



# EDGARLEY ASSISTED LIVING

Specialising in complete quality aged care and independent living.

# NEWSLETTER

## February 2026



73 Jackson Street , Casterton Vic 3311

Phone: 03 55 811211, Fax: 03 55 812050

# From the CEO



Hi everyone,

Well, the first month of the year has flown by. The extremes of weather have been amazing! 43 degrees one day then 15 degrees and rain the next. Do I put on a jumper, or do I take the jumper off?

For Edgarley the repairs continue from the storm damage, with the independent units almost finished, the home will be next for the repairs. Everyone will need to be aware of the scaffolding that will need to be placed around the building.

We have also had some malfunction with the Air Conditioning System, our maintenance team are trying hard to stay on top of the issues seeking input from the external providers.

During the most recent extreme weather day Edgarley advertised that the doors (Alma Vickery Room) were open from 10am - 6 pm to anyone who needed to escape the heat. We will alert the community if we need to do this again.

Edgarley will undergo Re – Accreditation this year so management and staff are busy auditing and mapping out how we meet the New Aged Care Quality Standards. Also this year Edgarley will look at the feasibility of doing a few Community Announcement/Information Events on various topics open for the entire community. Topics for these information events may include: Understanding what is required to be admitted into Aged Care, Education on Dementia and what it is.

So, stay cool, stay out of the heat, and stay tuned on what Edgarley may get up to this year.

Susan

Residents were busy colouring and painting historical landmarks of England. Great relaxing afternoon.



## **Join the Edgarley Ladies Auxiliary!**

Are you looking for a **rewarding way to give back**? Our small but mighty volunteer team provides vital **equipment and support** for Edgarley residents, and we'd love for **YOU** to join us!

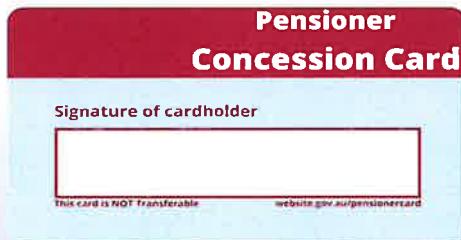
**Easy Commitment:** Meetings are held the **first Monday of the month at 2 pm** in the Alma Vickery function room.

**Flexible Option:** Can't make the meeting? You can help us on an **ad hoc basis** with our fun fundraisers!

**Everyone Welcome:** No prior connection to Edgarley is required.

## **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



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

## Residents meeting

**GLENELG Wednesday 11th February 1.30.**

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.

# 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.



Elwyn & Milo



# LEISURE AND LIFESTYLE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteering offers a chance to provide **companionship, emotional support, and social engagement**, significantly enhancing the **quality of life** for our residents. By sharing your time and skills, you make a positive contribution to our community.

To learn more, please phone Edgarley and speak to our Leisure and Lifestyle

## Edgarley Staff Shirt Color Code by Role

Staff wear designated shirt colors to easily identify their roles:



### SHIRT COLOUR      STAFF ROLE

RED      NURSE



NAVY      PCW



AQUA      TRAINEE PCW



COLOURFUL      LIFESTYLE & LEISURE



PURPLE      KITCHEN



BLACK      ENVIRONMENTAL

## 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.*



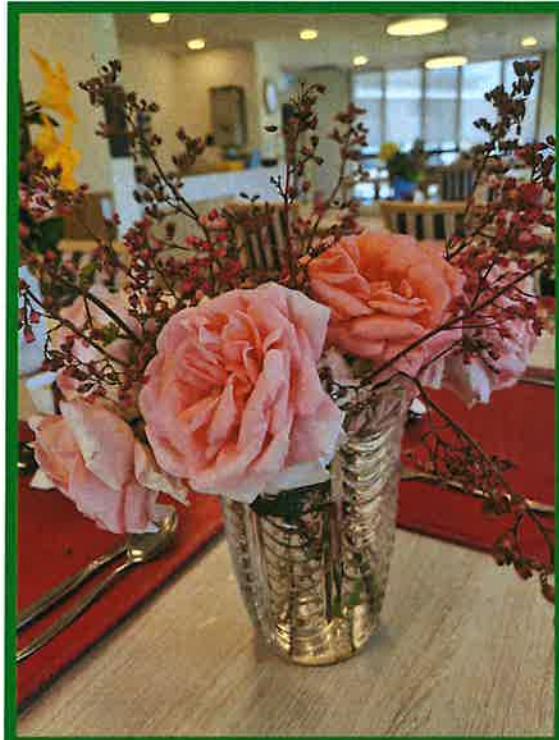
We have a new game called "Go Play"

Congratulations to Gill who was our winner with a score of 2225





Residents enjoyed playing indoor golf which provided a safe, low-impact way for them to improve balance and cognitive focus while enjoying a friendly game.



The ladies did a wonderful job  
with the flower arrangements—  
they look lovely.



