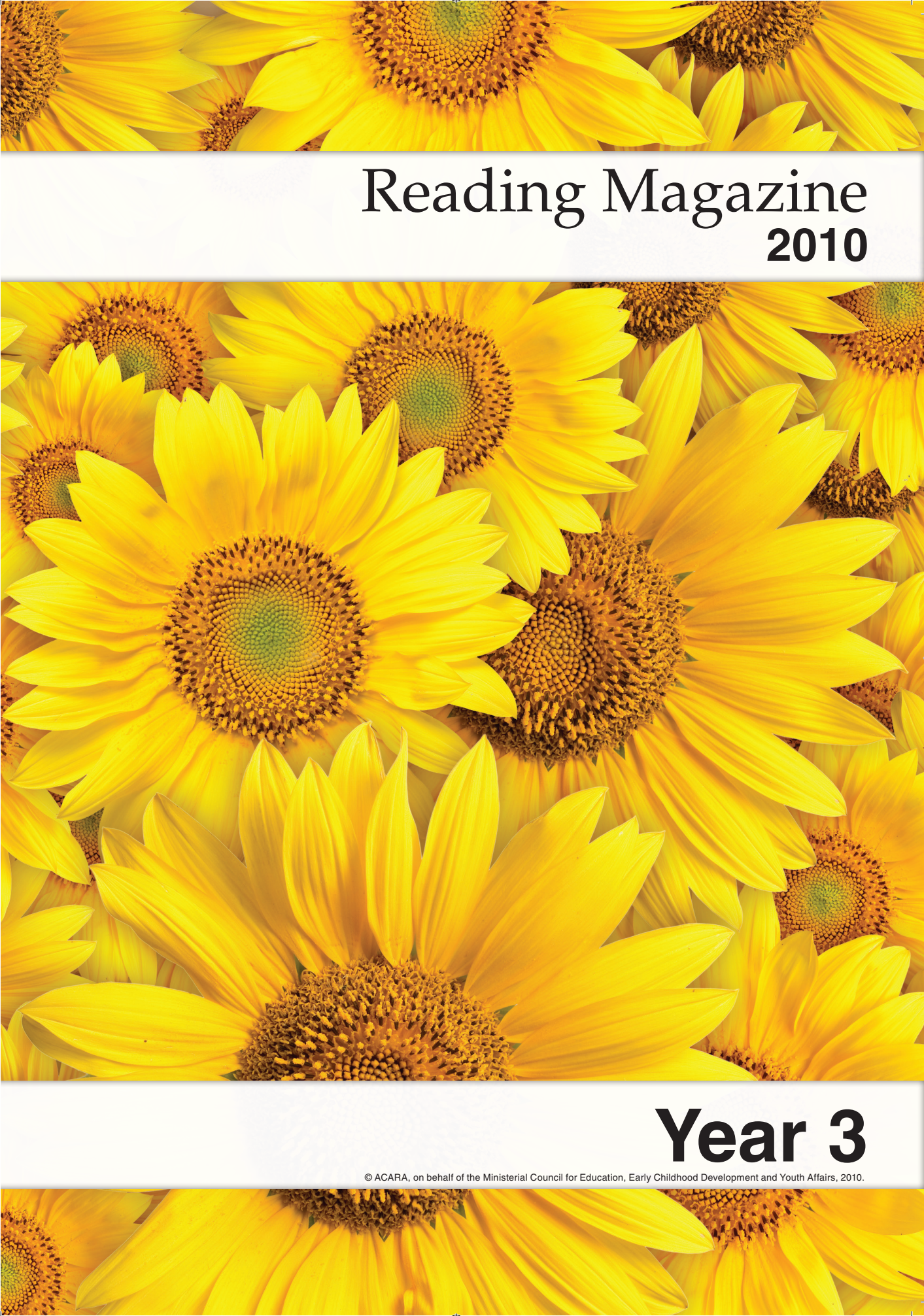


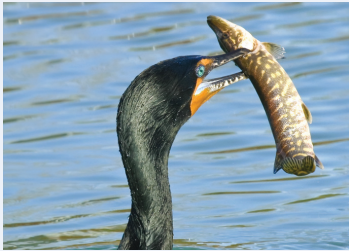


Reading Magazine 2010

Year 3

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How birds use their beaks

Bird	How the beak is used	Skull
Galahs 	Galahs have strong, curved beaks for opening seeds.	
Boobooks 	Boobooks have sharp, curved beaks for tearing meat.	
Cormorants 	Cormorants have hooked beaks for catching and holding fish.	
Spoonbills 	Spoonbills move their open beaks through the water. Their beaks snap shut when they can feel small fish or shrimp.	
Kookaburras 	Kookaburras have strong, pointed beaks for hunting. They also use their beaks as digging sticks to help them break into termite nests.	

