WILL JAKEMAN'S MARVELLOUS MECHANIMALS AND THE SPACE PIRATES
is a GUPPY BOOK

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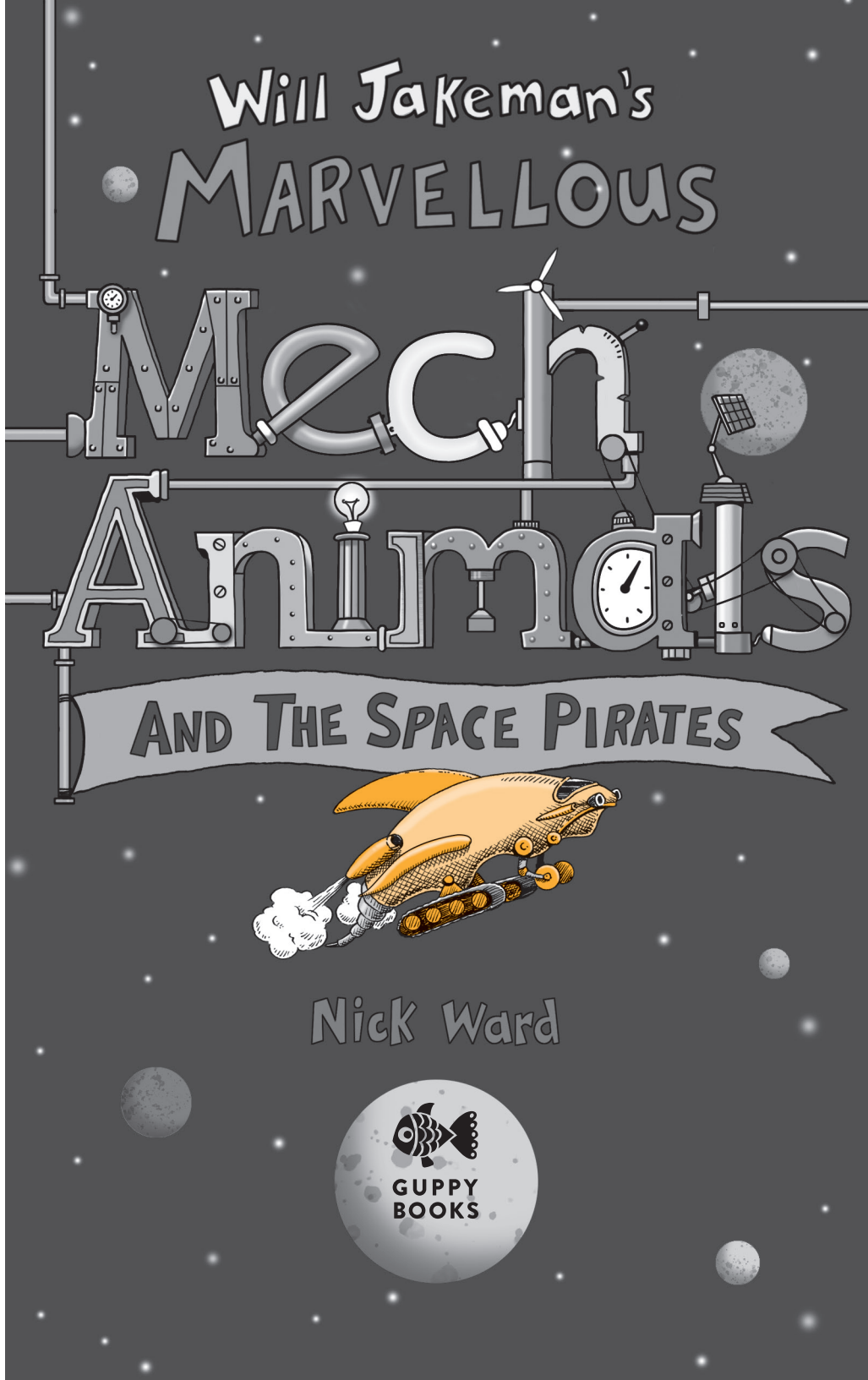
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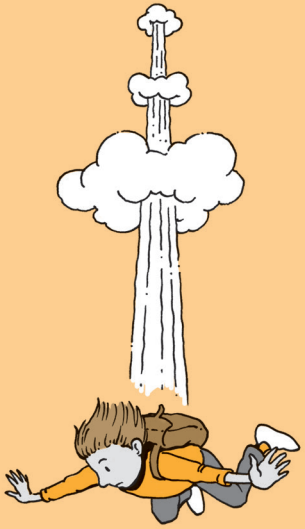
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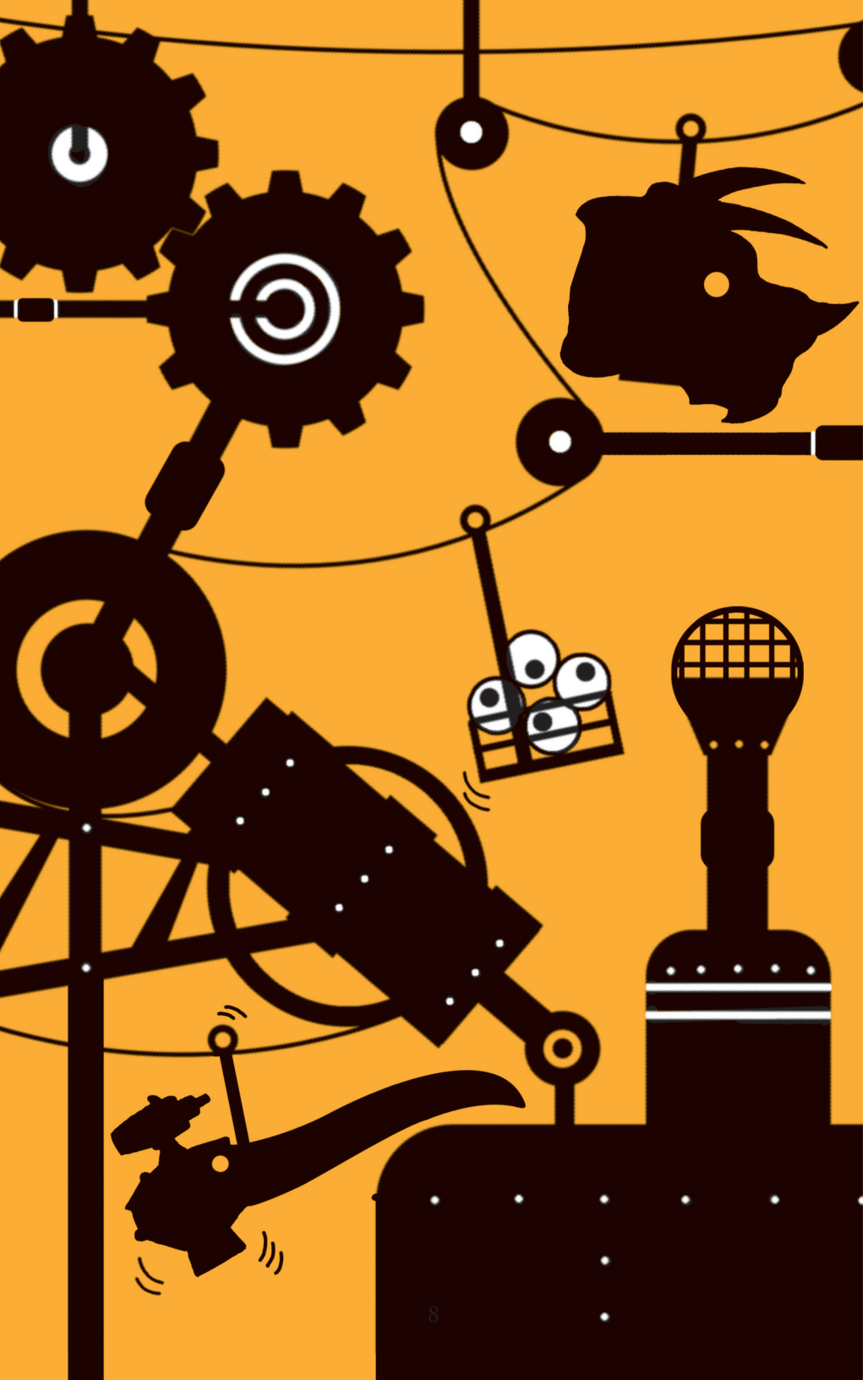
Greetings, dear readers!