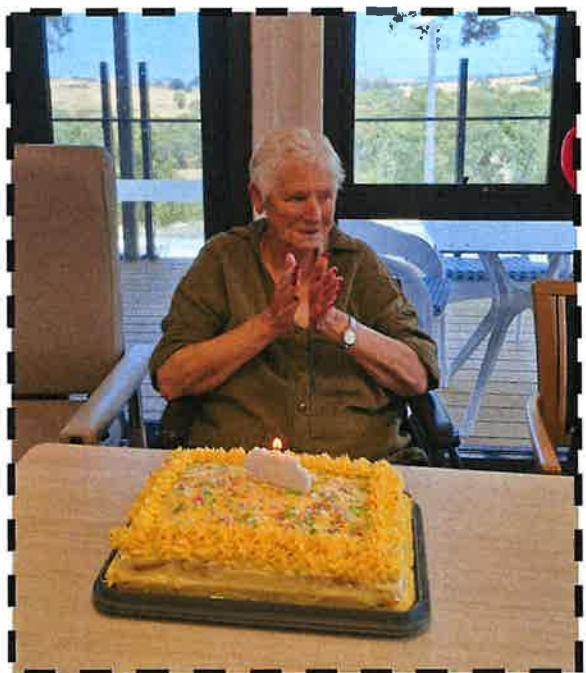


Robert enjoyed a wonderful week with his Son and daughter in-law for his birthday.

HIPHIP  
HOOORAY!



Dianne enjoyed her birthday surrounded by family and new friends





Elwyn thought it was funny  
when the men showed off  
their manicured nails.





Alice beamed with pride and delight as she spent time with the newest generation of her family.

Great grand children Charlie, Dominic, Mitchell, Nicola, and Rose.



Evelyn was thrilled to have her family with her to help celebrate her birthday.

## Open Invitation: Join the -

### Edgarley Consumer Advisory Committee

Are you passionate about ensuring the highest quality of aged care? Do you want your voice and the voice of care recipients to be heard?

Edgarley is extending an open invitation to dedicated individuals to join our Consumer Advisory Committee.

#### What is the purpose of the Committee?

The primary purpose of the Consumer Advisory Committee is to provide valuable, ongoing **feedback** (any time) to the Governing Body about the **quality of aged care** provided to our care recipients. Your, input will be crucial in helping us continually improve our services.

#### Who are we looking for?

We are seeking individuals who can bring the perspective of aged care consumers (care recipients, their representatives, or family members) to the table.

Your commitment to honest, constructive feedback is what matters most.

#### Meeting Schedule

The Committee meets on a quarterly basis. Please note the meeting months for 2026:

- **March 2026** *(date to be confirmed)*
- **June 2026** *(date to be confirmed)*
- **September 2026** *(date to be confirmed)*
- **December 2026** *(date to be confirmed)*

#### How to Express Your Interest

If you are interested in joining the Consumer Advisory Committee and contributing to the quality of aged care at Edgarley, please contact:

Edgarley 558 11 211

[office@edgarley.com.au](mailto:office@edgarley.com.au)

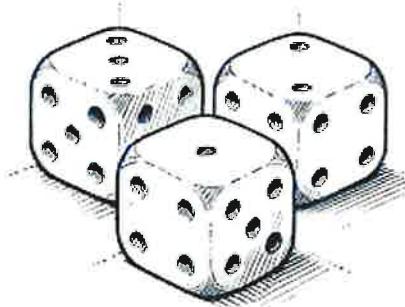








# Cover The Numbers



**DICE  
GAMES**



# Australia

When you think of Australia what comes to mind?



Abbey said;  
"The Eureka stockade"



Dean said;  
"Open spaces"



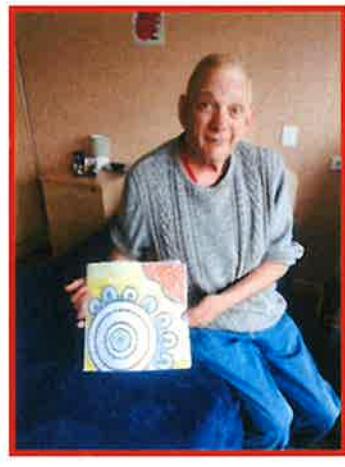
Anna said;  
"Aborigines"



Gajal said;  
"Kangaroos"



Ron said;  
"A peaceful place"



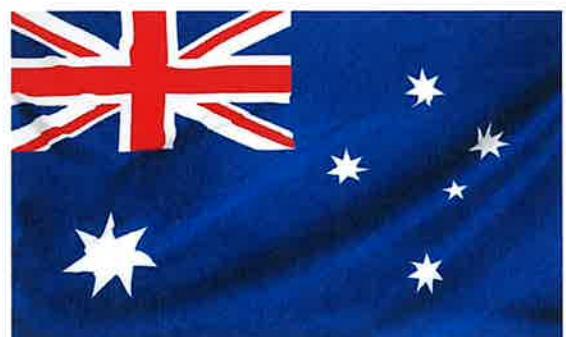
Peter said;  
"A free country"



Rebecca said;  
"The beach"

