A Sea Breeze in the Wet & Wild

2016, Session 1, Week 1 – Clues

Solve 24 clues each week and discover the four wetland organisms they belong to. Australia’s wetlands include coastal lagoons, mangroves, saltmarsh and mudflats, as well as fresh water lakes and river systems that lie within our coastal fringe. Wetlands provide a habitat for an enormous variety of plants and animals. Many species are unable to survive in any other environment.

1. I have leaves, rhizomes, roots, flowers and seeds.
2. I can be found on the sand dunes, eucalypt forest, rocky ridges and coastal heathland.
3. I am found from the coast of NSW, Victoria, Tasmania to South Australia.
4. I have rough scales that are pale grey to dark brown with dark patches along the middle of my back.
5. I visit Australian waters between June and September.
6. I was hunted for my dense coat of woolly underfur and long, outer hairs that keep me warm.
7. I grow in soft sediment and sand where I absorb nutrients and stabilise sediment.
8. I’m the only flowering plant that can live under water in the sea.
9. From a distance I look white, but have some fine black lines and black wings.
10. I am the largest of this type of species.
11. I breed on rocks in Bass Strait between October and January.
12. I can take nine years to reach maturity.
13. My new born pups are almost black on the back and grey on the belly.
15. Dugongs, turtles and black swans eat me and lots of things eat the algae that grow on me.
16. I live as far north as central Queensland, in New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia.
17. I provide shelter, a nursery and a place to hide from predators for many animals.
18. I roam the southern oceans.
19. I can grow to weigh 350kgs and am a very agile swimmer.
20. I spend most of my time flying.
21. I am a dragon about 20 -25cm long including my tail.
22. Outboard motors, anchors and mooring chains are big threats to me.
23. I lay 3 - 8 eggs in a burrow or under decaying vegetation.
24. I usually only land to breed and feed.