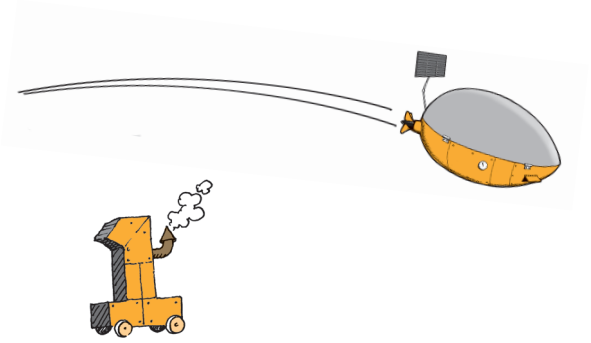


Here I am again!

I'm Will Jakeman, and I'm an inventor – probably the best inventor there has ever been. I'm even older now – 99¾ to be precise, and as wrinkly as an old potato, but I'm still having the most incredible adventures.

Scary adventures, swashbuckling adventures, flabbergasting adventures! And none more mind-boggling than when my brilliant inventing went horribly, horribly wrong, and a young boy dropped out of his world and landed slap-bang in mine!



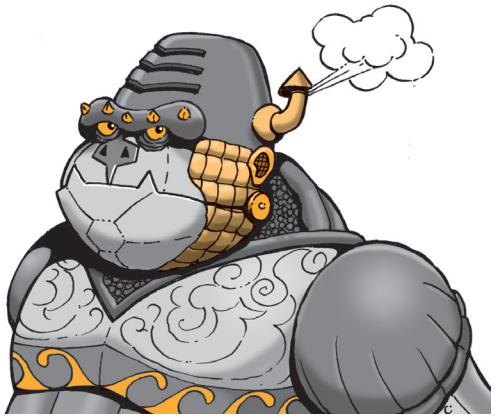


Yikes! How did that happen?

Right now, I live on a planet called Urf, but I was born on Calculos, a faraway planet in a different universe. When I was just a little baby our planet was invaded by a gang of ruthless space pirates who destroyed everything in their path. They might have kidnapped me, or worse, but my brave mum bundled me into an intergalactic i-cot and sent me journeying through space, all on my own! (To learn this part of my history you could read my first book, **Will Jakeman's Marvellous Mechanimals**.)

I landed here on planet Urf, and was adopted by a kind old couple. They were inventors, just like my real mum, and taught me

everything they knew. Soon I was as good an inventor as they were, maybe even better, and I started making my world famous Mechanimals – mechanical animals that can do all sorts of things, but are mainly used for protection against all the dangerous creatures that live on Urf.