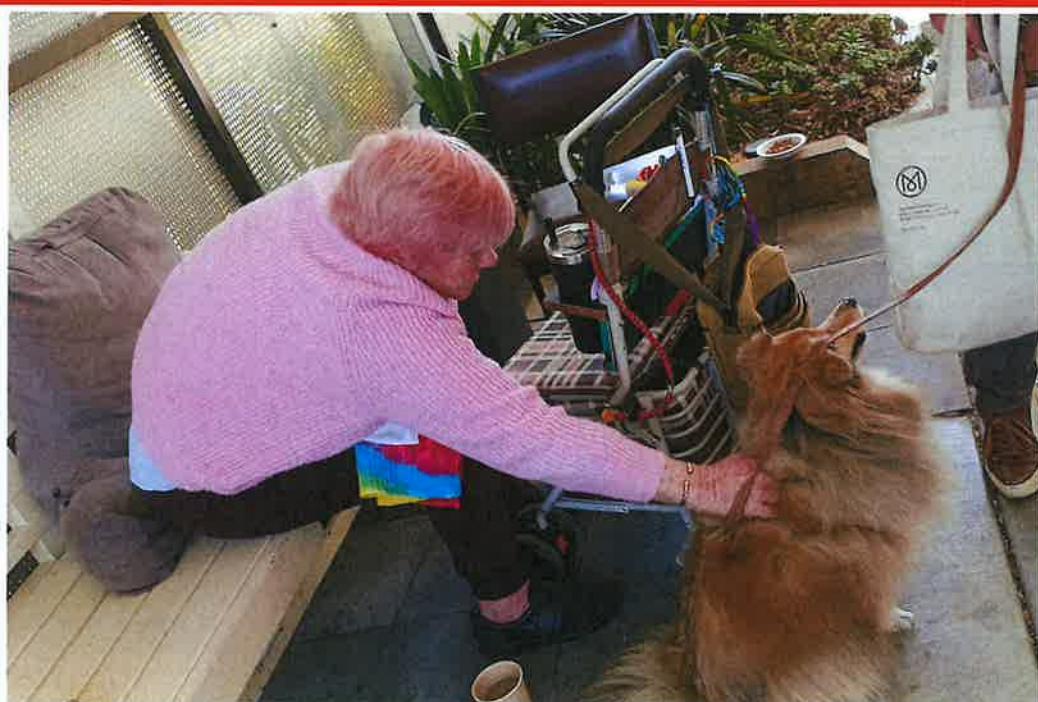


Nancy said;  
"Barbeques"





Residents enjoyed a visit to Coleraine and had afternoon tea at the Catching Pen.



Merlie takes every opportunity to talk to the pets we have visiting here at Edgarley. In this instance Merlie was showing Mia some love.

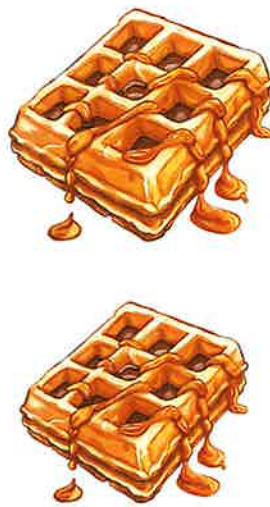
Laughter often fills the lounge as residents gather around a grid of face-down cards for a spirited game of **Pairs**. While the atmosphere is lighthearted, there is a focused intensity in the room; players lean in, tapping their temples as they work to visualize exactly where that elusive King of Hearts is hidden. It's a delightful paradox where the "work" of sharpening their **memory and concentration** feels less like a chore and more like a shared victory, proving that keeping the mind agile can be just as entertaining as it is rewarding.



Ross and Max holding  
the snake skin  
belonging to a very big  
python .



## Residents enjoyed making and eating yummy belgian waffles.



Residents enjoyed gardening outdoors on the balcony on a beautiful day.



## Residents and Representatives Meeting January

<b>Start date</b>	07 Jan 2026 13:30	<b>End date</b>	07 Jan 2026 14:40
<b>Present</b>	Brook, Gillian, Brown, Susanne, Bull, Alice, Cates, Alysha, Corker, Sylvia, Harris, Cheryl, Humphries, John, Inglis, Evelyn, Jordan, Ronald, Joyce, Vincent, Lee, Amanda, McDonough, Janet, McKinnon-Ward, Carol, Morrow, Fay, Parham, Darrell, Peden, Ann, Power, Leslie, Robertson, Nancy, Thomas, David	<b>Locations</b>	Edgarley
<b>Present(Other)</b>	Gravestocks, Norman, Krajnc, Marjan, Steers, Audrey, Steers, Michael	<b>Venue</b>	Alma Vickery Function Room
<b>Apologies</b>		<b>Chairperson</b>	Cates, Alysha

Ref No.	Notes/Issues	Planned actions	Intended result
<b>1 - Welcome and apologies</b>			
1.00 Welcoming		Alysha welcomes everyone to meeting, with a special greeting to Audrey Steer's son Michael.	That everyone be made welcome and comfortable at meeting.
<b>2 - Previous Minutes - Business arising from Previous Minutes</b>			
2.00 Gymnasium		Gymnasium has been approved, there are multiple options that are being considered, including the main dining room of the old building, or the Physio's office.	That residents be kept up-to-date on the latest news regarding the exercise room.
<b>3 - Food Focus Group</b>			
3.00 Tasteless Food		Michael Steers brings up the issue of food potentially being tasteless. Mandy invites Michael up for a taste-test on Friday the 9th of January.	That representative's fears about food are allayed.
3.01 Uneaten Meals		Michael popped up for a meal, and was pleasantly surprised, being very happy with the meal, and finding the portions satisfactory. Michael also had questions about uneaten meals, and whether this is recorded. Mandy explains that yes, this is recorded, and that if a resident loses 2 or more kilos, the dietician is automatically notified and said resident is then offered protein supplements, but no one can be forced to eat if they do not wish too.	That Michael's questions be satisfactorily answered.
3.02 Leaving the Table		A resident raises issue of them not being able to leave the table after they have finished their meal due to congestion (caused by wheelchairs, walkers, etc), saying they wish to leave the dining room shortly after they have eaten.	That residents are able to come and go freely as they choose during and after meal times.
3.03 Survey		Staff will look into this issue. Leisure and Lifestyle to conduct a survey regarding seating during meal times. This survey will determine whether seating will be open or permanent, majority vote will decide.	That a final decision is made in regards to seating.

