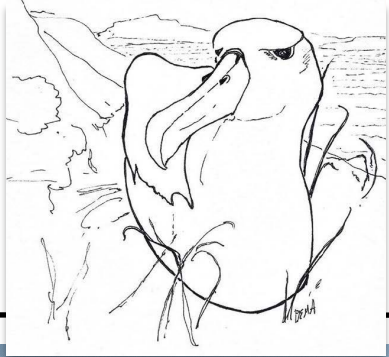




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Albatross colouring-in competition
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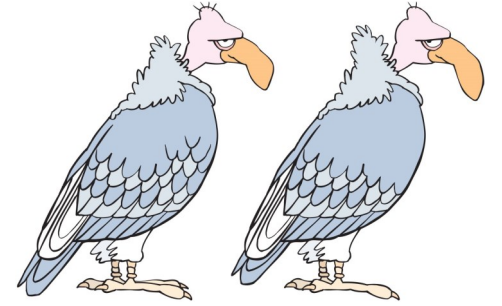


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Spot the difference puzzle:
Page 2




Our shy bird ventures far and wide

DID you know Tasmania has its own albatross species?

The shy albatross, pictured left, is unique to Tasmania, as it breeds only on three Tasmanian rocky islands - Albatross Island in the North-West, and Pedra Branca and The Mewstone in the South.

With a total population of about

15,000 breeding pairs the shy albatross is listed as "vulnerable".

University of Tasmania researcher Rachel Alderman found shy albatrosses fly half way around the world in their first four years, before returning to their birthplaces.

This puts them at greater risk of

being caught in the hooks and lines of fishing boats in international waters.

The Department of Primary, Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) are closely monitoring shy albatross populations.

DPIPWE are also working with the fishing industry.

Pictures: iStock/ Brians101 ABUN/ Laurie Johnson

OCEAN FLYER

Special day draws attention to super seabirds

YOU have to be an important bird to be given your own day.

But this Friday, June 19, has been declared World Albatross Day, to raise awareness of 31 species of albatrosses, petrels and shearwaters, all of whom need our help.

Of the 22 recognised species of albatrosses, 15 are considered "critically endangered", "endangered" or "vulnerable".

Albatrosses, petrels and shearwaters are "pelagic" seabirds, which means they feed over the open sea and breed on remote offshore islands.

The theme for the inaugural World Albatross Day is "Eradicating Island Pests".

This might sound like a familiar theme if you are a regular reader of *The Wonder Weekly*.

You were introduced to Nui the

conservation detector dog and his handler Dr Sue Robinson in the June 1 edition of this newspaper.

Sue and Nui work for Biosecurity Tasmania at the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, to remove invasive pest animals from Tasmania, including its islands.

And you would have read about the great work that has been

done to rid Macquarie Island of invasive species to protect wildlife, including seabirds.

Feral cats were killing thousands of seabirds each year, but since the last cat was removed the wildlife has been making a comeback.

"The most amazing story of all involved the large winter-breeding grey petrel," Sue said.

Continued Page 2



Colouring competition

ALBATROSSES are among the largest of flying birds.

The largest species, the great albatross, has a wing span of 3.7m.

But albatrosses are slow to mature.

Some species don't breed until they are 10-years-old, and when they do, albatrosses lay a single egg every one or two years.

This puts them at greater risk of a decline in numbers, and unfortunately most species are under threat, while some, including Australia's wandering albatross, are critically endangered.

World Albatross Day has been declared by the advisory committee of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels (ACAP).

And you can get involved in a really fun way.

ACAP has collaborated with Artists and Biologists Unite for Nature (ABUN) to develop the World Albatross Day Colouring-in Competition.

ABUN artists were asked to produce line drawings to colour-in and one drawing for each species has been selected for the competition.

The Wonder Weekly has been given permission to print the drawing of Tasmania's own shy albatross for readers to colour-in.

But you can download this drawing, or any of the others here: www.acap.aq/en/world-albatross-day/educational-games/colouring-in-competition

You can colour-in and submit as many entries to the competition as you like.

You will then need to scan or photograph the finished artwork and email it to: Secretariat@acap.aq

Remember to write "Colouring-in Competition" in the subject field, and your name, age and email address in the body of the message.

