

# Nature's Web

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## Blossoms in Spring

Image courtesy of Susan Murphy Wickens

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## Editor's Page

# Blossoms in Spring Time

Blossoms are a real symbol of spring and a sign that summer is just around the corner. Last spring my friend and I were lucky enough to visit the Japanese Gardens at the National Stud, where we saw some beautiful cherry blossoms. In Japan, cherry blossoms are a sign of new beginnings and the viewing of blossoms is an event there, with people visiting parks to coincide with when blossoms will open. There is even a Cherry Blossom Forecast to predict when they will open across the country.

Accompanying us on our visit to the Japanese Garden was Flat Kate, a special friend that my niece created and posted from the USA. She was inspired by a character in a book called "Flat Stanley" by Jeff Brown. Luckily for Flat Kate, travelling to Ireland wasn't too expensive as she was flat enough to fit in an envelope! Through her, my niece got to visit Ireland for two-weeks, and when she returned home, she brought back lots of photographs and stories of her adventures.

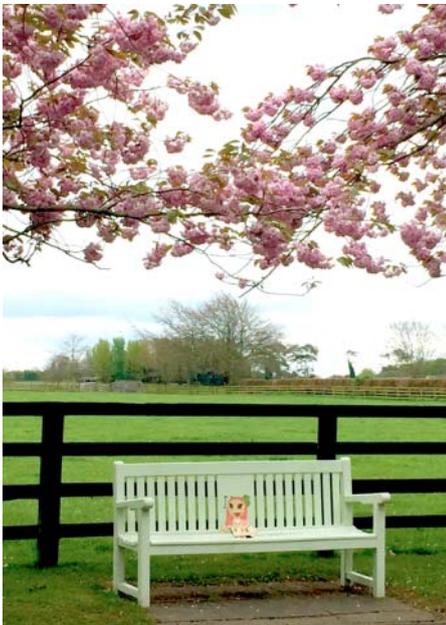


Image courtesy of Susan Murphy Wickens

Flat Kate visiting the Japanese Gardens at the National Stud, Co. Kildare.

**AS GAELGE!** We are delighted to have teamed up with An Gúm, who are translating Nature's Web into Irish. Issues are now available, as gaeilge, at:

<http://www.gaeilge.ie/maidir-le-foras-na-gaeilge/an-gum/leon-dulra/>

## Smoked Salmon & Cream Cheese Omelette



Photo courtesy of www.bordbia.ie

### What you need:

- 8 eggs
- 2 tablesp chives, chopped
- 1 tablesp basil chopped
- Salt and black pepper
- 1 tablesp. olive oil
- 50g cream cheese, diced
- 75g smoked salmon, thinly sliced and chopped
- Red onion slices to garnish
- Salad leaves and bread to serve

### What to do:

Set the grill to high. To cook, whisk the eggs with the chives, basil and seasoning. Heat a non-stick pan with the olive oil. Pour in the egg mixture, stir for a moment or two, allowing the liquid egg to flow on to the base of the pan. Scatter on the cream cheese and continue cooking until the egg is almost set but still moist on top, add the smoked salmon pieces, press on salmon lightly. Place the pan under the hot grill to finish cooking 1-2 minutes. Cool 5 minutes, and then loosen edge with spatula and slide onto a large plate. Cut into wedges and serve warm. Garnish with red onion slices.

Serves 4

Brought to you by Bord Bia [www.bordbia.ie](http://www.bordbia.ie)

Welcome to the Spring Edition of Nature's Web!



Dear Reader,

Welcome everyone to the Spring 2018 issue of Nature's Web. In this issue we talk to Seosamh Ó Murchú from An Gúm - An Gúm publish the Irish edition of Nature's Web. He tells us what his work is like and what is involved in publishing books in Irish. We check out the Goldfinch, one of Ireland's most widespread garden birds and then we find out what is on the new recycling list for your mixed recycling bin. We go down under and visit Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, in the Red Centre of Australia and look at that country's national animal, the kangaroo. Check out nature news from around the world on page 12 and enjoy a giggle with the jokes on page 13.

We would love to hear your views and comments and suggestions for future articles. Have a good read!

Susan

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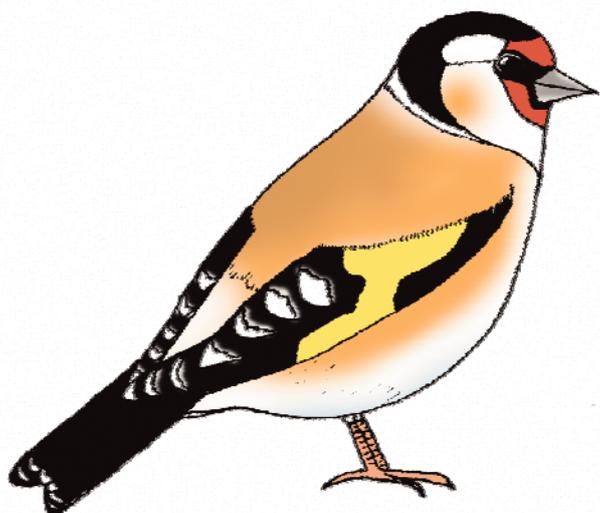
### Photographs & Clipart:

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### Foreign Correspondent:

Michael Ludwig

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# Goldfinch

**Scientific Name:** *Carduelis carduelis*

**Irish Name:** Lasair choille

The Goldfinch is one of Ireland's most widespread garden birds. It is part of the finch family. Finches are small and medium-sized passerine birds, which means they are song birds that perch. Finches are also seed-eating birds. The Goldfinch's narrow, conical-shaped bill is well adapted to collecting seeds.

Many Goldfinches migrate south to mainland Europe in winter and stop once they reach suitable conditions. Some do not migrate at all, but overwinter in Ireland near where they breed, which is during April and September. During this time, Goldfinches are common and can be seen in large flocks in mature gardens and deciduous trees. The female builds its delicate nest in bushes and trees, making its deep, cup-shaped nest from moss, grass, wool and feathers.

The Goldfinch is striking in colour—it has a red face, a black and white head, a golden body, black wings with white marking and across these wings is a band of gold. When the male wants to attract a female he shows off the band of gold on his wings.

The typical lifespan of a Goldfinch is about two years.

