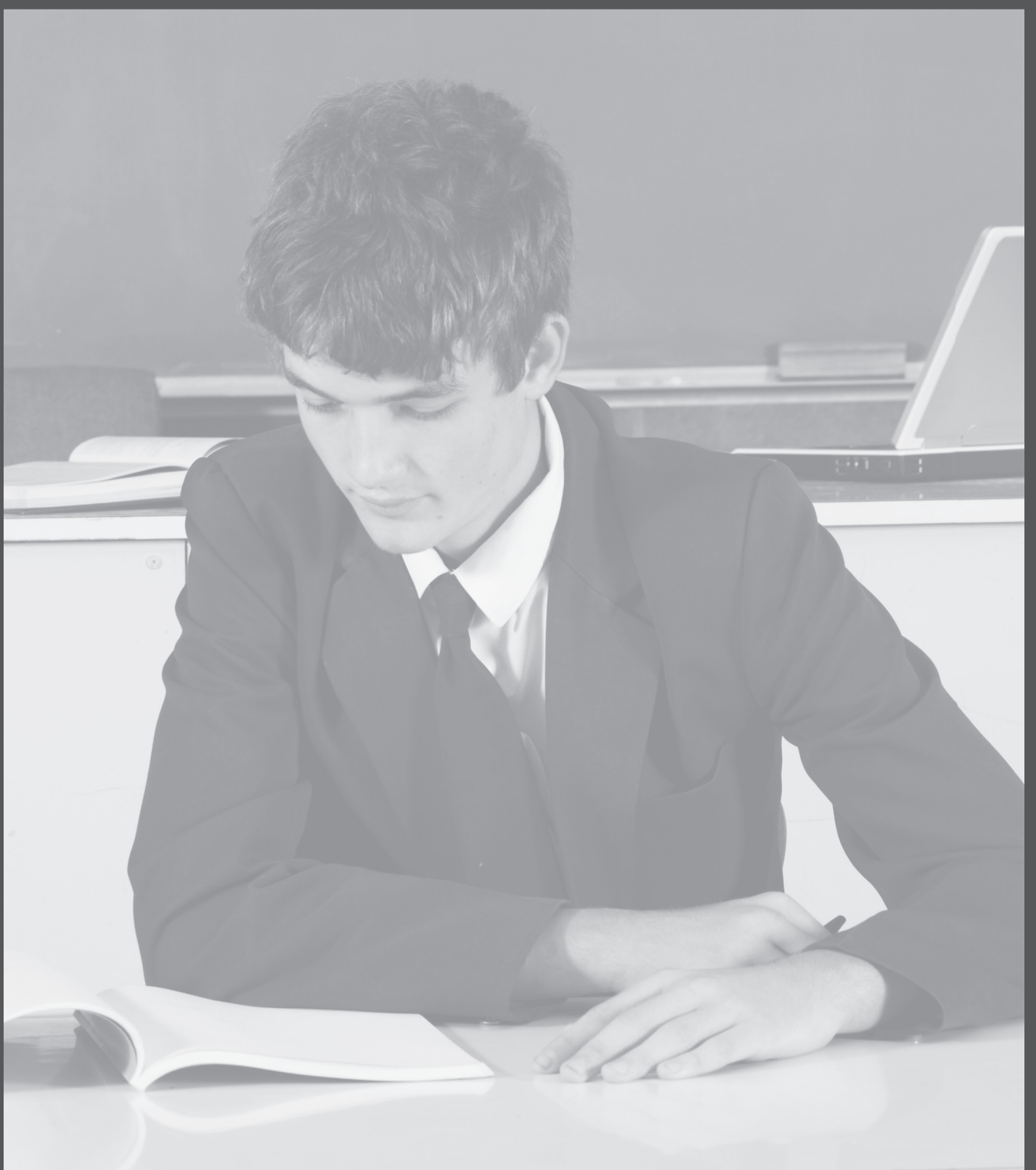


Year 9 Literacy

Reading Magazine 2



Meeting People Online



It is not uncommon to want to explore the internet and start friendships online with people you may not have met face-to-face. You can form rewarding and lifelong friendships this way, as well as connect with people you may not otherwise find it easy to meet in real life due to geographical distance.

You might meet people online through forums, chatrooms, or online social networks such as Myspace or Facebook.