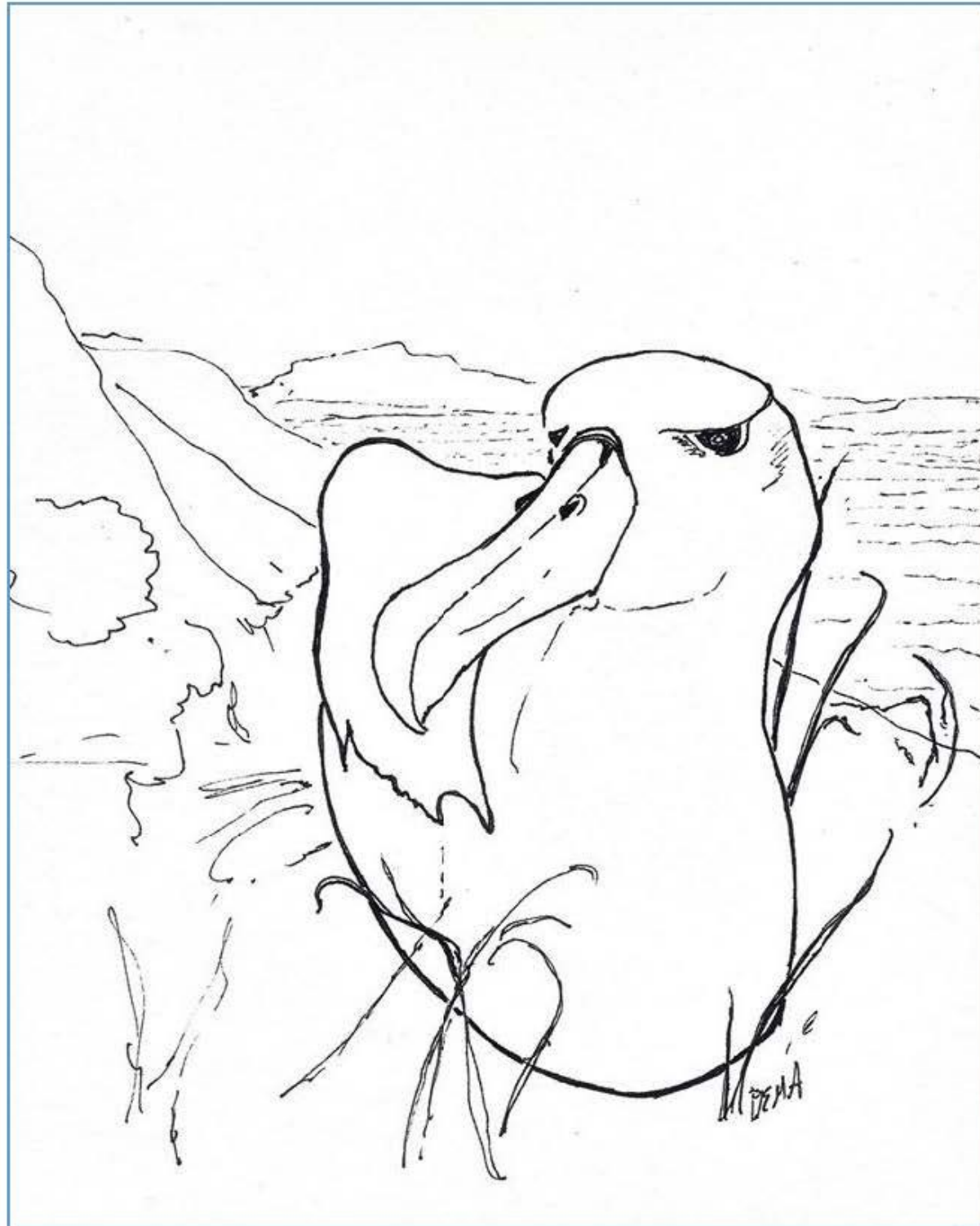
Be sure to get an adult family member's permission before entering and providing these details.

There are some great prizes to be won.

All entrants will receive a specially designed electronic certificate illustrated with an ABUN albatross painting.

Age category winners and runners-up, as judged by an expert panel, will also be mailed a high-quality albatross poster.

The competition closes at the end of June.



ARTWORK: This drawing of a Tasmanian shy albatross was produced by Dema Clark from a photograph by Laurie Johnson. This photo also appears on the front page of today's edition of *The Wonder Weekly*.

A special day for super birds

From Page 1

"This species had not been seen on the island for more than 100 years.

"In 1999, a handful of grey petrels returned.

"They were confirmed breeding in winter the next year, and now, 20 years on, there are hundreds breeding on the island."

Sue said other species of petrels had since appeared on Macquarie Island as well.

"It can be difficult to protect seabirds at sea, but we are able to make islands - where these birds breed - safe by removing invasive species," she said.

