Our golden history

AUSTRALIA is one of the world’s top producers of gold, and gold rushes in mainland towns are considered an important part of our nation’s history.

But while Tasmania has not received the same level of attention, a significant amount of gold has been found in our state.

The Beaconsfield and the Henty (near Queenstown) have been Tasmania’s most productive gold mines.

Considerable amounts of gold have also been recovered as a by-product from the West Coast mines of Mount Lyell and Rosebery. The first recorded discovery of gold in Tasmania was made by a convict at Nine Mile Springs, near Lefroy, in 1840.

But mining began in 1847 when gold-bearing quartz was found on Blythe Creek, near Beaconsfield.

It wasn’t long before gold strikes were being made in widespread locations around Tasmania, and several gold rushes followed.

See if you can work out the locations of Tasmanian gold strikes from the list on page 3 of today’s edition of The Wonder Weekly and indicate them on the blank map provided. Perhaps write the location and the year of the discovery on the map.

Children’s University Tasmania members can earn stamps in their passports for this challenge at the discretion of their school coordinators.
Draw for the enjoyment of it

Do you think you are good at drawing?

While some people love drawing, many people don't think they are good at it.

But what makes a good drawing?

Senior Lecturer in Arts Education at the University of Tasmania, Dr Abbey MacDonald, is teaming up with the Peter Underwood Centre to encourage you to draw, and draw often.

"It is not about whether you think you are good or bad, drawing is good for everyone," Dr MacDonald said.

As part of Children’s Week, Dr MacDonald will present an online learning activity on UCTV Alive for Kids from 9:15am-9:55am this Thursday, October 29.

Using the technique known as blind contour drawing, Dr MacDonald will demonstrate a simple drawing activity for building observation skills.

"It is a great exercise for your brain," she said.

The activity will be targeted at the Grade 5-6 age group, but people of all ages are encouraged to register and participate.

The only materials you will need are a pencil, a piece of paper and some masking tape.

To register go to: bit.ly/42Lx

Dr MacDonald is an award-winning teacher educator, and vice president of Art Education Australia.

Pictures: Stock/GrashAlex

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Rare and precious facts about gold

From Page 1

Gold is seen as a good investment because it increases in value over time.

More than half of the world’s gold is stored by governments and banks.

The gold price is currently more than $2,700 per ounce (or $87 per gram).

Large pieces of gold are called nuggets, and tiny pieces are known as gold dust.

Gold also occurs in rocks or veins within rock, and in alluvial deposits.

Alluvial deposits are formed when minerals are eroded from their source, and transported by water to a new location.

The largest gold nugget ever, the ‘Welcome Stranger’, was found in 1869 just under the soil at the base of a tree in Moliagul, Victoria. It weighed more than 70 kilograms.

Discoveries of gold in early colonial Australia were kept quiet by authorities for fear of creating ‘gold fever’ among colonists. But the discovery of gold near Bathurst, in New South Wales, in 1851, led to Australia’s first gold rush.

Subsequent discoveries near the Victorian towns of Ballarat and Bendigo attracted tens of thousands of immigrants from around the world.

In 1854, there was an armed uprising of gold miners against unfair the miner’s licence system on the Ballarat diggings. They fought against troopers in what became known as the Eureka Stockade battle.

**Australian animals CROSSWORD**

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

**ACROSS:**
2. The Ring ______ is a type of Possum
3. A common Australian tree
5. Weighing up to 12kgs the ______ eats only Eucalypt leaves
6. Rabbit-sized mammal related to the Bilby
7. Lizard that loses its tail when frightened

**DOWN:**
1. Large, flightless bird
2. Another name for the Tasmanian Tiger
3. Carnivorous mammal that flies (5, 3)
4. The Hairy-nosed ______ is endangered
5. Kookaburras are the largest ______ fishers in the world

**SOLUTION:** www.johnpollyfarmer.com.au
Map Tasmania’s gold discoveries

Lymington 1877
Mangana 1852
Tower Hill 1852
Lynch’s Creek 1882
Mt Victoria 1883
Tobacco Creek 1877
Waterhouse 1869
Lefroy 1869
Beaconsfield 1877
Doctors Rock 1877
Calder 1852
Long Plains 1882
Wynyard 1876
Mt Black 1893
Waratah 1876
Mount Read 1890
Gormanston Hill 1883
Mathinna 1877