## A Spiky Meal

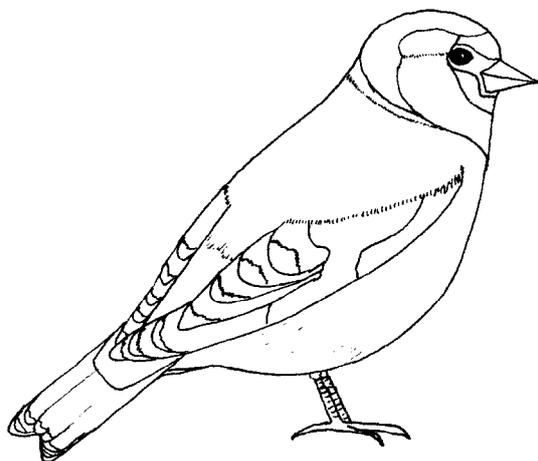
If you would like to attract Goldfinches to your garden, they love thistles and teasel. In flower, the teasel (right) has thistle-like flowerheads that fade and dry into spiky seedheads. If you leave these seedheads in the garden, Goldfinches may visit in autumn/winter as they love to feed on the seeds. Their beak is ideally suited to extracting the seeds between the spikes.



Image courtesy of Robbie Murphy

Teasel seedhead

## Colour Me!



Bird drawings courtesy of Audrey Murphy Cain/Sherkin Island Marine

## FACT FILE:

**Colour:** Red face, with black and white head. Black wings, with band of gold across them.

**Length:** 12-13½ cm

**Diet:** Seeds and insects; especially fond of thistle and teasel seeds.

**Habitat:** Gardens, parks, weedy farmland and wooded areas.

**No. of eggs:** 5-6

**Group Name:** A group of goldfinches is known as a 'charm' of goldfinches.

# National Park

## Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park



Image courtesy of Parks Australia

Uluru

Uluru is one of Australia's most famous landmarks and is situated in the centre of Australia. It is a large red sandstone rock, surrounded by desert, in an area known as the 'Red Centre' in Australia's Northern Territory. This rock, along with nearby Kata Tjuta and surrounding land, makes up Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. It has been designated a World Heritage Area due to the special geological formations, rare plants and animals and its exceptional natural beauty. The traditional owners of national park are the aboriginal people Anangu and they have lived there for at least 30,000 years. Anangu lease the land to Parks Australia and they jointly manage the park.



The best time to visit the national park is between May and September, during which Australia's winter occurs. As summer temperatures can reach 37°C, visiting during the Australian winter means it is cooler and safer to walk around. There is a charge to enter the park and this helps maintain the infrastructure and environment. Part of the money raised is also given to Anangu to help maintain their community.



The nearest large town/city is Alice Springs, which is 450 km away and a 4.5 hour drive. It would take 30 hours to drive from Sydney to Uluru!

### A Question of Colour

Uluru's colour is caused by iron-bearing minerals in the rock, which rust when exposed to the air. It is more colourful at the beginning and end of the day when the sun's rays strike the rock at a particular angle.

### Closed to Climbers in 2019

To protect Anangu's native heritage, Uluru will be closed to climbers from October 2019.

### Formation

Uluru and Kata Tjuta were both formed at a similar time millions of years ago, when the world looked very different. They originally sat at the bottom of the sea having been formed over a long period from sediment and sand that erode from an ancient mountain range. When this material was compressed by the sea and other forces, it turned into rock. Tectonic forces then pushed the rock up to the surface and as softer rock eroded over time, Uluru and Kata Tjuta were left standing. Uluru stands 348m above ground and Kata Tjuta 546m. What can be seen at Uluru (above) and Kata Tjuta today, are just the tips of huge rock slabs that continue below ground for up to 6km! The stripes you see on Uluru once lay horizontally but when pushed up by the tectonic forces they twisted into the vertical stripes you see today.



Image courtesy of NASA

Uluru (above) and Kata Tjuta (below) are about 35 km apart.



Image courtesy of NASA

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Image courtesy of Parks Australia



Even though Uluru is in the middle of a desert, natural springs at the base of the rock allows vegetation to grow.

# Red Kangaroo

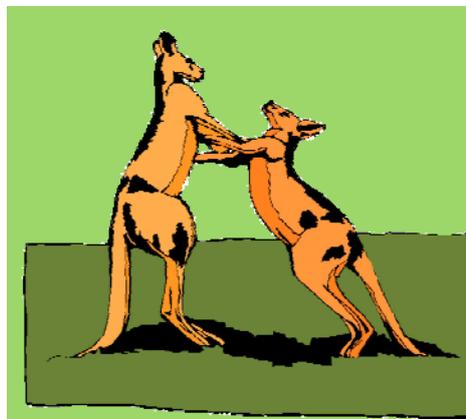
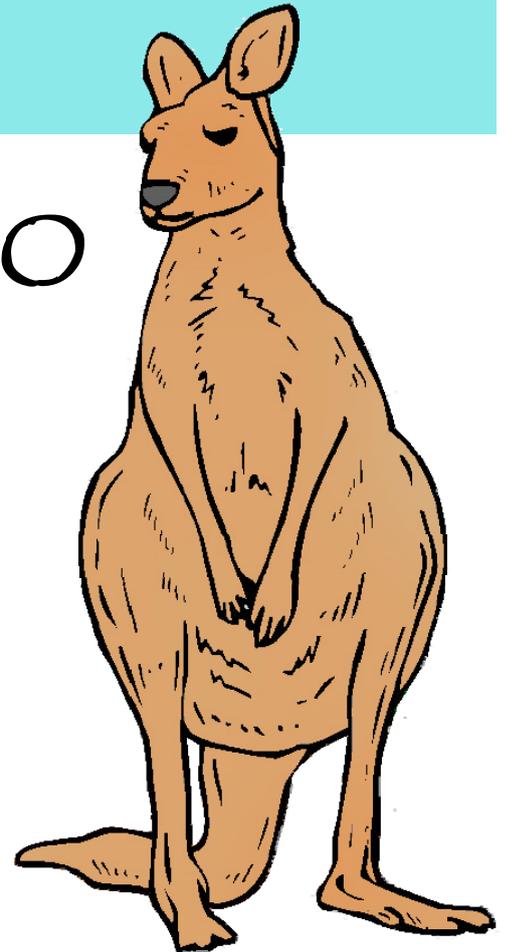
**English Name:** Red Kangaroo

**Scientific Name:** *Macropus rufus*

**Irish Name:** Cangarú rua

Kangaroos are considered a pest by many in Australia, where they are hunted for their meat and skin. Their only predators are humans and dingos, a type of wild dog. They live in groups of 2-10 but can be seen in larger groups at waterholes. They belong to a large family of animals, which includes kangaroos, wallabies and rat kangaroos.

Kangaroos forage at night and will move up to 200 km from their usual grazing area to find water. They have great sense of smell which they use for detecting water. Of all the species of kangaroo, the Red Kangaroo is the largest and is also Australia's largest land mammal. Having a very long powerful tail and large hind legs and feet, makes the rest of the kangaroo's body look small. Its forelegs are small in comparison and it has a thin neck and small head, with upright ears. All of its body is covered in a furry coat.



