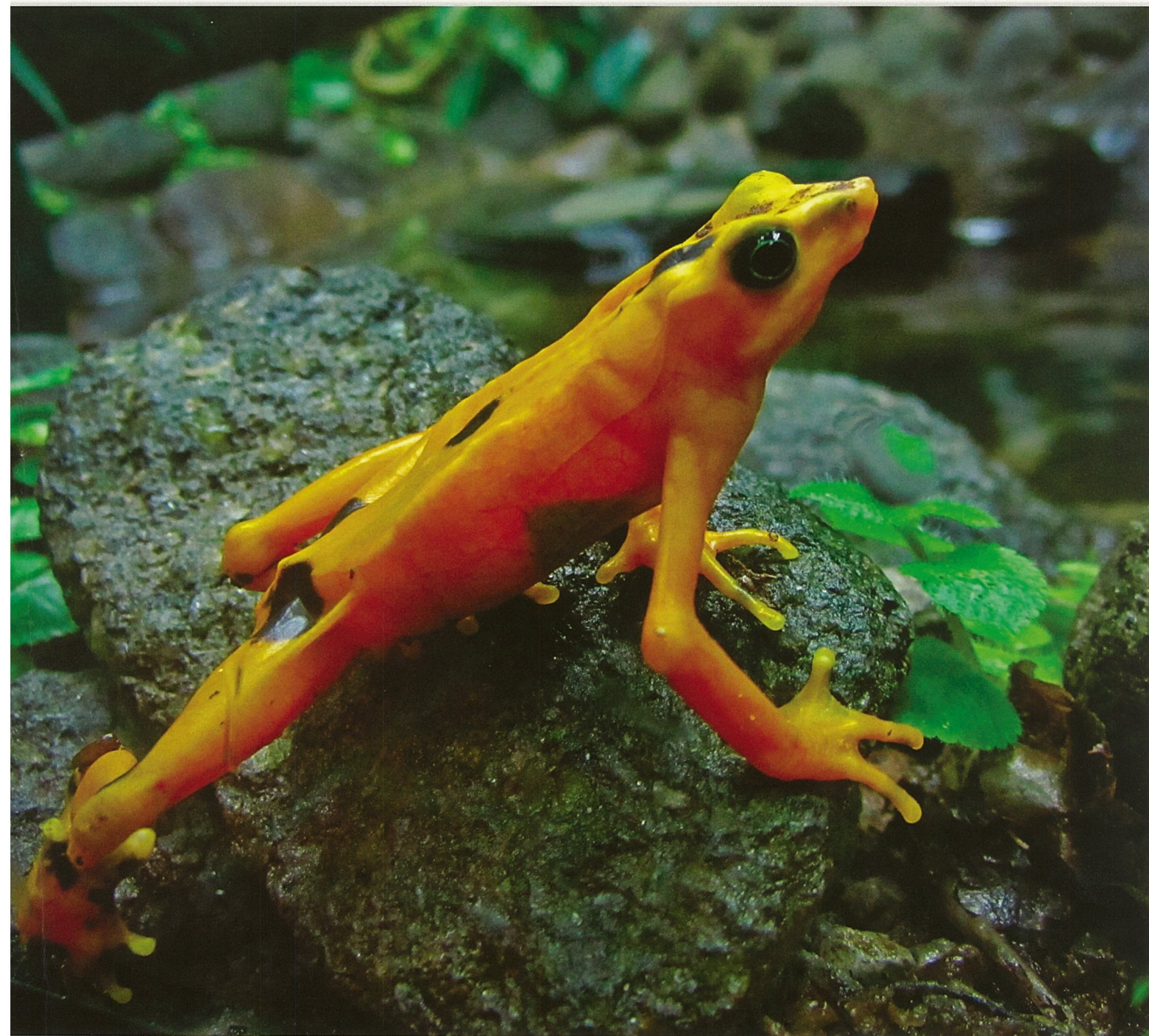


Year 7

Reading Magazine  
2017



**NAPLAN** NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM  
Literacy and Numeracy

**acara** AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM,  
ASSESSMENT AND  
REPORTING AUTHORITY

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

### **Cover**

Image of golden frog © Ben Beiske (top of image blurred)

### **Saving the golden frogs**

Image of golden frog © Ben Beiske (top of image blurred)

### **Beached**

Beach image courtesy of Katrina Cohen

### **Get on board!**

Image of flyboarder diving © Nick Dale / Alamy Stock Photo (image cropped and border added)

Images of flyboard riders © Denys Kornyllov / Alamy Stock Photo (image cropped and border added)