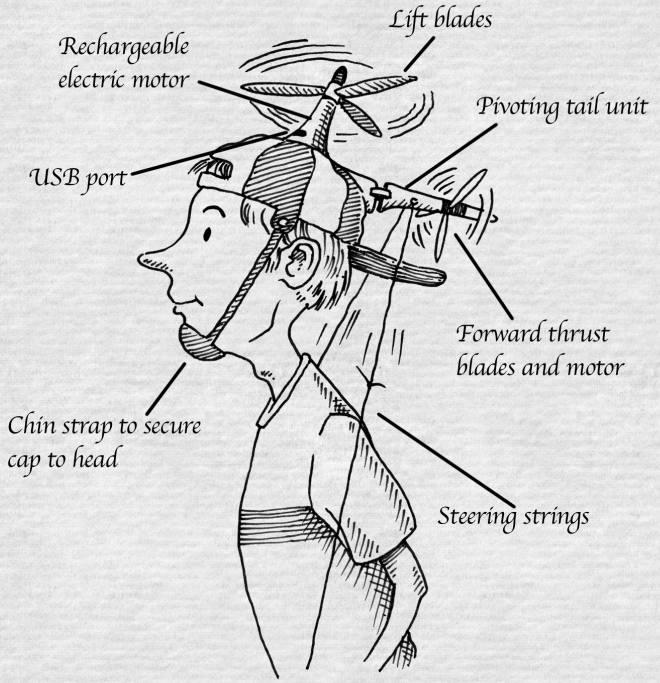
This is **Steel-Skull**, my first ever Mechanimal

All these years later, here I am, still inventing marvellous new Mechanimals! Take a look at my ingenious **Water-powered Performing Dolphin**, for instance (it's pictured over the page). It's a must to take on holiday – you can ride it through the waves, and do amazing leaps and tricks. It is also super-intelligent, with the most powerful computer brain of any of my robotic animals.

I keep inventing new everyday gadgets, too. Gadgets like the **Whirlybird Cap** that makes the journey to school so much more fun.

Will Jakeman's Whirlybird Cap

Beat the school rush with this handy and fashionable cap. Strap it on, start the motor and up you go. Steer your way above the crowds using the strings, hover outside your classroom window and give your teachers the fright of their lives!



Jakeman's Water-powered Performing Dolphin

STATS

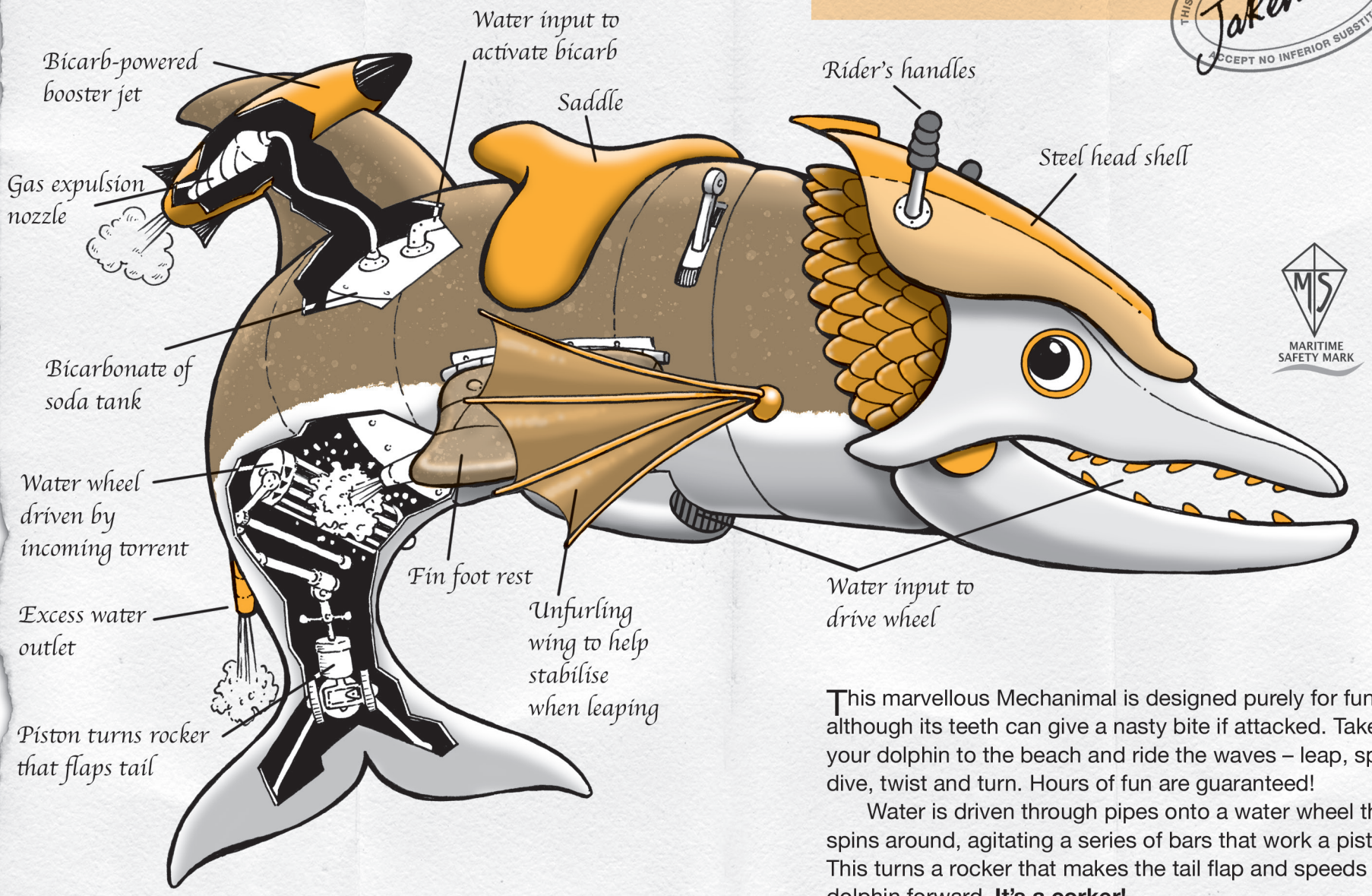
Highest leap (using jet booster): 30 metres

