting February 5th 2025



In February, we celebrate birthdays with:

Tom T  
John Z



Abraham Lincoln, U.S. President, 12<sup>th</sup> February 1809

Ronald Reagan, U.S. President, 6<sup>th</sup> February 1911

Michael Jordan, Basketball Player, 17<sup>th</sup> February 1963

Rosa Parks, Activist, 4<sup>th</sup> February 1913

Johnny Cash, Musician, 26<sup>th</sup> February 1932

John Travolta, Actor, 18<sup>th</sup> February 1922

George Harrison, Musician, 25<sup>th</sup> February 1932

Elizabeth Taylor, Actress, 27<sup>th</sup> February 1955

Yoko Ono, Artist, 18<sup>th</sup> February 1933

Steve Irwin, TV Personality, 22<sup>th</sup> February 1962

#### **Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 18)**

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

#### **Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20)**

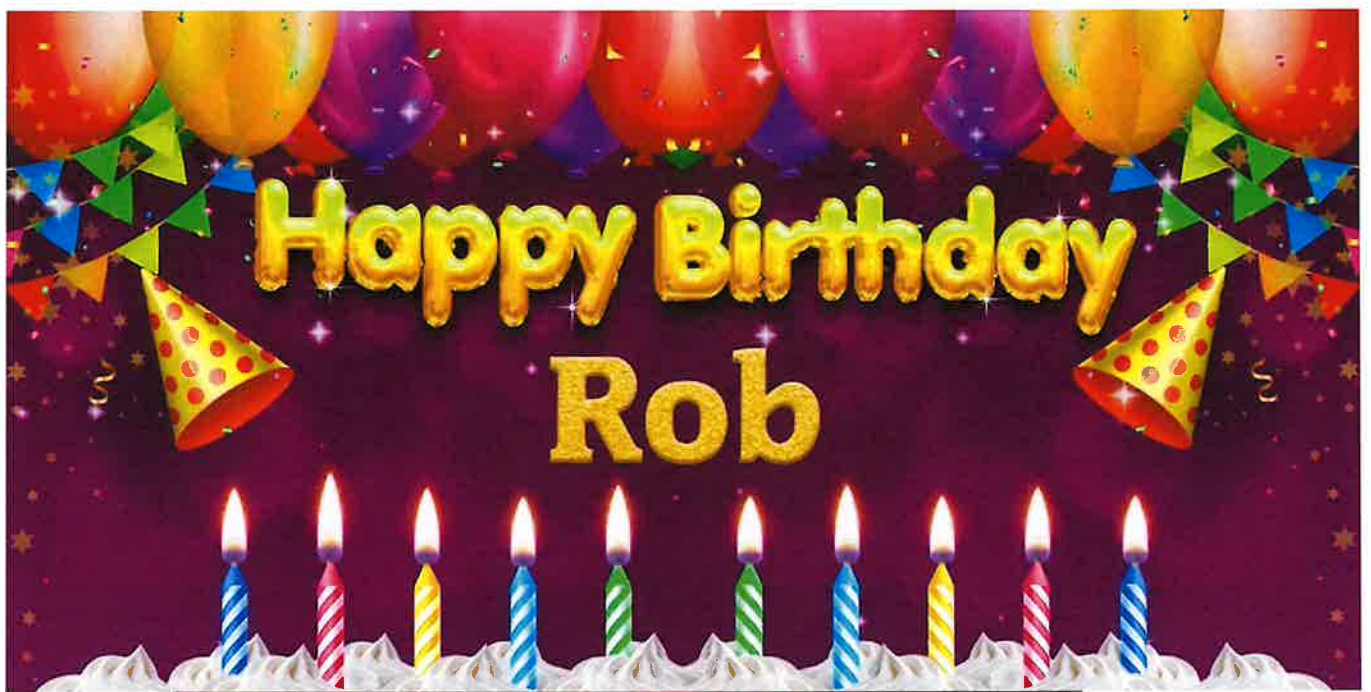
Pisces are friendly and selfless. They are always willing to help others.

#### **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 Lois Lowe for a membership form on 0439 812 468.

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**

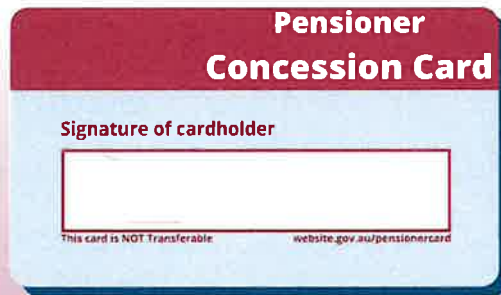
**Alma Vickery Room - Wednesday 5th February 1.30 pm**

We wish to invite family members to these meetings which will be held on the first Wednesday 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.





A reminder to all NOK.

If a resident receives an updated Medicare or Pension card, we will need a copy for our records.

Thank you

*"Volunteers are not paid -- not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless."*

## 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.

## Residents appointments

If a resident schedules an appointment on their own, they are responsible for arranging their own transportation. However, if they would like staff to provide transportation, the facility will handle the arrangements.

Commencing February, the Zipline machine in the airlock (what you use to check in when you enter the building) will be replaced with a book which will be kept on the counter.

EXAMPLE

1-30	John Smith	Sam Smith	—	13/1	
TIME IN	NAME	MEETING WITH / RESPONSIBLE TO	COMPANY NAME	DATE	SIGNATURE

**VISITOR PASS**

**V**

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**

Your Signature in the box above indicates understanding and acceptance of the following:

- ◆ Whilst on site you will conduct yourself in a manner that ensures the safety of yourself and all other persons in the workplace.
- ◆ This Visitor's Pass must be worn at all times and returned upon departure.
- ◆ Smoking is not permitted on these premises except in designated areas.
- ◆ Please observe all safety signage and the instructions of the Health & Safety Advisor.
- ◆ In the event of fire or emergency evacuation, follow the instructions of Fire Warden or Company Management.