### **Star struck**

Photo of a stargazer © Denys Bilytskyi / Alamy Stock Photo (image cropped)

### **Seeing stars**

Photo of city lights © Lee Gillion / Alamy Stock Photo (image cropped)



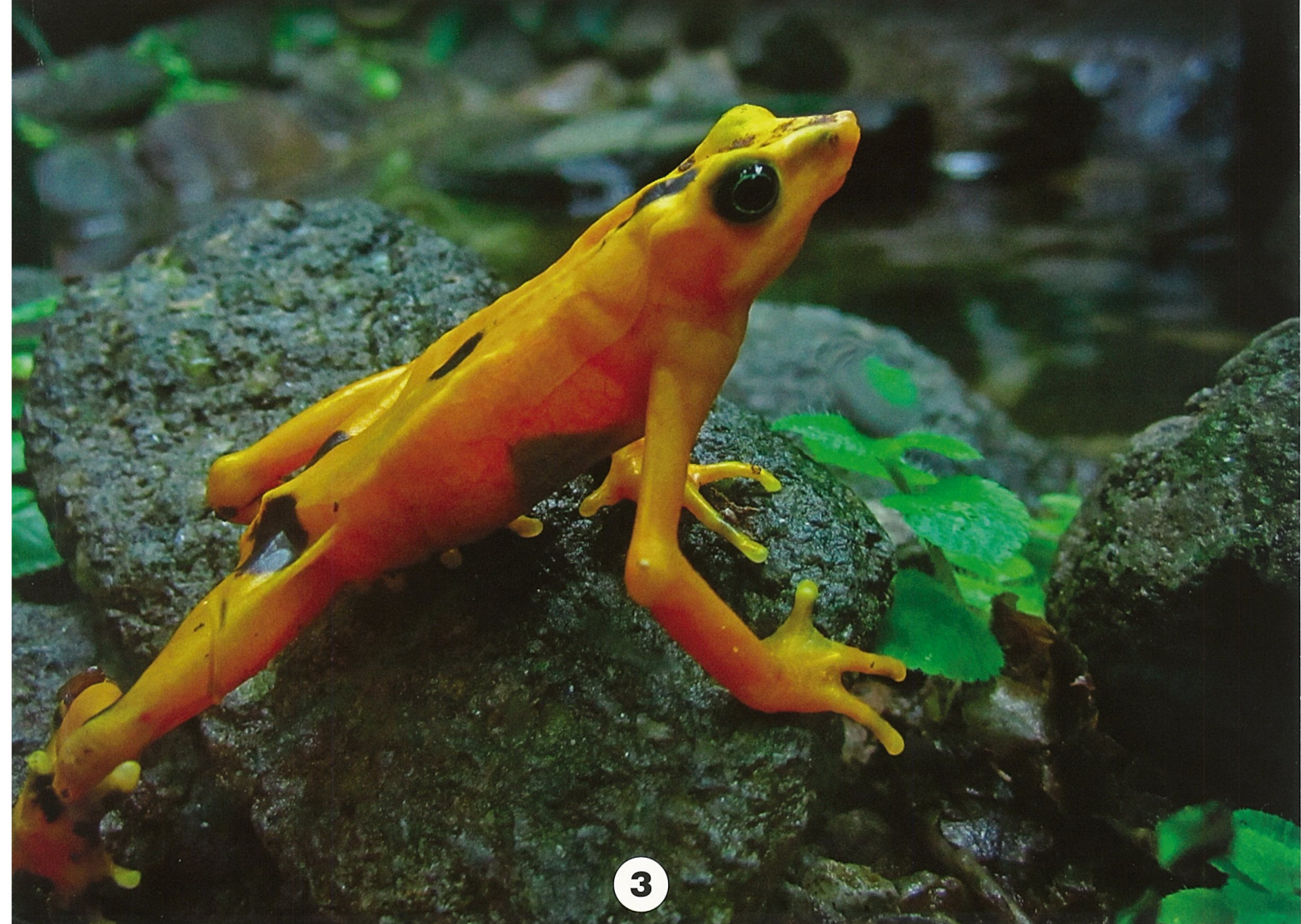
# Saving the golden frogs

People in Panama say that seeing a golden frog brings good luck. In the green rainforests, the colourful frog used to be easy to spot. Sadly though, no-one has seen a golden frog in the wild in many years.

A disease is threatening golden frogs. It is called Chytridiomycosis (pronounced 'ky-TRI-dyo-my-CO-sis'). Golden frogs are dying off and are nearly extinct because of the fungus that causes the disease.

