

Issue 1 - Winter 2025

Illustration: Zoey Booth

BLACK

Cockatoo!



Springwood Public School -  
Student Magazine/Newsletter



# **The Black Cockatoo Team**

**Editors:** Ellie McNeill and Ashton Schreurs.

**Proofreaders:** Ellie McNeill, Alec Hausdorf-Adamson and Ashton Schreurs.

**Reporters/writers:** Hannah Cortez, Tessa Crous-Ellsworth, Alec Hausdorf-Adamson, Ari Hunt, Zachary Napper, Leela Wilcox, Anelka Wiley and Delina Whittington.

**Art and design:** Zoey Booth and Cristina Morales Skiba.

**Entertainment and food:** Henry Foster and Ellie McNeill.

**Photography and pictures:** Abigail Bush, Loki Kirby, Charlie Leys and Millicent Smith.

# Editors' Letter

## The Black Cockatoo—Issue 1, Winter 2025

Springwood Public School students of Year 5 and 6 are excited to present you the latest version of the Black Cockatoo student newsletter. Our team of journalists have been working tirelessly to bring you this slightly different take and we hope that you enjoy our inaugural edition.

In this edition we have articles, features, stories and entertainment to help whet your appetite for all things literature. Our articles include a fascinating report by Leela Wilcox on plastic, where she looks beyond the façade of convenience. Hannah Cortez presents an interesting interview with our favourite music teacher, Mr Earl. Moreover, Anelka Wiley provides her first instalment of her thrilling and dramatic story, *The Cliffside Cave*.

In addition to the above, a captivating part-one of the historical series on World War Two (WWII) is presented by Alec Hausdorf-Adamson, and Zachary Napper discusses the James Webb Space Telescope and its role in searching for life beyond Earth. Furthermore, Tessa Crous-Ellsworth provides the first instalment of her fantasy story, *Universe's Sacrifice*. While, Cristina Morales Skiba delights us all with her comic strip, *The Adventures of Goose (who thinks he's a duck)*! Ellie McNeill and Henry Foster entertain us with riddles and baking inspiration with a delicious chocolate cake recipe from Mary Berry. Lastly, for all you sports mad readers, Ari Hunt provides us with information about the State of Origin and a round-up of the Winmalee Cup.

The Black Cockatoo team trust you will enjoy our first issue for 2025. We wish you, our valued readers, happy reading and a wonderful winter break. We look forward to providing you with more articles, stories and fun next term.

Stay warm!

Ashton Schreurs and Ellie McNeill

Editors - The Black Cockatoo



# Plastic: *A short history, consequences and what we can do to help.*

By Leela Wilcox—Black Cockatoo Reporter

Plastic has become an essential material that we use in everyday life. However, it has become a menace to our environment. This article will look at some problems at a local and global level. It is important to be mindful of responsible use when engaging with plastic, as the consequences can be significant, especially when it comes to pollution, hazards, and threats to our planet.

Plastic was invented in 1907 by the Belgian chemist Leo Baekeland. It was a huge success. Many people brought single use plastic because it was sturdy, cheap and easy to replace. But instead of recycling plastic, they threw it away. Over time plastic was swept into the ocean and started to create a big pile of plastic in the middle of the sea.

Unfortunately, some of the plastic in the ocean drifted off. The plastic was swallowed by animals. The plastic in the animal's stomach was poisonous to them so they died. Other animals got tangled up in the plastic. Some even suffocated by the plastic strangling them. After the animal swallowed the plastic, it began to break down. Scientists have found microplastics in many fish stomachs. Microplastics have even been seen inside humans. When we eat fish who have eaten plastic, we digest the microplastics in them.

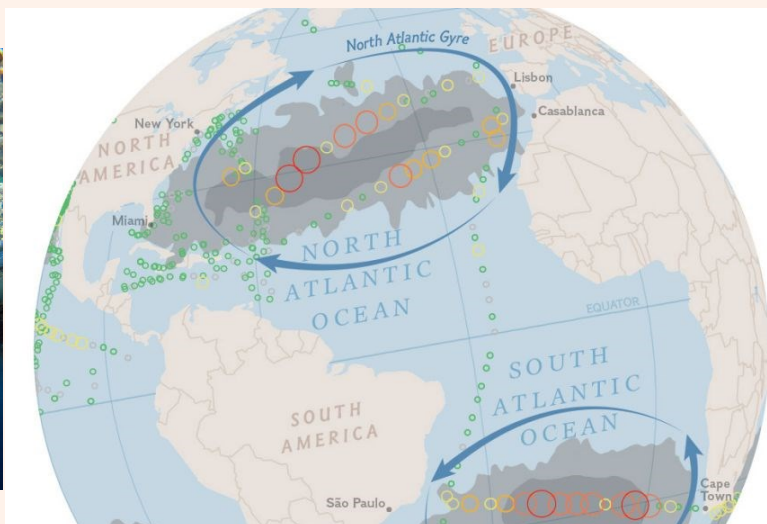
***“Scientists have found microplastics in many fish stomachs. Microplastics have even been seen inside humans.”***