## Residents and Representatives Meeting January

Ref No.	Notes/Issues	Planned actions	Intended result
<b>4 - Feedback: Compliments, complaints and suggestions</b>			
4.01 Compliments		Family and Friends Christmas BBQ was considered a success, with a good time had by all, with multiple residents praising the event and thanking staff.	That staff are thanked for their hard work and due diligence.
4.02 Complaints about Security		A resident has complaints regarding security of their room, stating that when he leaves, he locks the door, but upon returning he finds the room unlocked and the room disturbed.	Another resident mentions cleaners and care staff have keys. DON Mandy Lee will send a message to all staff to lock all doors if resident not in attendance.
4.05 Weathervain		A resident makes a request for a weathervain at the front entrance of the building. Mandy Lee will look into this possibility.	That all requests -- great and small -- are acknowledged and properly looked into.
4.06 Life at Edgarley		Aileen Bowen makes it formally known that she is very happy at Edgarley Homes, feeling that the level of care is more than satisfactory and that she is looking forward to spending many years here to come.	That Aileen have her voice be heard and her complements passed on to staff.
<b>5 - Quality of Care</b>			
5.01 Podiatrist Appointments		A resident's son had questions about podiatrist appointments, their regularity, etc. It was explained to him that the podiatrist keeps their own list of dates (which Mandy will endeavour to get to Mr Steers) but that every resident should be seen at least once every three months. It is also explained that this service is free for all residents.	That Mr Steers be duly informed of the podiatrist's schedule and system.
<b>6 - Lifestyle Program - Activities</b>			
6.00 Petting Zoo		Leisure and Lifestyle Staff have organised a visit from the Little Animal Petting Zoo on Thursday the 19th of February, in the Alma Vickery Room. All residents invited.	That residents are made aware of up-coming special event.
6.01 Sacred Heart Primary School		Last month's Primary School visit was considered a success, with everyone enjoying the activity and looking forward to the next visit. Sacred Heart Primary School was formally thanked for taking time out of their day to visit Edgarley.	That the resident's enjoyment and gratitude for Sacred Heart's visit is made publically known.
6.02 Swimming Pool		Mario is interested in going to the swimming pool, and how he could get there. Mandy first explains where the local pool is, and that there are a few options available to him, the best of which would be to see the Leisure and Lifestyle team and organise a schedule.	That Mario's questions are answered.
6.03 Activities Clean-up		A resident comments that after Leisure and Lifestyle are not putting the tables back correctly after activities have finished. Lez says that tables are always put back in the right place, but he will mark the correct position on the floor so that everyone knows where the tables go.	That tables are always put back in the right place.
6.04 Ladies Auxiliary Afternoon Tea		Ladies Auxiliary Afternoon Tea considered a success, with residents singling out the good food and groovy atmosphere provided by Judy Jones's singing.	That both the Ladies and Judy Jones are thanked for their hard work.
<b>7 - General - Other</b>			
7.00 Flags		It was noted that the Torres Straight Islanders flag was in incorrect order, this has now been corrected.	That flags wave proudly in their correct order.
7.01 Mario's Hearing		Mario fears that he is interpreted as rude, or that people feel he is ignoring them. Mario wishes to make it formally known that he is simply deaf, and has no intentions of rudeness.	That everyone understand that Mario is not rude, just hard of hearing.
<b>8 - Meeting Closed</b>			
8.01 Meeting Closed		Alysha thanks residents and representatives for attending, and thanks them for their time. Gillian also thanks all staff for their hard work.	That everyone is thanked for their time.

# February 2026

	Date	Activity
1.	Sunday	Rest Day
2.	Monday	Lower Floor: Table games 10.30 AM Upper Floor: Hoy 1:30 PM All Areas: Shopping Run 1.00 PM Leisure and Lifestyle Meeting 10.00 AM
3.	Tuesday	Lower Floor: Dice 10.30 PM Upper floor: Skittles 1:30 PM
4.	Wednesday	Lower Floor: Bingo 10:30 AM Alma Vickery Room: Resident's Meeting 1.30 PM Followed by Activity
5.	Thursday	Lower Floor: Golf 10:30 PM Upper Floor: Valentines Craft 1:30 PM
6.	Friday	Lower Floor: Hangman 10:30 PM Alma Vickery Room: Movie Day 1:30 PM
7.	Saturday	NDIS Day Lower Floor: Dice 2.00 PM
8.	Sunday	Lower Floor: One-on-Ones with Alysha 10:30 AM Upper Floor: Dominos 1:30 PM
9.	Monday	Lower Floor: Bingo 10.30 PM Upper Floor: Bean Bag Toss 1.30 PM All Areas: Shopping Run 1.00 PM
10.	Tuesday	Lower Floor: UNO 10.30 AM Upper Floor: Cover the Numbers
11.	Wednesday	Lower Floor: RCL 10.30 AM All Areas: Bowls Club 1.30 PM
12.	Thursday	Lower Floor: Find a Word Competition 10.30 AM Upper Floor: Garden Club 1.30 PM
13.	Friday	Lower Floor: Dominos 10.30 AM Upper Floor: Battleships 1.30 PM
14.	Saturday	NDIS Day Lower Floor: Find-10s 2.00 PM
15.	Sunday	Rest Day
16.	Monday	Lower Floor: Hangman 10.30 AM Upper Floor: Card Games 1.30 PM All Areas: Shopping Run 1.00 PM
17.	Tuesday	Upper Floor: Skittles 10.30 AM Lower Floor: UNO 1.30 PM

