

The Illawong Times

DATE: Tuesday 12th November

FIRE SERVICE OPEN DAY

By: Alexander T. Waterman



Last Saturday, the rural fire service held an open day at its Illawong station.

Everyone was invited. They had BBQ sausages, balloons and stick on tattoos.

In the afternoon the firemen put on a show with hoses and buckets.

“It was great,” said Sam aged 4. “I came last year too. But this time the show was better.”

The day was lots of fun and everyone went home happy.

Reading Booklet 2

Starting School

2nd February 2009

Dear Lisa,

Today is the first day of Year 3. I am both happy and sad at once. I can't wait to get into Year 3 because we get to do proper sport, but I will miss my friends from Year 2 who won't be in my class this year. I will also miss my teacher Mrs Gazy. We had lots of fun doing art and craft. I don't know yet if my teacher will be Mr Petit or Miss Taylor.

Write back and let me know about your first day at school.

Your friend,

Tiffany

Reading Booklet 2

Finding Rover

Finding Rover is a brand new movie for children coming out just in time for the Christmas holidays.

This year has seen lots of children's movies, but *Finding Rover* is the best of all of them. None of the others stack up to it. It is a family feel-good movie without bad language and violence. However, with a running time of 110 minutes, the little ones will find it hard to keep their attention on the action.

Even though it is animated, you feel like it is real because of the amazing sound effects. The main character of Rover is so cute, everyone is sure to fall in love with him. The idea of a little lost cockatoo making friends with a wombat, a goanna and a brush-tailed possum seems silly, but the fast-paced scenes make it work.

Finding Rover is a fantastic movie that I believe every child should see. It is now showing at the Town Hall Cinema.



Reading Booklet 2

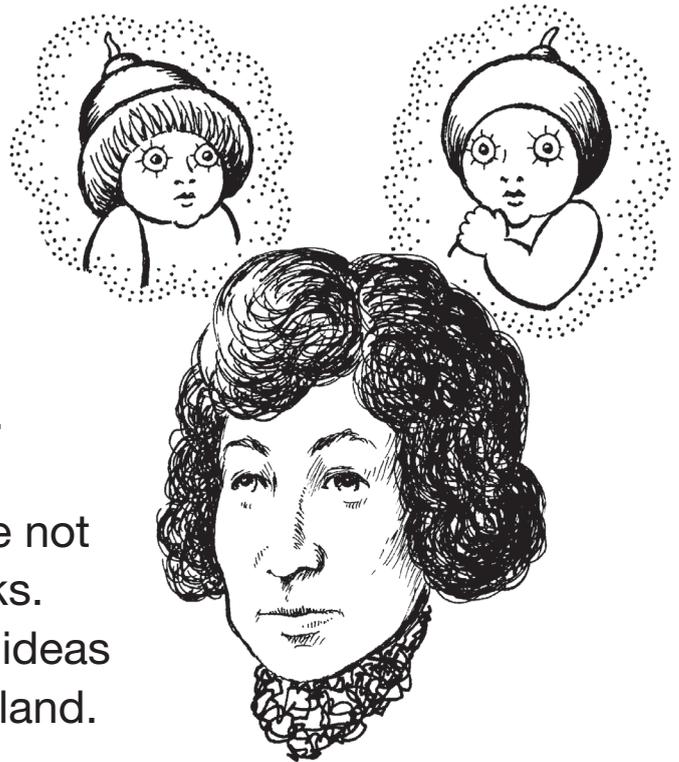
May Gibbs

May Gibbs was an Australian author and illustrator. Even though she was born in England in 1877, her family moved to Perth in Western Australia when she was four.

In 1904, she returned to England to study art and returned when she was 24 to draw cartoons for a magazine. The next year she started writing children's stories that took place in the Australian bush. She had difficulty finding a publisher because they were not interested in Australian books. So she rewrote some of her ideas to make them more like England.

By 1913, her career took off and people started to enjoy her Australian stories. She made up characters using native plants and animals and is most famous for her story "Snugglepoot and Cuddlepie".

May Gibbs died in 1969. She donated everything she owned to help disabled children.



Reading Booklet 2

Grandpa's Tall Tales

“Come on Grandpa. Tell us another one,” cried Ahmed and Aisha. They loved it when Grandpa Sealey came to visit. Not just because he brought them exciting presents from all over the world, but because he told them the most amusing stories. They knew he was usually pulling their leg, but they didn't mind.

