

WONDER WEEKLY FREE COPY

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RELICS FROM THE PAST: The ruins of the old West Coast mining town of Crotty in 2016, main picture, and the Crotty smelter and houses in 1902, inset.

Picture: iStock/slovegrove

GHOST TOWN

Take a walk through our boom and bust history

HAVE you ever heard about the located on Tasmania's West town of Crotty?

Perhaps you have seen photos like those above, or even visited the site of Tasmania's version of Atlantis.

Of course Atlantis, the underwater lost city in the Atlantic Ocean, is believed to be a mere legend.

But Crotty is real and it is underwater - well usually it is. Crotty is one of the many 'ghost' towns scattered around Tasmania, and like many of the others it is the crumbling ruins of a once bustling mining community.

Named after Irish gold prospector James Crotty, it is

Coast - on the eastern side of Mt he was sitting on a fortune, but Jukes, below the West Coast Range.

The town has an interesting, if short history.

James Crotty is a fascinating character in his own right.

He arrived on West Coast seeking his fortune in 1884, and bought a one-third share in a mining lease at My Lyell called Iron Blow.

James Crotty found what he was looking for - gold, and declared he would be rich enough to buy Ireland.

But the gold was in short supply and the determined young man actually lost money.

Unfortunately, he didn't realise not of gold.

The real riches were deeper underground—a huge deposit of

In desperation James Crotty sought out an investor, and in 1891 Mr Bowes Kelly of Broken Hill Proprietary Limited (BHP) arrived to inspect the mine.

Bowes Kelly clearly liked what he During the construction of roads saw, and a deal was agreed to.

James Crotty became a minor shareholder in the Mount Lyell Mining Company, and still did pretty well, because large volumes of copper were soon emerging from the Iron Blow

The Abt Railway, from Queenstown to the port of Strahan, was built to take the copper to market.

Bowes Kelly became extremely wealthy, and James Crotty believed he had been cheated.

He purchased another lease on land at North Lyell and began the North Mount Lyell Copper Company.

to service the new mine, another copper deposit was discovered, and the copper was more pure than at Iron Blow.

James Crotty then built his own railway along the King and Bird Rivers to Kelly Basin.

A number of towns sprung up

along the line, including Crotty on the southern bank of the King

But just when it looked like James Crotty was going to fulfill his ambition and surpass Bowes Kelly, tragedy struck.

In 1898, the North Mt Lyell smelters at Crotty collapsed.

Then James Crotty, who had travelled to England to attract more investors, became ill and died within a few weeks.

Attempts to fix the smelters failed, and in 1903 The North Mount Lyell Copper Company had to accept being taken over by the Mount Lyell Mining Company.

Continued Page 2

Ghost town challenge

From Page 1

People left Crotty and other towns along the rail line in their droves.

decided to close the North Lyell Railway and tear up the line.

In 1902 about 700 people lived in the map below. about 150 homes in Crotty.

The last residents of the town left ghost towns, perhaps you could in 1928.

In the 1990s what was left of the town vanished under the dark waters of Lake Burbury, a hydro lake established when Crotty Dam was built as part of the King their passports for this challenge, River Power development scheme.

Drought conditions in 2016 resulted in Lake Burbury reaching very low water levels, and Crotty re-emerged.

Well at least the foundations of several buildings did, including the smelter, a hotel and a school.

Crotty is just one example of ghost towns on the West Coast. and in other parts of Tasmania.

While Crotty is usually underwater, the remains of other towns are a bit easier to find.

Perhaps you have visited some of these ghost towns in the past.

If you live on the West Coast you probably have.

Your challenge is to research one of Tasmania's abandoned towns.

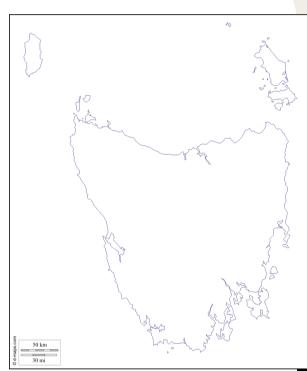
Some examples are listed below

Find out as many facts about your chosen town as possible, About 20 years later Bowes Kelly and present the findings in a creative way.

Mark the location of the town on

If you live close by one of the pay the location a visit, and take some photographs of the historic remains.

Children's University Tasmania members can earn stamps in at the discretion of their school coordinator.



SIGNS: Capture some photos of what's left of Tasmania's ghost towns, such as the famous ruins of the Royal Hotel at Linda, on the West Coast. IMAGES: iStock/imagy; Scott Davis, Wikipedia.

Tasmania's fascinating ghost towns

Lottah

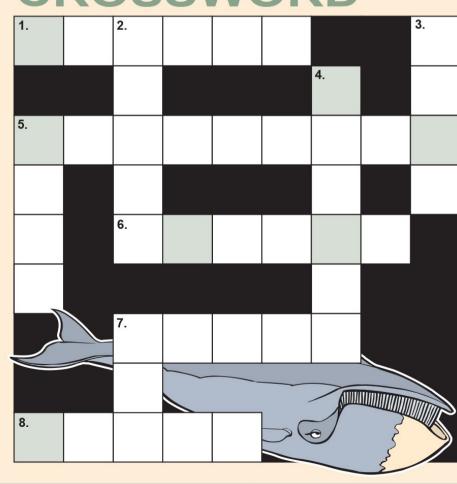
Adamsfield Boobyalla **Crotty**

Dundas East Pillinger Gormanston

Lake Margaret Mathinna Linda

Moina Pillinger **Poimena** Waddamana Williamsford

Animals of the Ocean CROSSWO



Solve the clues, then unscramble the letters in the highlighted squares to discover what kind of whale is pictured in the crossword.

ACROSS:

1. The ____ head Shark has a strange shaped head

5. An aggressive fish that can swim very fast

6. The _ _ _ _ fin is a species of Tuna

7. _ _ _ rays have a sharp spine in the tip of their tails

8. The Blue _ _ _ is the largest creature in the world

DOWN:

2. _ _ _ eels hide in rocky crevices

3. Most _ _ _ fish have five arms

Also called the Sea Cow 5. The Leather _ _ _ is the largest Turtle in the world

7. _ _ horses eat small crustaceans

DOWN: 2. Moray, 3. Star, 4. Dugong, 5. Back, 7. Sea (Scrambled word: Bowhead). SOLUTION: ACROSS: 1. Hammer, 5. Barracuda, 6. Yellow, 7. Sting, 8. Whale.



Wetlands on the *UCTV* Alive for Kids agenda

What makes a wetland a wetland?

What lives in them?

Why are they important? For answers to these questions and many more tune into UCTV Alive for Kids tomorrow, November 30, from 9:15am -10:00am.

This episode will be presented by Dr Vishnu Prahalad from the

University of Tasmania. Register here: bit.ly/UC

UCTV Alive for Kids is the Peter Underwood Centre's own online show, broadcast live via Zoom.

Recordings of past episodes can be found here: www.utas.edu.au/ underwood-centre/ projects-and-initiatives/ uctv/past-recordings