



# Wet and Wild



## Traditional uses of the Wet & Wild

### 2017, Session 1, Week 3 – Answers

Thank you all for being involved this years in Wet and Wild. Over 180 teams have participated in this state wide, NSW Department of Education competition. 11 teams had perfect scores. Well done and we hope you all found out a few new things, as we did, about our Wet and Wild.

#### **Freshwater Mussel** eg *Velesunio ambiguus*

*Not Margaritifera margaritifera* This freshwater mussel lives in the northern hemisphere.

1. Found in rivers, streams and billabongs in north and eastern Australia.
6. I can be eaten raw, boiled or roasted on hot ashes.
7. I live buried in sand and around woody debris or rocks.
12. I filter the water and I'm very sensitive to pollution in the environment.
16. I am a food for freshwater mammals.
22. Middens often contain large numbers of my shells.

#### **Magpie Goose** *Anseranas semipalmata*

4. I have partially webbed feet.
8. I have a strong hooked bill.
13. I gather in large flocks after the wet season and build floating nests.
15. I like to graze in flooded pastures.
20. I eat grass seeds and the bulbs of rushes and sedges.
24. I am still hunted for my meat and feathers. My eggs are very nutritious and considered a delicacy.

#### **Rakali, Water Rat** *Hydromys chrysogaster*

2. I am a mammal which lives part of my life in fresh water.
3. I am nocturnal and spend most of the day in creek-bank burrows.
9. I have partially webbed hind paws.
11. I use my long, broad, furry tail with a white tip as a rudder.
17. I was traditionally eaten and my skins used.
18. The change to my Aboriginal name from the Murray Darling Basin area was intended to foster a positive public attitude.

#### **Karkalla, Pigface** *Carpobrotus glaucescens or rossi*

5. I can be found mostly in coastal parts of eastern Australia.
10. A ground running creeper with fleshy leaves.
14. I have pink / purple flowers and purple fruit.
19. I can be eaten raw or boiled but taste salty.
21. Used to put on sand-fly bites or make a poultice of crushed leaves to apply to burns and cuts.
23. I am a 'pioneer' and stabilize the sand from erosion.