People are trying to help golden frogs grow in numbers. The frogs are being protected in zoos and in captive breeding programs all over the world.

Scientists are studying the case of the golden frogs. If they can find a cure for the disease, the forests of Panama might once again be filled with these bright, beautiful creatures.





# Win the Speedster 200X

Annie was flicking through the local newspaper when she saw this entry form on page 5. She stopped right there.

'Wow,' she said. 'What a gorgeous bike!'

*... tell us why you would love to win ...*

'How easy is that? I'm in!'

Annie grabbed a notebook and pencil and set out to win. She tried a few times.

... I really need a new bike because my old one is too small for me.

... I'm already really fast but this would make me the fastest cyclist in the world.

... it would take me years to save enough pocket money to buy a bike like this!

... it's **so** cool and I could give my old bike, which is too small, to my little brother and we could ride everywhere together.

It wasn't as easy as she'd thought but eventually the form was completed to her satisfaction. She popped it in the mailbox on her way to school. Fingers crossed!

## WIN!



To be in the running to win this awesome bike, simply tell us in 25 words or less why you would love to win.

Competition closes on 4<sup>th</sup> of February.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I would love to win the Speedster 200X because ... \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Post your entry to:  
Speedster 200X Competition  
Locked Bag 46  
Adelaide SA 5001**



# Beached

As they got closer they still hadn't seen it.

They'd been winding their way up the beach against the wind, Ella trailing a crooked stick behind her, marking a long jagged line in the wet sand.

'What's that?' called Jess above the roar of the surf.

She was pointing far up the long curve of the hazy shoreline as they stood with the wind whipping sand at their legs.

'It's huge,' said Ella.

Both girls felt a first prickle of fear as they contemplated its size. They began to have vague thoughts about the things that dwelled in the deepest, darkest reaches of the ocean.

'Come on.'

As they got closer their fear turned to marvel when they realised what it was.

A whale.

It lay on its side with one massive fin lifted at the sky. It was twice as high as they were, its big tail twisting in the edge of the creaming waves. Most of its bulk sat heavily on the shining wet sand where the beach met the water. Slowly, the girls worked their way around the creature and saw that on one side it was a dark mottled grey; on the other it was white and deeply grooved like the side of a wooden boat.

Then the lower hinge of its enormous jaw opened and they were looking into a black and frightening space the size of a small cave they could have stepped into. At the same time a loud exploding hiss of escaping air came from the top of its body.

It was still alive.

'We have to get it back into the water,' said Jess.

Ella was already running to bring her father.





# Get on board!

Have you ever played a computer game where you have to fly through the air and avoid obstacles that will knock points off your score? It might have involved some careful handling of arrow keys or a game controller. But how about trying it out for real? Do you fancy putting on a jetpack of your own and taking off?

Now, with the arrival of *flyboarding*, you can feel the thrill of flying over water, diving and even trying a few tricks mid-air, all in a matter of minutes.

Flyboarding is surprisingly simple to get the hang of, and organisers promise to give anyone with reasonable fitness and swimming skills a fun session that will soon see them successfully riding the jets.



Sessions begin with some all-important safety training, as you would expect. You choose the height and direction of your flight but the expert flyboarding pilots control how much power your board receives. They will ensure you have a safe yet thrilling ride. Friends and family can usually watch too, making it a great group experience. So, if you're up for adventure, get on board, and you'll soon be jetting off into the blue!

## How does it make you fly?

To use a flyboard, you strap your feet onto a board which is connected to a jet ski by a hose. The jet ski provides the power to drive water through the hose and out from under the flyboard. These jets of water propel you upwards, letting you ride your own personal wave. You can find yourself soaring up to 10 metres in the air or diving two metres below the water. Or you can just float, enjoying the sensation of standing on a cushion of water.







## Fit to reveal fitness?

It seems that everyone these days is wearing a fitness monitor—a device that records the wearer’s activity levels. In gyms and on tracks, you’ll see people glancing at their wrists or checking pendants or belts to review their work-out data. However, these devices are not a great improvement over simpler, cheaper methods of tracking fitness and can be a waste of money.