The recycling box

‘Children,’ said Miss Rossi, ‘this is our recycling box. When it is full, we’ll take it to the recycling centre.’

Tony washed lots of jars and put them in the box. Franca asked her Mum for all their old newspapers. Mani brought lots of old soft drink cans. Rosila collected cardboard tubes. Everyone brought something.



Soon, the box was full. ‘Put the box outside the door please Truc,’ said Miss Rossi. ‘Tomorrow we’ll take it to the recycling centre.’

Later, Mrs Haddad walked past the box and saw all the clean, empty jars. ‘Those would be perfect for the art room,’ she thought to herself.

Mrs Walker saw the soft drink cans and said, ‘That’s what we need for our science project.’

Miss Nguyen looked in the box and said, ‘Old newspapers! Just what I need to put in my compost bin at home.’

‘Cardboard tubes,’ said Mr Taylor. ‘I need some of those.’

When the children came in the next morning, their recycling box was empty! ‘How extraordinary,’ said Miss Rossi. ‘I wonder what happened to all our things? Oh well, it looks as if we’ll have to start again!’

The ant

Antennae

Ants use their antennae to feel vibrations, smell, hear and taste. Ants also use their antennae to 'speak' with other ants.

Ocelli (OH-SE-LI)

Ocelli are simple eyes on the top of ants' heads. Ants use their ocelli to sense light.

Compound eyes

Like other insects, ants have two compound eyes that are made up of many smaller eyes joined together. Ants use their compound eyes to sense movement.



Mandibles

Ants have two strong jaws called mandibles. Ants use these to carry food and other objects, to build nests and to protect themselves.

Hooked claws

Ants have a hooked claw on the end of each of their six legs. These claws help them to grip surfaces and to climb.

Stinger

Most ants have a stinger. Ants use their stingers to capture other insects and to protect their nests.

The best teacher

Once upon a time, there was a man with a fine house, healthy animals and fertile land. He was also blessed with a handsome, loving son. But the man was worried about his son, because the boy had grown up knowing only good times and good fortune.

“What will happen when something goes wrong for him?” wondered his father. “How will he know what to do?”

So one day, the man asked the boy to go into the forest and collect wood. To help him carry the wood home, the man gave the boy an old cart and two horses. As he was leaving, the man said to his son, “If the cart breaks down while you are in the forest, don’t worry. Necessity will teach you what to do.”

The boy collected as much wood as he could load onto the cart. But when he turned to come home, the cart broke under the weight of the wood. “I hope that Father’s friend lives near by,” thought the boy, and he started crying out, “Necessity! NE-CESS-ITY! Where are you?” The boy called and called, but no one came, so he decided to fix the cart himself.

When he arrived home he said to his father, “You said Necessity would teach me to fix the cart, but I couldn’t find him anywhere. I had to fix it all by myself.”

The man smiled to himself and thought, “Necessity really is the best teacher.”



Athletics *versus* gardening

The students of Southside School were asked to give their opinions about whether the school should run a specialised athletics program or start a vegetable garden.

A specialised athletics program is definitely better than gardening. How are we ever going to win anything at the Inter-School Athletics without proper coaching? At the moment, we only do athletics for one term, and the teachers train us. We need experts to teach us things like hurdles and high jump.

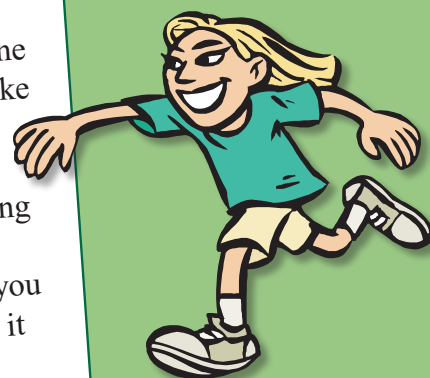
I know lots of kids say they're not interested in competitions but that's because they've never won anything. If they got better coaching and started winning things they'd soon change their minds.

People always say kids don't get enough exercise. Just because you do gardening outdoors doesn't make it exercise, so I don't see how it counts.