# February 2026

18.	Wednesday	Lower Floor: Bingo 10.30 PM Upper Floor: Arts and Craft 1.30 PM
19.	Thursday	Lower Floor: Pairs 10.30 AM <b>Alma Vickery Room: Little Animal Petting Zoo 1.30 PM</b>
20.	Friday	Lower Floor: Anagrams 10.30 AM Upper Floor: Dominos 1.30 PM
21.	Saturday	<b>NDIS Day</b> Dice 2.00 PM
22.	Sunday	Lower Floor: One-on-Ones with Cheryl 10:30 AM Upper Floor: Dominos 1:30 PM
23.	Monday	Lower Floor: Liar's Dice 10.30 AM Upper Floor: Golf 1.30 PM <b>All Areas: Shopping Run 1.00 PM</b>
24.	Tuesday	Lower Floor: Card Games 10.30 AM Upper Floor: Cooking Group 1.30 PM
25.	Wednesday	Lower Floor: Cover the Numbers 10.30 AM Upper Floor: History Group 1.30 PM
26.	Thursday	<b>All Areas: Central café Casterton 10.30 AM</b> Upper Floor: Bingo 1.30 PM
27.	Friday	Lower Floor: Table games 10.30 AM Upper Floor: Anagrams 1.30 PM
28.	Saturday	<b>NDIS Day</b> Lower Floor: Hangman 2.00 PM

GOOD HAIR  
ISN'T BY  
ACCIDENT,  
IT'S BY   
APPOINTMENT

*Kerri from Hairwize will be here at 9:15<sup>AM</sup> on 23<sup>rd</sup> of February  
Nikki from Mane on Henty will be here at 10am on 11<sup>th</sup> February*

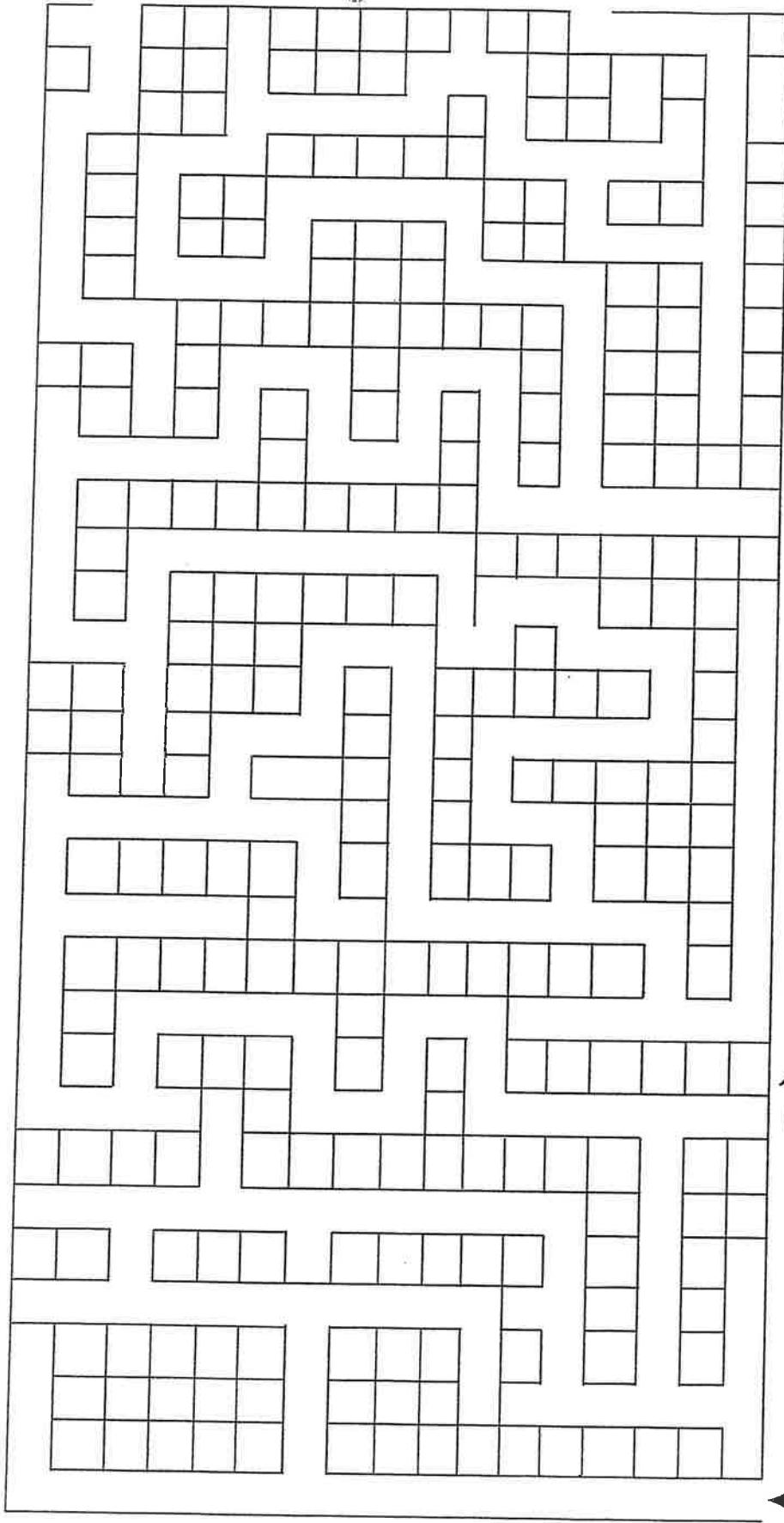
Catholic Church will be holding a service in the on 11<sup>th</sup> of February 1:30pm  
Anglican Church will be holding a service on 19<sup>th</sup> of February at 1:30pm

