



Baarack the sheep gets a haircut!

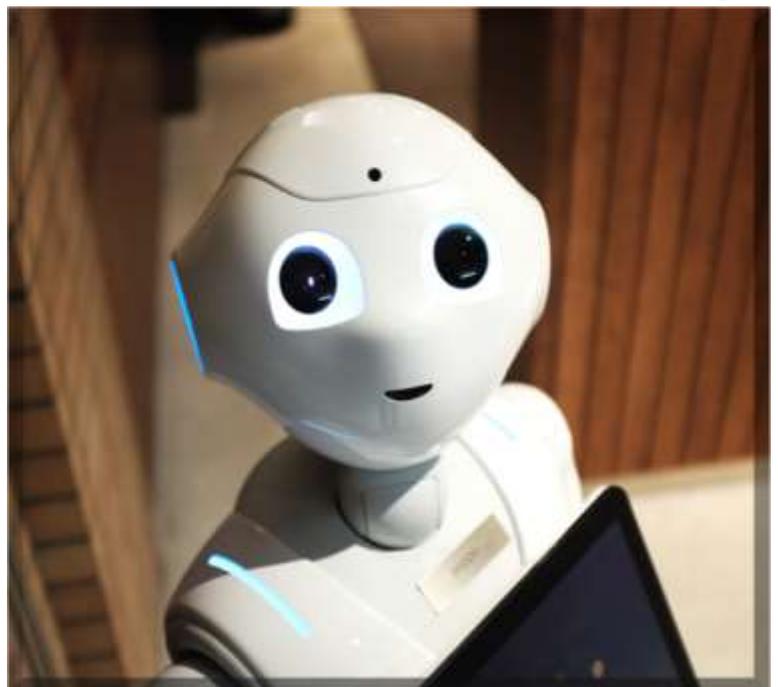


Pictured: Baarack the sheep before he was shorn Source: @ajplus

It's been hard to get a haircut during lockdown, but this sheep was in more desperate need than most! Affectionately nicknamed Baarack by the farm sanctuary that took him in, he had been wandering around in a forest near Melbourne, Australia, for a very long time. Baarack was found by a concerned member of the public, who contacted Edgar's Mission, a farm sanctuary for animals like him. Kyle Behrend from the sanctuary said, 'Sheep need to be shorn at least annually otherwise the fleece continues to grow and grow, as happened here.' Baarack was underweight and could hardly see because of the length of his fleece. Once he had been sheared, the yield of his fleece weighed a whopping 35.4 kilograms, which is equivalent to the average weight of half a kangaroo! He is gradually settling into his new home with other rescued sheep. Behrend added, 'All goes to show what incredibly resilient and brave animals sheep really are and we could not love them any more if we tried.'

Japanese robots promote wellbeing

The global pandemic has separated us from loved ones so in Japan, robots have become much more popular for helping to tackle loneliness. Companies that produce loveable companions of all kinds, from yellow Minion characters to snowmen, have seen sales of their robot figures shoot up during lockdown. Each robot pal is programmed in a unique way to cheer its owner up with songs, chat or bright flashing lights. Some even have their own internal heating system so they can double up as a hot water bottle! Others squeal and giggle with joy as they are tickled and cuddled. The robots can be quite expensive to buy because of all the sophisticated technology. But some cafes in Japan have begun to offer a chat and a cuddle from one of these intelligent technical buddies alongside their food and drinks menus.



*Pictured: Cafes have been set up so customers can go for a cuddle!
Source: Canva*



Fossil find in freezing Russian river

Paleontologists in Russia are sad that temperatures are rising now that spring is on its way. Divers have been trawling for fossils in the River Tobol. Winter is the best time for searching in the freezing river because it is shallower, moves more slowly and is far more transparent, making it much easier to see underwater. The fossil-hunters have discovered mammoth bones, ancient shark teeth and the bones of cave lions in temperatures reaching down to minus 25 degrees Celsius. Amateur paleontologist, Yoroslav Makarov remarked, 'There is no bigger pleasure but to overcome such difficulties and to see something which no-one else has seen before.' He added, 'They're artefacts from tens of thousands or millions of years ago. It gives a rare pleasure and thrill.' Divers also discovered skulls of ancient bulls and horses as well as tools, which early humans were likely to have used approximately 80,000 years ago.



*Pictured: Ancient shark teeth have been hidden 3 metres down on the riverbed
Source: James St John*

Your thoughts on last week's news...

I think we should choose products based on the packaging because it can help reduce climate change and there will be less plastic being used.

Rachelle – age 11



No because it's like judging a book by it's cover. You need to taste it first and people work hard making the cover for it with all the ingredients and other flavours of the drink/food. Yesterday I got a broken parcel but what was inside it was amazing!

Waniya – age 9

I'm feeling a little bit happy today, because people are trying not to use plastic.

Chloe – age 4

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I think...



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