



The

WONDER WEEKLY

UNIVERSITY of TASMANIA 

Tasmanian Government 

FREE COPY

Published by the Peter Underwood Centre



Follow us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/UnderwoodCentre/

February 14, 2022



What have you been up to in the holidays?

SUMMER TIME

Write a holiday review and include a picture, and/ or use some other form of presentation to reveal the favourite thing you did this summer.

Children's University members can earn hours in their passports for this activity, at the discretion of their school coordinators.



TO get you in the mood to produce a holiday review, let me tell you about the exciting event I attended during the school break.

As you have no doubt worked out from the accompanying photographs, I visited a farming estate.

In fact, I stayed there for several days with a large group of family members.

We have an annual family reunion, and this year it was held at an amazing property in the Northern Midlands, not far from Campbell Town.

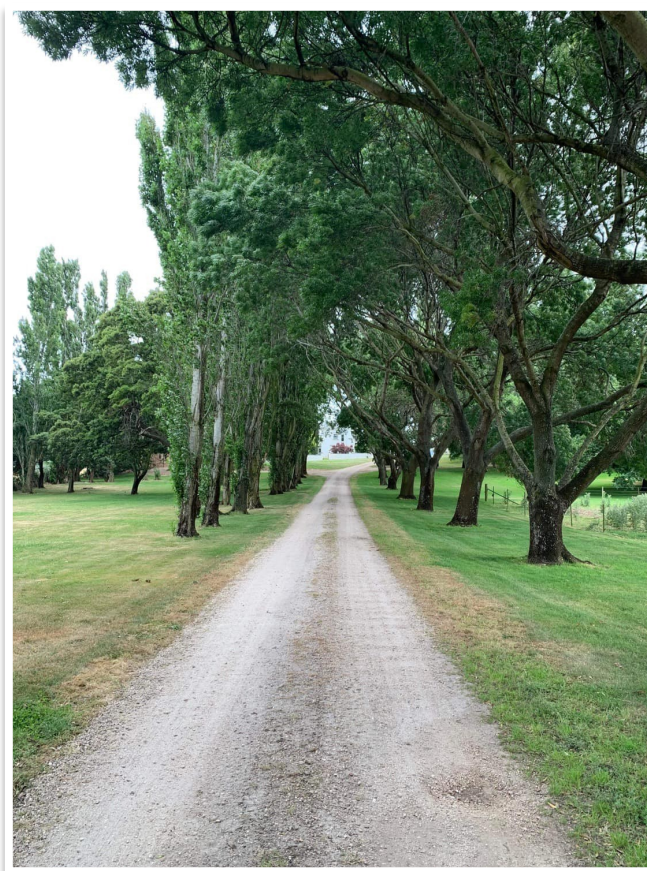
The homestead you can see in the photo above has 10 bedrooms and is almost 200-years old.

While 200-years is nothing compared to Tasmania's Aboriginal heritage, staying on this property still felt like stepping back in time.

Portraits on the walls, the original stables, and even a blacksmith's forge, all made me wonder about the people who had lived on the property and farmed the land surrounding it.

Enjoying the amazing view of the valley surrounding the South Esk River, and Ben Lomond in the distance, I also wondered about the connection of Tasmanian Aboriginal people to this land.

Continued Page 2



OUTLOOK: Visiting this beautiful farming estate was like travelling back in time. The large homestead was full of reminders of the past, while the surrounding views also sparked the imagination.

"Education perhaps more than anything else is a passport to a better life." - Peter Underwood AC

What did you learn?

What great facts did you learn during the holidays? Present this knowledge in a creative way, by using words and pictures, or perhaps by creating a video, or an audio recording. Children's University members can earn hours in their passports for this activity, at the discretion of their school coordinators.

Despite their name, many tiger snakes do not have any stripes.

Tiger snakes are an important predator of introduced rodents.

Tiger snakes are found in most Tasmanian habitats including offshore islands.

Once born, baby tiger snakes have to fend for themselves.

On mainland Tasmania, tiger snakes can reach a length of 1.8 metres.

Chappell Island tiger snakes can grow to 2.1 metres.

