



Humpback whales – no longer endangered!

An exciting announcement has been made in Australia – for the first time in 60 years, humpback whales have been removed from the country's threatened species list. This is thanks to conservation efforts in the area, which saw whale populations in Australian waters skyrocket to over 40,000 (there were only about 1,500 in the 1960s). The encouraging announcement follows an incredible recovery in numbers for the massive

mammals, which can grow up to 19 metres long and can weigh 36 metric tons. Humpback males are known for singing loud, complex "songs" which can last for up to 30 minutes! Australian Minister for the Environment, Sussan Ley, said, the decision to remove the whales from the threatened species list is, "based on science and sends a clear signal about what can be achieved through coordinated action. It is a message of hope for the welfare of a number of species."



Pictured: Humpback Whales.



Pictured: The Dyson Zone. Source: Dyson Twitter page.

Wearable air purifier with headphones

Dyson have announced a new product, a wearable air purifier with noise-cancelling headphones built in. Dyson say that the development process has involved 30 years of air filtration expertise, 6 years of research and 500 prototypes. The British technology company have yet to say how much the 'Zone' will cost, how much it will weigh or how long the batteries will last. Chief Engineer, Jake Dyson said, "Air pollution is a global problem – it affects us

everywhere we go. In our homes, at school, at work and as we travel, whether on foot, on a bike or by public or private transport. The Dyson Zone purifies the air you breathe on the move. And unlike face masks, it delivers a plume of fresh air without touching your face, using high-performance filters and two miniaturized air pumps. After six years in development, we're excited to deliver pure air and pure audio, anywhere."

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Apples are bigger than ever before

A study, conducted by a team of researchers from Canada's Dalhousie University, has concluded that apples are bigger and better today than their wild ancestors were in the past. The scientists looked at ten traits, using fruit from Canada's Apple Biodiversity Collection (ABC), to see how domestication and breeding have changed the popular fruit. The ABC is an orchard with more than 1,000 different apple

varieties, including Gala and Honeycrisp, alongside ancient heirloom varieties and wild apples from the forests of Kazakhstan. Humans have been growing apples for more than 7,000 years and they are one of the most heavily produced crops in the world today. The study found that cultivated apples are 3.6 times heavier, about half as acidic, far less bitter and store much better than the wild species from which they evolved.



Pictured: Red apples on a tree.
Source: Canva

Last week's topic:

If you keep trying, will you always succeed?



For others, failing is harder to get over, because it will feel like that you're not good enough, because different people have different mindsets. But it is easier to deal with for some people, because you can find the mistake and fix it and learn from it.
Vilius – age 11

Yes, because if you never give up and if you enjoy it, you will always succeed in whatever you do!
Lily – age 10

No, because you can try your hardest and you can still fail but you can also pass if you fail, because if you fail, that means you are learning.
Jenni – age 10

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