Maximum speed: 60 knots

Load limit: 1 passenger

Fun factor: 480 on the funometer

THIS MECHANIMAL HAS BEEN APPROVED BY Jakeman ACCEPT NO INFERIOR SUBSTITUTES



MARITIME SAFETY MARK

Patent No: 113237

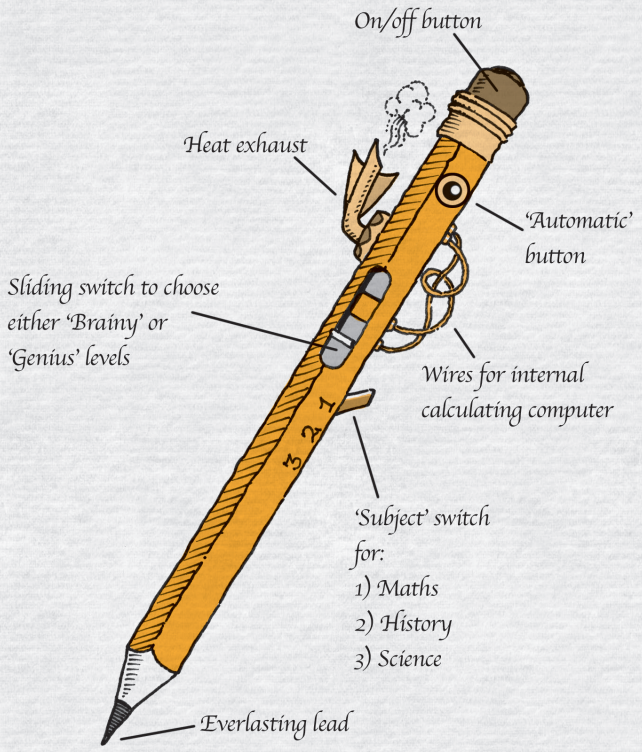
This marvellous Mechanimal is designed purely for fun, although its teeth can give a nasty bite if attacked. Take your dolphin to the beach and ride the waves – leap, spin, dive, twist and turn. Hours of fun are guaranteed!

Water is driven through pipes onto a water wheel that spins around, agitating a series of bars that work a piston. This turns a rocker that makes the tail flap and speeds the dolphin forward. **It's a corker!**

The **Homework Pencil** is another popular invention of mine. It has a built-in computer and takes all of the hard slog out of school work!

Will Jakeman's Homework Pencil

This may look like a normal pencil, but it isn't! Set the 'Subject' switch to the required setting, choose either brainy or genius level, and this pencil will answer any question – and you will be able to pass all your exams! Set the pencil to 'Automatic', and you can go out to play while the pencil scribbles away in your own handwriting!



I was kept so busy with my inventing that I rarely thought about my childhood home. But as I got older I became more and more determined to find the planet I'd been born on. Who knows, I might find some evidence of my parents' life there.

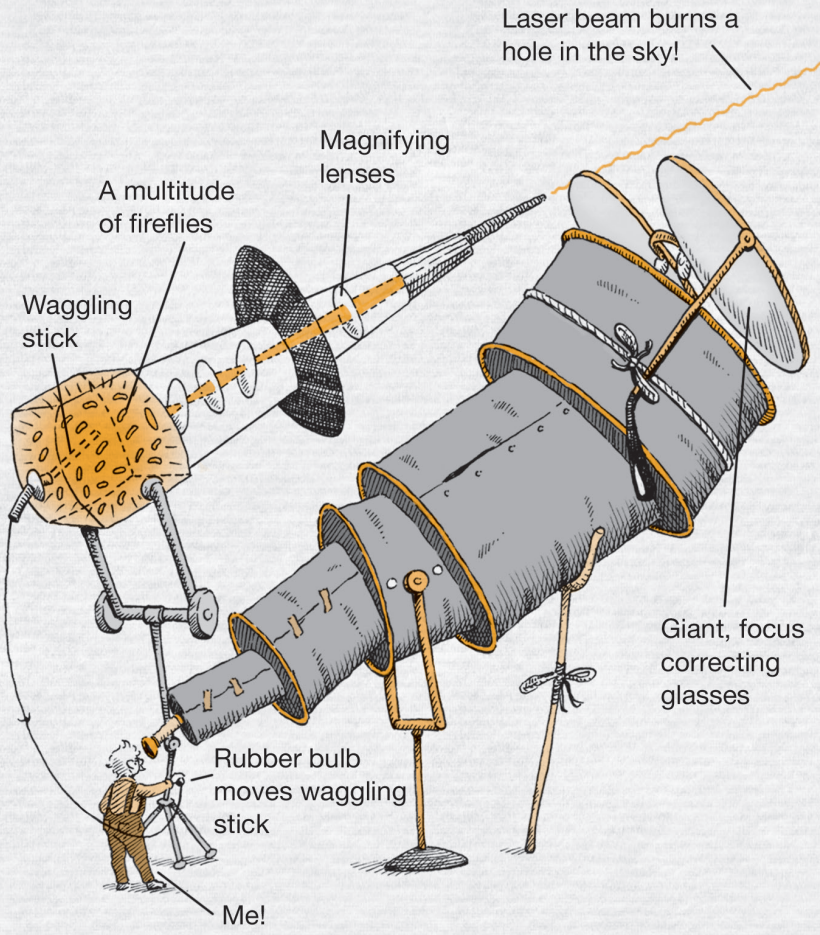
So a year or two ago, I built the most powerful telescope ever invented and searched the furthest reaches of space. I knew what my birth planet looked like because I'd seen a picture of it in an old scientific magazine. But, try as I might, I couldn't see it anywhere in the sky. I realised I would have to search beyond my own cosmos if I was to have any luck. Somehow I would have to make a gateway into the next universe.

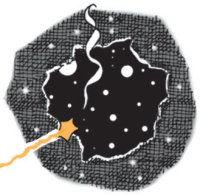
This called for some serious inventing, and after a week of hard work, I came up with my **Jakeman Super-laser Space-cutter**. It was a real corker, and powered by the light from a million glow worms!