Athletics is much better for fitness, and lots of kids can have a go at the same time. I don't think there would be enough jobs for everyone in a garden.

In fact I think a garden is a really bad idea. I don't know why we're even considering it.

Liz, Grade 4



I think a vegetable garden is a great idea. We already do hours of sport, including athletics. And not everyone likes sport. Gardening is a great way to get exercise without worrying about whether you're any good at it, or whether you're going to win. And you really do get exercise when you garden. There's digging, weeding and watering. Even picking things can be hard work – pumpkins aren't light you know!

There are lots of kids around here who don't have gardens so they can't grow things even if they want to. If you really want to do more sport you can join a club.

And think about it: what helps you to be good at sport? You need to eat lots of fruit and vegetables. If we learn to cook all the things we grow, the garden will keep us all fit and healthy and then we'll be better at sport.

Sam, Grade 5



Elvis with stripes

This is about a boy called Tim who lives in the town of Daffodil in Tasmania.

Thylacines are also called Tasmanian tigers. Thylacines look like large dogs with stripes on their backs. They are thought to be extinct.

Have you ever had an idea that just pops into your head out of nowhere?

That's what happened to me while Greer's mother was talking about tourists coming to Daffodil if someone saw a thylacine here. One moment I was listening to what Mrs Samson was saying then—Pop!—there in my mind was a full colour picture of my dog, Elvis, with stripes on him.

As soon as I could without making them suspect I had a secret plan, I said goodbye to Greer and her mum and ran home. My house is only two houses along from the milkbar, so it didn't take long to get there.

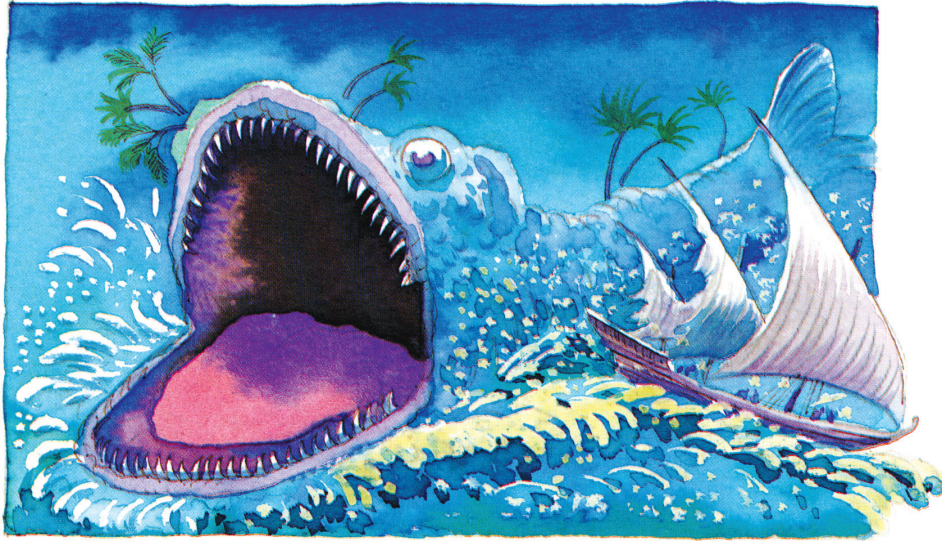
'Elvis!' I called as I went flying in through the gate. 'Where are you boy?'

Elvis used to be my brother Malcolm's dog before Malcolm moved away to Launceston two years ago to become an apprentice baker. Now he's mine—at least I'm the one who has to feed him and look after him.

But I feel funny about saying I own him because in dog years (Dad worked it out) Elvis is ninety-nine. How can an eleven-and-a-half year old own a ninety-nine year old? As I see it, me and Elvis are buddies.

'How would you like to be famous?' I asked Elvis when he came trotting round the corner of the house. I didn't know then that there was such a word as infamous. Elvis didn't either. He just wagged his tail, which meant that whatever my plan was, it was OK with him.

Amon and the giant fish



Once upon a time Amon was sailing his ship in a big storm. Suddenly, a giant fish came out of the sea. Amon quickly sailed away. Amon saved his ship.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

How birds use their beaks

Image of skulls: © Courtesy Queensland Museum, David Frittell.

Elvis with stripes

Text adapted from *Infamous* by Justin D'Ath, Allen & Unwin, 2003.

Amon and the giant fish

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