All welcome



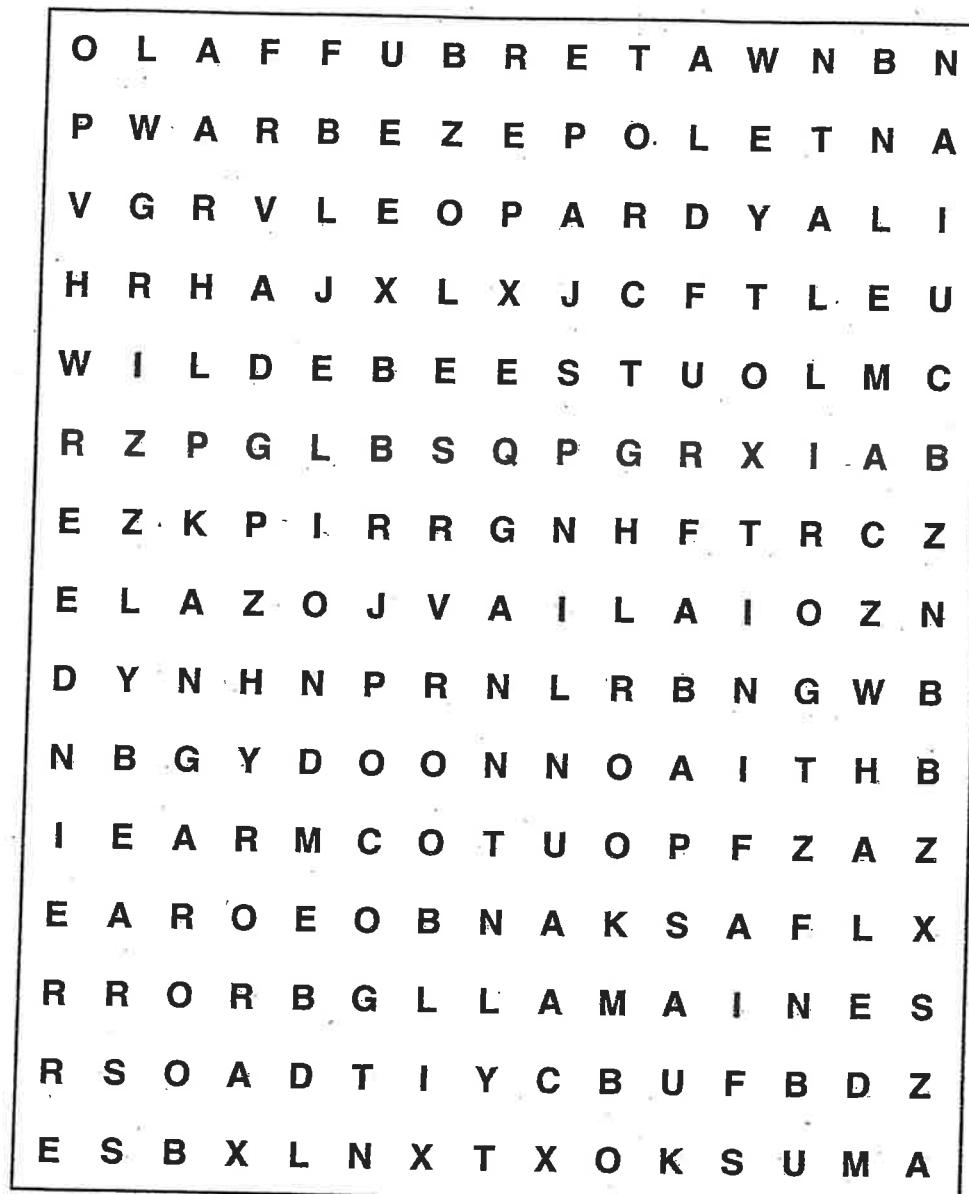
# February Puzzles





Help the Cornish Miners  
find their way to the Engine House





1. ANTELOPE

6. ELEPHANT

25. WHALE

2. BABOON

7. GIRAFFE

26. WILDEBEEST

3. BISON

8. GORILLA

27. YAK

4. CAMEL

9. GRIZZLY

28. ZEBRA

5. CARIBOU

BEAR

Solution is on page 110

10. HIPPOPOTA-

MUS

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