I aimed the cutter at the night sky, pulled the trigger and the glow worms' light shot up into the heavens. There was a blinding flash and a nasty smell of old socks as the beam began to

My power-magno telescope and super-laser space-cutter

When I squeeze the rubber bulb, it waggles the stick inside the machine. This annoys all the fireflies, making them glow with an intense light. Their light is further magnified through a series of lenses, producing a very powerful laser beam indeed.





burn a hole through the space fabric zillions of miles away.

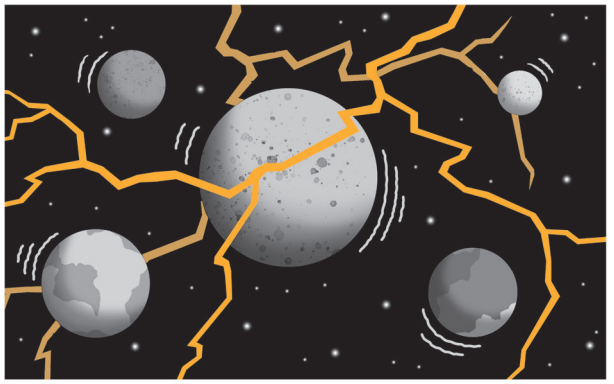
FIZZ!

CRACKLE!

RIP!

Soon, I could look beyond my universe to new and exciting worlds. I could see hundreds of different planets and there, looking like a frazzled crisp, was the small, scorched globe that was my lost home. I was so excited to see it that I did a little dance, and immediately began to make plans to go there.

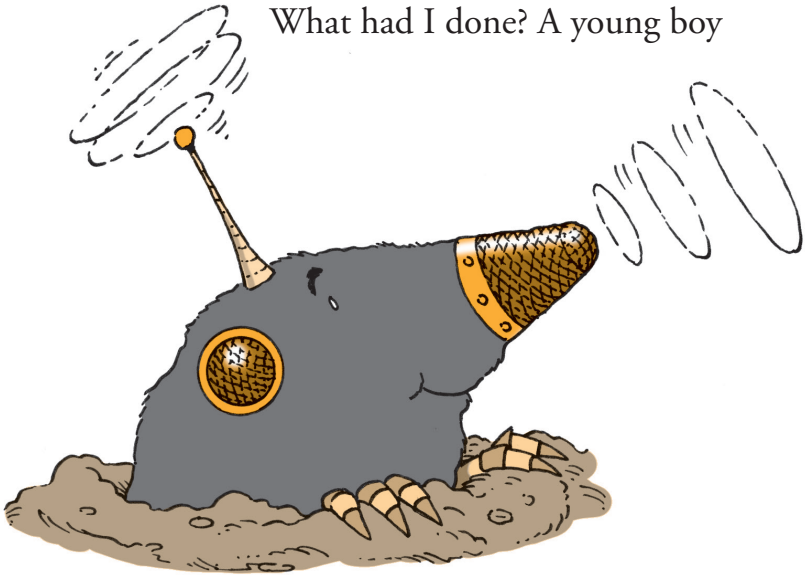
What I hadn't banked on was that my Super-laser would create a massive Space-quake. Thousands of miles away worlds shook and galaxies shuddered… and something unbelievably dreadful occurred!





The Lost Boy Adventurer

It didn't take me long to discover what had happened. My mini **Mechanimal Spy Moles**, scattered far and wide across the countryside, sent messages informing me that an unknown child had landed on Urf. Holy-moly! What had I done? A young boy



had been catapulted from his universe straight through the hole I'd made in space, and he had ended up somewhere on my planet!

I sent a signal back telling the Spy Moles to keep an eye on him, but they lost sight of the boy as he was swept over a waterfall into a dense jungle at the bottom of a deep valley.

I felt terribly guilty. The boy would be scared and confused. So I sent some of my bravest Mechanimals out to search for him – the **Steam-powered Rhino**, the enormous **Hydro-electric Submawhale** (see the diagram at the back of this book), and my wonderful, **Wind-powered War Horse**. If they found the boy, they would protect him and help him survive in this dangerous land.

In the meantime I went to my workshop and got on with my latest invention – a universe-hopping space craft that I planned to fly to my birth planet. I riveted sheets of metal on to the skeleton-like structure I'd built from steel poles. I welded pipes and plugged in cables and installed oxygen tanks. It took me over a year to build because I had to keep stopping to invent new Mechanimals for my customers.

Jakeman's Wind-powered War Horse

Patent No. 67/KIA/2

This powerful mechanical horse is a tireless worker and very, very loyal . He can pull heavy loads for many miles and will always help a friend in need.

