 

**Wet and Wild**

**2023, Week 4 – Answers**

**Wet and Wild in a Food Web**

**Australian water-lilies *Nymphaea sp. (Nymphaceae)***

1. Most of my species are tropical varieties that normally grow north of the Tropic of Capricorn.

9. My round leaves float on water and my stems are up to 30cm long.

10. My flowers are various in sizes and colours.

17. In Kakadu people eat the stems, the root and the flower head. The stems taste a bit like celery.

19. I provide shelter and food for large numbers of insects and their larvae and create an excellent habitat for water birds.

24. I grow in lakes, billabongs, and wetlands where the bottom is deep mud and the water depth is at least 1 m.

**Comb-crested Jacana *Irediparra gallinacean***

2. I’m medium-sized with long legs and very long toes that allow me to walk on floating vegetation.

3. I’m olive-brown and white on the underbody, with a black cap, a white face and a large red fleshy comb.

8. I eats seeds and aquatic insects around floating vegetation on the water surface.

11. I lay probably the most beautiful eggs of any bird in Australia.

14. The male alone builds the nest, incubates the eggs and cares for the young.

20. If danger threatens, the male can pick the chicks up under his wings and carrying them off to safety.

**Freshwater Crocodile Australian freshwater crocodile, Johnstone's crocodile or the freshie *Crocodylus johnstoni***

5. My nostrils and eyes sit at the top of my head and my sharp teeth are visible when my mouth is closed.

6. Males can grow to 2.5–3.0 m long, while females reach a smaller size of 2.1 m.

12. I live in and around freshwater rivers, ponds and billabongs but I am also saltwater tolerant.

16. From about five days prior to hatching, the young begin to call from within the eggs. This stimulates adults to open the nest.

18. I usually lie motionless in shallow water and wait but prey such as wallabies and water birds I stalk and ambush.

23. The Cane Toad is causing large numbers of my species to die as it spreads across the Top End.

**Australian Water Python, Brown Water Python *Liasis fuscus (Bothrochilus)* Olive Python *Liasis olivaceus,*** ***Liasis olivaceus barroni***

4. I’m non-venomous, but have sharp, backwards-pointing teeth.

7. I’m dark blackish brown to olive-green on the back, with smooth, iridescent scales.

13. My lower jaw is held together by flexible muscles and ligaments. This allows me to stretch it far apart to swallow large prey.

15. I usually lay between 11 to 22 eggs which the female curls around to incubate.

21. I’m strongly connected to rainbow serpent dreaming in local indigenous cultures.

22. I feed mainly on water birds and their eggs but also eat young crocodiles and mammals.

