



Goodies
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Goodies News

• Photos: Reuters, AP

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Warships sent to combat bushfires Over 200 homes already destroyed



HMAS *Choules* could barely be seen through the smoke of the fires. (Reuters)



BUSHFIRES are still raging in many areas around Australia (澳洲), and have destroyed more than 200 houses in the **coastal** region. At least 43 houses have been burnt down in East Gippsland, Victoria; and about 200 houses are destroyed in New South Wales (NSW). At least three people have died, and the Australian **navy** has sent out warships and **helicopters** to the affected areas.

Because Australia is currently suffering from a **heat-wave** of over 40 degrees Celsius, a bad **drought** and strong winds, the bushfires in eastern Australia have been especially intense. Although NSW is suffering the most, Victoria is also hurting because it faces both fires from NSW and those starting from within. The two warships that have been sent are the HMAS *Choules* and MV *Sycamore*, but they took 72 and 48 hours to arrive respectively.

Zoo fire kills at least 30 animals

IN western Germany (德國), a zoo caught fire and over 30 animals died as a result. Early on New Year's Day, a fire started in the **primate** area of the Krefeld zoo, which borders the Netherlands (荷蘭). On top of the apes and monkeys, bats and birds living in the building were also killed.

One of the firefighters, Andreas Klos, said, "We were amazed that the building burned down so quickly." He added that

there was no **sprinkler** system at the ape house and the apes actually died from breathing in too much smoke and were not burnt.

A **witness** said that they saw a **sky lantern** land where the fire started. Three women have been questioned by the police, and the trio were said to be "extremely sorry". They supposedly bought the lanterns online, not knowing that they are banned in Germany.



The ape house fire might be due to illegal sky lanterns. (AP)

coastal (adj)
沿岸的

navy (n)
海軍

Vocabulary
Challenge ★★★★★

heat-wave (n)
熱浪

drought (n)
旱災



Circle the correct answer

1. How many houses in NSW were destroyed?

- A. Around 43 B. About 200 C. At least 1,000

2. What temperature is the heat-wave?

- A. 100 degrees Celsius
B. 40 degrees Fahrenheit
C. 40 degrees Celsius

3. Which two warships were sent out?

- A. HMAS *Choules* and MV *Sycamore*
B. USS *Reagan* and USS *Washington*

C. USS *Choules* and USS *Sycamore*

4. Where is the zoo?

- A. Amsterdam B. Berlin C. Krefeld

5. What did the apes die of?

- A. Breathing in too much smoke
B. Being burnt
C. Drowning

6. What might have caused the fire?

- A. Fireworks B. Sky lanterns C. Petroleum

- Do you think the Australian government is doing enough? Why or why not?
- What could you do to help Australia? State your reasons.
- Are you sad the animals have died? Why or why not?
- Should the women who sent up the sky lanterns be punished? State your reasons.

Answers on P12

A 'helicopter' is an aircraft that flies using rotors on top.

... the Australian navy has sent out ... and **helicopters** ...

An 'aeroplane' is an aircraft that has two wings and flies with an engine.

The **aeroplane** flew across the Atlantic Ocean.

A landing and take-off zone for aeroplanes is called an 'airport'.

Madeline went to the **airport** three hours before boarding time.

A landing and take-off zone for helicopters is a helipad.

The **helipad** is located on top of the skyscraper.

Primate is one of the many different categories of animal. That category includes both apes and monkeys, but humans are a kind of primates, too. Our scientific name is 'homo sapiens'. 'Homo' means 'man' and 'sapiens' means 'wise'; so together human beings are 'wise man'. We have pretty large brains in relation to how big our body is, which means we can use many tools and talk to one another. Most importantly, we can adapt to whatever the environment throws at us.



primate (n)
靈長類

sprinkler (n)
噴水裝置

Vocabulary
Challenge ★★★★★

witness (n)
目擊者

sky lantern (n phr)
天燈