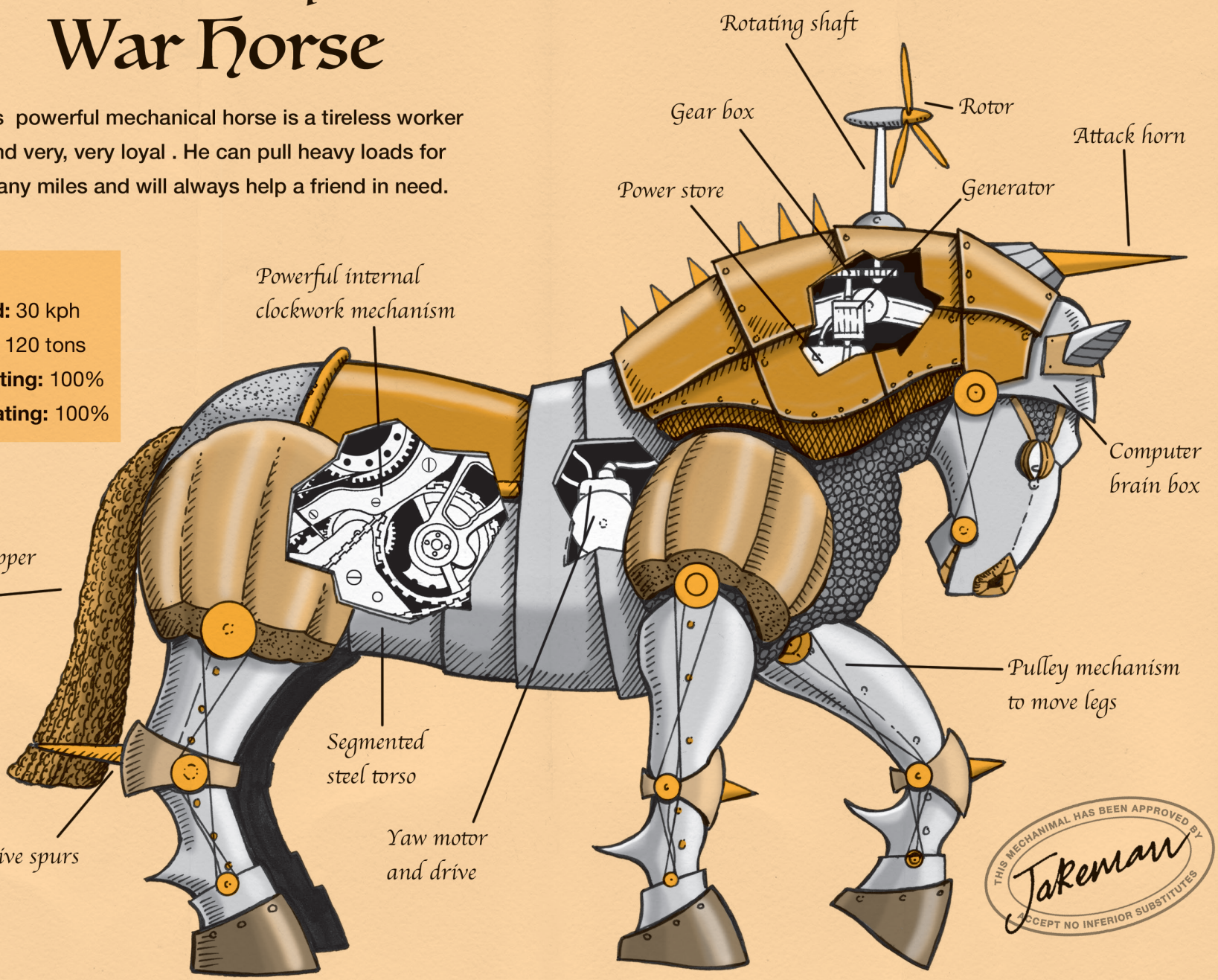
STATS

Top speed: 30 kph

Max load: 120 tons

Loyalty rating: 100%

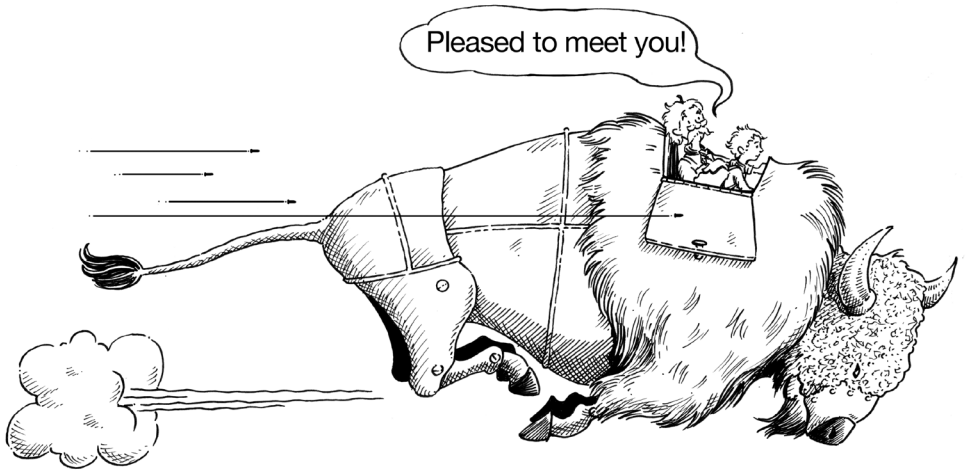
Bravery rating: 100%



Then, one day the radio receiver in the corner of my office began to buzz. A message was coming in – a coded message from a Spy Mole.

"FOUND LOST BOY. IN SERIOUS TROUBLE," read the code. ***"P.C.Q."*** (Please Come Quickly!) Then the Spy Mole sent a series of coordinates, giving their position.

Oh, jeepers! There was no time to lose. I climbed into my bison Mechanimal, keyed the coordinates into its satnav, and raced off to try and rescue him. I arrived just in time. The poor lad was being attacked by a gang of gunslingers, but I managed to scoop him up into the bison, and we stampeded away.



This was my first encounter with the brave boy adventurer, twelve-year-old Charlie Small. We got on like a house on fire! But no sooner had I met him, than he was nabbed by a troglodyte and dragged down into the underworld. Believe me – this is all true!



I rescued Charlie again, this time using my massive **Mining Mole** (see the diagram at the back of this book). Then I lost him completely, and try as I might I couldn't find him anywhere. *(If you want to know more about his crazy adventures, look out for* Charlie Small's Lost Diaries! *They are absolute corkers!)*

So, full of worries about the young lad, I made my way back to my factory of inventions and finished off building my intergalactic **Space Hopper**. It was powered by a tiny clockwork hamster that spun on its wheel to generate electricity.

I was very excited about it, but couldn't stop thinking about Charlie Small. Would I ever see him again? I decided to send **Steel-Skull**, my super-strong, hydrogen-powered gorilla pal, to search for him.

