

# INSIDE SCOOP

The latest news and fantastic facts from around the globe...

## MEET MESI!

A black rhinoceros who was born earlier this year at Taronga's Western Plains Zoo in Dubbo, NSW, has been named Mesi, which means 'smoke' in the South African Sotho language. The name was decided by the zookeepers because it celebrates the native homeland of the species. At birth, Mesi weighed approximately 25-30kg but she's now already estimated to weigh in at a whopping 80-100kg. Sadly, black rhinos like Mesi are a critically endangered species with poaching and changes to habitat contributing to their decline. Mesi is a wonderful reminder of the importance of protecting this special species. A-mesi-ng!

Learn more at [taronga.org.au/taronga-western-plains-zoo](http://taronga.org.au/taronga-western-plains-zoo)



Mesi strikes a pose



Mesi and her mum!



This driverless bus is a zero-emission vehicle!

## DRIVING INTO THE FUTURE

Buses without drivers?! That's right, the Northern Territory Government is conducting a driverless bus trial to see if this environmentally friendly mode of transport could work in the Top End. Don't worry, a fully trained operator was on board to make sure passengers were safe at all times!



## HANGING WITH HEXAPODS

Ever noticed how spiders and other insects can get into those hard-to-reach places? Well the CSIRO have used insects as their inspiration to build new robots called hexapods. These amazing robots can reach tough places, such as tight spaces in collapsed buildings following earthquakes. Just like insects, these robots have multiple legs – the Weaver hexapod (above) has six! Scientists have even given them different types of walks – for example, the alternating tripod gait is inspired by cockroaches and running ants. Cool!

## ICEBERG BREAK OFF

A giant iceberg has broken off from the Larsen C segment of the Larsen Ice Shelf on the Antarctic Peninsula. The iceberg that broke off is one of the biggest on record – it's said to be almost five times the size of Auckland and weighs a whopping trillion tonnes. Antarctica is Earth's fifth largest continent and is covered in ice. After the break, the Larsen Ice Shelf is now more than 12% smaller in area. Whoa!



A trillion-tonne iceberg snapped off the Larsen C Ice Shelf



A drone, also known as an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) is an aircraft without a pilot on board.

## BREAKING BARRIERS IN SCIENCE!

Did you know that two thirds of children aged nine to 11 draw a man when asked to draw a scientist? And only 16% of university science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) graduates are female? To change this, we need more girls in STEM. She Flies is a science program that aims to do just this. Using drones (because let's face it, they are super fun), She Flies visits schools across Australia and hosts special drone events to get boys and girls excited about science! So what are you waiting for? Hover over to [sheflies.com.au](http://sheflies.com.au)

## 3 FAST FACTS

### POLLINATOR WEEK!

12-19 November is a special time in Australia. It's when bees and other important insect pollinators get to work...

- 1 A pollinator is an animal that transfers pollen from the male part of a flower to the female part of a flower. Pollinators are important for creating biodiversity and ecosystems.
- 2 Plants need pollinators to reproduce. Pollination leads to fertilisation which helps plants develop seeds and fruits that feed us and animals too.
- 3 Over 75% of the world's flowering plants rely on insect pollinators to reproduce. Sadly, they are declining because of changes to the environment and weather.



Get busy at [beesbusiness.com.au/pollweekmain](http://beesbusiness.com.au/pollweekmain)

## MAKE IT A DATE

What's going on this month?

- 5 November
 

**WORLD TSUNAMI AWARENESS DAY**  
Education and drills are so important!
- 11 November
 

**REMEMBRANCE DAY!**  
Wear a red poppy for all who served
- 20 November
 

**UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY**  
Come together today, kids!
- 21 November
 

**HELLO!**  
**WORLD HELLO DAY**  
Can you say hello to ten friends today? Give it a try!
- 21 November
 

**WORLD FISHERIES DAY**  
Say no to over-fishing our oceans!