There are, however, a few things you should remember to meet people safely online and avoid undesirable situations:

- Be careful in chat rooms. Even though someone might say they're a young person, there's no way of really knowing this is the case.
- On social networking sites such as Myspace and Facebook keep your profile private if possible, and only befriend people known to you.
- Never give out personal details such as your home address, phone number, school, university or workplace to anybody you don't know online (or where it could be seen publicly by people you don't know).
- Never arrange to meet anyone unless someone goes with you and you meet in a public place. People you contact online are not always who they seem or who they say they are.

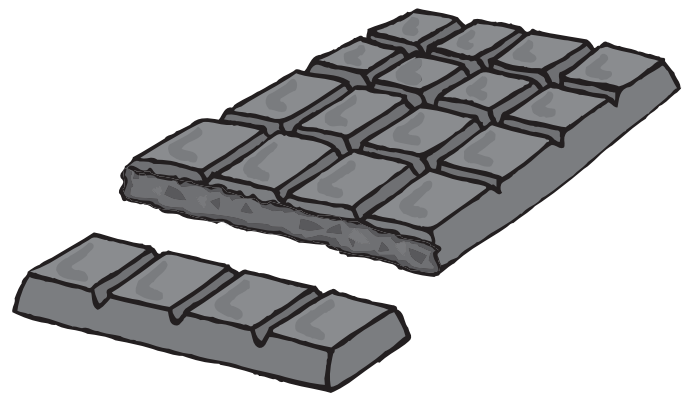
If you are being bullied online by people you meet there, tell someone you trust about it.

Chocolate

Heather Catchpole

Chocolate is a mixture of sugar, fat and cocoa. Cocoa is a brown powder that's made from the Cacao bean. This amazing bean grows on trees in countries around the equator (the imaginary line around the centre of the Earth).

The first chocolate was made by ancient South American civilisations thousands of years ago, by either the Mayan, or the Olmec civilisation. They ground Cacao beans into powder and mixed it with water, wine, spices and even chilli. Phew! Talk about hot chocolate!



Before sugar is added, chocolate is very bitter. But adding sugar and fats such as cocoa butter, which is the fat found naturally in cocoa beans, makes chocolate very hard to resist.

Why is chocolate good to eat? Scientists that study chocolates have found that despite many people experiencing chocolate cravings, chocolate isn't really addictive. It does contain some chemicals that stimulate the brain, making you feel more alert. Caffeine is a drug found in coffee and some soft drinks that increases your heart rate. Although chocolate doesn't contain caffeine, it contains chemicals that have a similar effect.

Some scientists think chocolate also contains feel-good chemicals that trick the brain into thinking it has to make chemicals that make you feel relaxed and pleasurable. So chocolate might perk you up and soothe you at the same time.

Is chocolate bad for you? The good news is that chocolate is no worse for your body than anything else that is sweet, although all sweet foods contain sugar, which among other things can cause tooth decay.

Cocoa might even be good for you. Cocoa contains chemicals called phenols, which are antioxidants. Antioxidants neutralise chemicals in your body that attack other chemicals and increase the chances of getting heart disease.

Like everything else, chocolate should be eaten in moderation. So don't get too carried away around Easter time.

Anzac Memories

Inga Clendinner

In the late 1930s, when I was still too young to count as female (women were of course banned from this sacred men's business), my father used to smuggle me into the Dawn Service at Johnstone's Park in Geelong. My father had not been at Gallipoli, but he had been on the Western Front. I had only the vaguest notion of the history – I knew that there had been a battle, and that we had lost – but I felt and still feel the emotions of the men standing silently around me. One of my few relics is a buff-coloured card from my father's furniture manufactory. It has 'From Bench to You' printed on one side, with the factory's address and telephone number, and on the other, in my father's elegant upright hand, this. He must have been going to read it at the Dawn Service:



Now let us praise famous men, and our fathers that begat us. There be of them that have left a name behind them, that their praises might be reported. And some there be which have no memorial, who are perished as tho' they had never been born, but their glory shall not be blotted out. Their bodies are buried in peace and their name liveth for evermore.

My throat still tightens as I read those words. The sound of a lone bugle, the murmur of magpies in a grey dawn, sweep me back into that strange blend of emotions – pride, grief, anger – as if it were yesterday.

Bird Strikes Common Risk for Aircraft

Jennifer Viegas

The location of an airport and quieter airplane engines could increase the chances of bird-air strikes, say US federal aviation officials.