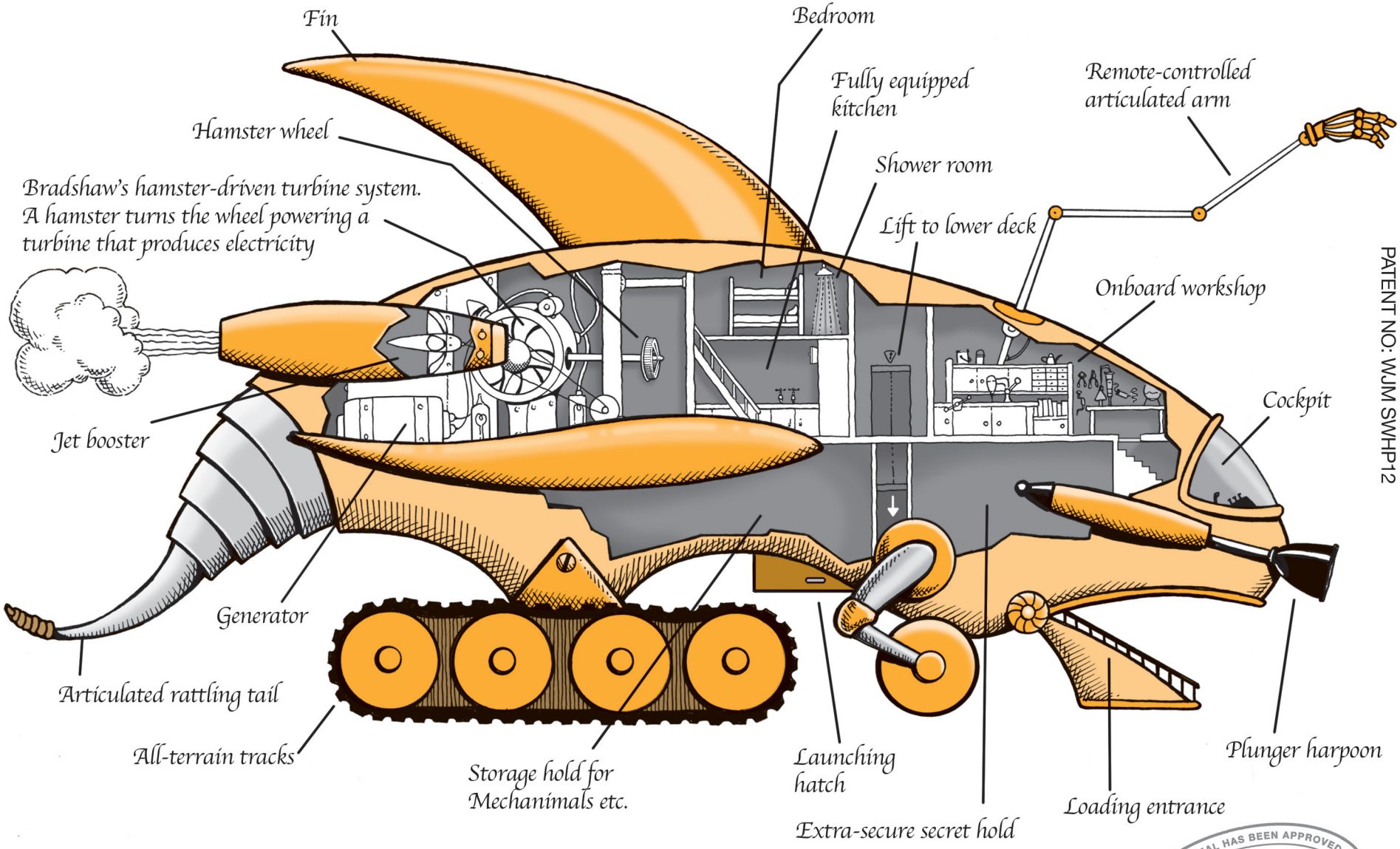
Will Jakeman's Marvellous Intergalactic Space Transporter

The Space Hopper

STATS

Top speed: 400 kph / **Engine power:** 1 Hamster power

Harpoon: Can fire plunger 500 km / **Plunger power:** 2000 kg



PATENT NO: WJM SWHP12

The hamster turbine system was invented by my apprentice Robin Bradshaw for his **Phoenix Comic** prize-winning Mechanimal, **The Hamster-powered Angler Fish.**

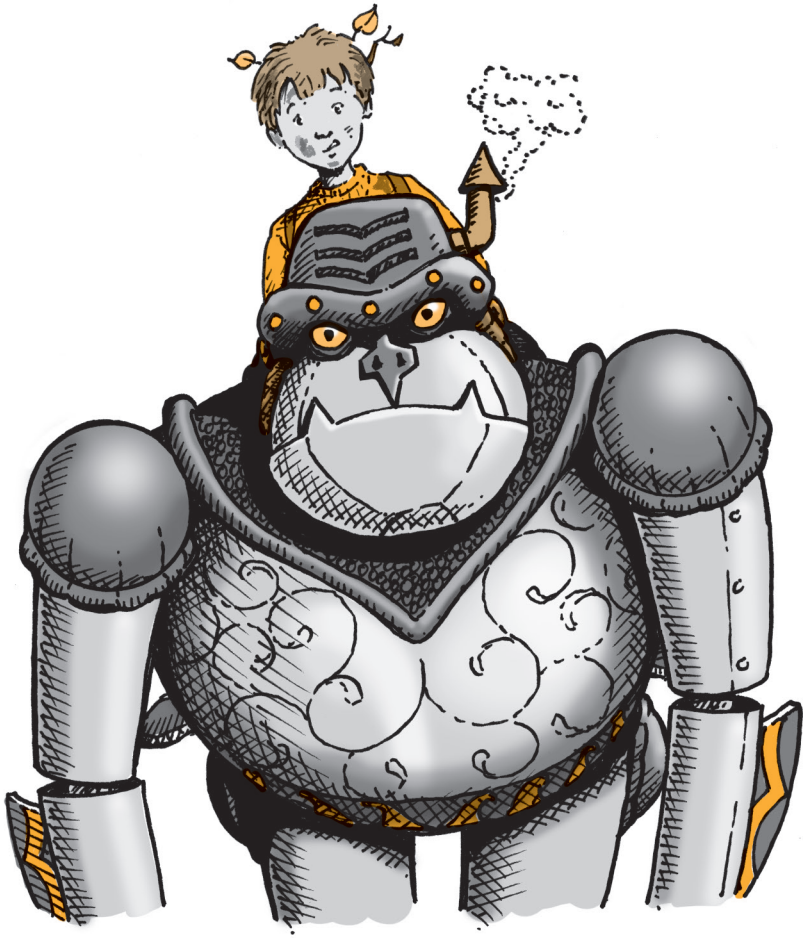
Fully laden weight not to exceed 44 tonnes

