

29 Australian species taken off endangered list



Pictured: Yellow-footed rock wallabies Source: Canva

Australian conservationists are celebrating as a new study has revealed that 29 species, currently on the country's endangered list, have recovered enough to now be removed. The golden, Western barred and Eastern barred bandicoots, Western quoll, sooty albatross, waterfall frog, Flinder's Range worm-lizard, yellow-footed rock wallabies, greater bilby, humpback whale, growling grass frog and

Murray's cod are among the animals that can all be removed from this list, which currently includes 446 species. The research shows that 15 mammals, 8 birds, 4 frogs, a reptile and a fish have increased in population size and distribution, so are no longer considered in genuine need of protection under the Australia's Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act.

Super storytellers

BBC Breakfast has announced the return of 500 Words initiative, the UK's most successful children's writing competition. Children have created and submitted over a million stories since 500 Words was initially launched in 2011. Jon Kay from BBC Breakfast, with the help of the pupils and staff from Conway Primary School in Birmingham, announced that this year, there will be two age categories, 5-7-year-olds and 8-11-year-olds. Any child between these ages can enter and there's no need to worry about spelling, punctuation, or grammar. Each entry will be judged on its storytelling and

imagination! The judges this year include award-winning and best-selling authors, Frank Cottrell-Boyce, Francesca Simon, Charlie Higson, former children's laureate, Malorie Blackman, and World Book Day ambassador, Sir Lenny Henry. Charlie Higson, author of the Young Bond book collection, said, 'Have fun with it, there are no rules and what we really want is to see inside those kids' minds and get their personalities through the stories. And I think anyone judging it is going to have huge fun seeing what stories these kids are telling'.

Would you like to write and enter a story?



Pictured: BBC Breakfast announcing the return of BBC 500 Words with the help of the pupils and staff at Conway Primary School in Birmingham Source: BBC Breakfast Twitter page.

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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No 'scone' left unturned



Pictured: An example of a scone with jam and cream being served at a National Trust site - Coughton Court.
Source: Coughton Court Twitter page.

Sarah Merker, from Isleworth in West London, has eaten a scone at every possible National Trust location in England, Wales and Northern Ireland! She took to her Twitter account 'National Trust Scones' to announce that she had completed her decade-long mission to sample a scone at each of the 244 National Trust properties. The project involved ranking each one on her blog and inspired her to write a book, the 'National Trust Book of Scones' which includes 50 recipes and some interesting historical facts. Sarah ate scone number 244 at the Giant's Causeway, in County Antrim. This is an area of about 40,000 interlocking basalt columns, the result of an ancient

volcanic fissure eruption, formed 60 million years ago. Talking about the experience, she said, '...it's been a weird experience. I don't know what I'd call it - it's more than a hobby. It's taken up a lot of my time and effort over the past 10 years and I'll really miss it.' Out of all the scones that she has tried during the project, Sarah says that she has only had two she didn't like. She also stated that her favourite was a Christmas pudding scone with brandy butter at Treasurer's House, in the centre of York. Her top tip for a delicious scone – it has to be fresh! 'It takes a lot to ruin a fresh scone,' she commented. 'As long as the scone has been baked that day, you can hardly ever go wrong.'

Have you ever baked scones?

Last week's topic:

Will the world become cashless in the future?

I hope not because computers can make mistakes could be hacked
George



Yes it is true the world will go cashless.
Mohammed

No because we need cash.
Coco

I think yes because cryptocurrencies are getting more famous.
Nicole

Let us know what you think about this week's news?

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TAKEHOME



Should Roald Dahl's books be changed for modern times?



In the news this week

Book publisher, Puffin, has announced that stories by the famous children's author Roald Dahl are going to be changed, making them more suitable for modern times. Roald Dahl is famous for his books, including Matilda, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, and The BFG. The changes include taking out unkind descriptions of characters' appearance such as 'fat' and 'ugly'. Some people disagree with the changes, including the UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and the Queen Consort, Camilla.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > Have you read any Roald Dahl books? Has anyone else at home? Share your thoughts about the changes. Do you think the stories should be updated?
- > Ask someone older what their favourite books were when they were younger. Are they still being read by children today? Why do you think that is the case?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

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