### Fighting Fit

The scientific name for a kangaroo gives a clue to one of its features. *Macropus* means "big foot". It is the largest animal to hop on both feet.

Kangaroos stand on their powerful hind legs when they play or fight with other kangaroos. They also have a powerful kick.

### Family

The kangaroo is a marsupial. A marsupial is a type of mammal that is not completely developed when born, so the mother will carry it in a special pouch on her body until it can survive on its own.



Female kangaroos only have young when they know there will be enough water to produce enough food.

The baby kangaroo is about the size of a jellybean when born. It will spend about 6 months in the pouch, where it will suckle and sleep, before venturing outside for short periods of times. When the joey eventually leaves the pouch for good, it will continue to suckle until it is about a year old.

A **male** is called a buck or boomer; a **female** is a doe or flyer and a **baby** is a joey.

A **group** of kangaroos is called a mob, troop or court.

### FACT FILE

**Height:** 75—120 cm. Males can be twice the size of females.

**Weight:** 25-90 kg.

**Colour:** Males—orange-red; females—blue-grey.

**Food:** Grass shoots, herbs & leaves.

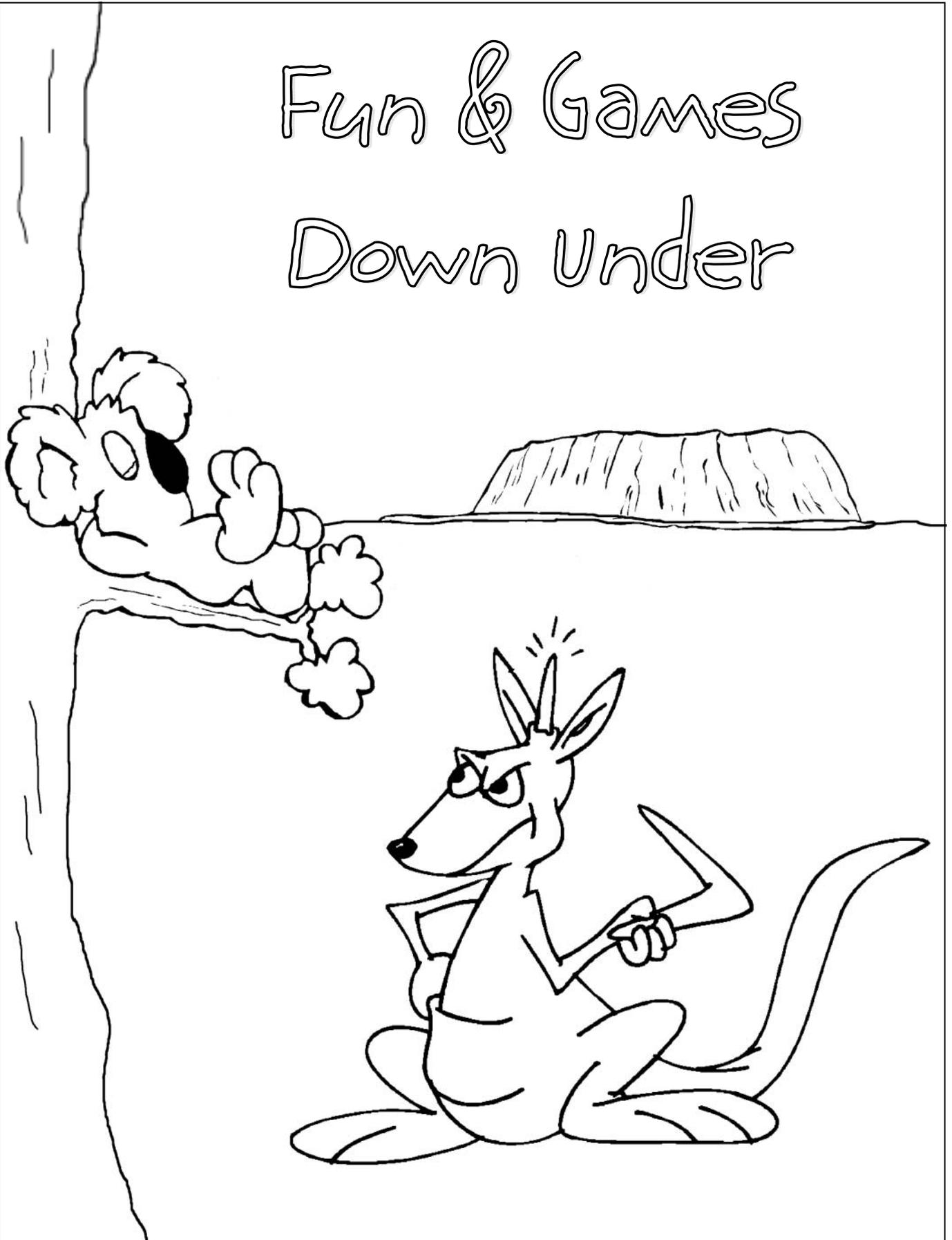
**Habitat:** Open savanna woodland.

**Distribution:** Throughout much of Australia.

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# Colour In

## Fun & Games Down Under



# All in a Day's Work

## Seosamh Ó Murchú, Senior Editor, An Gúm

Seosamh Ó Murchú is Senior Editor with Irish language publishers, An Gúm, who are part of Foras na Gaeilge. An Gúm publish the Irish edition of *Nature's Web* under the title *Líon an Dúlra*.

[www.angum.ie](http://www.angum.ie)



Image courtesy of An Gúm

for a three-toed sloth is *spadán tríladrach* – check out [www.tearma.ie](http://www.tearma.ie) !

### Do you work alone or as part of a team?

We have a great editorial and administrative team of ten people at An Gúm, all the time developing new publications and looking after the several hundred titles on our back list. There isn't a day goes by that I don't learn something new from them. Our range of publications can be seen at [www.angum.ie](http://www.angum.ie) .

### What is your main aim?

To produce top quality publications that will engage and inspire our readers.

### What is the best thing about your job?

Watching a book take shape from the original author's idea to become a beautifully crafted work of art.

### What is best piece of advice you have ever had?

*Bíodh d'aghaidh i gcónaí ar an trácht* – always face the traffic!

### Have you always been interested in what you do?

I have always been interested in working with the Irish language from the time my teacher, the late Tomás Ó Muirithe, rekindled the flame when I was a teenager. I attended Maynooth College where I gained a Master's degree in Modern Irish. My first real job was as editor of the Irish language monthly magazine, *Comhar*, and I have been involved in the work of

editing, of one sort or another, ever since.