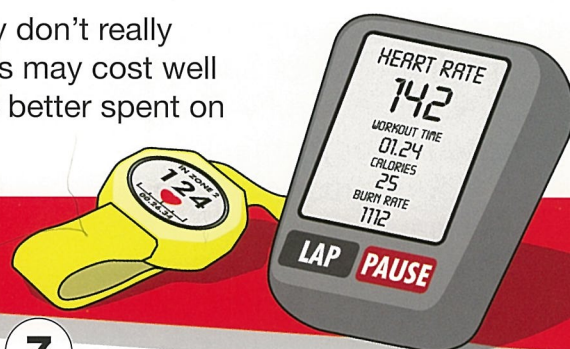
The monitors are fairly reliable. To determine this, researchers had volunteers wear monitors while performing various movements. The researchers compared the monitor results with measurements from traditional ways of recording exertion. They found that the monitors reliably reported significant forward motions, such as running or walking, as well as the amount of energy used performing them. However, the monitors were not able to detect gentle movements.

The inaccuracy with more subtle movements may stem from problems with sensors in the devices and software equations that calculate energy use. These issues will no doubt be refined. In the meantime, a fitness monitor is unlikely to provide accurate data on cycling or using large rubber bands for slow resistance training. But even if the current monitors are not perfectly accurate in all cases, manufacturers claim that wearers can still use them to challenge themselves.

The bigger question may be whether monitors are truly innovative and cost-effective. Researchers found that individuals’ reports of their own performance usually matched what the monitors had recorded. A paper-and-pencil chart tracking each day’s work-out as *easy*, *moderate* or *difficult* and a graph of the time spent exercising can equal a monitor’s usefulness.

Many fitness experts report that the best use for fitness monitors is step counting. These measurements are reliable from a fitness monitor and can be highly motivating to someone wishing to increase daily activity. For example, adding just a few thousand steps to one’s daily regular step count can result in weight loss and general health improvement. Ironically, accurate data for the number of steps taken can be provided by a simple pedometer, available for about \$11 at the local chemist.

Fitness monitors are the current fad, but they don’t really reveal new information. Some of the monitors may cost well over a hundred dollars; this money would be better spent on other, more useful, equipment.





# Star struck

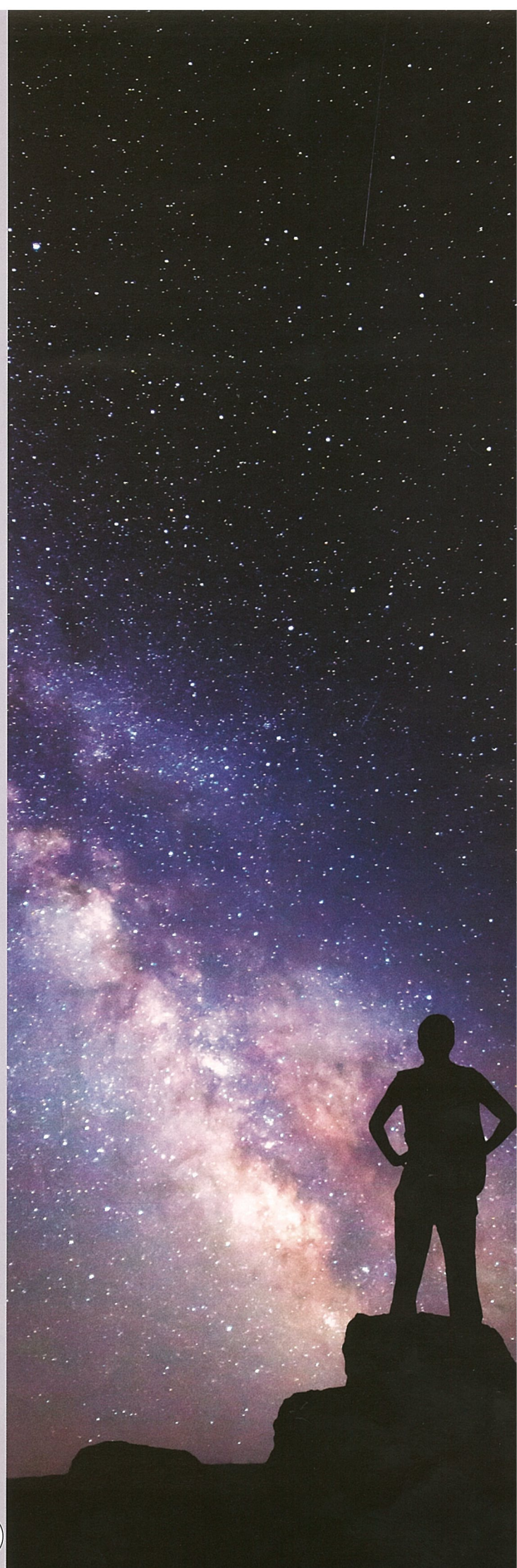
'I can't see anything!' I yelled. Twelfth-birthday frustration was mounting because of the stubborn refusal of my brand new telescope to show anything other than a blur. I'd been promised awe-inspiring patterns and figures, those storybook constellations that would all make sense when seen from the eyepiece of a steady-mounted Newtonian reflector.