**PLEASE RETURN THIS PASS UPON DEPARTURE**

No. 583051

© Compact Business Systems P/L 2010 Ref: GSP 11 V

- Use wipes to wipe pouch & lanyard before use.
- Place completed Visitor pass in provided pouch and wear around your neck.
- Before leaving the building, remove the visitors pass from the pouch and put a tick beside the corresponding number in the book and the time you left, then dispose of the pass in the rubbish bin.
- Use wipes to wipe pouch & lanyard before returning to box.
- *The visitors pass allows us to know who is in the building during an incident, eg: fire.*



## Get to know your Neighbour

### Rebecca



**In what town did you live in?** I was born in Melbourne and lived there with my father. We eventually moved to Casterton.

**What are or have been your favourite past times?** Watching television and movies, listening to music and going to the beach.

**What was your favourite movie when you were younger?** Superman.

**What is your favourite food?** Mango.

**What is your favourite place?** Talbot and Casterton Victoria.

**What is your favourite band/singer?** Abba.

**What is your favourite song?** Dancing Queen by Abba.

**What is the most exciting thing that happened in your life?** Going out for country drives and to the beach.

**What is or has been your greatest achievement?** Learning to swim.

**What words of wisdom can you share with other readers?** Learn to swim.

## Get to know Edgarley Staff

### Kefan



**In what town were you born in?** I was born in Yiwu, a small city in Zhejiang Province, China. Yiwu is internationally renowned for its trade market, often called the “world’s largest wholesale market”. Growing up in Yiwu, I attended kindergarten, primary school, junior high school and senior high school there. Some of my fondest childhood memories are of summer holidays spent in the countryside with my grandma. I enjoyed jungle jogging, climbing mountains, and hiking. I also visited temples to worship Buddha, which brought a sense of peace and connection to tradition.

**What did you do when you left school?** After graduating from Griffith University on the Gold Coast, Australia, I returned to China to care for my mother, who was unwell at the time. I stayed for two years to support her and then returned to Australia to pursue my career.

**In which place did you live most of your life?** I have spent most of my life in Yiwu, where I have deep roots and cherished memories. Growing up there gave me a love for the outdoors, strong family traditions, and a sense of resilience.

**What is your job role at Edgarley?** I am a registered nurse.

**What do you like best about your job?** One of the most rewarding aspects of my role is getting to know our residents on a personal level and building meaningful rapport. While maintaining a therapeutic relationship is essential, I strive to approach my residents with the same care and respect I would offer to my own family. I believe elderly individuals deserve tender care, patience and understanding. Though the role can be challenging at times, I remain committed to providing compassionate and high- quality care.

**What are or have been your favourite past times?** One of my fondest childhood memories is catching spiders with friends and using flour or heated sticks to trap bug. We also burned mosquito-repellent incense to ward off mosquito’s.

**What is the most exciting thing that happened in your life?** 1. Receiving my job offer here and starting a new adventure after overcoming challenges with my family.

**2.** Watching the Cleveland Cavaliers, led by LeBron James, Kyrie Irving and Kevin Love win the 2016 NBA Championship after an incredible comeback from a 1-3 deficit in the finals.

**Who is your hero or the person you most admire?** My dad is my hero. He was a senior high school teacher, and his life story has always inspired me. His perseverance, composure, and never give up attitude motivate me to keep learning and striving for my goals. As I grow older, I've come to appreciate even more how his wisdom has shaped my life. My dad has repeatedly demonstrated an incredible ability to rebuild and achieve greater success, starting from very little and working his way to increased wealth. As a teacher, he has not only excelled in his profession but has also used his career as a foundation to invest in various ventures. His determination, resilience and ability to diversify, truly inspire me.

**What is or has been your greatest achievement?** Completing my bachelor's degree and becoming a registered nurse in Australia is one of my proudest accomplishments. It has allowed me to build a fulfilling career and support my family.

**What do you think is the most important thing in life?** Having a job that I love. It helps me grow in my career and also enables me to take care of my family.

**What words of wisdom can you share with other readers?**

- Be patient and never give up.
- The only competitor in life is yourself.



Photo:- Yiwu, a small city in Zhejiang Province



# FIND 30 DIFFERENCES

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# Resident Shopping Day

The bus will be available each Monday from  
1pm—4pm

Any residents who require to do any sort of errands in town, please let the Leisure and Lifestyles team know if you would like to be involved.



*Rebecca was  
thrilled to  
receive 3 new  
Dresses for  
Christmas*



# Bus trip to Narrawong Lavender Farm











# Quoits





*Happy New year!*



Residents got a bit  
Crafty seeing in the New Year







One of our unit residents, Pat Newton was overjoyed to cross something off her bucket list... Riding on the back of a motorbike.

Luckily her son Mark came for a visit and was able to make Pat's dream come true.

Pat said her favourite part was when they went a little bit fast.  
*You couldn't wipe the grin off her face.*







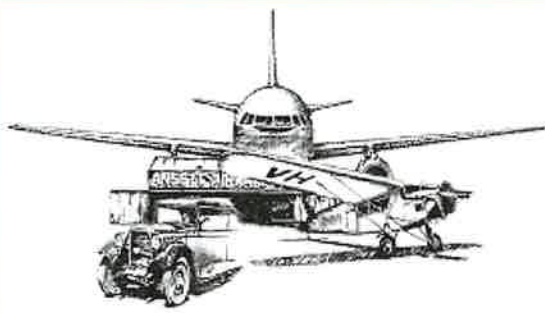
**Bowls**

**Staff  
verses  
Residents.**

**I wonder  
Who won!**







Sir Reginald Ansett Transport Museum

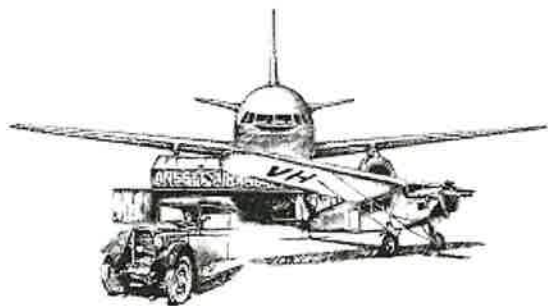
On the morning of 5th December, 1931, a young Reginald Ansett drove a Studebaker car from Hamilton to Ballarat, a car identical to this is a prize of the museum.