## Crossword

## 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 socialbe and intelligent.

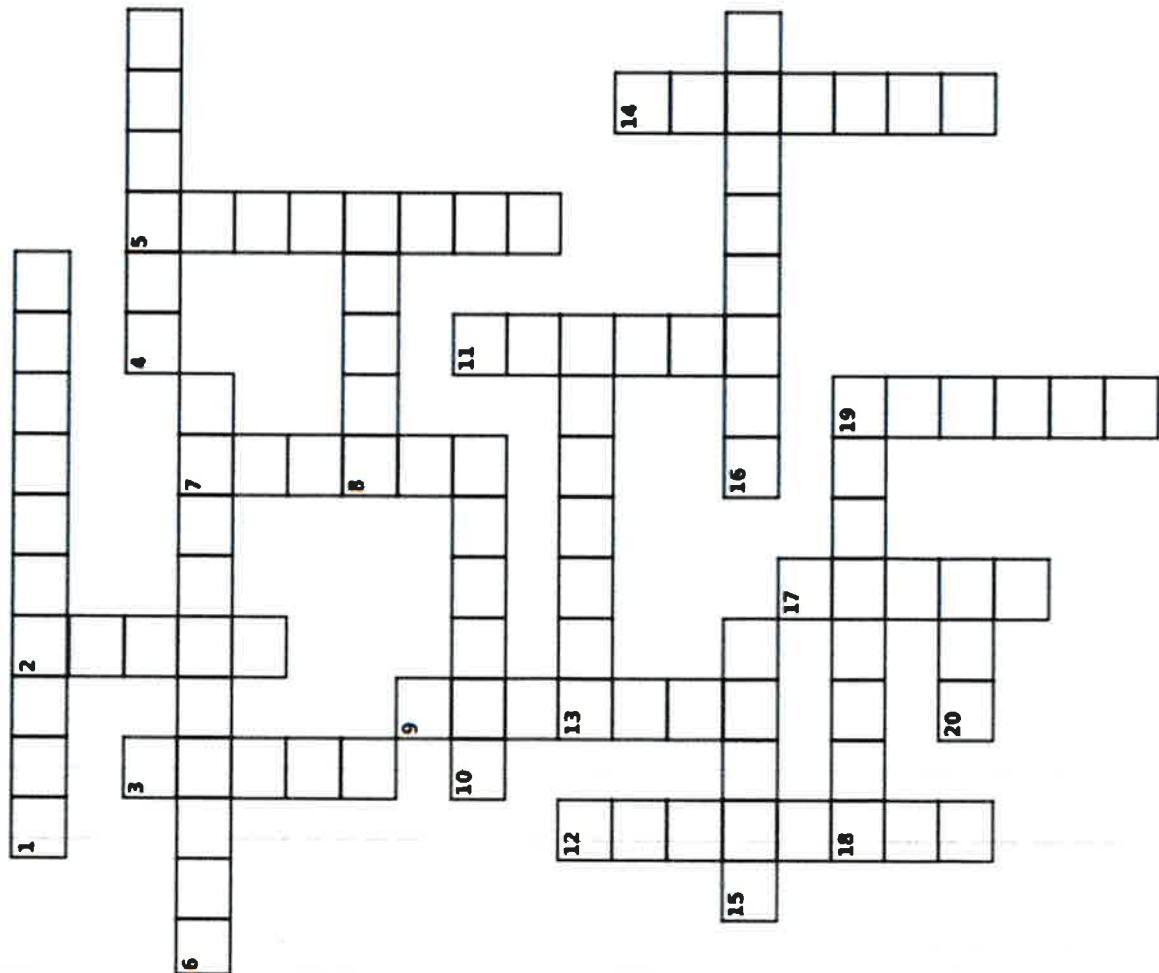
11. I am a large vulture of the Andres and the national symbol of Peru

12. I am a South American mammal that resembles a giant long-legged guinea pig. I am the largest living rodent.

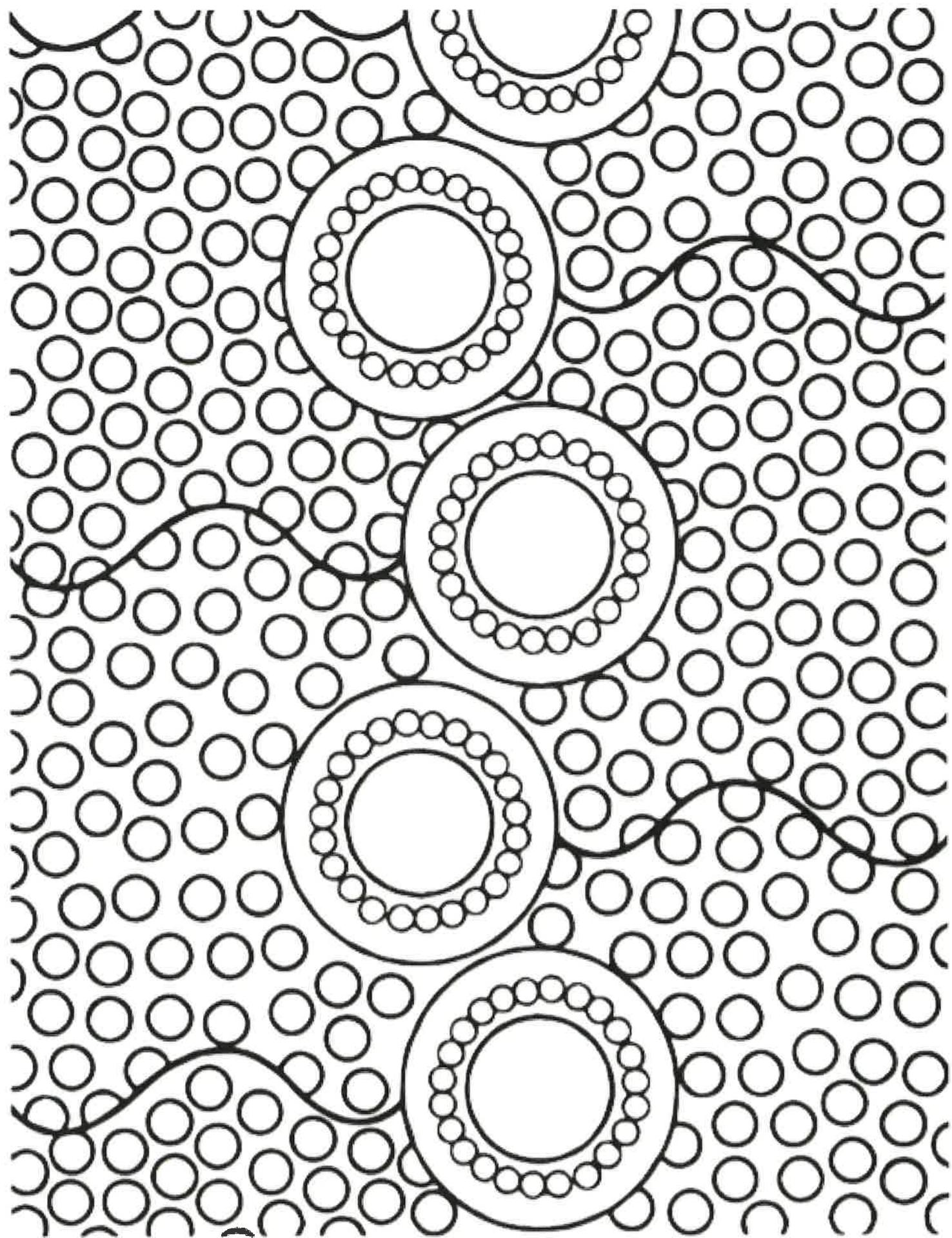
14. I am an arctic white whale with a long spiral ivory tusk