### What is a day in your life like?

An Gúm publishes mostly textbooks and educational aids for schools as well as reading material for children of all ages. It's my job to manage those projects from when they are just an idea right through until they reach the people who will get to use them. This involves lots of meetings and discussions with the team, ironing out challenges in terminology and language to make sure we get it just right for the reader. A publication gets written or translated, edited, re-edited, designed and laid out, illustrations and pictures get added, sometimes there's an index and a glossary. It's a long complicated process but a sign that our job is well done is when the reader doesn't notice the editor's hand. *Ní féidir leabhar maith a bhualadh* – there's nothing like a good book!

### Do you have to come up with new Irish words from time to time?

I sit on the national terminology committee, An Coiste Téarmaíochta, and this often involves coming up with Irish names for species of animals and plants. Did you know that the Irish



An Gúm publish the Irish edition of *Nature's Web* under the title *Líon an Dúlra*.

See page 2 for the link to *Líon an Dúlra*.

Image courtesy of An Gúm



# Conservation

## New Recycling List

Recycled materials such as paper and cardboard, metals and plastic can be sold around the world but the prices and demand for these materials constantly change. To get the best value for the materials collected in Ireland, they need to be cleaned and sorted. China and India are major buyers of recyclable material from Europe and they use these materials for manufacturing instead of extracting raw materials. Over the past year, China and India have requested higher standards and are no longer purchasing mixed materials such as plastics, paper or cardboard baled together.

For Ireland to sell its recyclable materials we need to be able to separate these materials quickly and easily. To make it clearer for households, a new list has been compiled of the items that can be placed in the recycle bin. These items should be clean, dry and loose:



**If it's not on the list, it's not in the recycle bin.**

### Why am I NOT on the list?

#### Coffee Cups

A disposable coffee cup is made from paper but has a plastic lining that is difficult to remove, so coffee cups must go in your black bin.

#### Carrier Bags / Refuse Sack

Plastic bags get tangled in the machines and slow down work on the sorting lines as people must empty them.

#### Soft Plastics

We do not have the technology to recycle soft plastics such as wrappers.

#### Paper Towels / Napkins

These items are usually made from recycled paper that can only be recycled a limited number of times. You can put them in your compost bin.

#### Glass

Glass is 100% recyclable, however, glass does not go in the recycle bin. Glass should be placed in glass/bottle banks.

#### Aluminium Foil & Trays

Food can be difficult to clean off used foil and trays so it's best to put them in your black bin.

#### Dirty Pizza Boxes

Food stained paper should go in the general waste or compost bin as food is a major contaminant in paper recycling.

**Clean,  
Dry and  
Loose**

Your mixed recycle bin is sorted into different categories for recycling. If you have placed items inside one another, the machines will not be able to sort them and unwanted items such as food or nappies can enter the system while precious resources are lost.

If items once contained food or liquid they must be rinsed clean and given a shake to remove the water before going into your recycle bin. Food and liquid can contaminate the materials in the recycling bin. Wet paper cannot be recycled.

Information from

<http://recyclinglistireland.ie/>

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# Conservation

## WHAT GOES WHERE?

Based on the information from the New Recycling List at [www.recyclinglistireland.ie](http://www.recyclinglistireland.ie) (see page 8) can you work out what can be recycled in the Mixed Recyclables bin and what should go into another bin? Put the bin number in each box. Answers on page 13.

There are five items listed that may go into BOTH the Mixed Recyclables bin AND, in small quantities, the Compost Bin. Which ones are these?

 Letters & Brochure <input type="checkbox"/>	 Plastic Cleaning Bottles <input type="checkbox"/>	 Carrier Bags/ Refuse Sack <input type="checkbox"/>	 Toilet & Kitchen Roll <input type="checkbox"/>	 1  2  3  4 (Waste that cannot be recycled)
 Egg Boxes <input type="checkbox"/>	 Butter, Yoghurt & Salad Tubs <input type="checkbox"/>	 Drink Cans <input type="checkbox"/>	 Newspapers <input type="checkbox"/>	
 Cardboard Boxes (Flat) <input type="checkbox"/>	 Dirty Pizza Boxes <input type="checkbox"/>	 Soap or Shampoo Bottles <input type="checkbox"/>	 Fruit & Veg Trays <input type="checkbox"/>	
 Food Cans <input type="checkbox"/>	 Food Waste <input type="checkbox"/>	 Dirty Aluminium Foil & Trays <input type="checkbox"/>	 Coffee Cups <input type="checkbox"/>	
 Plastic Drink Bottles <input type="checkbox"/>	 Tetra Pak Juice or Milk Cartons <input type="checkbox"/>	 Glass Bottle <input type="checkbox"/>	 Plastic Milk Cartons <input type="checkbox"/>	



# Black John - the Bogus Pirate



## Black John – the Bogus Pirate

By John Joyce

### BRING YOUR OWN BAG!

Plastic pollution is one of the biggest problems in the Ocean. At least EIGHT MILLION TONNES of waste plastic enters the Ocean EACH YEAR! And that's plastic that never goes away, but breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces, that get eaten by mistake by a vast range of marine animals. Some of this plastic also breaks down into microscopic particles called 'microplastics'. Microplastics are so small that they are filtered out of the water by shellfish such as mussels, clams and oysters that may even end up on your own plate as part of a seafood dinner!

You can read all about this in the scientific paper 'Human Health Impacts of Microplastics and Nanoplastics' at <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/sab/NJDEP-SAB-PHSC-final-2016.pdf> or at a project on plastics in the Baltic Sea at <https://www.blastic.eu/about-blastic/>

So why not reduce the amount of plastics entering the Ocean by cutting down the disposable plastic articles you use and then throw away, such as plastic water bottles? The less plastics you use, the less plastic will go to waste and perhaps end up in the marine environment.

One simple way of using less plastic is to continue to cut down the number of plastic bags we bring home from the supermarket by taking in our own re-usable shopping bags and using them . . . again . . . and again . . . and again. Another good way is to avoid any product that uses 'microplastics' as an ingredient, as some cosmetics and even toothpastes do.

Here's a picture of me and the ship's cat Amos, shopping for codfish down at Mrs. Smellyfingers the fishmongers with our own reusable sack from the ship's stores. Mind you, by the size of the codfish, I think we may need a bigger sack!

And perhaps one that the crew of the 'Mucky Duck' hadn't just used for their dirty socks!



## 'Tis Little Things That Make a Difference

Avast there, me hearties! When people ask me what they can do to protect the marine environment I always say "'tis the little things that make the biggest difference!"

### BUY ONLY AS MUCH AS YOU NEED!

Another great way to protect the marine environment while we're out shopping is to firstly buy only as much seafood (or indeed any food) as you need, and secondly to buy only seafood that is caught locally.