In the middle of the ocean there is a big pile of plastic. This is called The Great Garbage Patch. The Great Garbage Patch is estimated to cover a surface of 1.6 million square kilometres which is about three times the size of France. It estimated to hold up to 1.8 trillion pieces of plastic, weighing nearly 80 000 tonnes. 94% of the 1.8 trillion pieces of plastic in the Great Garbage Patch are microplastics.

The best thing we can do for the environment is to take care of it. One of the ways we can do this is by recycling plastics. If we start at our school, we can progress up to the community and then to the world. The first thing you can do to help is to put your rubbish in the recycling bin.



Plastic pollution from The Great Garbage Patch  
(photo: National Geographic Education)



The North and South Atlantic Garbage Patches (photo: National Geographic Education).



## Interview with Mr Earl

By Hannah Cortez—Black Cockatoo Reporter

**What is your role at SPS?**

*I teach band and music at SPS and many other schools.*

**What job did you aspire to when you were a child?**

*When I was a kid, I wanted to be a teacher. When I became an adult, I first became a music conductor and taught around NSW.*

**When did you first start playing a musical instrument?**

*I started to play music on the piano when I was 4. I can now play 11 musical instruments.*

**What is your favourite genre of music?**

*My favourite genre of music is funk.*

**Why would you recommend music and learning to play an instrument to others?**

*Music can change lives. Playing a musical instrument can help you with many different things in life.*

**What are your favourite hobbies?**

*I enjoy sport and outdoor adventures such as climbing, canyoning and mountain bike riding.*



## The Cliffside Cave: A story

By Anelka Wiley—Black Cockatoo Reporter

June stood. Her wispy, golden brown hair flowing in the wind. Her mouth was set in a firm line and her eyes fixated on a silver glint in the distance. For her, this glint was more than a rusted fighter jet, it was a memory. A memory of war. Her great grandfather had fought and fallen in World War II and she had visited the site ever since. Somehow, it made her feel close to him... and so far away all at the same time. It was very confusing. June couldn't embrace the heartache anymore. From up on the cliff, she could see the glittering waves on the beach. "Perfect."

***"From up on the cliff, she could see the glittering waves on the beach."***

The descent on the cliff was far harder than June had imagined. Rocks unexpectedly falling were making it hard to anticipate where to manoeuvre her limbs. Eventually, she found a ledge somewhere along the lines of the three quarter point. Sweat trickled down her forehead and her breaths were short and laboured. She had no other choice but to sit down and hope she made it down by lunch. However, the place where she sat down made that impossible, because somehow, she had chosen the place in which there was a pressure plate. Sitting down and opening a lichen covered door, and June, (being June) stumbled inside.

*To be continued...*

# Universe's Sacrifice: *A story*

By Tessa Crous—Ellsworth - Black Cockatoo Reporter

‘Universe!! Time to go to bed!’ said mum, barging into the room without knocking. ‘Mum!’ said Universe loudly without looking away from her telescope. ‘Fine!’ Universe said, closing the curtain. Her mum left Universe’s dark blue room. Universe opened the curtains for one last look at the stars and then closed them, and fell into a deep slumber.

When Universe was a baby, she grabbed for the stars, acting as if they were her toys. In short, Universe loved space. Everything in her bedroom was space themed. Her dark blue room even had stars painted on it, representing the night sky.

Most of all, Universe wore a necklace with a telescope charm on it. But little did Universe know, she was destined for something great.

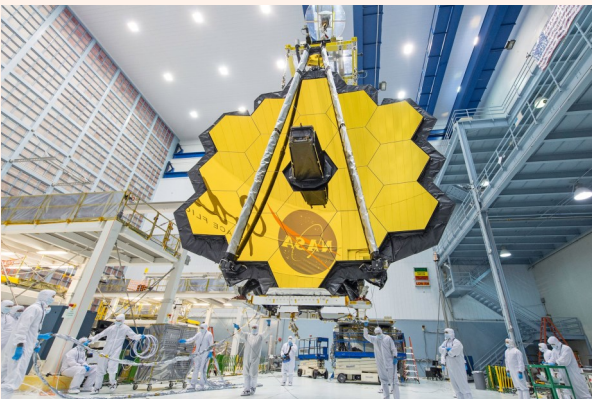


*See next issue for future instalments...*

## Is There Life on Other Planets?

by Zachary Napper—Black Cockatoo Reporter

The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) is like a giant space camera. It floats far above Earth and looks deep into the universe. One of its most exciting jobs is to look at planets outside our solar system (exoplanets) to see if any of them might have the right conditions for life.



