

# PLAINS-WANDERER WANDERINGS

BY THE STUDENTS FROM HAY PUBLIC SCHOOL AND ST MARY'S PARISH SCHOOL, HAY

JULY 2024

INTERESTING  
FACTS

TEST YOUR  
KNOWLEDGE

LETTERS TO  
THE MAYOR

HOW TO TAKE CARE OF  
OUR PRECIOUS PLAINS-  
WANDERER



STORIES

CROSS WORD  
JOIN THE DOTS  
WORD SEARCH

FUN QUIZES

PLAINS-WANDERER BY SOPHIE GRIFFITHS

RECIPE : FOOD FOR  
PLAINS-WANDERERS



# 2024 Plains-wanderer program

The 2024 Plains-wanderer education program, funded by BayWa r.e. Projects Australia in partnership with Hay Trees on Plains Landcare and Riverina Local Land Services, provided a unique learning opportunity for students from Hay Public School, St Mary's Parish School, Hay, and Hay War Memorial High School. Through immersive experiences such as observing Plains-wanderers in their natural habitat at Gayini, exploring their ecosystem, and visiting the captive breeding site at Taronga Western Plains Zoo, students deepened their knowledge of this critically endangered species. The program culminated in the creation of this magazine, showcasing their learnings and fostering community engagement in conservation efforts.



Local Land Services



Education



# TABLE

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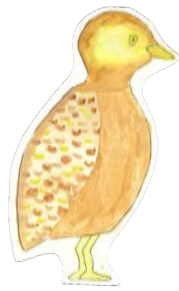
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Archie



# OUR EXCURSION TO GAYINI



Rhyla Bunyan

We boarded the bus from Hay Public School and headed out on the Maude Road bound for Gayini. The Nari Nari people are the custodians of Gayini which is approximately 80km west of Hay. It is home to an extremely diverse range of animals, plants and birds.



We travelled out to Gayini with students from St Mary's and Hay War Memorial High School. The Woods family (Jamie, Sam, Bronx, Kyper and Oaken) live on Gayini and are very proud of their country. When we arrived at Gayini, Bronx gave us a Welcome to Country.

**After morning tea (watermelon and snacks) we were split into groups and started our rotations between activities:**

1

Jamie taught us about the special significance of Gayini and also the care they take for many endangered species including the Plains-wanderer. He also spoke to us about the management of feral pests such as foxes and how they have an ongoing fox control and fox baiting program on Gayini.

2

We met David Parker and learnt about his scent dog, Molly, who is trained to track the scent of the elusive Plains-wanderer. Molly demonstrated how she could follow the scent of a Plains-wanderer as David had hidden a jar with scent on the ground. Molly found it really quickly.

3

Mrs Sam Woods and the rangers Cody and Kai showed us how to make seed balls and we all helped make some which would be placed around Gayini. We rolled dozens of seed balls, which would lie dormant on the ground after they were put out, then in rain, the mud around the seed would break down and the seed would germinate. We had to crack the seeds first which was lots of fun.





4

Jenny Dwyer from Murrumbidgee Landcare inc taught us about grid mapping and the ideal environment for the Plains-wanderer – 50% bare ground and 50% grass. So ideally the Plains-wanderer doesn't like too much grass because they can't get away from predators and will bump into the grass and get stuck. They don't like the ground completely bare as they still need to hide from their predators. They are often called the goldilocks bird – 'not too grassy, not too bare, just right.'



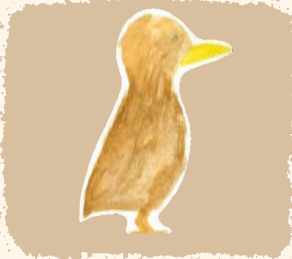
**After the rotations finished, the Woods' and the Nari Nari cooked us a delicious sausage sizzle, then some of the kids played footy while others sat on the edge of the creek and just enjoyed the environment. It was a great day. Thanks very much to the Woods', the rangers and the Nari Nari for giving us such a wonderful experience. Thanks Tom for driving us out.**



**BY EMILY ROKOBATI, HEATH THOMSON, REEF ALCHIN-SMITH AND EDWARD MALONEY**

# Interesting facts about THE PLAINS-WANDERER

BY HEATH THOMSON AND RYAN CLARK



 **Dusty**

- There are only about one thousand left in the wild.
- The female does a special dance to attract the male.
- The Plains-wanderer is only 12 to 15cm tall.
- The female lays her eggs and leaves the nest while the male does all the work.
- The male is in charge!
- The Plains-wanderer is a closer relative to shore birds and gulls than quails.

There is actually no other species in the world like the Plains-wanderer. It is one of a kind and unique.

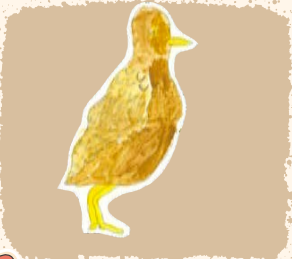
The female has red feathers on her chest and the male does not.

As soon as the female lays the eggs, the male sits on the eggs and incubates them. The female leaves, never to return.

The adult female is substantially larger than the male and has a distinctive white and black spotted collar.



 **Preston**



 **Xavier**

- Plains-wanderers have excellent camouflage in the scrub.
- The Plains-wanderer is small and doesn't like flying.
- The main predators of Plains-wanderer are cats and foxes.
- A native predator of the Plains-wanderer is the Black Falcon. Like the Plains-wanderer, this bird is also endangered.

The landscape of the Hay Plains is the ideal habitat for the Plains-wanderer. The Plains-wanderer needs 50% grass and 50% clear in its habitat so it can hide and can also run from its predators.

Grazing animals such as sheep and cattle help maintain the habitat for the Plains-wanderer as they keep the length of the grass down.



 **Eulalie**



# Letter to Sir David Attenborough

Dear Sir David Attenborough,

My name is Clara Nelson and I am nine years old. I live in Hay, NSW, Australia and I am writing to ask if you could please do a show about a critically endangered bird called the Plains-wanderer (scientific name *pedionomus torquatus*). They live in the area around Hay and I want to help save them. It is an interesting bird and here are some interesting facts;

- They can't fly like other birds.
- Their predators are cats, foxes and snakes.
- They compete with rabbits for food.
- Plains-wanderers look like a tiny bird with a rufous red chest and a white and black collar.

I would love for you to please do a documentary on the Plains-wanderer so we can save this little, unique bird.

Yours sincerely,

Clara N

Clara Margaret Nelson  
Moatfield, west of Hay  
New South Wales  
Australia



Image: Taronga Western Plains Zoo

**Now colour him in!**





*The adult female is substantially larger than the male and has a distinctive white-spotted black collar.*

*Plains-wanderers do not like to fly because if disturbed their first instinct is to run. While not entirely flightless, they tend to fly low and poorly, relying on camouflage to avoid being seen.*

# Plains-wanderer



# Word Search

Find the following words in the puzzle.  
Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .



