

Gumnut Gazette

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ROCKING REPTILES

Cool Creatures

Reptiles, are "cold-blooded" animals, they manage their body temperature through a process known as 'thermoregulation'. Reptiles maintain their body temperature by moving to different

areas of their environment to warm up or cool down.

On a warm day you may see lizards, turtles, and even snakes basking on a rock in the sun, warming up their bodies, and giving them energy.

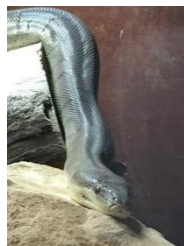


Photo: Left to right: Bearded dragon, Olive python and Blotched blue-tongue lizard.

Top Left to right: Heath goanna, 'Chip' the Murray long-neck turtle, 'Beyoncé' the Shingleback lizard.
Bottom left to right: Tawny dragon, Bearded dragon, Broad-headed snake, 'Helga' the Children's python.

Acknowledgement to country

The Department for Environment and Water acknowledges Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and waters we live and work upon and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and respect the deep

spiritual connection and the relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country.

The Department works in partnership with the First Peoples of South Australia and supports their Nations to take a leading role in caring for their Country.

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FUN FACT

When snakes shed, they even shed their eye scale.



Fun and games

Reptiles

Find a word

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

BEARDED DRAGON
 COMMON COPPERHEAD
 FRILL-NECKED LIZARD
 GECKO
 GIDGEES KINK
 KING BROWN SNAKE
 LACE MONITOR
 MURRAY LONG-NECKED TURTLE
 OLIVE PYTHON
 RED-BELLIED BLACK SNAKE
 SALTWATER CROCODILE
 SHINGLEBACK LIZARD
 THORNY DEVIL

Did you know?

Large reptiles, like crocodiles and constrictors, can live several months on a single meal.

JUMBLE WORD

OEGKC

EISHNGLBAKC

MISSING LETTERS

_ ur_ le

_ _ _ K _

Cr_ _ _ d _ _ e

_ _ z _ _ _

WHO AM I?

I have armor but am not a knight.
 I live in water but can move on land.
 My home is always with me.

What animal am I?

Answers from the COOL KOALA issue= Jumble word: eucalyptus, marsupial, wombat. Step word: Bear-fear-feat-feet.



Photo: Oliver the Olive Python

Oliver the Great

Oliver came to us injured many years ago. He was nursed back to health and has called Cleland Wildlife Park home for many years now. Oliver is roughly 12 kilos and about 3 metres long! He is a python, which means he has no venom and he constricts (wraps around and squeezes) his prey to eat. He can eat anything from rats to wallabies.

Oliver can be found in the Oceans to Outback building at Cleland Wildlife Park.

Reptiles shed (remove) their skin regularly. The younger they are, the more often they shed.

The tiny Devil

The Thorny Devil's scientific name is *Moloch horridus*. Which is how he got his name 'Moloch.'

The Thorny Devil is a reptile with many quirky adaptations to help them survive in their environment. They are covered in spikes, to scare off predators.

They also have a strange bump on the back of their neck, which is sometimes called a false head. When threatened they can confuse predators and protect their head by hiding their real head between their legs, leaving their pretend head exposed.

Moloch **only** eats ants, and he can eat thousands of small black ants a day. He uses his sticky tongue to catch the ants.

Moloch hangs out in the Oceans to Outback building at Cleland Wildlife Park. See if you can spot him next time you're here.



Photo: 'Moloch' the Thorny Devil

FUN FACT

Shingleback lizards are monogamous which means they have the same partner/mate their whole life.