17. I look like a small bear but I am not related to them. I only eat eucalyptus leaves.

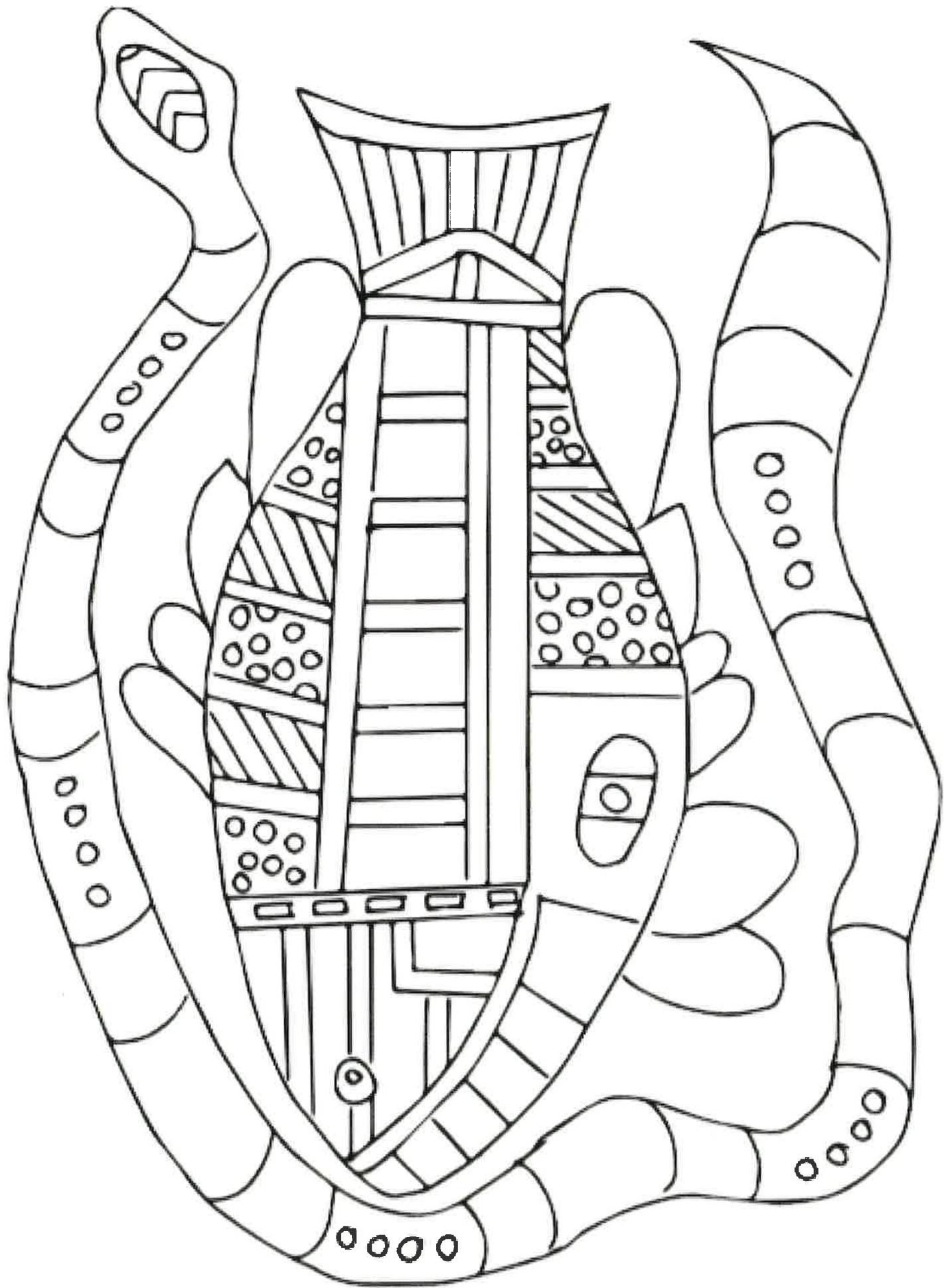
19. I am a relative of the llama



# 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 asks 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."

# 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **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 Cudgee, Branxholme, 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.