**Lacey**

UNDERGRAZING  
OVERGRAZING  
ENDANGERED  
HABITAT  
CATTLE

FEMALE  
FOXES  
CATIO  
SHEEP  
SMALL

PICKY  
CATS  
BIRD

*If a Plains-wanderer is approached too closely, they will run rather than fly.*

*Plains-wanderers' predators are foxes, cats and eagles.*

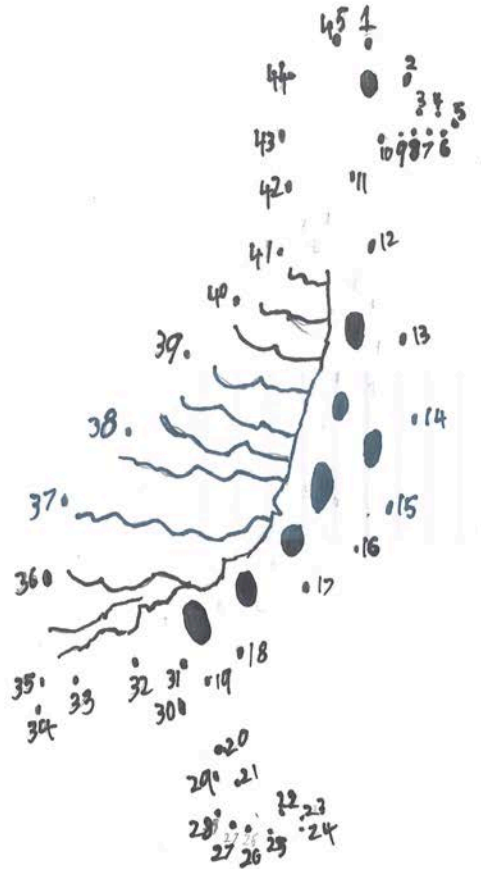
*Plains-wanderers have excellent camouflage and will quickly hide at any disturbance.*

# Finish the Dot-to-Dot!

The Plains-wanderers are very picky with where they live.

The Plains-wanderer eats bugs to hydrate.

The female lays the eggs but the male cares for them.



The Plains-wanderer can fly but it prefers to walk.



Leah



USE YOUR MATHS SKILLS TO CRACK THE CODE AND FIND THE MISSING WORD!



$6 + 10$

$6 \times 2$

$1 \times 1$

$4 + 5$

$30 - 16$

$23 - 4$

$18 + 5$

$30 - 29$

$6 + 8$

$10 - 6$

$3 + 2$

$3 \times 6$

$40 - 35$

$5 + 13$

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

U	V	W	X	Y	Z
21	22	23	24	25	26



Cathy & Zoya

# PLAINS-WANDERER POETRY



Bill

Plains-wanderer  
Very endangered  
Running and hiding  
Feeling unsafe about everything  
Plains-wanderer

Brodie, Nylah,  
Riley &  
Eulalie

Protected but endangered bird  
Laying on the ground  
And hoping not to be seen  
If I was a Plains-wanderer, I would  
Not be able to  
See the fox about to strike.

Wow, such a scary moment  
A black falcon above waiting for the right time  
Now the Plains-wanderer is silent  
Did you hear the breathing of the scared little bird?  
Even the tiniest creature can have such big fears.  
Ready to start running from the Black Falcon  
Even if you've never seen this bird, you will still want  
to be  
Ready to save the elusive Plains-wanderer.

Zoe

Plains-wanderer amongst the dry land  
Looking for a safe place to nest  
Arid grassland  
Inside the bushy tussocks are the baby  
Plains-wanderers  
No close relatives  
Seeds, insects and rare leaves are their meals

Wandering around at night looking for a  
safe place to hide  
Australia's rarest bird  
Night time is when we sneak around and  
eat  
Dingoes, dogs, wild cats, foxes and birds  
are their predators  
Endangered and almost extinct  
Rarely spotted out of their habitat  
Eggs are about to hatch, eagles are flying  
closely  
Running through the grass, escaping from  
their threats

Rhyla



Nash

Haiku

Lethal, stealthy cat  
Stalks little Plains-wanderer  
Run, hide in the grass

Darts quickly away  
The little Plains-wanderer  
Trying to escape

Matilda



# GLOSSARY

*By Harley Atkinson and Edward Maloney*

Word	Definition
Habitat	The land and environment where an animal lives and gets its food and shelter.
Genes	Hereditary traits that are transferred from parents to their children. For example, the colour of their eyes.
Conservation	Looking after and preserving the natural environment.
Predator	An animal that hunts or preys on other animals.
Prey	An animal that is hunted or killed by other animals for food (meat).
Captive Breeding	Keeping a species safe in a zoo or captive breeding cages so that that endangered species will not become extinct. Breeding in these captive breeding areas so that young can be produced so that the species will continue. Eventually these young will be released back into the wild.
Camouflaged	When an animal uses its natural colour or shape to hide by blending in with its surroundings.
Extinction	When an entire species dies out and it disappears from the Earth forever.
Species	A group of closely related living things that have the same features.
Incubation	Keeping eggs warm at the right temperature so that the babies inside the eggs can survive, grow and hatch.
Endangered	When a species' numbers drop in the wild and they are on the road to extinction.

# PLAINS- WANDERER TRIVIA!

1. Where do Plains-wanderers live?

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2. What is the lifespan of a Plains-wanderer?

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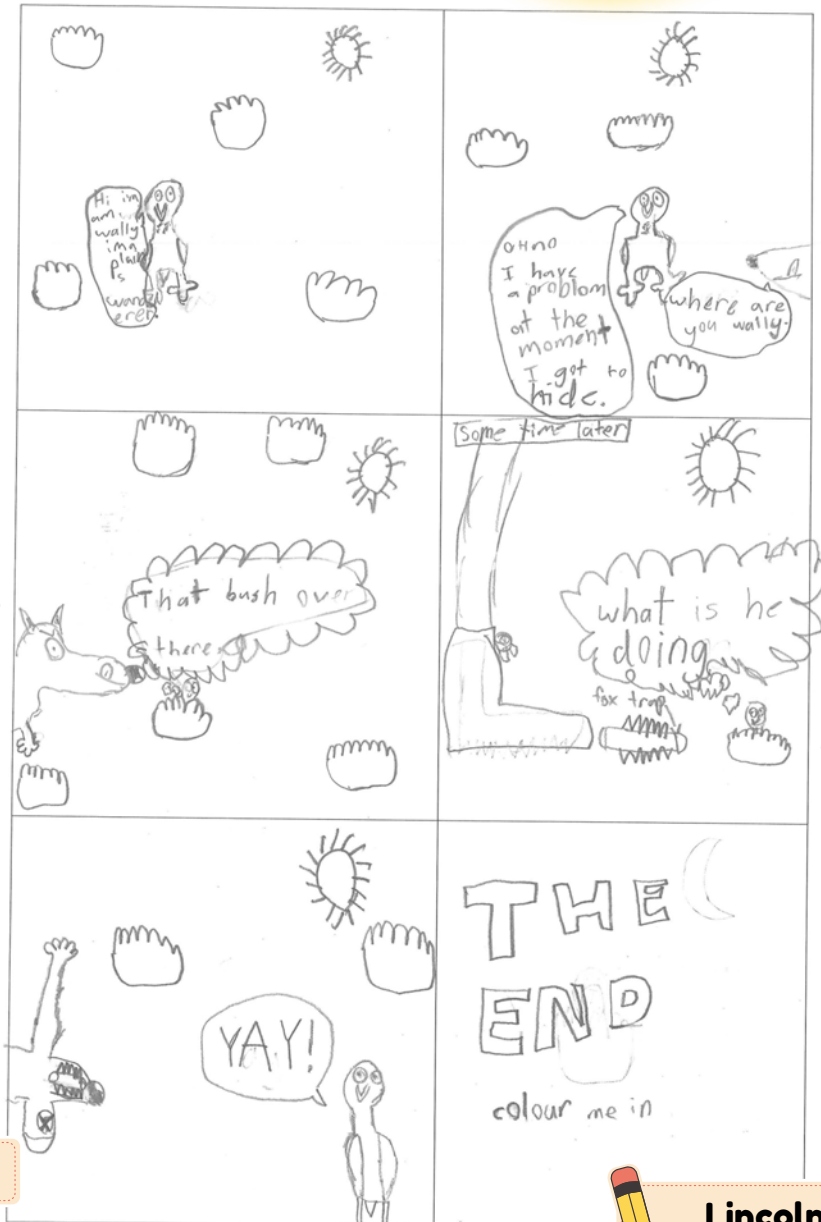
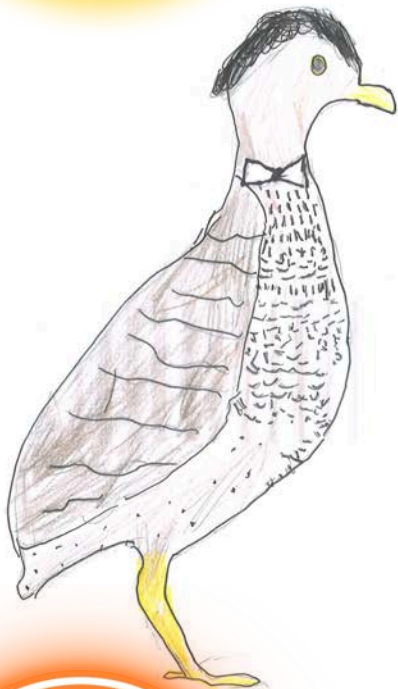
3. Do Plains-wanderers like to fly or walk?