The admission comes days after US Airways flight 1549 is believed to have collided with a flock of geese seconds after takeoff from LaGuardia airport on 15 January. All 155 passengers and crew survived Thursday's event, due in part to the skilful manoeuvring of the pilot.

However, the emergency water landing highlights at least three risk factors for bird-air strikes that may receive more attention in the future.

Questions that may be asked include: Do flight paths at particular airports cross with bird migratory paths? Can improved technologies prevent birds from being sucked into engines? Does the airport have a trained biologist present to help mitigate the problem?

'If you look outside your plane window before takeoff and see an individual in a vehicle scanning the runway, there's a good chance he's a biologist monitoring the airport for birds', says US Department of Agriculture spokesman Larry Hawkins.

Hawkins is a member of the federal government's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, which performs assessment management plans for airports that then have the option of contracting with them to bring in a biologist and support staff...

...'Our prevention tactics include habitat modification, removal of wildlife, if necessary, and hazing', he says, explaining that hazing can involve everything from setting up brightly coloured scarecrow-type balloons that frighten birds to audible scaring...

In the flight path

An airport's location can also increase the chances of a bird strike, Hawkins suggests, with airports near water being at greater risk, along with airports that intersect 'bird flyways'.

'These are flight paths followed by migrating birds,' he explains. 'Some California airports, for example, cross the Pacific Flyway.'

Planes are at greatest risk for a bird strike during takeoffs and landings, since above this 'risk zone' they fly higher than birds...



'Feathered bullets'

Dale Oderman, an associate professor of aviation technology at Purdue University, says that birds sometimes get near a plane engine's intake, which consists of multiple compressor blades. If the bird impact leads to a blade breaking, it can turn a blade into a dangerous piece of shrapnel, potentially causing other damage.

Both Hawkins and Oderman agree that even smaller birds, such as starlings, can damage planes, especially if the aircraft collides with a flock.

Bird Strike Committee USA even refers to starlings as 'feathered bullets', since they say these birds possess 'a body density 27 per cent higher than herring gulls'.

Better technologies are being sought to make plane engines less vulnerable to bird air strikes, but airplane improvements ironically may now be increasing avian-aviator collisions.

'Fan jets are quieter and more efficient,' Hawkins says, 'but birds can't hear them as well, so the planes themselves are less of a deterrent.'

Vanishing Species

Jennifer Strauss

The child
 (computer games abandoned)
 comes tidily to breakfast
 on coffee and croissants.
 'I didn't'
 she declares, 'much care
 for last night's sitter.
 She talked too much.
 She wouldn't
 let me play my video;
 she didn't read from a book
 she talked a story.
 It was weird –
 there was this naughty mother
 sent her little girl out
 all by herself, into the woods.'
 The foundations
 of order being shaken
 a muscle quivers
 in the mock-adult face
 'Daddy,' she says
 'What are woods?
 What's a wolf?
 What's a riding hood?
 What's a red?'



Banknote Technology

Australia leads the world in plastic banknote technology.

What's the problem?

Paper banknotes wear out quickly, particularly if they get wet. They are also fairly easy to counterfeit – despite security measures, such as watermarks and having metallic threads within the notes. The emergence of colour photocopiers and scanners has made it easier to reproduce paper money.

A great Aussie solution

CSIRO and Note Printing Australia (part of the Reserve Bank of Australia) developed polymer money. The world's first polymer banknote was the \$10 commemorative note issued in January 1988 to mark the Australian Bicentenary. By 1996, all Australians were using plastic money, and that doesn't mean whipping out their credit cards! The new bills are much more durable and have proven a challenge for counterfeiters.

How does it work?

Australia's plastic money is made of a non-porous polymer with a specially developed protective coating so the notes stay cleaner and don't absorb moisture. They last on average four to five times longer in circulation, with the plastic \$5 note lasting for around 40 months, compared to six months for the paper \$5. After it does wear out, polymer money is recycled into plastic products such as compost bins and plumbing fittings.

The polymer substrate behaves a lot like paper and conventional printing techniques are used to apply ink to the surface. The major security measure is a see-through window which makes the plastic money difficult to reproduce using photocopiers and scanners.

The future

Australia was the first country to have all polymer banknotes, but the rest of the world is starting to follow our lead. Note Printing Australia has produced banknotes for Thailand, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Kuwait, Western Samoa, Singapore, Brunei, Sri Lanka and New Zealand.