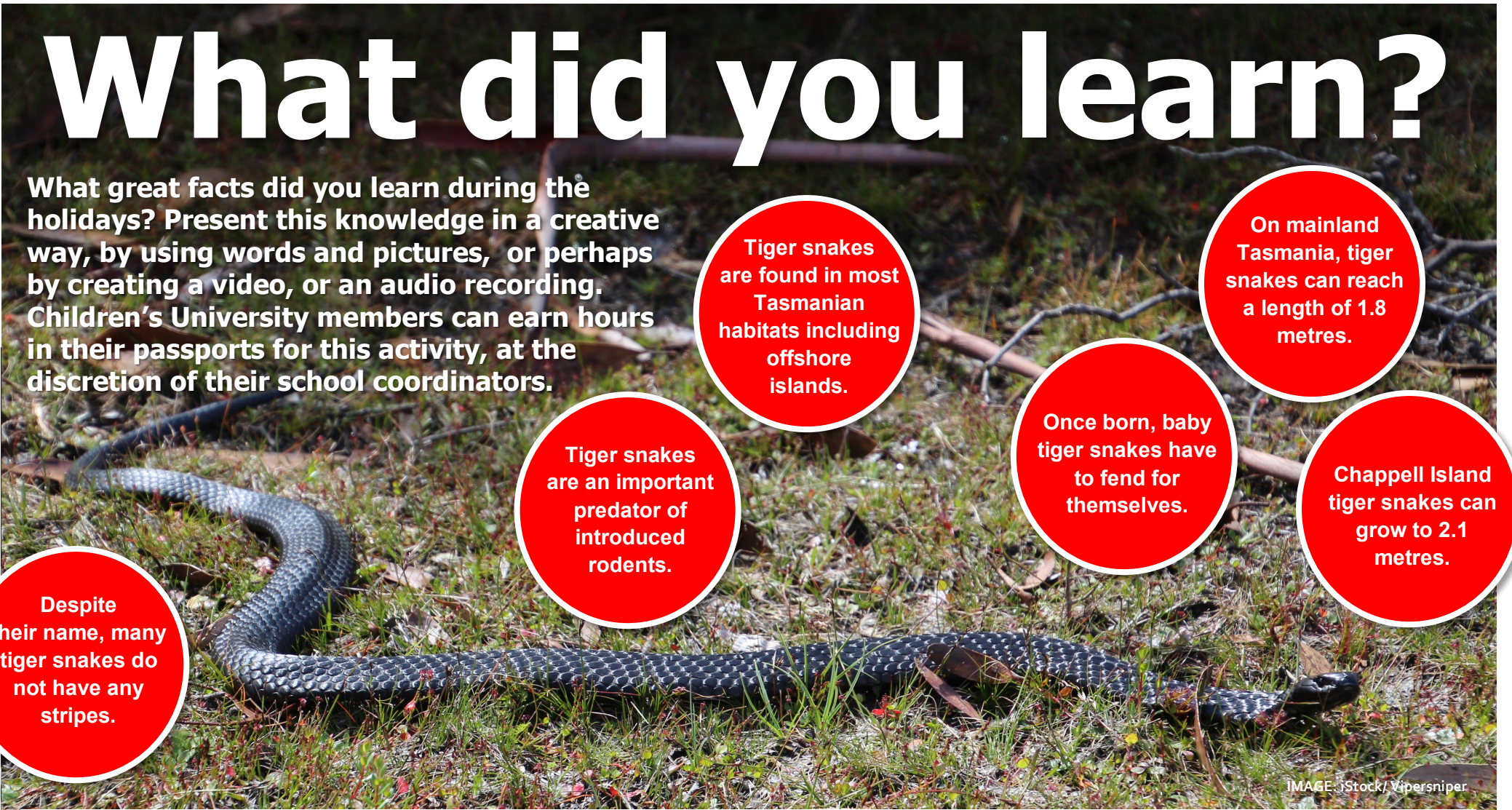


IMAGE: iStock/ Viperniper

WHAT have you learnt during the school holidays?
 Plenty, no doubt, but is there something that stands out?
 Perhaps you visited a learning destination, or a new location and discovered some facts you didn't know before.
 A member of our team discovered first hand that Tasmanian Tiger Snakes are very good swimmers.
 He already knew they could swim, but he didn't realise how well.
 He was part of a group who watched three tiger snakes cross a river in the Northern Midlands, all in the space of about 10 minutes.

The snakes glided swiftly along the surface of the water, with their heads held high.
 All the snakes were a safe distance away, and upon hearing a bit of a commotion from the humans ducked underwater for a moment, before re-emerging closer to the river bank.
 It makes sense that tiger snakes are good swimmers, given they are often found in watery environments.
 They like to eat fish, frogs and tadpoles, and can stay underwater for at least 9 minutes searching for prey.
 They are also excellent climbers, which is unusual for elapids (a family of snakes which have permanently erect

fangs at the front of the mouth). They will climb a tree to a height of 8 metres to raid a bird's nest.
 There was a time when it was believed there were two species of tiger snakes - the Eastern Tiger Snake and Black Tiger Snake, while Tasmanian Tiger Snakes (*Notechis ater humphreysi*) were recognised as one of several sub species.
 But scientists now believe there is just one species (*Notechis scutatus*) that varies greatly in size and colouration.
 As you would be aware, tiger snakes are more active in summer, and their venom is highly toxic.
 They sometimes will bite if threatened,

and are therefore best avoided. However, tiger snakes are quite shy and timid, and will generally try to avoid people.
 The best thing to do if you encounter a snake is to stay well clear and let the snake go its own way.
 If bitten, call 000 and seek medical attention immediately.
 The recommended treatment is a broad bandaged applied firmly over the bite as soon as possible.
 Further bandaging should begin at the fingers or toes of the bitten limb and extended upward to cover as much of the arm or leg as possible to slow the movement of the venom.

Step back in time for family fun

From Page 1

I also considered bushrangers, because I have read the area was a feared haunt for the gangs of escaped convicts.

I started doing some research to find out more, and have already discovered some really interesting facts about the history of the property and the area generally.

For example, I now know how the estate got its name, and that a pardoned convict established the farm and built the homestead.

Going somewhere new is always a learning experience.

- SEAN STEVENSON

Cross QUIZ

Use the picture clues to solve the puzzle, then check the highlighted squares to find out what I am. The solution is below.

1. C Y R
 2. T P R
 3. J G A
 4. L M
 5. A E T
 6. S T
 7. A M I L

DID YOU KNOW?
 Piranhas grow to a length of around 30cm.

SOLUTION: 1. Capybara, 2. Tapir, 3. Jaguar, 4. Lama, 5. Anteater, 6. Sloth, 7. Armadillo, MYSTERY ANIMAL: Piranha