This one-man passenger service, started with a secondhand car, had become the biggest road passenger service in the Commonwealth.

Around the mid 1930s the Victorian Government took steps to curb the development of the young Ansett company . . . it was proving a more popular service than the State-owned railways.



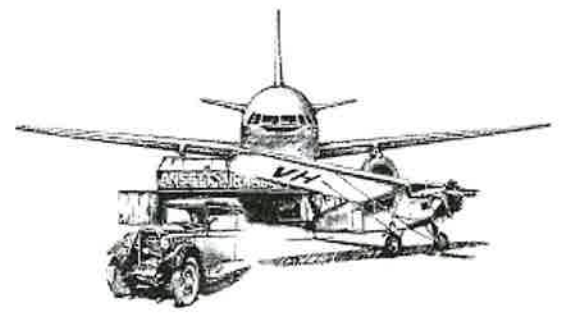




Sir Reginald Ansett Transport Museum







**Sir Reginald Ansett Transport Museum**





Some of our ladies found it very relaxing to have their hands feet and scalp massaged.





# Bean Bag Toss





# Cupcake Creations







Residents enjoyed decorating cupcakes to celebrate Australia Day and the Summer season. Residents worked as a team with Silvia and Marlene crushing biscuits to make our cupcake sand, Ann and Fay on icing duties followed by Marlene and Sylvia joining in, Robert, Faye and Lorna on Supervising Duties, then lastly a taste test to which gave a tick of approval!





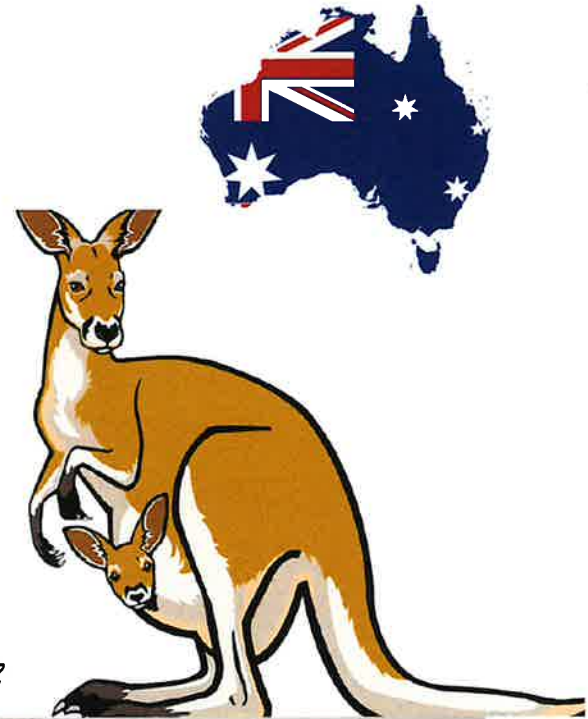
# Australia Day Craft







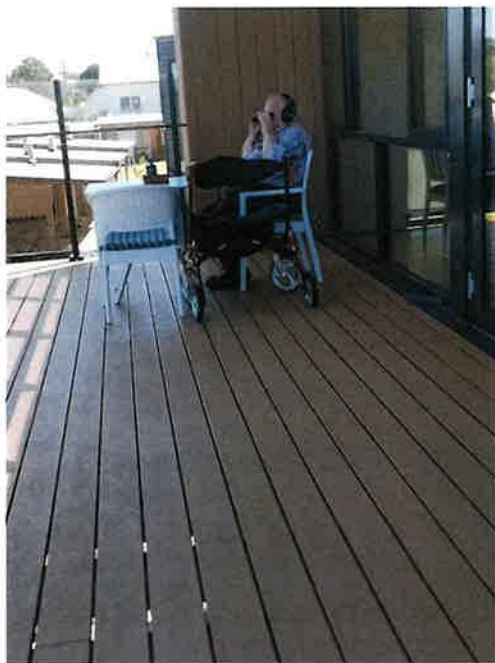




*A few Bars from Harry on his Trombone*







Arthur enjoys having meals on the Edgarley Deck as well as watching activities happening outdoors with his Binoculars.

On this occasion Arthur had spotted Wood ducks. On other occasions Arthurs sightings include a Koloa and lots of local birdlife.

Arthur said he often sees people walking their dogs along Bahgallah Road, he also keeps an eye out for our Staff member Judy Jones who rides her bike along the Begallah Road every evening.







# Remember/Recount Game





Residents were treated to a special visit from Leigh Hinch from Network Mobility who played the Button Accordion and Harmonica





# It's a Wonderful World

"Every day may not be good...  
but there's something good in every day."





# Happy Valentine's Day!

m i a n z                      t c v u o  
 m f y l r o s e s y a a c m c  
 j v l r e h f a v d m r m s g u h  
 h t o a c m e f n z g i f t s v s  
 o s w u u r f a j d y n r e t s u  
 x j e r p s c y r n e g v l e s k  
 g r b i d p p v t n o a n k n  
 s e d r k i s s l e d k i  
 f v a l e n t i n e p  
 c n i f b i g  
 f g b k d  
 x f e  
 r