The James Webb Space Telescope. Source: The College of Science.

One very interesting planet is called TRAPPIST-1e. It’s about the same size as Earth and is just the right distance from its star, not too hot and not too cold, so it might have water. Water is important because it helps life grow. Scientists using JWST haven’t found water yet, but the planet seems to have an atmosphere, which is a good sign.

Another planet, K2-18b, is much bigger than Earth. It’s far away (about 120 light-years from us) but JWST found some exciting gases in its sky, like carbon dioxide and methane. On Earth, these gases are made by living things. There might even be a gas called dimethyl sulfide (DMS), which on Earth only comes from life in the ocean. Scientists aren’t sure yet, but it’s a clue worth exploring.

A third planet, GJ 1214b, has thick clouds, but JWST was able to peek through and found signs of water and interesting chemicals. That means it could have oceans or had them in the past.

# World War II, Part One

By Alec Hausdorf-Adamson—Black Cockatoo Reporter

86 years ago, if you were living in Poland, you wouldn't have been able to get to sleep during the night. Do you want to know why? Your neighbour to the west, Germany, led by Adolf Hitler, had invaded.

Let's rewind six years to the year 1933. Europe was still recovering from the First World War and the Great Depression.

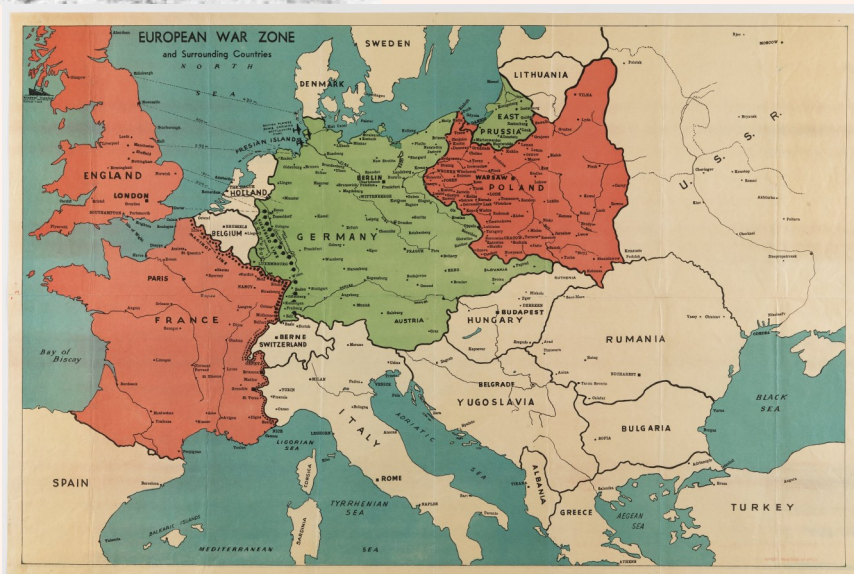
Germany at that time was a democratic country, which meant that anyone could aspire to be the leader of the country. Later that year, a man called Adolf Hitler became the Chancellor of Germany. Soon, all around Germany, people were surrounded by one flag in particular. The Nazi flag. Now, you may be wondering who the Nazis were. They were a political party that was founded by Adolf Hitler himself. Hitler and the Nazis were all about making Germany just for Germans. Hitler was a very powerful speaker and openly spoke about the things he believed in. More and more Germans joined Hitler's side but still many were against what he said.

*After invading Austria in 1938, Hitler then moved on and invaded Poland, a British ally, in 1939.*

Hitler had a plan to extend Germany's borders, to create what he called 'Lebensraum' or 'living space' in English. Secretly, he began to build up Germany's army. After invading Austria in 1938, Hitler then moved on and invaded Poland, a British ally, in 1939. That was when Britain and France declared war on Germany. Now there were two sides: Britain and France on one side and Germany, Japan and Italy.



Then, in 1940 France was taken by Germany. In 1941, the Japanese air force bombed Pearl Harbour and brought the US into the war. In the same year, the Germans invaded the Soviet Union, which brought the USSR, led by Josef Stalin into the war on the side of the Allies. For a while, it looked like Germany was bound to win.



Map of the European war zone. Illustrator: unknown. Source: Museums Victoria.



# Mary Berry's Simple Chocolate Cake

Henry Foster and Ellie McNeill - Black Cockatoo Food



## Prepare

Less than 30 mins

## Cook

10 to 30 mins

## Serve

Serves 8–10

## Dietary

Nut-free | Pregnancy-friendly | Vegetarian

Source: BBC Food. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/>

**Safety notice:** Please always check with an adult (parents or carers) before attempting to cook, bake or use kitchen appliances.