Seafood from faraway places has not only to be transported all the way to this country, using precious fossil fuels to power the engines on ships, lorries and aircraft. Even more fossil fuels are also burned to generate the electricity to run the refrigerators needed to keep the seafood cool.

Burning fossil fuels like petrol and diesel creates carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide that pollute the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide combines with rainwater and seawater to make them more acidic, creating 'acid rain' and increasing the acidity of the Ocean. This means that animals with hard shells – such as corals, crabs, oysters and other shellfish - are in danger of finding their chalky homes dissolving as the acidity increases. So, by buying only what you need, you not only save money, but also protect the Ocean.

### BUY ONLY FROM SUSTAINABLE SOURCES

Did you know that 7.5% of all fish species in European waters are threatened with extinction? The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has published a 'Red List' of Marine Fishes listing some 52 threatened species in the North Atlantic alone. Also, kelp forests, which are one of the most productive ecosystems on Earth have undergone severe declines in recent years, possibly due to the effects of trawling for fish.

So we all need to be careful with our seafood shopping and only buying seafood that is caught without endangering the stocks of seafood themselves or the marine environment in which they live.

To help you with this, the Marine Stewardship Council has produced a 'Certified Sustainable Seafood' label to help you identify sustainably caught fish and shellfish before you buy it. Learn more at: <https://www.msc.org/> For more ideas on how to protect the Ocean through things we do every day, check out the Sea Change project at [www.seachangeproject.eu/takeaction](http://www.seachangeproject.eu/takeaction) .



Follow 'Black John the Bogus Pirate' on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/BlackJohntheBogusPirate/>

# Activity



1. Print out the kangaroo template on page 17. Lay over the sheet of grey card and trace around the black outline of the kangaroo.



2. When you remove the template, an outline of the kangaroo on the card. Cut around the outer edges of the kangaroo.



3. Use a black marker to highlight the details inside the body, such as the eyes, nose and hands.



4. Cover a jar with card, first the main part and then rim. Measure the jar in each case to cut the card the correct size. Glue in place.



5. Cut the outline of the pouch in white card or paper. Glue to the front of the jar.



## Kangaroo Pencil Holder



Image courtesy of Susan Murphy Wickens

6. Place glue on the back of the jar and stick the jar to the kangaroo where the "pouch" would go.

### YOU WILL NEED:

- Grey card
- White card
- Kangaroo template
- Jar (or tin can)
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Pencil
- Black marker



# The World Around Us



"Foreign Correspondent"  
Michael Ludwig reports on some strange goings on in the natural world.

## Temperatures Cooling Down in Europe...

Ireland came to a virtual standstill at the beginning of March. Rain from Storm Emma coming from the south hit cold air moving in from the east, and turned it to snow.

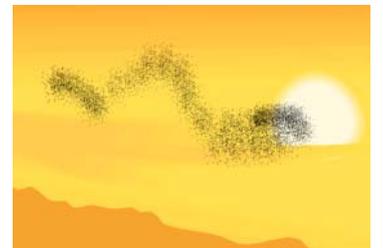
Strong winds from the storm blowing the snow into deep drifts added to the problem, particularly in the east and south of Ireland. The whole country was under a Status Red Snow-Ice weather warning at one point and everyone was asked to stay indoors during the worst of the weather. The cold front responsible for the freezing temperatures became known as the "Beast from the East" and much of Europe experienced arctic conditions because of it. Funny as it sounds, this is what is expected with global warming! The weather gets crazy. So, expect more of this.



Image courtesy of Susan Murphy Wickens

## A Murmuration of Starlings in Timoleague, West Cork

A murmuration is the name given to a huge flock of starlings flying in formation, whirling and changing pattern in an instant as they move through the air. Over the last few months, a spectacular murmuration was seen in Timoleague, West Cork. Peter Wolstenholme of Birdwatch Ireland, who lives nearby, said the starlings had been gathering there since early November from such places as Scandinavia and Russia and also from further up the country where the weather was colder (climate change, again?). The size of the murmuration grew steadily to about 10,000 starlings, the largest to be seen in West Cork. Flying in this formation, not only teaches young birds how to protect themselves from predators, such as sparrowhawks, but there is safety in numbers as the predators find it hard to focus on just one bird.



## ...and warming up in Australia

According to the Bureau of Meteorology in Australia, seven of Australia's ten warmest years have occurred since 2005. The Bureau's Head of Climate Monitoring, Dr Karl Braganza, said that the national mean temperature for 2017 was 0.95°C warmer than the 1961-1990 average, making it Australia's third-warmest year on record. Both day and night-time temperatures were warmer than average; particularly maximum temperatures, which were the second-warmest on record.

This year, on the afternoon of 7th January 2018, the temperature reached 47.3°C in Penrith in Sydney, the second highest temperature recorded by a weather station in the Sydney metropolitan area in 79 years. The highest was 47.8°C in Richmond, Sydney, in 1939.

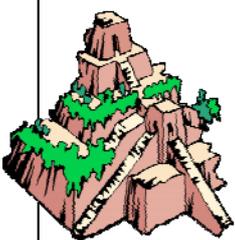
The highest temperature ever recorded in Australia was 50.7 °C, recorded on 2nd January 1960 at Oodnadatta Airport, South Australia.



## Mapping Ancient Mayan Cities

In Guatemala, Central America, scientists have been using laser technology to map a 2,100 km<sup>2</sup> area of jungle where ancient Mayan cities once thrived. Using LiDAR imaging, which stands for Light Detection and Ranging, they have been able to produce aerial images of these cities by 'peeling back' the canopy of trees that has hidden them for centuries.

Scientists were stunned when these revealed 60,000 houses, palaces and elevated highways. They estimate that the cities were home to many more people than previous thought; instead of 5 million, it could have been nearer to 10 or 15 million. These images will be invaluable to those researching Mayan archaeology and with plans to scan a much wider area, who knows what more it will reveal.



## Wildfires and Mudslides in California

Wildfires and mudslides in California typically occur late in the year when drought-dried vegetation catches fire and are then fanned by the Santa Ana winds that blow in from the desert. They are often started as a result of human activity. Last December, the fire named "Thomas" became the largest wildfire in California's history.

Nearly 1141 km<sup>2</sup> were burned and more than 1,300 structures were destroyed. Overall, 2017 was the most destructive wildfire season in the state. Nearly 9,000 wildfires scorched a total of 4856 km<sup>2</sup> and killed 46 people. The previous winter and spring were wet, which encouraged more vegetation to grow. But summer heat dried the vegetation to tinder and then when the fires started they were driven by high winds.

In January 2018, the wildfires were followed by mudslides. Vegetation 'anchors' the earth in place but when heavy rain hit and there is no vegetation left after the wildfires to hold the soil in place mudslides occur. Some of them are catastrophic! More impacts of climate change.