love

cupid

valentine

heart

candy

cards

flowers

kindness

caring

February

red

kiss

hugs

pink

gifts

roses





## January Winners Page



### Dice Games

<b>Peter G x2</b>
<b>Ann</b>
<b>Des</b>
<b>Alice</b>
<b>Faye</b>

### Dominoes

<b>Des x2</b>
<b>Faye M</b>
<b>Alice</b>
<b>Gillian</b>

### Hangman

<b>Gillian</b>
<b>Jan</b>
<b>Ann</b>
<b>Alice</b>

### R.C.L

<b>Faye M</b>
<b>Gillian</b>
<b>John H</b>
<b>Ron</b>

### Sports games

<b>Peter G</b>
<b>Faye M</b>
<b>John H</b>
<b>Ann</b>

### Battleships

<b>Ann</b>
<b>Ron</b>
<b>Faye M</b>

### Find 10/Pairs

<b>Rebecca</b>
<b>Peter G</b>
<b>Alice</b>

### Bingo/Hoy

<b>John Z</b>
<b>Alice x2</b>
<b>John H</b>
<b>Jan</b>

### UNO

<b>Gillian</b>
<b>Ron</b>
<b>Alice</b>
<b>Faye</b>





# February 2025

	Date	Activity
1.	Saturday	NDIS Morning Upper Floor: Hangman 2.00 PM
2.	Sunday	Movie Day
3.	Monday	Lower Floor: Bingo 10.30 AM Upper Floor: Golf 2.00 PM All Areas: Shopping Run 1.00 PM
4.	Tuesday	Lower Floor: UNO 10.30 AM Upper Floor: Cooking 2.00 PM
5.	Wednesday	Upper Floor: RCL 10.30 AM Alma Vickery Room: Resident's Meeting 1.30 PM followed by Skittles
6.	Thursday	Lower Floor: Dice 10.30 AM Alma Vickery Room: Bowls 2.00 PM
7.	Friday	Lower Floor: Dominoes 10.30 AM Upper Floor: Battleships 2.00 PM
8.	Saturday	NDIS Morning Lower Floor: Country Bus Run 1.30 PM Upper Floor: Country Bus Run 3.00 PM
9.	Sunday	Movie Day
10.	Monday	Lower Floor: Find-10 10.30 AM Upper Floor: Shooting Hoops 2.00 PM All Areas: Shopping Run 1.00 PM
11.	Tuesday	Lower Floor: Anything Goes 10.30 AM Upper Floor: Valentine's Day Craft 2.00 PM
12.	Wednesday	Lower Floor: Cover the Numbers 10.30 AM Upper Floor: Golf 2.00 PM
13.	Thursday	Lower Floor: Word Bingo 10.30 AM Upper Floor: Country Bus Run 2.00 PM
14.	Friday	Lower Floor: Liars Dice 10.30 AM All Areas: Bottom Pub Lunch 12.00 PM
15.	Saturday	NDIS Morning Lower Floor: Dice 2.00 PM
16.	Sunday	Movie Day
17.	Monday	Lower Floor: Dice 10.30 AM Upper Floor: Country Bus Run 1.30 All Areas: Shopping Run 1.00 PM
18.	Tuesday	Lower Floor: Bingo 10.30 AM Upper Floor: Who Da Baby/child 2.00 PM



# February 2025

19.	Wednesday	Lower Floor: Cover The Numbers 10.30 AM Upper Floor: Games 2.00 PM
20.	Thursday	Lower Floor: Uno Flip 10.30 AM Alma Vickery Room: Bowls 2.00 PM
21.	Friday	Lower Floor: Anagrams 10.30 AM All Areas: Ess Lagoon Chicken & Chips 12.00 PM
22.	Saturday	NDIS Morning Lower Floor: Country Bus Run 1.30 PM Upper Floor: Country Bus Run 3.00 PM
23.	Sunday	Movie Day
24.	Monday	Lower Floor: Dominoes 10.30 AM Upper Floor: History Group with Ruth 2.00 PM All Areas: Shopping Run 1.00 PM
25.	Tuesday	Lower Floor: Balloon Game 10.30 AM Upper Floor: Rock Painting 2.00 PM
26.	Wednesday	Lower Floor: Jacks 10.30 AM Upper Floor: Bean Bag Toss 2.00 PM
27.	Thursday	Lower Floor: Hangman 10.30 AM Upper Floor: Quoits 2.00 PM
28.	Friday	Lower Floor: Uno 10.30 AM Upper Floor: Bus Run Afternoon Tea and Drive 1.30 PM

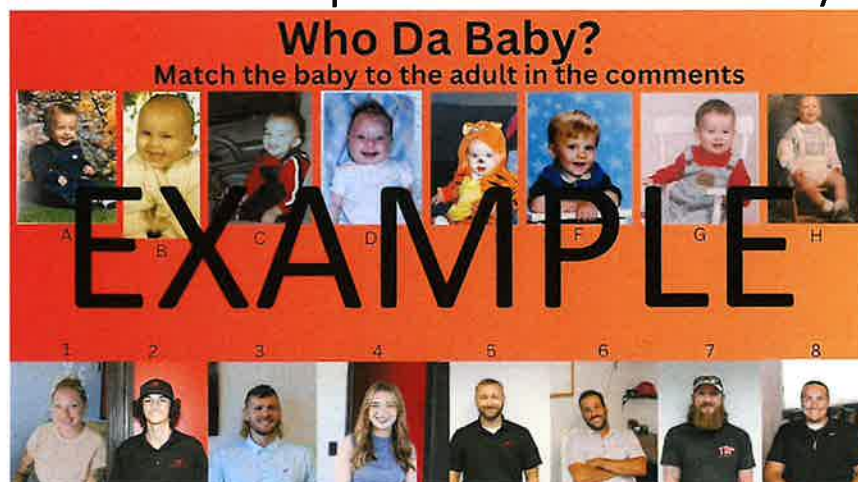
**GOOD HAIR  
ISN'T BY  
ACCIDENT.  
IT'S BY  
APPOINTMENT**

*Kerri from Hairwize will be here 9:15 AM February 3rd*  
*Nikki from Mane on Henty will be here at 1 pm March 13th*