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4. What nursery rhyme are they nicknamed after?

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**READ THIS & COLOUR IT IN!**



5. What do Plains-wanderers eat?

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Lola



Lincoln

# CHECK OUT OUR DRAWINGS!

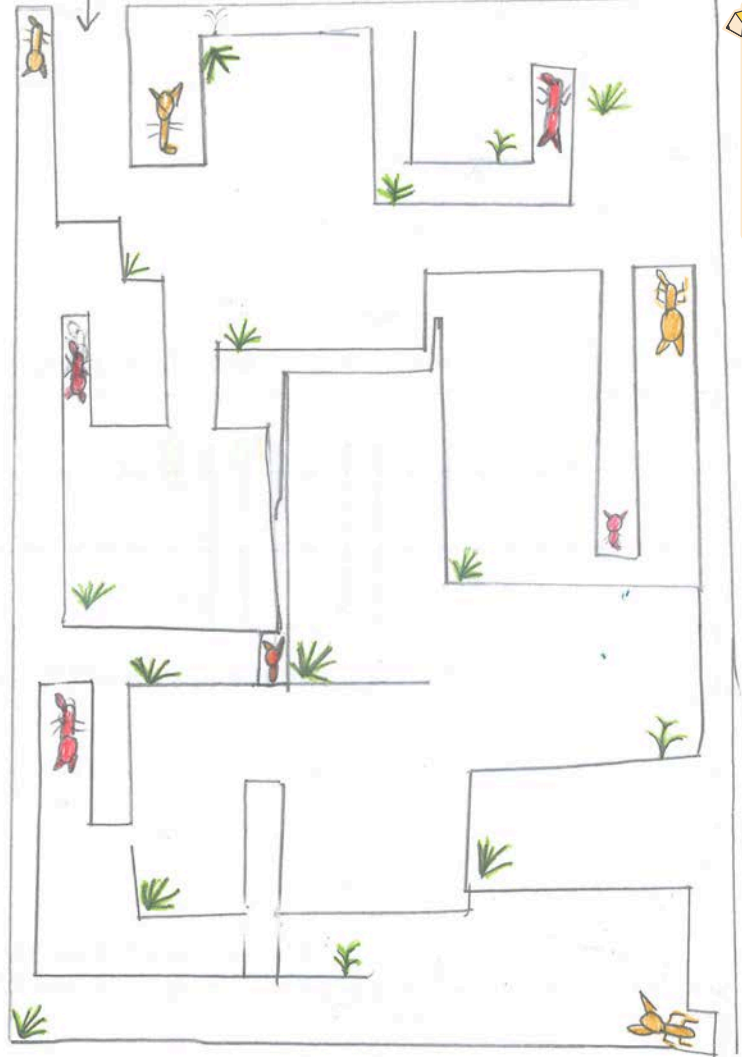


Cathy



# HELP THE CHICK FIND ITS DAD!

START



Leah



Image: Taronga Western Plains Zoo



Zoya



FINISH

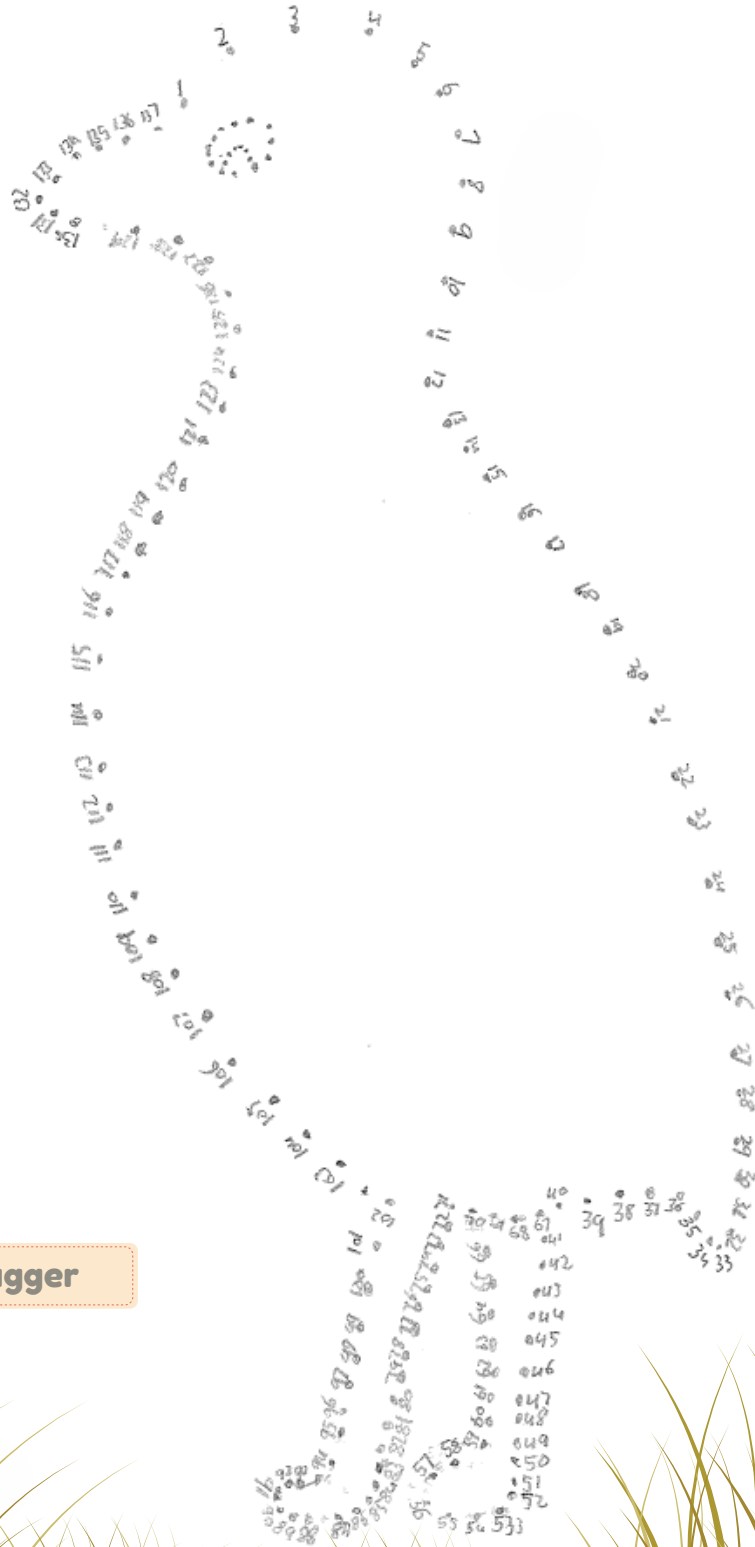


Image: Taronga Western Plains Zoo

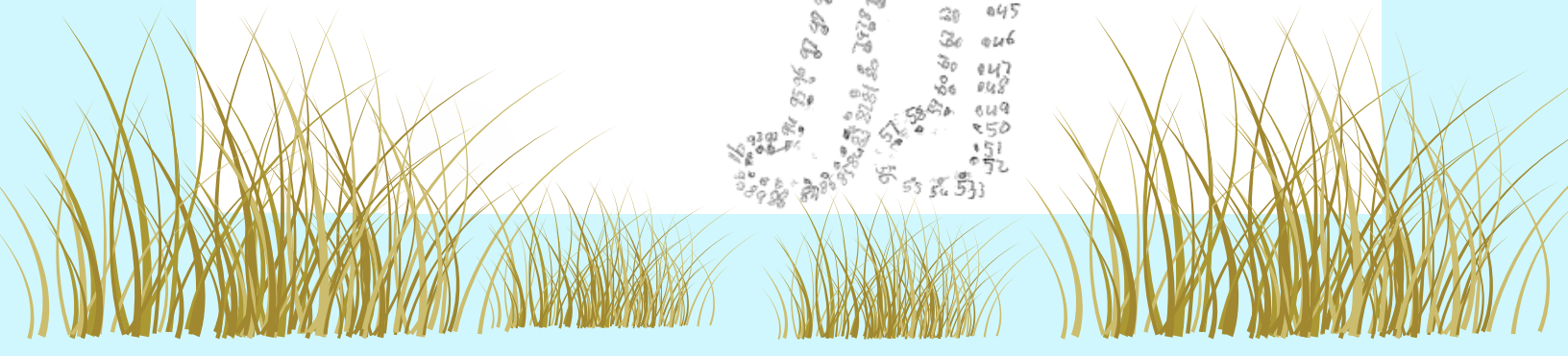


# Connect The Dots

Draw and connect the numbers and color the resulting picture.



Jagger



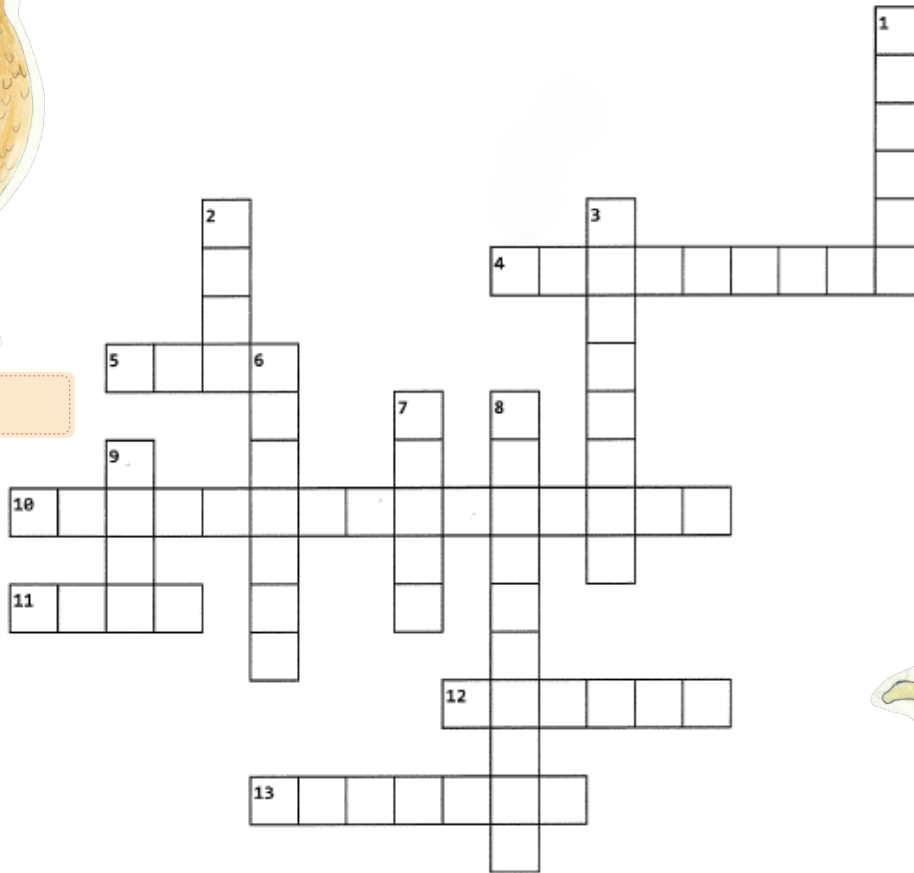
# Plains-wanderer

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

BY NASH & DUSTY



Angel



### Across

- 4. An attacking threat
- 5. Powdered dirt
- 10. Small endangered bird
- 11. Small fluffy predator
- 12. The colour of the beak and legs
- 13. A type of animal

### Down

- 1. The biggest bird in the sky
- 2. Plains-wanderer eats these
- 3. These keep birds warm
- 6. A small hiding spot on ground level
- 7. Opposite to large
- 8. Almost extinct
- 9. Bush Native Australian Bush



Wyatt



ANSWERS: 1.EAGLES 2.BUGS 3.FEATHERS 4.PREDATORS 5.DUST 6.TUSSOCK 7.SMALL 8.ENDANGERED 9.SALT  
10.PLAINS-WANDERER 11.CATS 12.YELLOW 13.SPECIES





# Letters to the Mayor



## Dear MAYOR OATAWAY



Edward Maloney  
Year 6  
Hay Public School  
HAY NSW 2711

16<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Mrs Carol Oataway  
Mayor  
Hay Shire Council  
Lachlan Street  
HAY NSW 2711

Dear Mrs Oataway

I would like to discuss the issue at hand concerning domestic and feral cats and the destruction they cause to native species, in particular, the Plains-wanderer.

