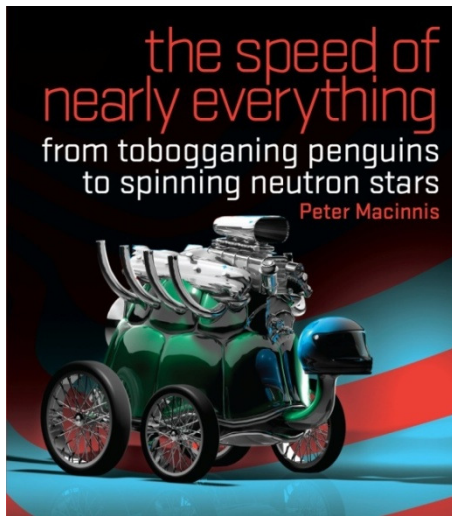


PIER 9



MURDOCH BOOKS

Media Release



The Speed of Nearly Everything

from tobogganing penguins to spinning neutron stars

By Peter Macinnis

Publishing November 2008 RRP \$24.95

Is the deer botfly really the fastest creature of all, credited with an amazing 1287 kilometres per hour?

Will anyone beat the standing Rubik's cube record? It would mean lining up the cube in under 49.33 seconds – using your feet!

The Speed of Nearly Everything is a fascinating almanac of facts, statistics and stories about the speed of virtually everything - speed records; comparative speeds; relative speeds; optimal speeds; fastest speeds; slowest speeds; human, animal, mechanical and natural speeds.

These are gathered together in an easy-to-follow, original design, and explained in an engaging narrative by leading science writer Peter Macinnis. The statistical element is supported by fascinating discussions, historical anecdotes and speed trivia, both serious and silly.

Chapters cover subjects such as how fast animals move; sporting speeds; speeds that occur inside the body; the speed of fluids; speed and the weather; drops and falls; light, sound and other waves; communication speeds; military speeds; and how fast machines travel.

Peter Macinnis trained as a biologist and has worked as a science teacher and museum educator. Peter has written social histories of sugar, rockets and poisons and, for younger readers, *Kokoda Track: 101 Days*. Pier 9 has published two previous books with Peter, *Australia's Pioneers, Heroes and Fools* and *Mr Darwin's Incredible Shrinking World*.

cover images are available on our website at www.murdochbooks.com.au

Peter Macinnis is available for interview. For more information please contact Kate Mayor at Murdoch Books on (02) 8220 2346 or katem@murdochbooks.com.au