I'd caught the bug for sky watching during the news coverage of the Hale-Bopp comet in 1997. The television had been full of updates about the comet's progress and images of its spectacular tail. I was a willing slave to the wonders of astronomy and this new telescope was going to revolutionise my world.

My parents were no experts, which didn't improve matters, but on that first night they quietly helped me to set aside the perplexing gadget and use a much more user-friendly apparatus—my eyes. We sat and looked upward, then put out some blankets, and lay down and looked upward. It was a cloudless night and, lo and behold, the sky offered up its treasures to the naked eye. The Milky Way arched from horizon to horizon; Saturn and the Southern Cross were so bright it seemed I could reach out and touch them.

As I looked into that apparent darkness, my eyes seemed to expand. And that was that—I was hooked.

The telescope soon came into its own, and became a trusty aide in my further explorations of the sky. I learned to track the weather forecasts for optimum sky conditions and to find those precious parts of the urban world that are not sabotaged by light pollution. Now, as a fully-fledged astronomer, I'm used to equipment that is off the scale for its accuracy and effectiveness, but I haven't forgotten those two basic tools of the trade that I always have with me!





# Seeing stars

If you approach a fairground or watch a music gig, lights will be an important part of the whole experience—creating energy, excitement and spectacle. Firework displays tick many of the same boxes, delivering visual thrills, splendour and most of all, light.

The irony, of course, is that the impact of light depends on a contrast with darkness; an unlit stage suddenly illuminated with spotlights and lasers, rockets and showers fleetingly painting the unlit sky. But let's pause right there. The unlit sky? In urban areas, the sky is rarely unlit by artificial light—and it's easy to lose sight of that fact.

In recent decades, as we have become increasingly aware of its consequences, light pollution has become a prominent and much debated international issue. In a nutshell, light pollution arises from the presence of too much artificial light. Our cities emanate an electric haze of light (known as 'urban sky glow') which makes it all but impossible to see stars, planets and other phenomena native to the sky.

We are also imposing light on each other. A neighbour's garden light or lighting from a shop's window can intrude on our ability to sleep (known as 'light trespass'). The 'glare' of excessive lighting can also distract or momentarily blind us, for example, when driving. Light pollution also has an effect on the animals who share the planet with us, particularly nocturnal species, whose day-night rhythms may be disrupted.

So, what's the solution? After all, we also need to consider that light is important to keep us safe. Some groups and regions have begun to place controls on lighting by introducing 'lights-off' periods, and enforcing new regulations to reduce unshielded or poorly designed lighting. Flagstaff (in Arizona in the United States) became the first official 'Dark Sky' City in 2001, recognised for its commitment to protecting that fragile balance between light and dark. It will be a long journey, but maybe there is an appropriately shielded and positioned light at the end of the tunnel.





# Let me fix that ruin for you

Can ancient ruins that have been reconstructed or 'restored' ever again be regarded as authentic? Or does the very act of reconstruction mean that the site has been forever compromised rather than conserved?

Debate rages about how archaeological sites should be treated. On one side are the preservationists who believe that an ancient site, no matter how damaged, is sacred; on the other are the pragmatists who think the value of a site lies in how well it communicates the past to the present. For the latter, a pile of rubble tells no story, but for the former it is an irreplaceable record of the past.



Tourism is a major player in this debate, as tourists are major consumers of impressive ruins. If the ruins are not impressive, then the tourists won't come. It is not hard to imagine why poor countries might find tourist dollars much more attractive than pristine ruins.

Take Machu Picchu, the fabled ruins of an enigmatic Inca settlement, as an example. Undiscovered and therefore not plundered by the invading Spaniards, Machu Picchu was revealed to the world by American historian Hiram Bingham in 1911. When Bingham was guided to the iconic site it was choked with jungle growth, the magnificent buildings hardly visible under the vegetation. Today it is totally cleared and the nearly 400,000 people who visit the site annually are probably blissfully unaware that a third of the buildings they are looking at have been reconstructed under the Peruvian Government's conservation interventions.

Machu Picchu is a UNESCO World Heritage site and in 2007 was voted one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. But are we celebrating a genuine cultural artefact or an Inca Disneyland, forever being 'improved' and subtly changed?





## END OF READING MAGAZINE

*The materials included in the NAPLAN stimulus magazine are intended to engage students and assess their literacy skills. Any views or opinions expressed in these test materials do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of ACARA.*