I believe that we should make a cat pound because the species of cats have been killing our native species of birds (including our beautiful, precious Plains-wanderer) for many, many years. No-one wants these birds to become extinct.

We have come up with an idea. Hay needs a cat pound. The cat pound will be for cats that have been caught roaming around without an owner or roaming before 6:01am and after 7:31pm. We think pictures of these cats should be put in a newsletter for their owners to come and collect them. We would like all cats to be desexed, except for those that have a licence to breed.

We have come up with a slogan: 'If you're not out, they're not out'. We believe cats should be kept in a cage like 'home' where they are safe and entertained.

I hope you and your council will consider my concerns and ideas. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely  
Edward Maloney

Anna Warr  
Year 6  
Hay Public School  
HAY NSW 2711

16<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Mrs Carol Oataway  
Mayor  
Hay Shire Council  
Lachlan Street  
HAY NSW 2711

Dear Mrs Oataway

I would like to discuss the issue of domestic and feral cats and the destruction they cause to native species, in particular, the Plains-wanderer.

I believe that if a person is wanting to breed cats, then they should have to apply for a cat licence. If a person is looking for a pet cat (not for breeding), then the breeder can desex the cats.

I also strongly believe that the licence should cover the cost of a collar and a name tag with the cat's name and the new owner's phone number, so that if a loose cat is found, they can be taken to the pound and the owner of the cat can be contacted.