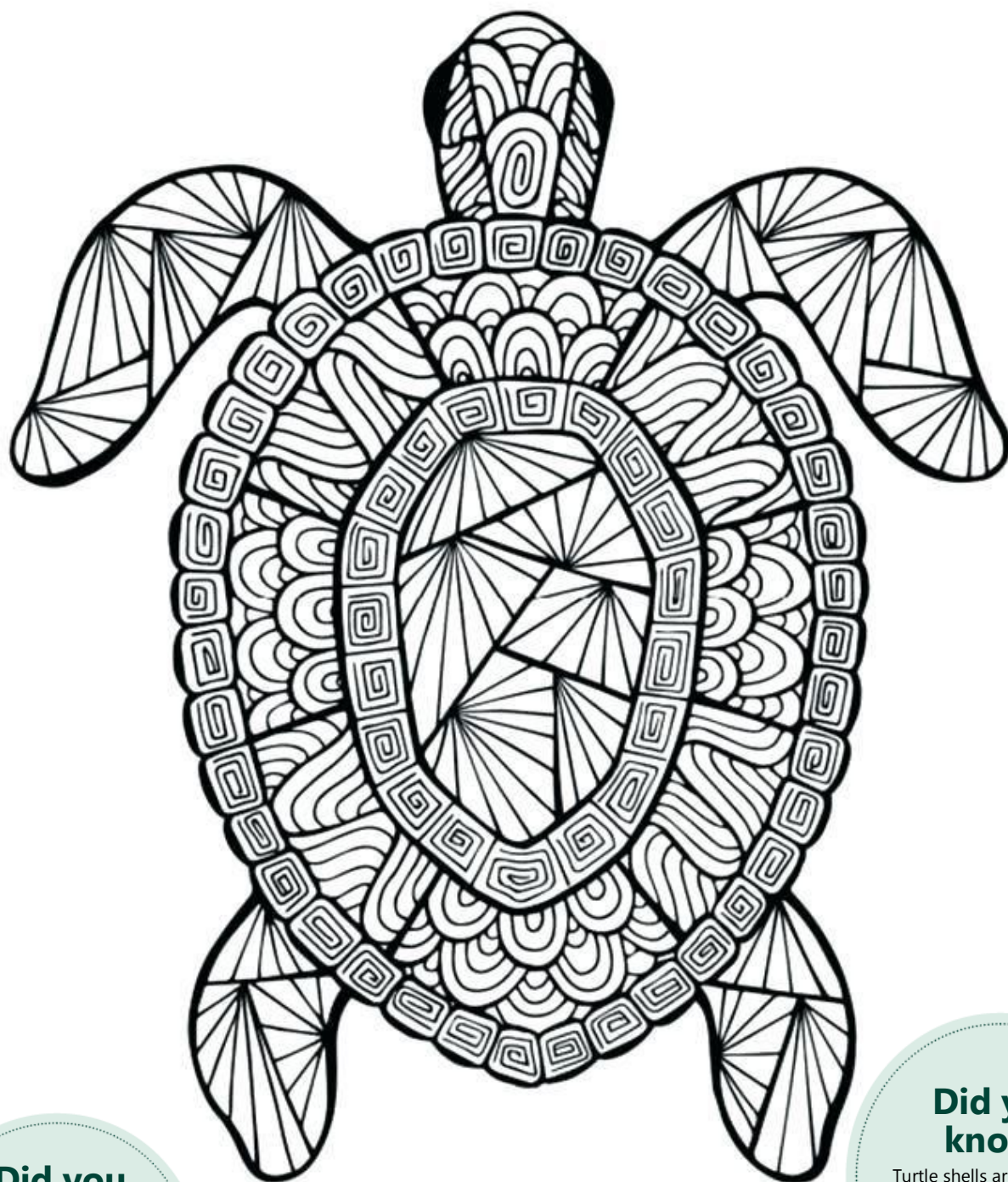
How sweet.



Photo: 'Beyoncé' Cleland's resident Shingleback lizard



COLOUR IN PAGE - Turtle



Did you know?

Turtles, lizards, snakes and crocodiles are the four reptile groups.

Did you know?

Turtle shells are covered in plates called 'scutes' that are made of keratin. The same material that makes up human fingernails.

Threatened reptiles of the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges region



Cleland's Resident Heath goanna

Heath Goanna

Diet: They assist in pest control by taking rabbits, mice and rats, as well as small birds, small mammals, insects, spiders, small reptiles and eggs.

Habitat: Shrubland, forest and temperate woodlands.

Threats:

- Habitat loss through land clearing, removal of termite mounds and fallen trees and logs.
- Predation by cats, foxes and dogs.
- Road mortality – hit by cars.

Regionally (locally): Critically Endangered

SA Status: Vulnerable

Nationally:

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Wildification Program

*A whole day of fun
planned activities and
exploring the park with*
For kids 5-12 years

Survival heroes

29th September – 8th of
October 2020

BOOK ONLINE NOW

Self-guided Trail Super Survivor's

26th September – 11th
October 2020

**GRAB A TRAIL AT THE
TICKET OFFICE**

Many reptiles do not chew on their prey (food). Many just swallow it whole.

Cunningham's skink

Diet: insects, snails, fruit and leaves.

Habitat: Forests and open woodlands, which provide rock areas and cracks to hide in.

Threats:

- Habitat loss - rock removal
- Climate change - drought
- Road mortality - hit by cars
- Predation by foxes and cats

Regional (locally): Vulnerable

SA status: Endangered



Cleland resident Cunningham's skink

BUSH BUDDIES

Kids 2-4 years

TERM 4

13th September - 11th of
December 2020

*Tuesdays 10Am
Fridays 10AM & 11:30AM*
BOOK ONLINE NOW

Did you know?

Not all reptiles lay
eggs, some give
birth to live young.