THIS MECHANIMAL HAS BEEN APPROVED BY Jakeman ACCEPT NO INFERIOR SUBSTITUTES

A few weeks later, as I tightened the last bolt on the spaceship's fuselage, there was a loud knock at the front door.

"Goodness gracious!" I exclaimed when I opened the door.

"Hello, Mr Jakeman!" said Charlie Small from atop Steel-Skull's back.



I was so pleased to see him, but he looked tired out and was covered in mud and scratches. He had leaves and twigs stuck in his hair and holes in his jumper.

"You look as if you've been dragged through a hedge backwards," I said.

"I have," said Charlie with a wry grin. "I've had so many adventures since we got separated in the underworld, you just wouldn't believe. If it hadn't been for Steel-Skull I don't think I would have ever found you."



"Well done, Steely," I said, patting the gorilla's great metal head.

"Easy-peasy," said Steel-Skull in a gruff echoing voice. I had given him a more powerful computer brain, but he still short-circuits sometimes and behaves in the most surprising manner.

"Come in, Charlie," I said, leading him into my workshop. "You look half starved. Just sit there and I'll get us something to eat."

I went to get the tea things.

"There we are," I said, putting down plates of sandwiches and cakes. "Get stuck in."

"Mmmff. So, what is, mmummf, going on, Mr Jakeman?" Charlie asked, through a mouthful of rock cake.

"Going on? What do you mean?"

"I mean, where am I and how did I get here in the first place? I'm sure this can't be my planet. It seems ages ago that I was playing on the stream behind my house, and the next thing I knew I'd crash-landed in the middle of this weird world!"



"Yes, well, there's a perfectly good explanation for how you got here," I said, and told him how he had dropped through a hole in space – leaving out the bit about it being my fault.

"So, I'm trillions of miles away from my home, in a different universe?"

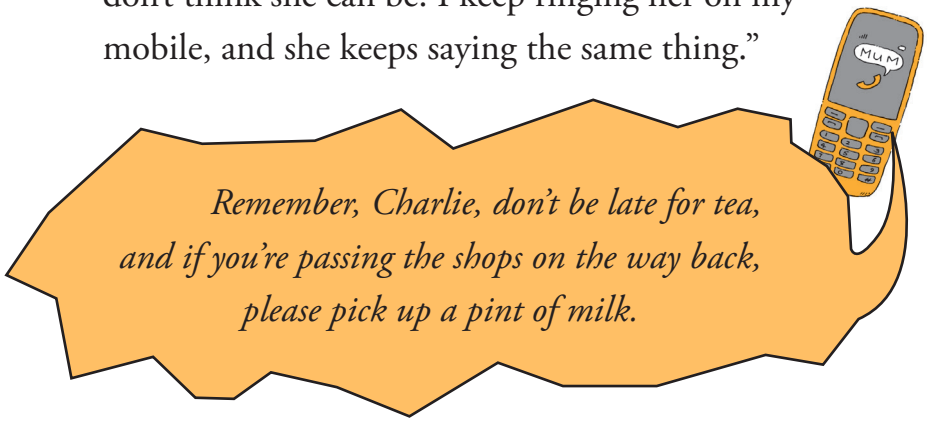
"Um… that's about it, Charlie," I said, a little nervously. "But don't worry, I'm sure I can get

you home. Once I've worked out which universe you've come from."

"Oh, there's no hurry, Mr Jakeman," Charlie cried. "This is really cool. I'm in the middle of the most wonderful adventure!"

"But I've got to try, Charlie," I said. " Your mum will be worried."

"That's the strange thing, Mr Jakeman. I don't think she can be. I keep ringing her on my mobile, and she keeps saying the same thing."



"Mmm," I ruminated. "It sounds like she's in a different time construct to us. No matter how long you've been here, no time has passed at all back on your planet."

"So, perhaps it won't matter if I spend a bit more time here?" said Charlie, eagerly.

"Perhaps," I said cautiously. I was still

concerned, but to be honest I had very little idea how to get Charlie back to his own world and needed time to think.

"First things first, Charlie. Would you like to look around my factory of marvellous Mechanimals?" I asked.

"You bet," said Charlie. "I love your Mechanimals. I've only met a few during my adventures, but they saved me from certain doom!"





The Trip of a Lifetime!

I showed Charlie around the Jakeman factory, and he was absolutely amazed by all my climate-friendly, carbon-neutral Mechanimals which help protect the people of Urf against all the monsters and marauders that roam our planet.

One of my latest inventions was a giant steel tortoise about a metre and a half long, called **Technotort**. It looked very funny as it scurried awkwardly along on its metal claws, but it was strong, could fire disgusting stink bombs and a water jet strong enough to knock over a grizzly bear.

Take a look over the page. It may appear comical but it packs a powerful punch!