The licence for the breeders should also cover a GPS tracker that could be attached to the cat's collar. That way the owner can track the cat's activity. The GPS should be linked to an app on your phone. Then the app can set a boundary for the cat. That way if the cat crosses the boundary, the owner will be alerted by the app.

I believe that the council should put forward regulations towards not only domestic cats, but feral cats as well.

I hope you and your council will consider some of my concerns and ideas. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely

Anna Warr







# Letters to the Mayor



## Dear MAYOR OATAWAY



Pypa Foggo  
Year 6  
Hay Public School  
HAY NSW 2711

16<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Mrs Carol Oataway  
Mayor  
Hay Shire Council  
Lachlan Street  
HAY NSW 2711

Dear Mrs Oataway

As you might know, the Plains-wanderer is a native bird that lives on the Hay plains. It is a beautiful, elusive, and endangered bird. One of the worst predators on this beautiful little bird is the common and introduced cat. Both feral and domestic cats are predators to this bird. My solution to this problem is:

#### Time zones

Cats are incredible hunters. During the day they catch less animals because their prey is able to see them more easily. However, during the night the cat's prey (such as the little Plains-wanderer) is unable to see the cats and so is easily killed. That's why I believe we need time zones. I strongly believe if we have timezones where our cats are not allowed outside, lots of native animals will be saved. The timezones would start at 5.30pm and end the next morning at 8.30am. During the time in between, the cats would not be allowed outside. If they were to be caught outside, then they would be taken to the pound. If an owner came to pick them up, they would be required to have them desexed and microchipped.

I hope you can consider my concerns and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely

Pypa Foggo.

Ryan Clark  
Year 6  
Hay Public School  
HAY NSW 2711

16<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Mrs Carol Oataway  
Mayor  
Hay Shire Council  
Lachlan Street  
HAY NSW 2711

Dear Mrs Oataway

I would like to discuss the issue of domestic and feral cats in our town and how destructive they are, especially to the Plains-wanderer bird. I have a couple of ideas that I think can help with this matter.

I think we should keep our cats in cages. We could let our cats out for a limited amount of time during the day. We should make people get a licence for breeding cats. We could get our cats microchipped, so we know where they are and who owns them. If they are caught roaming around, then they should be taken to the pound.

I have many ideas, and I am hoping that just by adopting a couple of my ideas, it may help this terrible problem.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Ryan Clark





# Captain Cook's Cat

By Ryan Clark

Hello guys, let me tell you a story about a cat, not just any cat, but Captain Cook's cat. The first cat ever to put its paws on Australia.

Well, there once was a man called Captain Cook. He was sailing over the seas to find a new land. It was hard at first, but with his trusty cat, by his side, it was easier.

At first, the cat was good, but everytime Captain Cook docked on new land on his way to Australia, the cat would get off the boat, hunt a native animal of that land and bring it back to Cook.

Of course Cook, not knowing any different, threw it over the side of the boat.

Well, there was this other man on the boat. His name was Sir Joseph Banks. He was the plant guy. Anyway, he noticed the cat's terrible habits and confronted Cook about it. Still, it didn't make any difference. Cook was just blinded by the cat's cuteness.

When they arrived in Australia, they were looking for new land. The cat started going out in stage coaches and wagons with other explorers. Other cats came to Australia with new colonialists. The cats bred and had lots of kittens.

"When the explorers set up camp, their cats would walk off, when they came back they always had odd animals in their jaws. You can guess what kind of little bird would easily be taken by a cat - you guessed it - our one and only elusive and endangered Plains-wanderer.

Over the years this problem has grown with the cat population. So many of us have cats as pets because of their cuteness. Have you got a cat? If you do, just think, next time you start getting ready for bed, ask yourself..... hmmm, where is my cat?





# Taking Care of the Plains-wanderer

A Play by Ellie Kerr, Emma, Grace and Sophie

## Cast

Clair- Mother

Nick - father

Tess - daughter aged 15

Alex - son aged 12

Nick: Bye honey, I'm going to catch some fish for dinner.

Clair: Ok, bye and be careful. Love ya.

(Nick, Tess and Alex drive off in the car to the dam.)

Nick: I've got a bite.

Tess: Beautiful yellow belly Dad.

Nick: What's that over in the grass?

Tess: Oh wow, it's a Plains-wanderer!

Alex: They're nearly extinct! It looks injured, Dad, we'll have to take it home and rear it.

Tess: Let's name it Charlotte!

Nick: Ummmm, OK. We'll see how your Mum likes it.

Tess: You know Mum will say we have to leave it in the garage.

(Nick, Tess and Alex take the Plains-wanderer home in the car.)

Alex: Muuuuummm, we found a Plains-wanderer. They're very rare!

Clair: Errk. You know I don't like birds, but it is very cute. Leave it in the garage. What do we feed this bird?

Alex: Seeds, leaves, insects and spiders. I learnt that when I was three.

Tess: Shotty feeding the Plains-wanderer tonight. I've got night shift.

Alex: I'll feed it in the morning then.

Alex: Did you know they can live for up to 8 years in captivity and they are sometimes called the Goldilocks bird as they like their conditions to be "just right" and foxes and cats are their predators?

Tess: Enough with the facts! I wonder if it's a boy or a girl?

Alex: Well, if it's a girl it has a red bit on its chest. Looking at it now I think it's a girl.

Tess: Yes, it has. We can name her Charlotte.

Alex: I like that. Hi Charlotte. Now, everybody, we better leave her alone. Plains-wanderers get very stressed.

(Later that day)

Clair: Did you feed the Plains-wanderer, Tess?

Tess: Yes. She even ate some of the insects we collected from the garden. She must be feeling quite relaxed with us around. I noticed she's even built a little nest out of the grasses in her box.

Alex: Building a nest? I've got to see this!

(The family all walk over and peer into the box)

Tess: Something's wrong with Charlotte the Plains-wanderer, Mum. What's that little speckled thing in her nest?

Clair: Wait! Now there are two speckled things!

Alex: Hang on. Those are eggs! Unbelievable! Now we're really in trouble.

Nick: Why? She'll be able to hatch them, won't she?

Alex: No! It's the male Plains-wanderer that hatches the eggs. Where are we going to find a male?

Stay tuned for the next instalment.



Bronx



# TARONGA WESTERN PLAINS ZOO

**By Ryan Clark, Pypa Foggo, Zoe Harris, Anna Warr**

It was a chilly Tuesday morning when we jumped on the bus on our exciting trip to Dubbo. We were joined by St Mary's and our mentors from the high school. Most of us had a big nap on the bus as it was a pretty early start. We had a quick break at the park at West Wyalong before we headed off to Parkes.