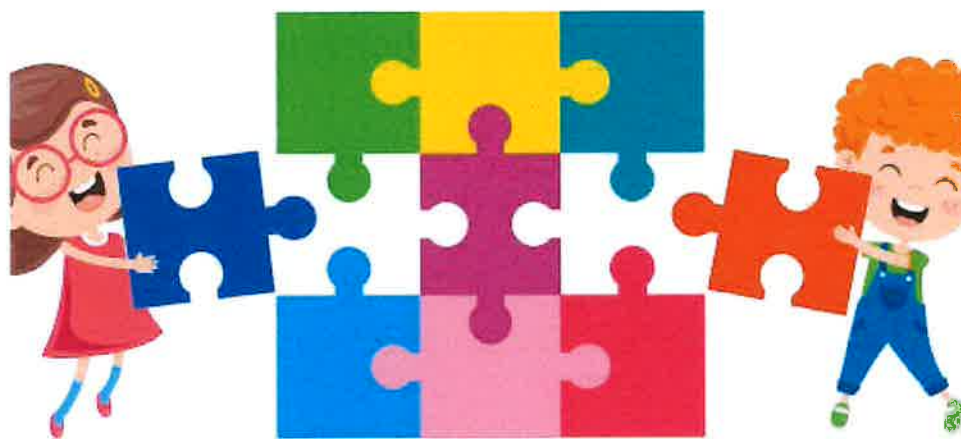
## February Competition & Activity 18<sup>th</sup> February