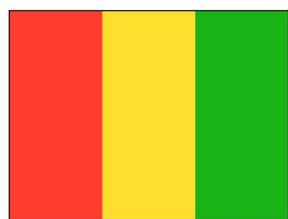
"Removing pest animals like rats and cats means seabirds can be more successful in raising their chicks to fledgling."

The removal of rabbits from Macquarie Island under the joint Australian and Tasmanian Government eradication program is also helping seabirds by improving nest site habitat.

Research led by Dr Jaimie Cleeland from the Australian Antarctic Division and Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, at UTAS, found that high rabbit numbers had reduced the breeding success of three species of albatross:

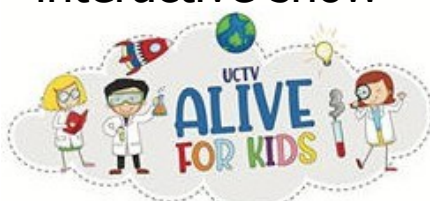
www.antarctica.gov.au/news

Guess the country?



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Tune in to our interactive show

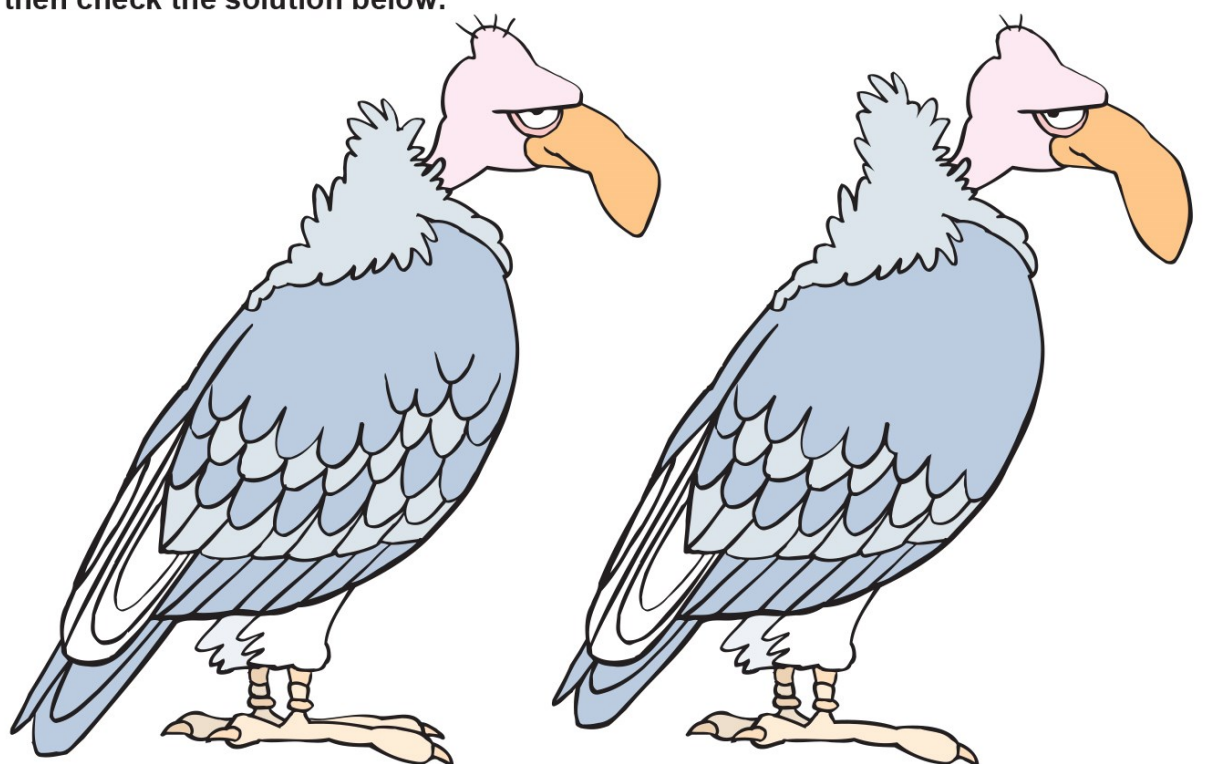


The Peter Underwood Centre has a new, weekly broadcast, *UCTV Alive for Kids*.

To find out more head to our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/UnderwoodCentre/

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

There are seven differences between the two vultures. See if you can spot them, then check the solution below.



SOLUTION: 1. Beak longer, 2. Neck feathers bigger, 3. Hairs missing from head, 4. Feathers missing from wing, 5. Tail shorter, 6. Toe missing, 7. Eye changed.