## Ingredients:

- 225 grams of unsalted butter, softened, plus extra for greasing the baking tray;
- 225 grams of caster sugar, plus a little extra for sprinkling;
- 4 free-range eggs;
- 1 teaspoon of baking powder;
- 220 grams of self-raising flour;
- 50 grams of cocoa powder;

## For the filling:

- 4 tablespoons of jam (e.g. apricot);
- 300 millilitres of cream, softly whipped.

## Method:

1. Preheat the oven to 180C or 160C fan forced,. Lightly butter two loose bottomed 20cm sandwich tins and line the bases with baking paper;
2. Put the butter, sugar, eggs, baking powder and cocoa in a large bowl and beat for 2-minutes, or until just blended (an electric mixer is best, but you can also use a wooden spoon);
3. Divide the mixture evenly between the tins. Level the surface using a spatula or the back of a spoon;

4. Bake for 25-30 minutes. Leave the cakes in tins to cool for 5 minutes. Run a small knife around the edge of the tins, then carefully turn the cakes out onto a wire rack. Peel off the paper and leave to cool completely;

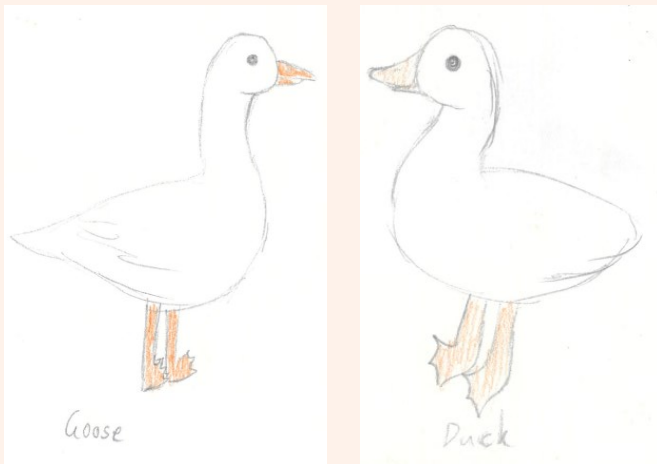
5. Choose the cake with the best top, then put the other cake onto a serving plate. Spread with the jam and whipped cream, put the other cake on top (top upwards) and sprinkle with caster sugar to serve.



# Entertainment: Comics and Riddles

## The Adventures of Goose (who thinks he's a duck)!

By Cristina Morales Skiba - Black  
Cockatoo Art & Design



## Riddles

Ellie McNeill and Henry Foster - Black Cockatoo Puzzles



Q1: What goes up when rain goes down?

Q2: What dries as it gets wetter?

Q3: What has a head and a tail but no body?

Q4: What is seen in the middle of March and April that can't be seen at the beginning or end of either month?

Q5: What room has no windows or doors?

Q6: What can you break by only saying its name?

1: An umbrella. 2: A towel. 3: A coin. 4: The letter R. 5: A mushroom. 6. Silence.

Answers

# ***Black Cockatoo Sports***



Welcome to this sports section, I'm Ari Hunt bringing you the latest sports news.



## **State of Origin 2025: Decider Set for Sydney**

The 2025 State of Origin series has reached its thrilling end, with Queensland (QLD) and New South Wales (NSW) tied. The decider will take place on Wednesday, July 9, promising to be a great night for rugby fans.

***The Blues are eager to win the series and continue their recent wins in Origin history.***

In the first game, NSW secured an 18–6 victory in Brisbane, with standout performances from Zac Lomax and Brian To'o. However, QLD bounced back in the second game, defeating the Blues 26–24 in Perth.

Looking ahead to Game 3, Queensland has some interesting selections, recalling prop Josh Papalii from retirement and a debut to Broncos' back Gehamat Shibasaki. Papalii's return brings experience to the front row, while Shibasaki adds a fresh face to the backline. With Kalyn Ponga sidelined due to injury, Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow will start at fullback, and Reece Walsh has been named 18th man.

On the NSW side, coach Laurie Daley has named an unchanged squad despite calls for changes. Injury concerns over key players Nathan Cleary, Brian To'o, Jarome Luai, and Payne Haas have been addressed, and are all expected to take the field. The Blues are eager to win the series and continue their recent wins in Origin history.

## **Winmalee Cup 2025**

Springwood Public School were dynamite at the Winmalee Cup this year with many wins and draws across the sports, including: soccer, Newcombe ball and netball. All participants showed fantastic sportspersonship and were great representatives for our school. See below and next page for pictures.





# Winmalee Cup Photos