Match the Staff member to their baby/child photo

Details & Staff photos available February 18th



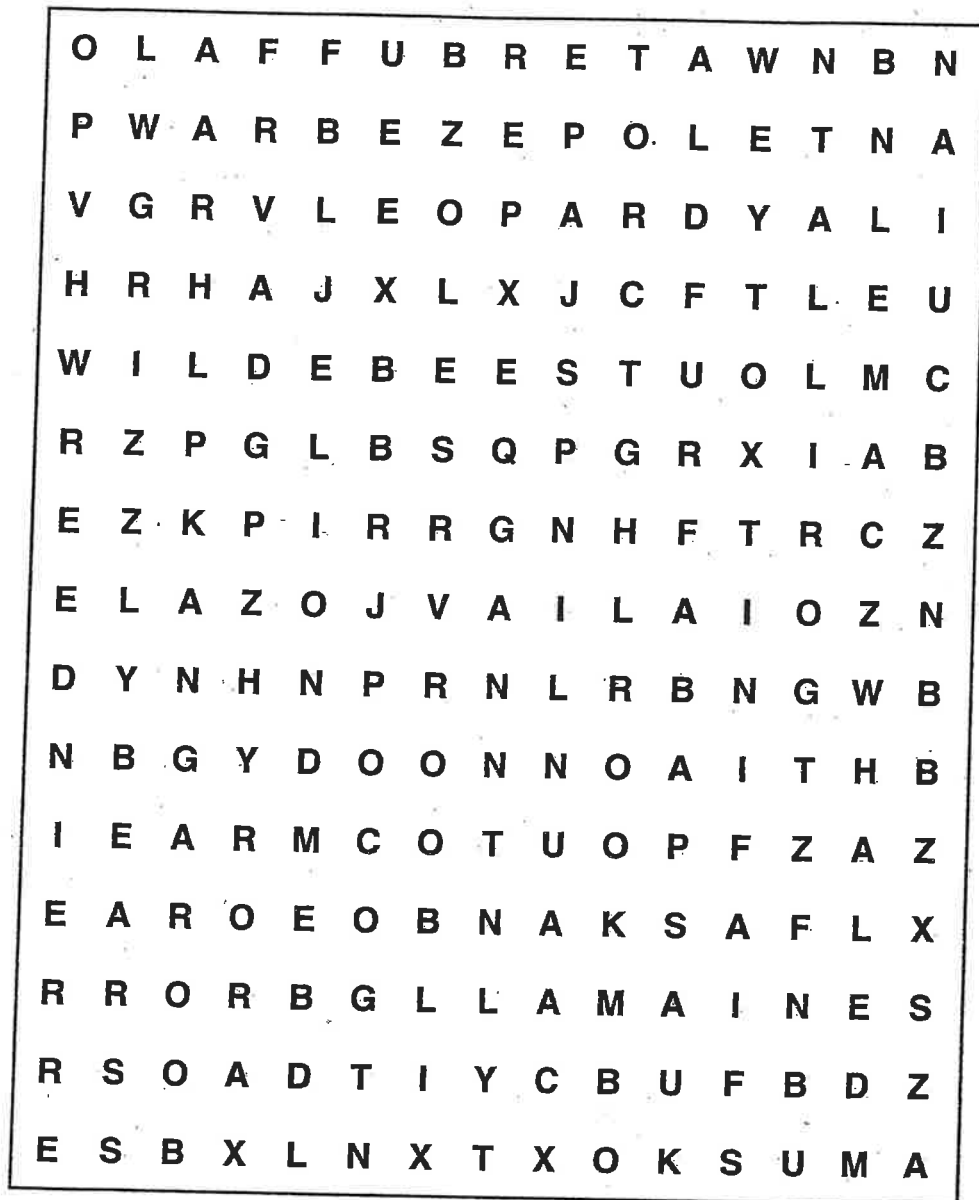




# February Puzzles







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

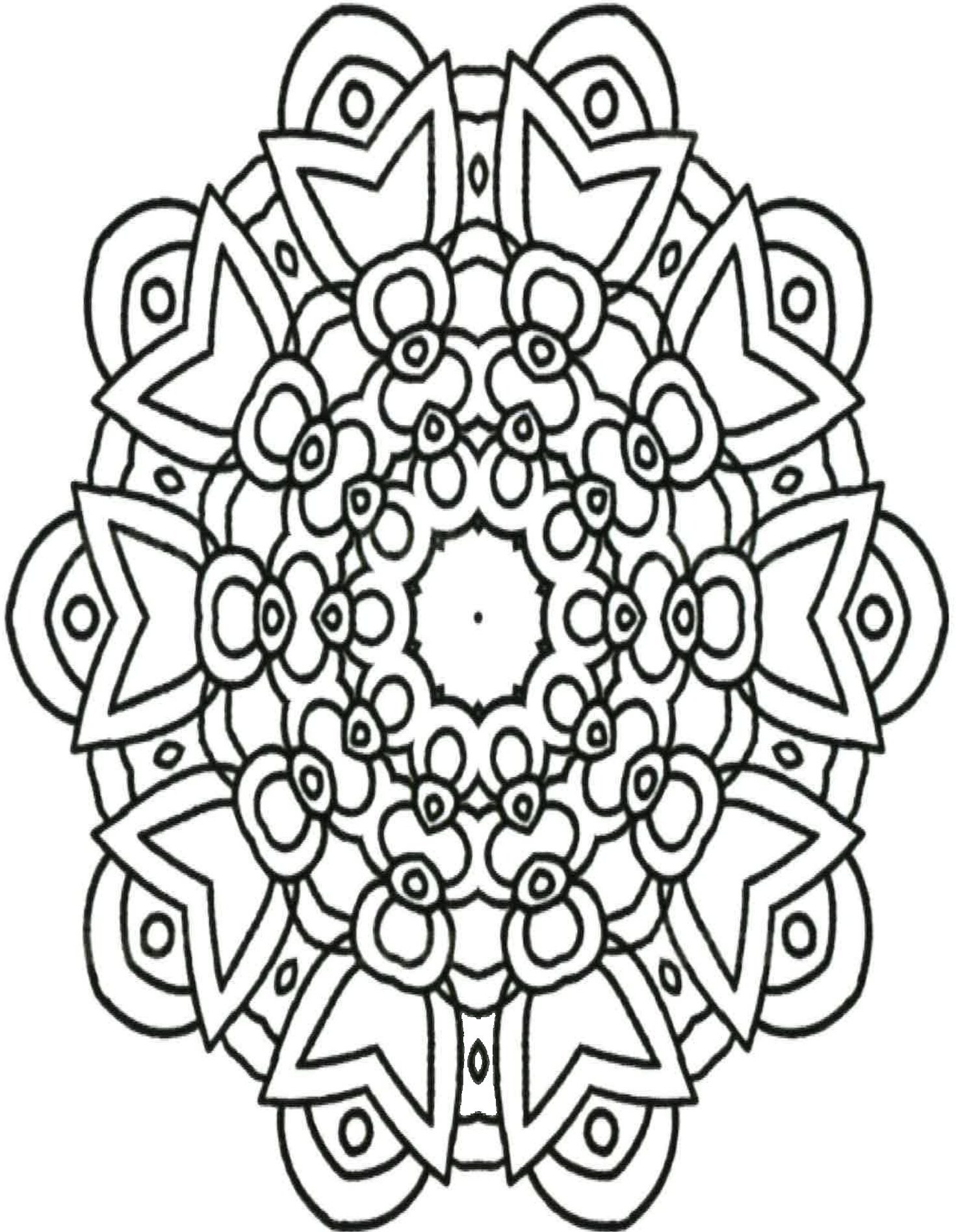