## How much did you learn?

The answers to all these questions can be found in the newsletter...see if you can remember!

- 1 A murmuration is a flock of which bird?
- 2 Name the winds that fan wildfires in California.
- 3 Can plastic-lined paper coffee cups be recycled?
- 4 What percentage of fish species are threatened in European waters?
- 5 Who publishes the Irish edition of Nature's Web?
- 6 Where did Flat Kate visit on her trip to Ireland?
- 7 In which country is Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park?
- 8 What website has the new list for recycling in Ireland?
- 9 Name the storm that clashed with arctic temperatures in early March to produce a snow-covered Ireland.
- 10 What is the hottest temperature ever recorded in Australia?
- 11 What colour face has the goldfinch?
- 12 The kangaroo is Australia's smallest or largest land mammal?
- 13 In which country were further ancient Mayan cities recently revealed?
- 14 In which language are the books that Seosamh Ó Murchú helps to publish?

Answers Above: (1) Starling; (2) Santa Ana winds; (3) No; (4) 75%; (5) An Gúm; (6) Japanese Gardens in the National Stud; (7) Australia; (8) www.recyclingireland.ie; (9) Storm Emma; (10) 50.7°C; (11) Red; (12) False; (13) Guatemala; (14) The Irish language.  
 Answers for Page 9: BIN 1-MIXED RECYCLABLES: Letters & Brochures; Plastic Cleaning Bottles; Toilet & Kitchen Roll; Egg Box; Newspaper; Cardboard boxes (flat); Cans; Plastic Drink Bottles; Tetra Pak Juices or Milk Cartons; Plastic Milk Cartons; BIN 2-COMPOST: Food Waste; BIN 3-BOTTLE BANKS: Glass Bottles; BIN 4-BLACK BIN: Carrier bags/refuse sack; Dirty Pizza Boxes; Dirty Aluminium Foil & Trays; Coffee Cups. FIVE ITEMS THAT CAN GO IN BOTH THE MIXED RECYCLABLES BIN AND IN SMALL QUANTITIES, THE COMPOST BIN: Letters & Brochures; Toilet & Kitchen Roll; Egg Boxes; Newspaper; Cardboard boxes (flat); Soap or Shampoo Bottles; Fruit & Veg Trays; Food Cans; Plastic Drink Bottles; Tetra Pak Juices or Milk Cartons; Plastic Milk Cartons; BIN 2-COMPOST: Food Waste; BIN 3-BOTTLE BANKS: Glass Bottles; BIN 4-BLACK BIN: Carrier bags/refuse sack; Dirty Pizza Boxes; Dirty Aluminium Foil & Trays; Coffee Cups.

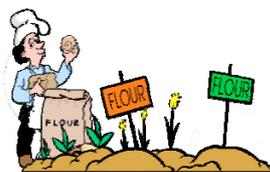
## Think of a Title

Have fun with your friends making up a title for this photo of an American Oystercatcher, in Galveston Island, Texas, USA.



Image courtesy of Alan D. Wilson www.naturespicsonline.com

## Nature Jokes



What kind of garden does a baker have?  
A flour garden.

Why did the bird get in trouble in school?  
He was caught tweeting on the test!



Why do mother kangaroos hate rainy days?  
Because the kids have to play indoors!

What animal can jump higher than the Sydney Harbour bridge?  
All animals... because bridges cannot jump!

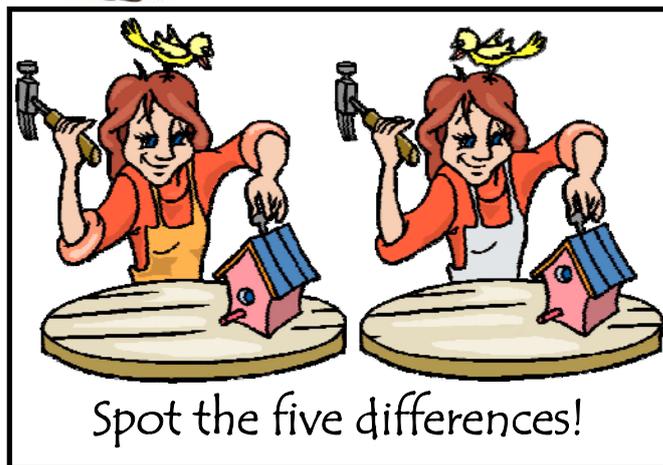


Why did the chicken carry a tin can across the road?  
The recycling bin was on the other side.

Why do fish live in salt water?  
Because pepper makes them sneeze.



What's a kangaroo's favourite type of music?  
Hip-hop!



Spot the five differences!

# Learn More



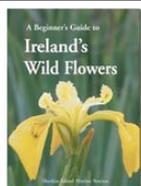
Only €2.10 each including postage or €12.00 (plus €3.00 p&p) for all eight! 32pp each

Sherkin Island Marine Station has published a range of colouring books, guides and activity books for children. Each 32-page *Colouring & Guide Book* gives you the chance to colour, identify and learn about the wildlife around Ireland. *Safety Sam's Activity Book* is filled with activities to encourage safety for children. *My Nature Diary* contains lined pages to fill in a daily record of sightings and nature news.

## A Beginner's Guide to Ireland's Wild

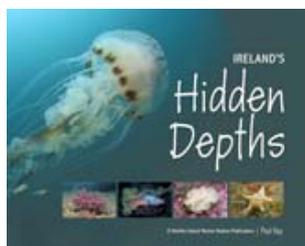
**Flowers** With the help of this pocket-sized guide, beginners of all ages will be introduced to the many common wild flowers found around Ireland. 206pp

Only €8.50 inc postage



## Ireland's Hidden Depths

is another Sherkin Island Marine Station publication. Ireland's amazing marine life, glorious kelp forests and spectacular undersea scenery are featured in over 200 spectacular photographs by nature photographer Paul Kay. 277 x 227 mm 160 pps  
Only €13.00 including postage



## Sea Life DVD:

### "On the Water's Edge"

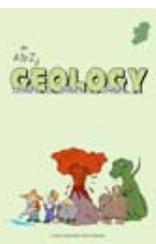
Produced by Sherkin Island Marine Station, the DVD 'On the Water's Edge', features a short film on life beside the sea.

Presented by Audrey Murphy, it includes 6-10 hours of interactive material for children of all ages. Only €6.00 plus €1.30 p&p.



**A Beginner's Guide to Ireland's Seashore** is a pocket-sized guide, suitable for beginners of all ages. This book will help you to explore the wonders of marine life found on the shores around Ireland. 206pp

Only €8.00 inc postage



"An A to Z of Geology" explores the fascinating world of rocks and geology - a world of volcanoes, tsunamis, earthquakes, diamonds, gold and even dinosaurs! Produced by Sherkin Island Marine Station, in association with the Geological Survey of Ireland.