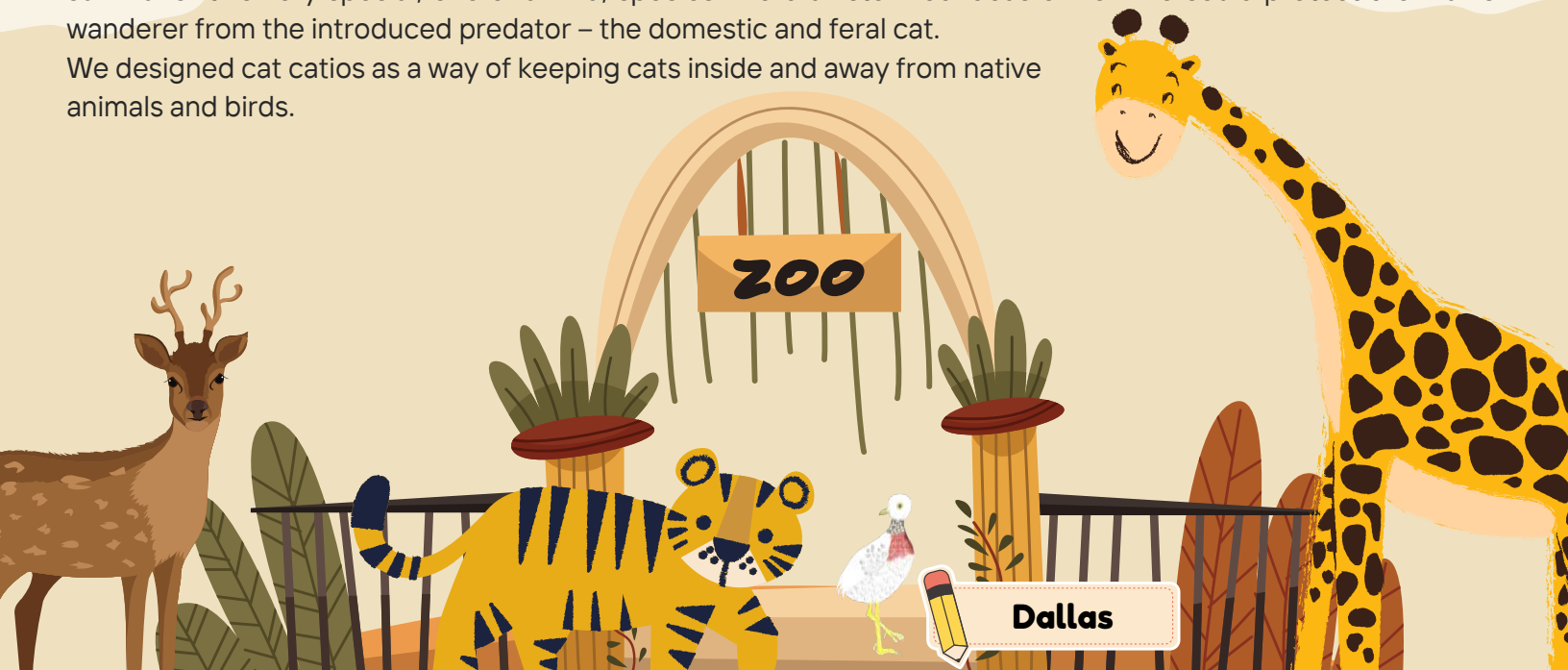
It seemed to take forever to get to Parkes, but it was worth it when we got there. We hopped off the bus, quickly eating our lunch, then headed into the Sir Henry Parkes Museum and the Elvis Museum. Both were fantastic and it was interesting to learn that Sir Henry Parkes was known as the Father of Federation. It was also interesting to learn that many of the exhibits in the Elvis Museum were donated by the yellow wiggle Greg. After we had bought a few souvenirs from the Elvis Museum we hopped back on the bus and headed to our final destination – The Dubbo Zoo.

It was really exciting when we arrived at the zoo as we were able to drive straight in and right around all the animal exhibits on our way to Billabong Camp. Billabong camp is a camp in the middle of the zoo. There are permanent tents and they are set on the edge of a billabong. At night you can hear the lions and the tigers roaring and also the elephants.

We were put into our tents with our friends. We set up our tents and then quickly went for a night walk into the Australian native animal enclosure where we saw koalas, echidnas, quolls, wallabies, kangaroos and lots more. We were pretty tired that night when we headed for the showers and went to bed.

The next morning we were up early and after breakfast outside at Billabong camp we walked down to the education centre where we were met by Kelly Pfeiffer from Taronga Zoo, Dubbo, Education Centre. We had a talk about the captive breeding program of the Plains-wanderer and how important the program was for the survival of this very special, one of a kind, species. We brainstormed ideas of how we could protect the Plains-wanderer from the introduced predator – the domestic and feral cat.

We designed cat catios as a way of keeping cats inside and away from native animals and birds.





Then we boarded the zoo bus and headed out of the main part of the zoo to a special sanctuary area of the zoo. We drove to the captive breeding cages of the Plains-wanderer. We met the keepers and went into their office shed to look through the cameras at the Plains-wanderers in the cages. It was really exciting being able to see the birds through the cameras. Then we learnt about their diet and how they are released into the wild. We weren't allowed too close to the cages but we walked a couple of metres near the cages and we could see one of the tiny little birds darting around it's cage. It was wonderful to see Plains-wanderers in real life.

We hopped back on the bus and left the enclosed sanctuary and returned to the main part of the zoo. We had lunch down at the lake and then went for a massive walk around the zoo looking at all the animals. It was wonderful. That night we had a night walk down to see the Galapagos Tortoises. Again we were pretty tired when we fell into bed that night.

The next morning we were up early and had a quick breakfast before we went for our last walk around the zoo to see the monkeys, hippos, tigers and the bongo. We watched some of the animals being fed. Then we were on the bus and heading home. We stopped at the Parkes CSIRO Observatory Telescope (The Dish) which was really interesting, especially as it had played a major role in putting man on the moon. After another quick stop at the park, we were headed back to Hay. It was a wonderful trip and we are so appreciative of the opportunity given to us by the Hay Plains Landcare and Riverina Local Land Services.



# Captive Breeding - by Bronx & Seru

As part of our excursion to Dubbo we were lucky enough to visit the captive breeding program of the Plains-wanderer at the Western Plains Taronga Park Zoo. We met the keepers and learnt about the importance of the program in ensuring that enough Plains-wanderers are bred in captivity to be released back into the wild. We had lots of question and Keeper Mark has answered our questions.

**1** How many captive breeding cages are there?

Answer:

We have 30 aviaries at TWPZ, each measuring 4x4x4 metres. A breeding aviary is twice this size, as we can combine aviaries. It measures 4x4x8 metres. The two most important items in the aviary are the plants (117 plants across 7 species, all native to where the plains-wanderers naturally live) and the CCTV camera, which allows us to study their behavior daily.

**2** Do the males and females stay together the whole year or separate? Are there particular pairs?

Answer:

We keep them together for most of the year. Males and females happily coexist year-round, but we separate them a couple of months before the breeding season (August to March). We introduce them during the breeding season, but only after rain, and we increase their food intake as well, tricking them into believing that conditions are optimal for chick-rearing. We don't choose which pairs are suitable; instead, a computer dating system links genetically compatible animals—the best genetics for continuing the breeding program and releasing birds into the wild.

**3** What happens once the male starts sitting on the eggs? are they moved to another cage?

Answer:

In short, the female lays the eggs, and once all eggs are laid, she prompts the male to join her on the nest. Once the male is firmly seated on the nest, she may seek out another male in her territory to breed with if conditions are favourable. The male then broods and cares for the chicks for 5 to 8 weeks, depending on the temperatures—he may have to brood them longer in September compared to January, for example. After this period, the female flies off to establish her own territory, and the male seeks out a new mate.

**4** How old are the chicks when they are removed from their father? What happens to them then?

Answer:

So we do what they can't do naturally. The studbook keeper will have a plan for each chick: they could be introduced to a boyfriend/girlfriend to bond them before release, introduced to a mate to continue the breeding program, or males can be housed together to reduce space if no plan for them has been made yet. Females are separated for future plans, as they cannot be housed together due to territorial behavior, unlike males.

**5** How old are they when they are ready to be released?

Answer:

The earlier the better, 2-6 months.