27. YAK

28. ZEBRA

Solution is on page 110



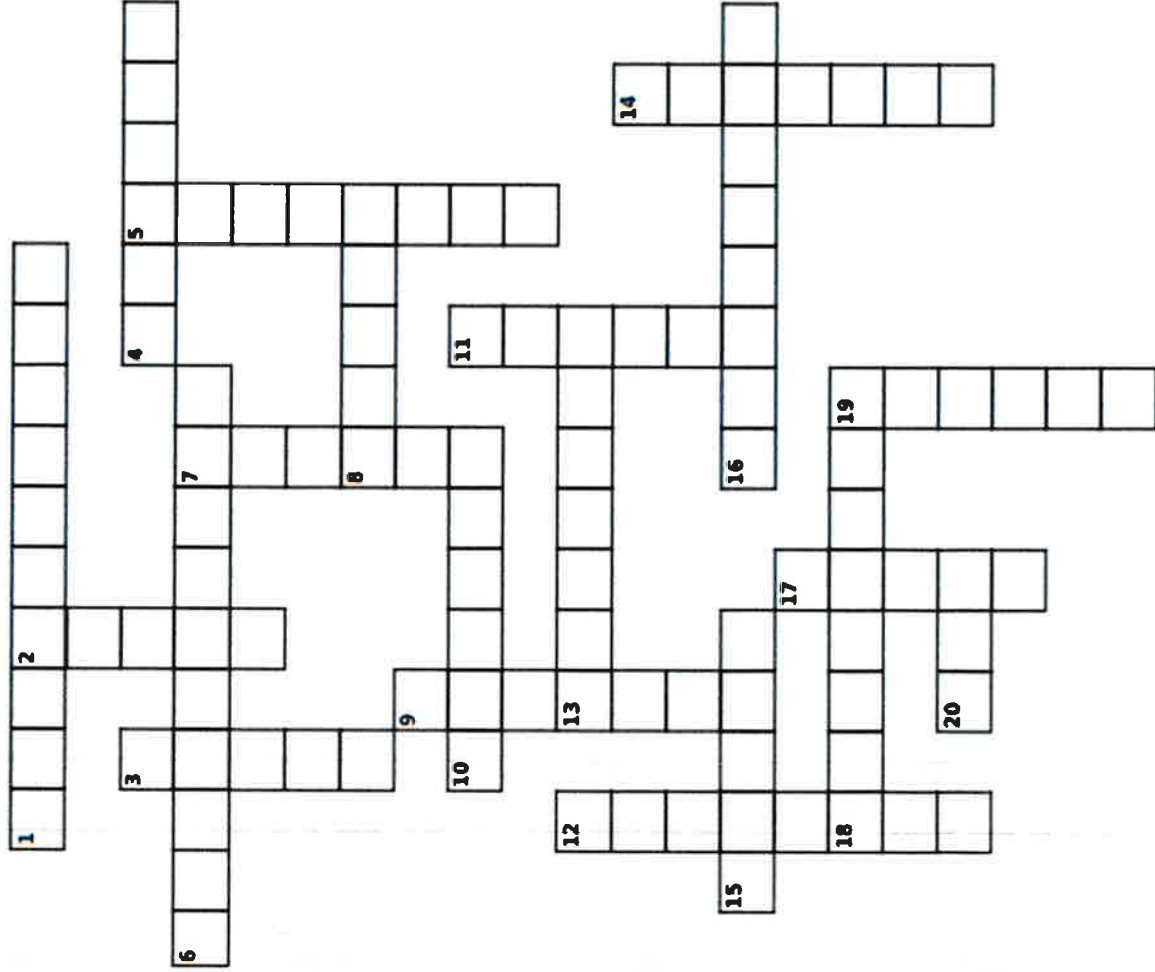
Color Me







# GUESS THE ANIMAL

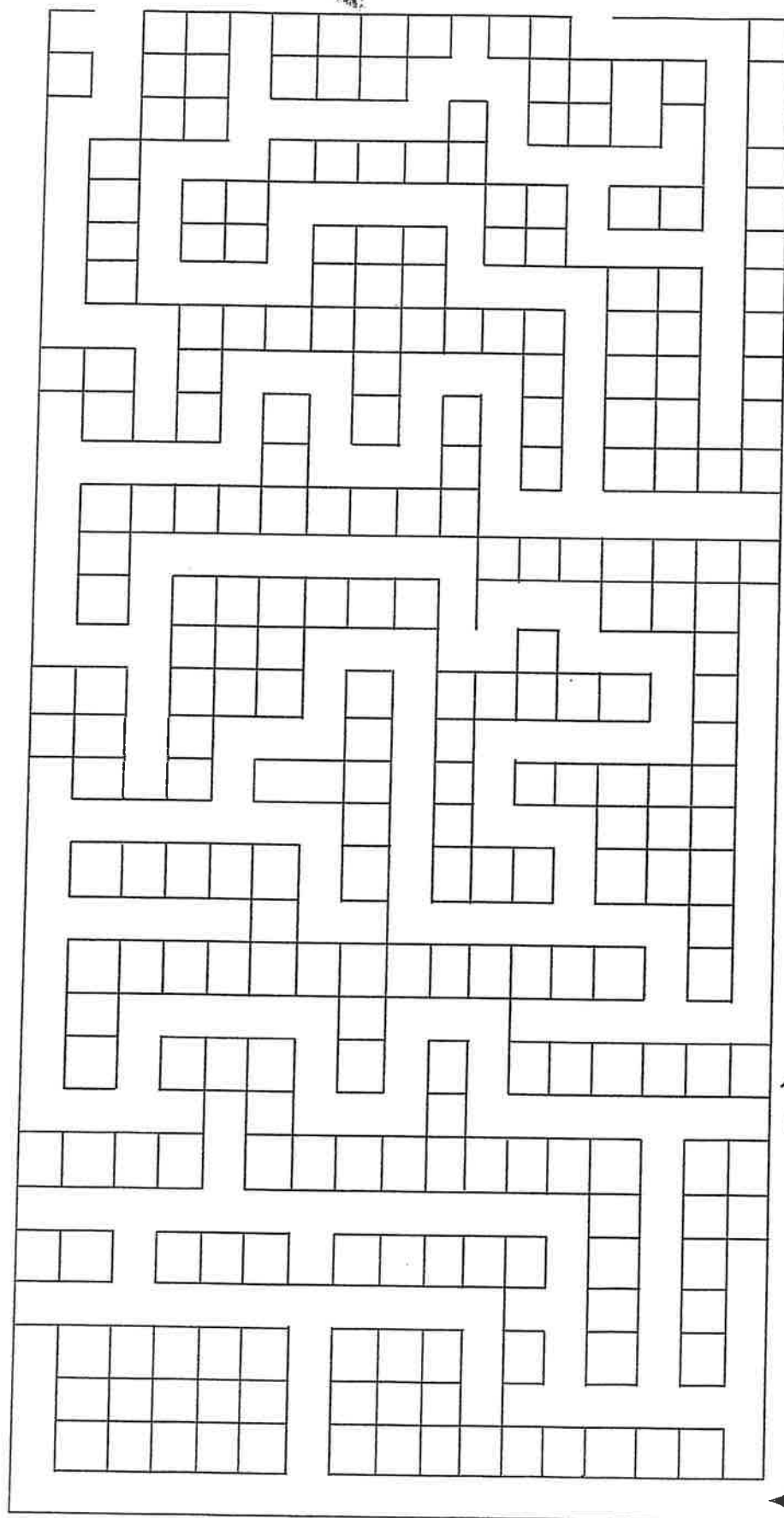


## Across

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.