Only €5.99 plus €1.00 postage

To order books, send your name and address along with a cheque or postal order made payable to Sherkin Island Marine Station to: Sherkin Island Marine Station, Sherkin Island, Co.Cork, Ireland. Or visit: [www.sherkinmarine.ie](http://www.sherkinmarine.ie) and pay by Paypal.



# Useful Web Addresses

There are lots of websites to be found on the internet that will give you further information on topics we have covered in this newsletter. Here are a few that may be of interest:

**Blossoms:** <https://irishnationalstud.ie/attraction/japanese-gardens/> <https://www.japan-guide.com/sakura/>

**Goldfinch:** <https://www.birdwatchireland.ie/IrelandsBirds/Sparrowsfinchesbuntings/Goldfinch/tabid/450/Default.aspx>  
<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/bird-a-z/goldfinch>

**Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park:** <https://parksaustralia.gov.au/uluru/>

**Red Kangaroo:** <https://australianmuseum.net.au/red-kangaroo>  
<https://www.arkive.org/red-kangaroo/macropus-rufus/>

**An Gúm:** [www.angum.ie](http://www.angum.ie) [www.tearma.ie](http://www.tearma.ie) [www.gaeilge.ie](http://www.gaeilge.ie)

**New Recycling List:** <https://recyclinglistireland.ie/>

**Black John—the Bogus Pirate:** <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/sab/NJDEP-SAB-PHSC-final-2016.pdf>  
<https://www.msc.org/> [www.seachangeproject.eu/takeaction](http://www.seachangeproject.eu/takeaction)

**Storm Emma:** <http://www.met.ie/> <https://www.rte.ie/news/2018/0302/944611-storm-emma-pictures/>

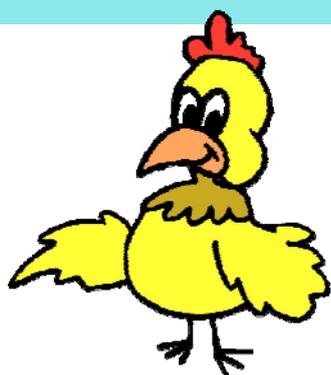
**Ancient Mayan Cities:** <https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2018/02/maya-laser-lidar-guatemala-pacunam/>

**California Wildfires:** <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5670/> <http://www.calfire.ca.gov/general/firemaps>

**Murmuration in Timoleague:** <https://www.facebook.com/Birdwatch-Ireland-West-Cork-Branch-190634617617910/>

We cannot be responsible for the content of external websites, so please observe due care when accessing any site on the internet.

# Wordsearch

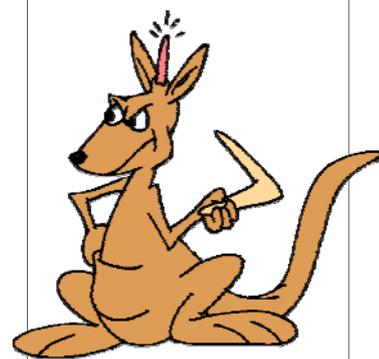


## Nature's Web Spring 2018 Wordsearch

Try out this giant wordsearch containing words found in this issue of the newsletter.



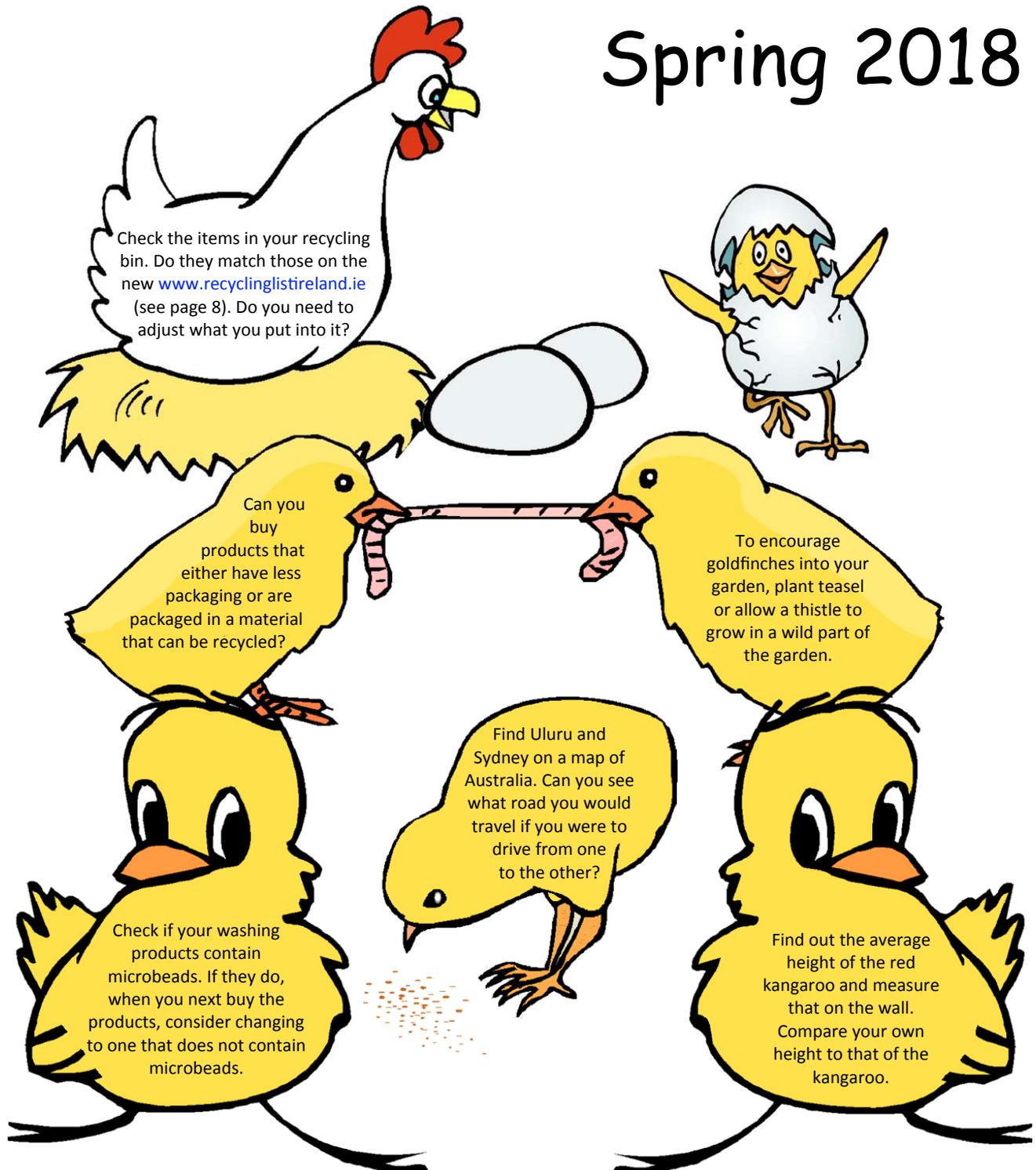
- An Gúm
- Australia
- Beast from the East
- Black John
- Blossoms
- California Wildfires
- Flat Kate
- Goldfinch
- Kata Tjuta
- Mayan Cities
- Microplastics
- Murmuration
- New Recycling List
- Pencil Holder
- Red Kangaroo
- Seosamh Ó Murchú
- Storm Emma
- Uluru