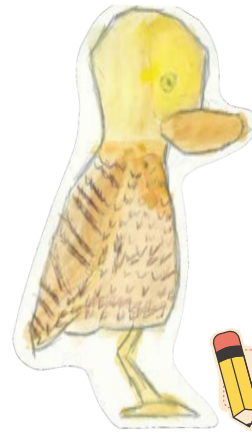






Today's Recipe!  
**Outback Crunch**  
By Angel Clarke and Bill Houston

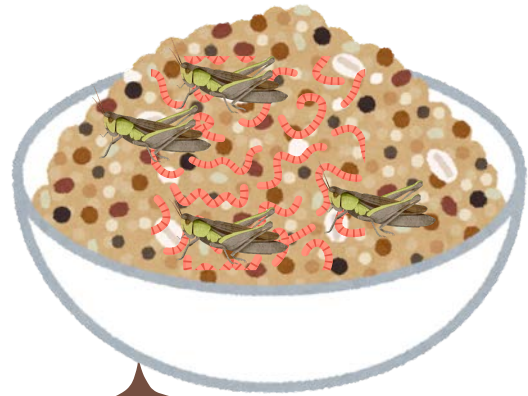
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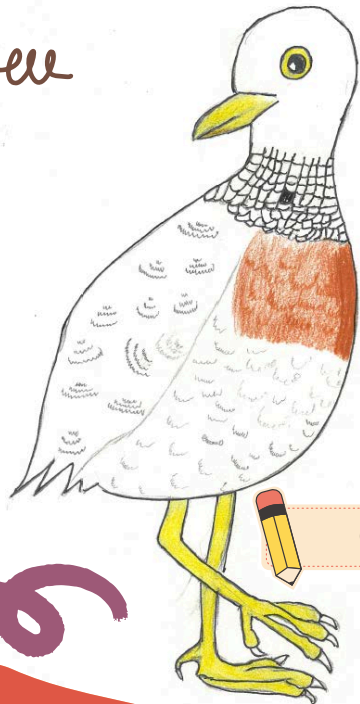
Eddie

**Ingredients:**

- 1/4 canary seed
- 1/4 cup millet seed
- 1 1/2 cup finely chopped native grass
- 1/4 cup live worms
- 1/4 cups milk
- 1/4 cup live crickets
- 1 teaspoon witchety grubs
- 1 cup of dreid insects eg ants and beetles



ll



Grace

**Instructions:**

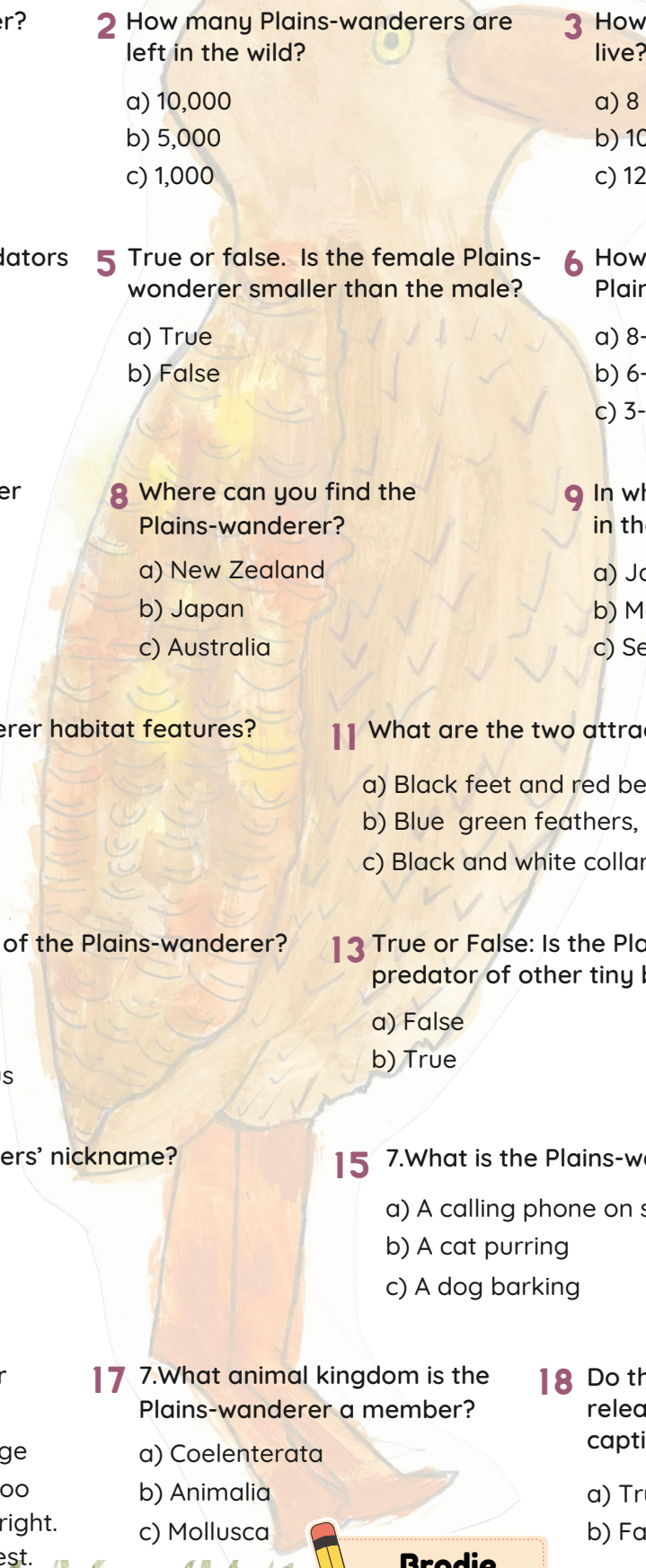
- In a bowl, thoroughly mix all ingredients
- Divide mixture into portions and place them into shallow dish
- Feed the Plains-wanderer
- Enjoy!



# QUIZ QUESTIONS

By Pypa Foggo, Anna Warr, Zoe Harris and Matilda Gee

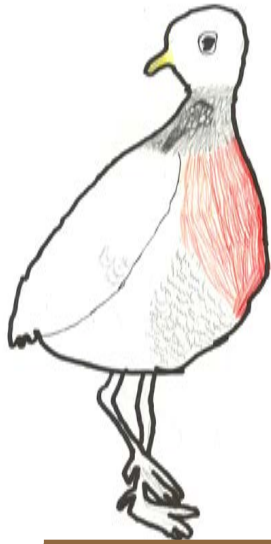
Are you a protector of the Plains-wanderer? Read and choose the correct options and find out!

- 
- How tall is a Plains-wanderer?
    - 12-15cm tall
    - 6-10cm tall
    - 17-20cm tall
  - How many Plains-wanderers are left in the wild?
    - 10,000
    - 5,000
    - 1,000
  - How long can a Plains-wanderer live?
    - 8 years
    - 10 years
    - 12 years
  - What are the two main predators of the Plains-wanderer?
    - Wild pigs and cows
    - Cats and foxes
    - Black falcon and snakes
  - True or false. Is the female Plains-wanderer smaller than the male?
    - True
    - False
  - How many eggs can the female Plains-wanderer lay per year?
    - 8-10 eggs
    - 6-7 eggs
    - 3-5 eggs
  - What does a Plains-wanderer eat?
    - Dirt and bark
    - Seeds and insects
    - Grass and dead animals
  - Where can you find the Plains-wanderer?
    - New Zealand
    - Japan
    - Australia
  - In which month does spring begin in the Northern Hemisphere?
    - January
    - March
    - September
  - What are two Plains-wanderer habitat features?
    - Trees, hilly
    - treeless, sparse
    - Snowy, hilly
  - What are the two attractive features of the female?
    - Black feet and red beak
    - Blue green feathers, yellow chest
    - Black and white collar, red chest
  - What's the scientific name of the Plains-wanderer?
    - Pedionomus torquatus
    - Pterosaur pterodactyl
    - Ornithorhynchus anatinus
  - True or False: Is the Plains-wanderer a predator of other tiny birds?
    - False
    - True
  - What is the Plains-wanderers' nickname?
    - Field rover
    - Little quail
    - Goldilocks
  - What is the Plains-wanderer call sound?
    - A calling phone on silent
    - A cat purring
    - A dog barking
  - Why is the Plains-wanderer called the Goldilocks bird?
    - Because they like porridge
    - They like their land not too sparse, not too dense, just right.
    - They like nice areas to rest.
  - What animal kingdom is the Plains-wanderer a member?
    - Coelenterata
    - Animalia
    - Mollusca
  - Do the Plains-wanderers get released into the wild as part of captive breeding programs?
    - True
    - False