Cloning

YES

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I recently lost my beloved Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Hamish. He was the best dog that ever walked the earth. If cloning had been legal I could now be enjoying Hamish all over again. Why do selfish people want to take away my happiness?

But it's not just my happiness I'm concerned about. If cloning was made legal we could create a human repair kit. People could have their own organs cloned and have them ready to replace the originals when the need arises. We wouldn't need to worry about rates of organ donation and the problem of donor organ rejection would be solved for ever.

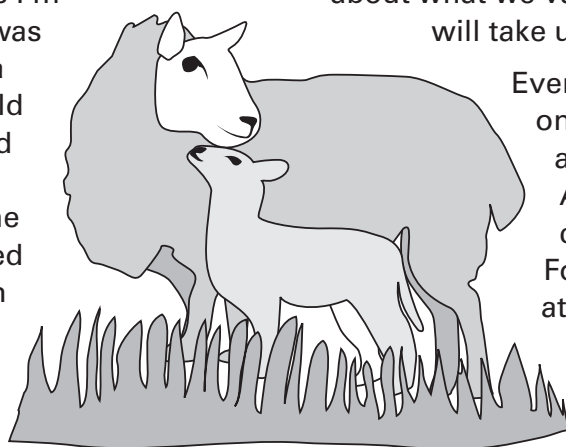
If we had cloning we would be able to save endangered animals. It's not the animals that have made themselves endangered! It's us – the human race. If we have the technology to clone animals – and Dolly the sheep proves we do – then the least we can do is bring them back from the brink – which we have created.

And those people who say cloning isn't 'natural' should go back to school and learn some more biology. Cloning already occurs 'naturally' in some animals such as insects and frogs in a process called *parthenogenesis*. This is where an egg develops without fertilisation.

People who don't like cloning don't have to use it. They shouldn't be allowed, however, to stop those of us who do.

Yours

Sophie Harper



NO

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to urge the community to think carefully before voting to allow cloning.

Just because we can, does it mean we should? I can buy a gun and shoot a person, but does that mean I should? Does it make it right just because I can do it? We really have to think about what we value and consider if cloning will take us in the opposite direction.

Even if cloning could be defended on moral grounds, it's currently a very imperfect technology. A very large percentage of cloning efforts end in failure. For example, it took 277 attempts to clone Dolly the sheep. And it has been seen in clones that have survived, that they have genetic problems that end in death. All this money gives us

nothing that improves the daily lives of ordinary people.

Genetic diversity helps provide the pool of variations available for a robust human population. It is common knowledge that inbreeding animals can result in reduced variations and an increased risk of genetic defects. An example is hip dysplasia in pure-bred dogs. Mixed breeds tend to be more adaptable and healthier.

Finally, think of the psychological harm that cloning would inflict on a child. The cloned child would have no sense of individuality and uniqueness. Let's face it: cloning is a slippery slope to destruction.

Yours sincerely

Jorge Albertos

Some Chips With That?

Bernie Hobbs

If you're trying to diet away those winter love handles, you might want to think about hitting your fish and chip shop. Often and hard. But not to drown your cellutitic sorrows in tartare sauce – scientists in Western Australia reckon that eating a bit of fish each day helps improve your general health while you're living on carrot sticks and cottage cheese. It's the omega-3 fatty acids in the fish that do the trick. They're the good bits in some fats that help cut your blood pressure and cholesterol level – giving the old heart a bit of a break. But before you race off in your one-size-fits-all trackies to buy



up enough fillets to see you through summer, you might want to think about the fish for a second. They've got a little problem of their own. Sure it's not in the league of your pokey-out thighs, but they're facing a little population crisis. Some kinds of shark, or beer-battered flake as we like to call them, are in pathetically low numbers. And gemfish are in so much strife that trawling them was outlawed a few years ago. Blue Fin Tuna are in huge danger of being fished out because they're worth a mint in Japan, and they're not as photogenic as dolphins. And the Orange Ruffie, which used to live in peace on the ocean floor, is now the most popular fish on American dinner plates. Add to that the enormous numbers of fish that are killed just because they were swimming with the wrong crowd when the trawler came through, and you get a feel for why 'eat more fish' isn't necessarily a good idea. So if it's omega-3 fatty acids you're after, why not do the fish a favour and get your good oil from another source – like flaxseed or canola. It'll cost you a trip to your local hippy emporium, but surely that's not too big a sacrifice to make for our scaly brothers and sisters.