(Over,Down,Direction): An Gúm (12,6,NW); Australia (11,9,NW); Beast from the East (16,13,W); Black John (15,9,N); Blossoms (9,2,SW); Flat Kate (8,15,W); Goldfinch (4,11,NE); Kata Tjuta (2,1,E); Mayan Cities (18,1,5); Microplastics (1,16,E); Murmuration (12,1,SW); New Recycling List (17,16,N); Pencil Holder (1,1,SE); Red Kangaroo (14,14,W); Seosamh Ó Murchú (3,14,NE); Storm Emma (6,2,SE); Uluru (1,6,N); Wildfires (16,2,5).

# Nature's Noticeboard!

## Spring 2018



Check the items in your recycling bin. Do they match those on the new [www.recyclinglistireland.ie](http://www.recyclinglistireland.ie) (see page 8). Do you need to adjust what you put into it?

Can you buy products that either have less packaging or are packaged in a material that can be recycled?

To encourage goldfinches into your garden, plant teasel or allow a thistle to grow in a wild part of the garden.

Find Uluru and Sydney on a map of Australia. Can you see what road you would travel if you were to drive from one to the other?

Check if your washing products contain microbeads. If they do, when you next buy the products, consider changing to one that does not contain microbeads.

Find out the average height of the red kangaroo and measure that on the wall. Compare your own height to that of the kangaroo.

Sherkin Island Marine Station would like to thank the following for their help with this newsletter, especially Bord Bia, John Joyce, Michael Ludwig, Eimear Murphy, Jason Murphy, Robbie Murphy, Seosamh Ó Murchú, Parks Australia, Jez Wickens, Alan and Elaine Wilson.

Visit the Sherkin Island Marine Station website at [www.sherkinmarine.ie](http://www.sherkinmarine.ie)



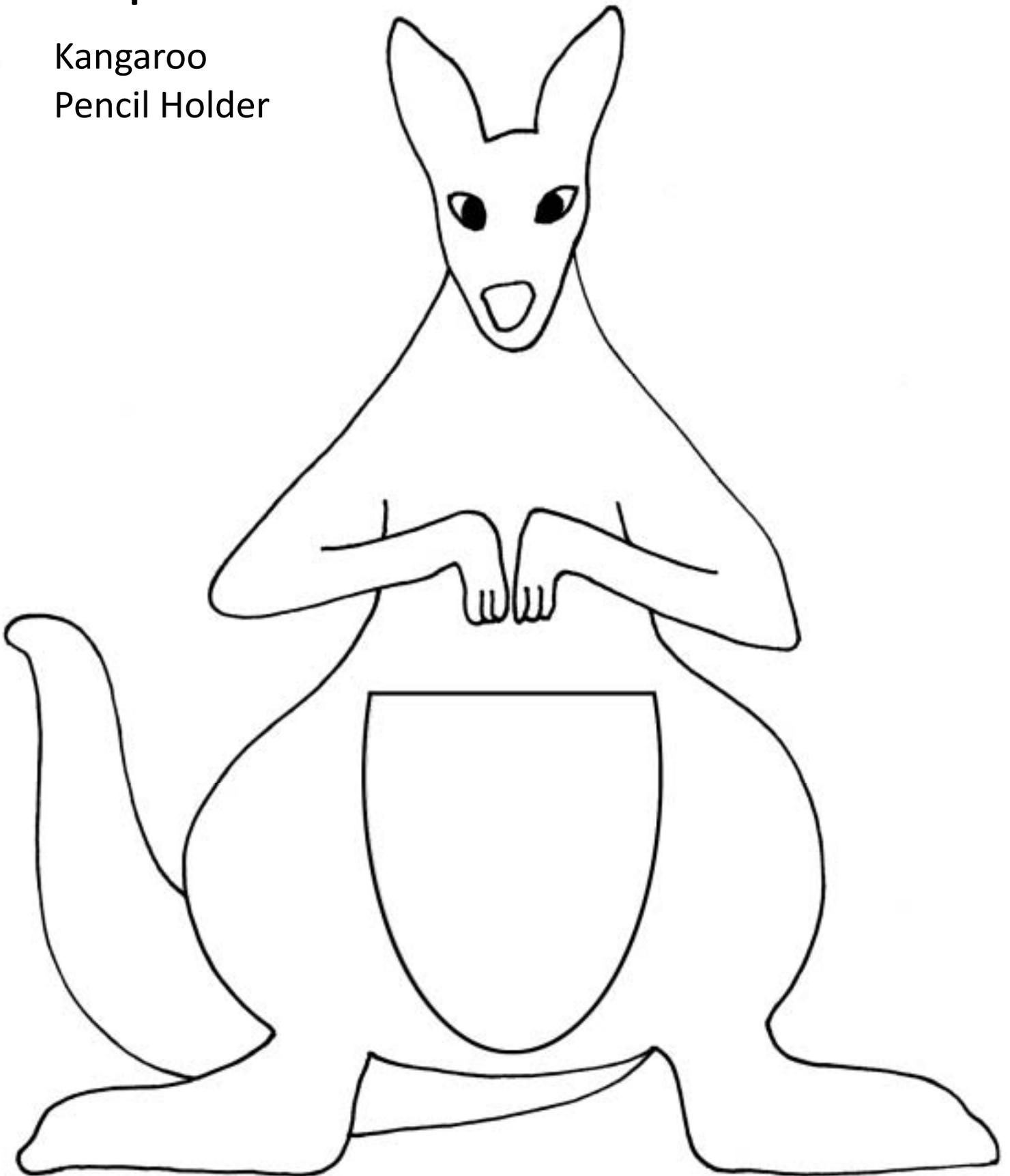
We appreciate support from the EPA and the Geological Survey of Ireland toward the newsletter.

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# Template

**Template for:**

Kangaroo  
Pencil Holder



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