



Where in Tasmania is Mt Mangana?

Beetle mania

WHAT did you think of the ogh-ogoh created for this year's Dark Mofo festival?

Perhaps you visited the Mt Mangana stag beetle sculpture, pictured above, last week.

If you were really lucky you might have participated in 'The Burning' procession in Hobart on Sunday night, with your family.

Tasmanian students, including 60 members from Children's University Tasmania, had the opportunity to decorate bamboo insect frames to take to the dramatic finale of smoke and flames at the Regatta Grounds last night.



Picture: iStock/ Ribeiro dos Santos

Perhaps you are wondering what all the fuss is about?

Well, there are a number of

elements to it all, so let's start at the beginning.

It is based on a tradition in Bali,

Indonesia, where giant ogh-ogoh sculptures are created for the Ngupuk parade.

The parade takes place on the eve of Nyepi, which is also known as the 'Day of Silence'.

The day following Nyepi, which fell on March 14 this year, is celebrated as New Year's Day.

Nyepi is a day of silence, fasting and meditation for the Balinese. People stay at home and don't speak or eat; the airport is closed and shops are shut; electricity and the Internet are turned off.

Everyone is encouraged to reflect on what they have done during the past year.

How do you think you would go with a day of silence?

Anyway, the day before Nyepi is anything but quiet and calm.

The Balinese people make as much noise as possible, and the ogh-ogoh sculptures, which represent evil spirits, are the stuff of nightmares.

Villages compete which each other to make the scariest-looking ogh-ogoh.

They are huge, and take 10-20 men from the village to carry them in the parade.

The Dark Mofo tradition is a little different.

Continued Page 2

Design an ogoh-ogoh

From Page 1

The Dark Mofo tradition includes 'The Purging', where visitors to the festival are able to view the ogoh-ogoh and write down their fears onto paper.

The pieces of paper are then placed inside the ogoh-ogoh to also go up in smoke at The Burning.

Rather than evil spirits, the Tasmanian twist has been ogoh-ogoh inspired by native animals and the demon of potential environmental damage.

Now in its sixth year, the collaboration between the University of Tasmania, Dark Mofo and Balinese artists has led to the creation of ogoh-ogoh representations of a spotted handfish, a weedy seadragon, a leaping Tasmanian tiger, a cave spider and a swift parrot.

This year's ogoh-ogoh of a Mt Mangana stag beetle was very cool.

Like a lot of insects, when super-sized, it looked a little fearsome, but we think it had kind eyes.

Mt Mangana stag beetles are found only in Tasmania, and are listed as a vulnerable species.

They are known to inhabit the wet forests south and west of Hobart, on South Bruny Island and in parts of the Tasman and Forestier peninsulas.

Flightless and glossy black, these beetles grow to about 25mm, and live in rotting logs.

We are wondering what a future Dark Mofo ogoh-ogoh might look like?

Sticking with the theme of threatened endemic animals, **your challenge** is to come up with an idea for next year.

You can research Tasmanian threatened species if one does not leap to mind, and your ogoh-ogoh can be based on a mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian or fish.

Perhaps you could produce a scale drawing of your ogoh-ogoh, or write a short story as to why you think it is a good choice.

Do both if you wish.

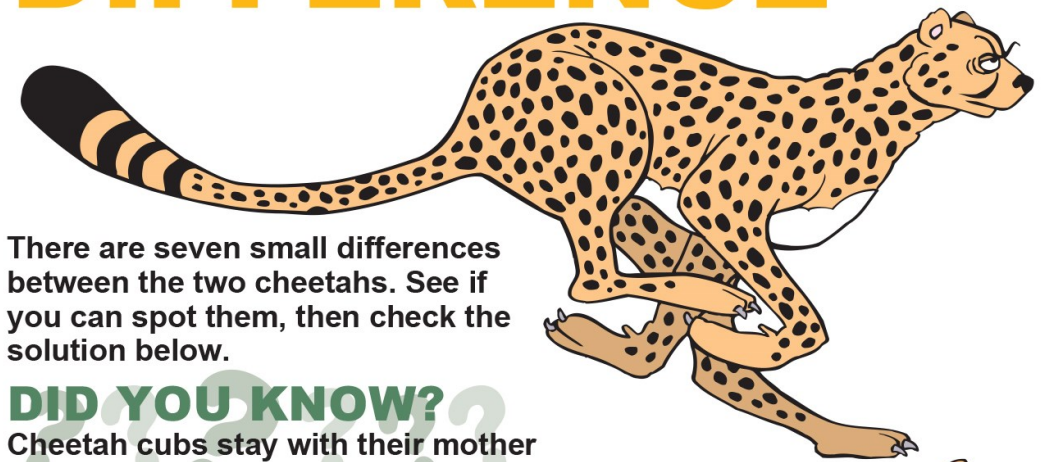
You could even try making a papier-mache model.

It will obviously be more difficult if you have to create your own frame, but if you are feeling particularly creative, give it a go.

Children's University Tasmania members can earn stamps in their passports for this challenge, at the discretion of their school coordinator.



Spot the DIFFERENCE



There are seven small differences between the two cheetahs. See if you can spot them, then check the solution below.

DID YOU KNOW?

Cheetah cubs stay with their mother for up to two years.



SOLUTION: 1. Tail longer, 2. Spots missing from back leg, 3. Spots missing from head, 4. White marking on chest smaller, 5. Face longer, 6. Foot longer, 7. Ear changed.

Artwork: www.johnpollyfarmer.com.au/