**Brodie**





# PLAINS-WANDERER WORD SEARCH

Circle OR colour words in the puzzle below

By Harley Atkinson



P	C	R	E	E	L	G	I	L	H
A	L	T	H	U	O	E	O	N	A
B	E	A	J	N	R	N	V	H	B
C	F	H	I	E	I	E	D	T	I
D	G	I	J	N	W	S	X	Y	T
S	K	W	Y	L	S	Z	R	W	A
L	Z	X	A	U	X	S	I	E	T
Y	U	B	T	L	A	D	A	P	T
A	E	S	D	L	Y	R	M	C	H
Y	S	P	E	C	I	E	S	S	V

PLAINS  
HABITAT

SPECIES  
SLY

GENES  
LULL

CREEL  
ADAPT



# PLAINS - WANDERER

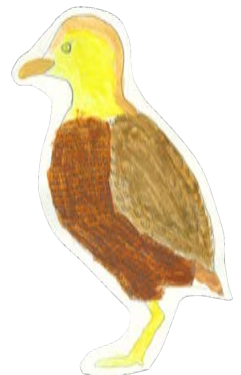


By Dean Murray, Preston Fitzpatrick and Xavier Tarsoley

## WORD SEARCH

E B U D P B R V M C E W N K Y A J A P R E D A T O R O X J H  
X G R B I R D C I N V Z E M Q A W X L Z T S V Z M Y R X Y B  
I C Y J B D W W Q W Q E X T I N C T I O N C C Z O S S X H Y  
R Q N B W F S X Y K H B F N P K M W S L K O N J L S O K A D  
R W F Y N B U F G F O J S P E C I E S R O V K P T T C G W P  
R N J T O Q U O V G R A S S L A N D P J J Q C C L U T V Q L  
L K V H X X V G U C V Z Z S I P W T P F T Z S M W B T A B G  
U G W V F F E U S D P D C F A E M N C P G K H O Q B J L E R  
A O J E U T T S T R Z D F J D N C O K N C H F F E L X S U A  
U V C G I Z U F U U W Z Q B A U J I Z M Z Q K Q G E G W B S  
S A A E C Q B N Z E L H B D W Y Q N P R D R O Z G S B H Y S  
T H U T P L V E B N S D M I U Q P L R P K L F Q S K S Z S I  
R C C A S F K P J P K B G C L E P L A I N S W A N D E R E R  
A N G T P U J G U G E H O N Y C Q D D M A Z Z U Z U H M N M  
L E R I Y Y S J M S S H L D A S N N T M H P I H R A C I X Y  
I P I O F O Q Y S V H X P N C G G A J T W X T W U C B H C L  
A J K N H W Y T B D N E I J I N R N C O U O U V B V A A F T  
N T G Q I P L I F E Z M L Z N A Y P G A J K T C J N C B R D  
B O X O N J E S C L Z S V Y L P C B E L M Q A R R K A I E I  
I X B L I C L B M R I W Z X O F Y Q R T D O Q L Z T T T D U  
R M D O E N W K I H V G M P R J W P P G B T U P C P I A Q M  
D D O Z Z R V T U R T J H I L O P G J T Y M P F F Y C T Z P  
U C R S C R P W Z E D T R T E A H C D N D Q D Y L L B J P S  
N C H A Q B Y L G T Z D W A L Q I Y C O Z E Q O I A V D N P  
V C Z Y R U B A U W F F T M X E B N U C Q L O H I B G B W J  
R E Y W C E I Z X D V F P B J M S F S A Y H H M D V W E F E  
Z J Q W B P Y T S L T Z V Y O G Q S O G C T K J P A Z Z O I  
C T M S E U S F O D A N G E R N C Y Q O N R Z N N A Z F X D  
D V Q E J X S N I E E J Z R B F L C I E K T Y F R K D T C G  
H O O J X B S H H E S X L G X M T I A I P Y B H R Q U G A W

- PLAINS WANDERER
- EXTINCTION
- MOSQUITOS
- HABITAT
- PREDATOR
- GRASSLAND
- SPECIES
- FOX
- AUSTRALIAN BIRD
- FLIGHTLESS
- PLAINS
- DANGER
- GRASS
- EGGS
- CAMOUFLAGE
- VEGETATION
- STUBBLE



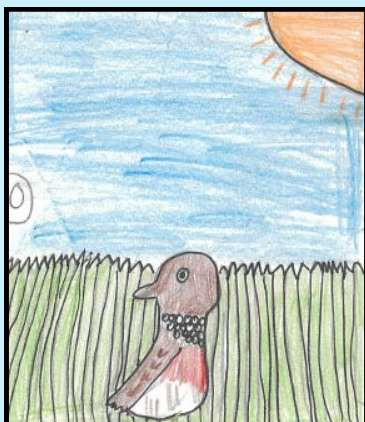
Jagger



# A PLAINS-WANDERER COMIC

BY DALLAS, REEF AND ARCHIE

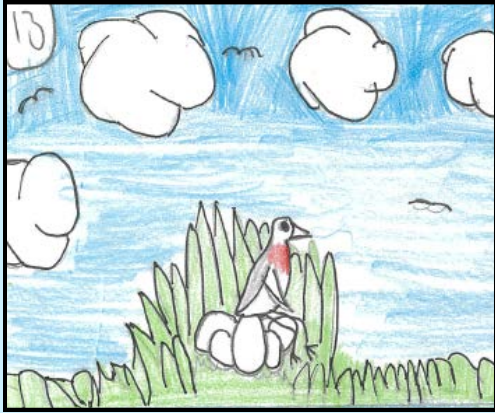
FOLLOW THE NUMBERS



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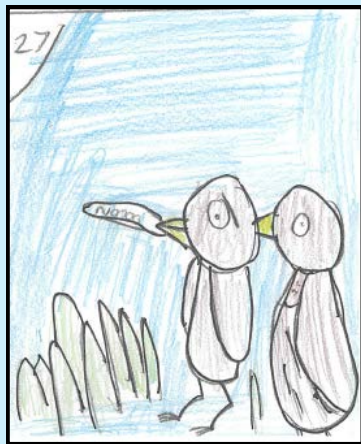


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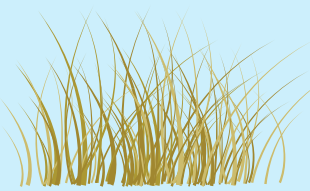
24/  
3 minutes  
Later.....



32/

Hope you enjoyed our school  
plains-wander comic project!

# The End





# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The students of St Mary's Parish School Hay, Hay Public School and Hay War Memorial High School would like to thank the following:

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**Emma**



**Ryan**





#savetheplains-wanderer