“OK, OK,” sighed Grandpa Sealey. “Have I ever told you the one about the cocky who had curly feathers?”

“No,” the children chorused.

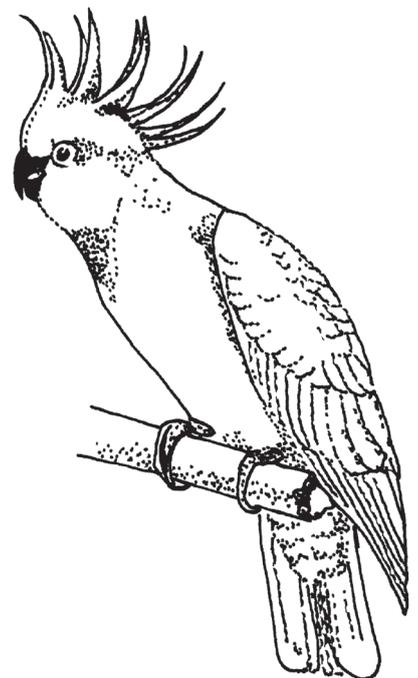
“Well, it occurred several years ago. I was never allowed to leave the crusts off my sandwiches. My mother made sure I ate them. She told me that if I ate them, my hair would be nice and curly.”

The children giggled at their balding grandpa.

“I know it seems comical now. But back then I did have hair. Anyway, I had a pet cockatoo named Percy. One day I didn't want to eat my crusts and to stop my mum finding out, I gave them to Percy. And do you know what? The next day, Percy's feathers went curly. I wish they hadn't because then mum would never have found out what I had done.”

“What happened to Percy after that,” asked Ahmed.

“Oh, he was alright. I promised mum I wouldn't give him any more crusts and his feathers returned to normal a few days later.”



Reading Booklet 2

Crocodiles and Alligators

Throughout the world there are over 8700 known species of reptiles. One family of reptiles is the crocodylians, made up of crocodiles and alligators as well as the lesser known caimans and gharials. They breathe air like mammals, but lay eggs as do birds, while their bodies are covered with hard scaly plates.

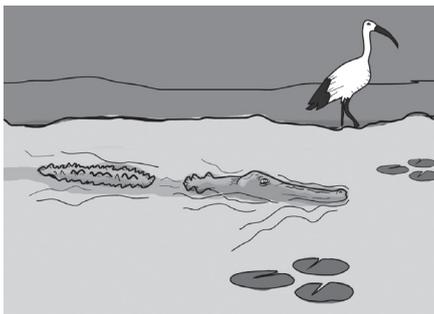
As reptiles, crocodylians need to keep their body temperature steady. They accomplish this by basking in the sun during cool weather and resting in the shade when it is hot.

The largest member of the crocodylian family is the estuarine crocodile which is more commonly known as the saltwater crocodile. Along with the Nile crocodile and the American crocodile, it is classed as dangerous. Unlike the other two, the saltwater crocodile is known to attack people.

While there are several species of crocodiles, there are only two species of alligators: the Chinese alligator (endangered) and the American alligator.

Crocodiles have longer, thinner snouts than alligators, and when their jaws are closed, the fourth tooth is outside the mouth. Crocodiles can be found both in fresh and salt water, whereas alligators are usually found in freshwater rivers, streams and lakes.

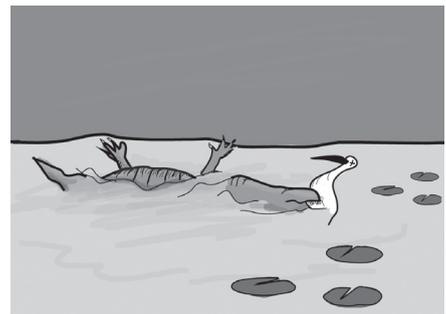
After they mate, female crocodiles lay their eggs in a nest mostly made from decaying vegetation. Crocodiles lay between 50–80 eggs, while alligators lay 10–50. The temperature in the warm, moist nest determines whether the eggs will hatch into male (warmer temperature) or female babies (cooler temperature), or a mixture of both if the temperature is between 30 and 34 degrees Celsius. Although the mother guards her babies before and after hatching, about half will not survive their first year.



Hides under water with eyes sticking out to “stalk” prey.



Leaps out of water to grab prey.



Rolls over in water to drown prey.