



Wet and Wild



2024, Week 2 – Clues

Suburban Superstars in the Wet and Wild

1. I make a noisy 'pwee pwee pwee' and a 'pee pee pee' call when alarmed.
2. I am a perennial grass and grow in a wide range of soil from light (sandy) to heavy (clay) soil.
3. I roost in caves and in old tunnels and under bridges rather than trees during the day in coastal eastern Australia and I hate being disturbed.
4. I'm a large species and grow up to 7.5cm in body length.
5. I have a brown back with dark brown stripes and sometimes a cream or reddish stripe along my middle.
6. I started life as an egg in a foamy mass on the water often in abandoned swimming pool or ponds.
7. Females leave to join large maternity colonies of up to 150,000 in late Spring.
8. I was a hot contender in the 2023 NSW Bird Count but was not the most spotted bird.
9. My leaves are glossy green, shiny, firm, flat and can grow from 40cm to 1m long.
10. With a size up to 28 cm I have a mostly grey body with a black crown and cheeks.
11. I am found along the entire coast of NSW around fresh water and marshes.
12. I use sight and echo location to find flying insects to eat including moths and mosquitoes.
13. I have dark reddish-brown fur that is lighter on my belly and a short-domed head with rounded ears
14. I'm native to Eastern Australia and I'm very tough and drought tolerant.
15. My bill is yellow, as are my legs, some feathers on my wing and the skin behind my eye.
16. I feed on nectar, fruits and insects and occasionally eat small reptiles and amphibians.
17. I have creamy yellow, spiky flowers in late winter/early spring, and my seeds can be ground to make flour.
18. I am a mammal that weighs around 13-17g and can reach speeds of up to 50km per hour.
19. I disperse in winter, migrating to roosts up to 300km away where I hibernate.
20. I spent 7 to 8 months in the water to grow to 9.5cm long before growing my unwebbed feet.
21. Aboriginal people use my leaves to make strong nets and baskets.
22. I am bossy and chase other birds away which makes me unpopular.
23. I am often planted in school grounds and parks because I am hardy.
24. My call "tuk" or "whack", a popping sounds like a tennis ball being whacked.