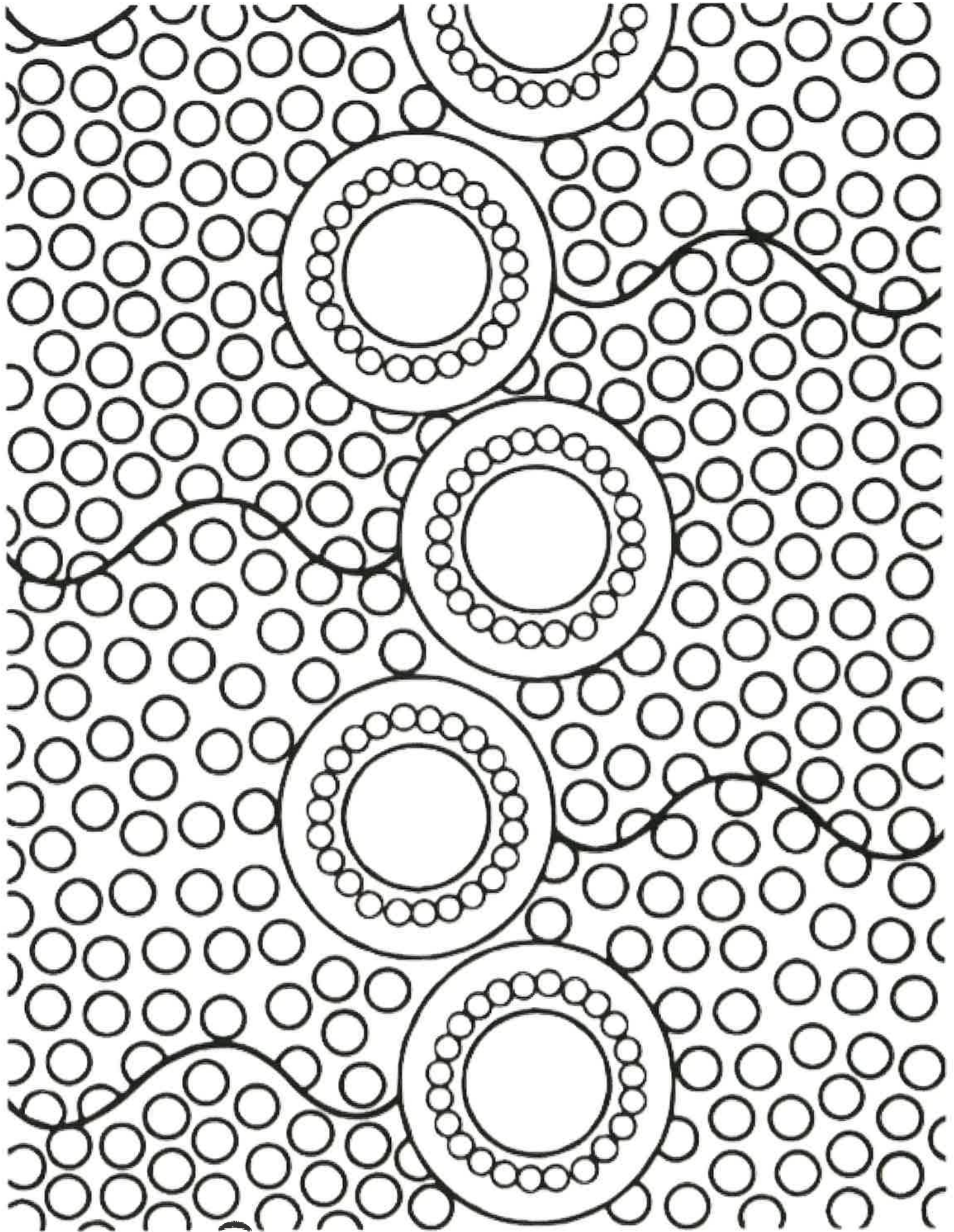
## Down

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 culture 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

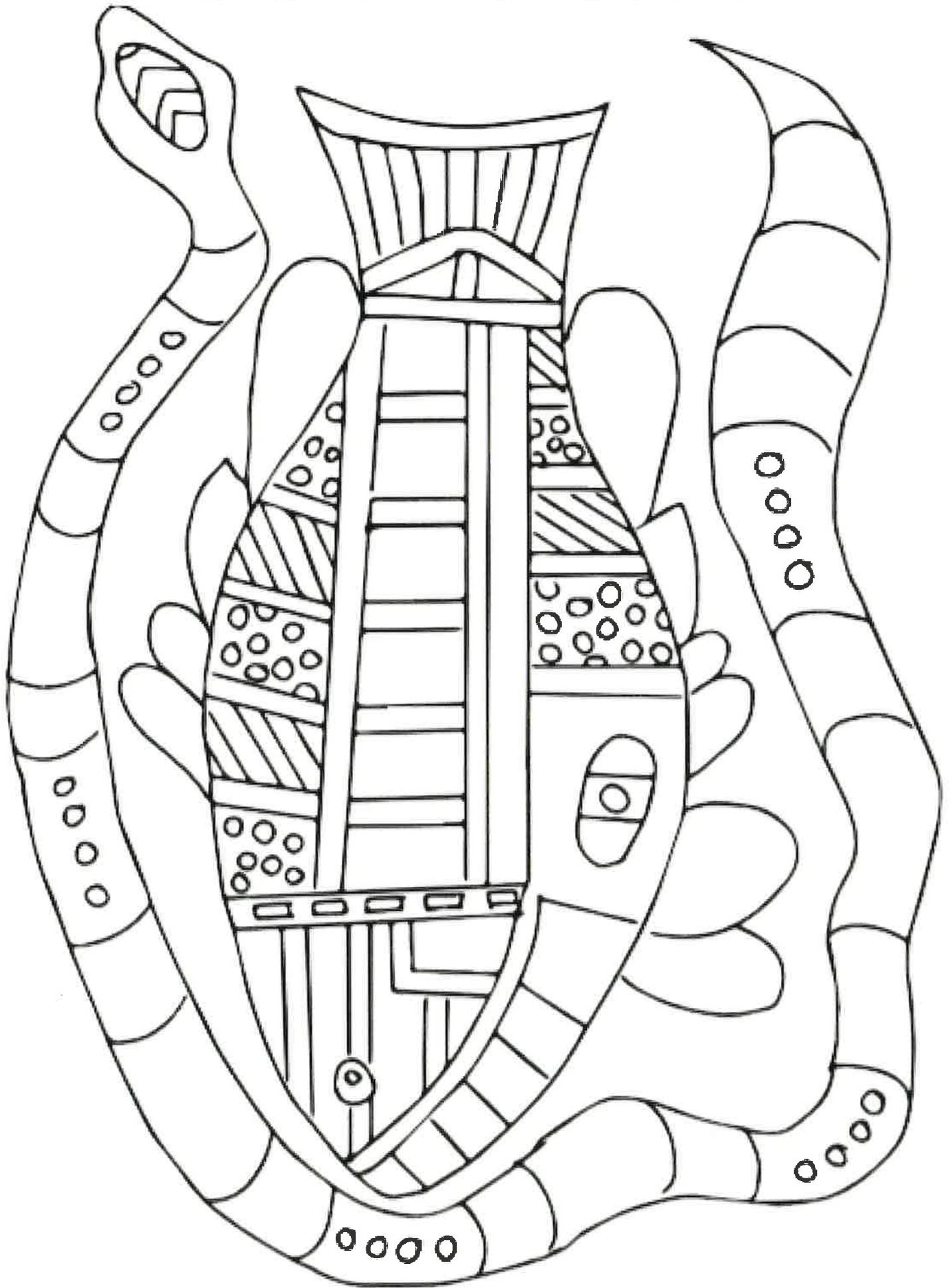




# Color Me



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."

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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.**