

Published by the Peter Underwood Centre



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March 15, 2021



BUG girl, Shasta Henry, will present the final *UCTV Alive for Kids* on Wednesday, March 24, from 9:15am-10am.

Shasta will explore how insects create human food and inspire industrial technology.

To register: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)



NEW LIFE: Rhonda the wombat has been released back into the wild.  
Picture: Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary.

## The wombat challenge

How much do you know about wombats?

You might like to do some research.

Try and come up with 10 facts, and present those facts in a creative way.

For example, what type, or species of wombat is Rhonda, pictured?

Children's University Tasmania members can earn stamps in their passports for this challenge, at the discretion of their school coordinator.

Find out more about visiting Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary here: [www.bonorong.com.au](http://www.bonorong.com.au)

# WILD RHONDA

MEET Rhonda the wombat.

Perhaps you have visited the awesome Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary, at Brighton, and met her before.

But thanks to the dedicated team at Bonorong, Rhonda is back where she belongs - in the wild.

Rhonda was an orphaned joey, and was part of the Bonorong family for about two years.

A few weeks ago she was released in prime wombat territory, a beautiful bushland property near Hobart.

Monique Spaulding, one of the head keepers at Bonorong, said Rhonda had not been seen since.

Monique said this was a great sign, because it meant Rhonda had established a burrow underground to live in.

"It is always bittersweet when a wombat is released," she said.

"On the one hand, we have cared for, loved and raised this wombat for 18-24 months and seen them grow from a tiny little orange-sized joey to a huge 20-kilogram juvenile.

"On the other hand, wombats turn highly aggressive once they reach release age, so Rhonda was charging, biting, headbutting and scratching us before she left.

"She went from being cute and cuddly to a terrifying monster."

Bonorong runs a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week Wildlife Rescue Service.

Last year alone, they received more than 12,000 phone calls to their rescue line.

"We receive calls for injured and orphaned wildlife throughout the state at all hours of the day and night, 365 days a year," Monique said.

"Many of the animals will come to Bonorong for treatment at our wildlife hospital, which is the only dedicated wildlife hospital in Tasmania.

"They will then be rehabilitated either at Bonorong or with an independent wildlife rehabilitator."

Rehabilitation can be anything from a few days to months, but the goal with every patient is to get them back into the wild.

If this is not possible due to injuries or ailments, Bonorong may provide a long-term home for them at the sanctuary.

Monique said the most common reason for calls to the rescue line was because animals have been hit by cars.

"We encourage everyone to drive more slowly, a maximum of 80 kilometres per hour, between dusk and dawn," she said.

"Another reason we get a lot of calls is for animals affected by cats through cat attacks and a disease that cats carry called toxoplasmosis.

"Keeping cats indoors or confined to cat runs or enclosures is a great way to reduce the number of calls we receive each year."

Anyone that finds injured or orphaned wildlife can call the

Wildlife Rescue Service on 0447 264 625.

Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary is a Children's University Tasmania learning destination.

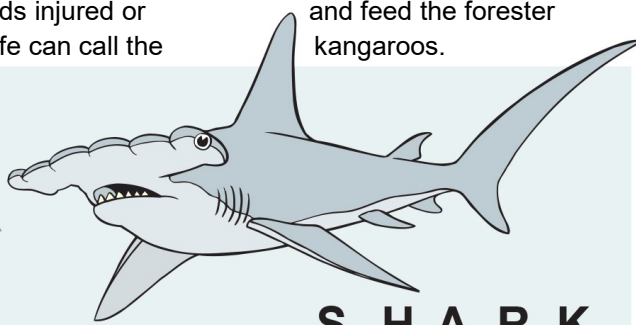
Visitors to Bonorong can enjoy daily public tours (10am, 11:30am, 2pm, 3:30pm), which include talks on wombats, Tasmanian devils and koalas; and feed the forester kangaroos.

## Word CHANGER

Change one letter and arrange them on the next line to make a new word. Use the clues to help you change a hammerhead shark into a fin whale. The answer is below.

### DID YOU KNOW?

There are at least eight species of hammerhead shark. The largest is the great hammerhead which can reach a length of just over six metres. They are found in all tropical seas.



S H A R K

Cuts roughly \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

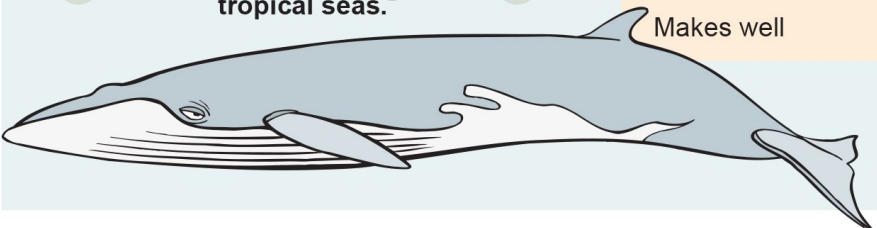
Loose, not tight \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

You do up your shoes with these \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Makes well \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

W H A L E

SOLUTION: SHARK, WHALE.  
slack, laces, heels, WHALE.



"Education perhaps more than anything else is a passport to a better life." - Peter Underwood AC