WHEN I think about places that are special to me, there are two that stand out. One is the town of Strahan and its surrounds on Tasmania’s West Coast, while the other is the town of Richmond in Southern Tasmania. Apart from both being small communities and being popular with tourists, these two places could hardly be more different. Strahan is a port town on the edge of the South-West wilderness, while Richmond is a colonial town in the middle of the Coal River Valley farming district. Yet both have special meaning. While I grew up in suburban Hobart, Strahan and Richmond were places where I spent a lot of my childhood and visiting them always brings back wonderful memories. Strahan was a location for family holidays, generally during summer, but sometimes at Easter, when driving through snow was not unusual. I spent my days fishing the still, tannin-stained creeks and exploring the bush, which is a shade of green you don’t see outside of the West Coast. When I think of Strahan, I think of family, sunsets over Macquarie Harbour, the smell of Huon pine and freshly cooked crayfish, and trips up the Gordon River on the original wooden tourist boats. I can hear the roar of Ocean Beach and the engine of a relative’s Valiant Charger, and silence. When I think of Richmond, I remember the smell of oil and wood dust in my grandfather’s shed, and the many inventions he built in there for my sister and I to play with. I remember running around the banks of the river, in the shade of the old stone bridge, playing hide and seek. I think of watching the local football team taking on rival towns from the backseat of my grandfather’s car, and the smell of saveloys and liniment. I hear the sweet sound of my grandmother’s music box, the taste of musk sticks and Turkish delight from the local shop, and endless games of Monopoly. You challenge is to think of a place that is special to you. It doesn’t need to be a town. It could be a holiday location, a beach, a sports arena or the movie theatre - it is completely up to you. It might just be your home. Write down what makes it important, and what comes to mind when you think about it - a sight, a sound and/or a smell. You might like to draw a picture of your place, or even make a video to send to us. We would love to hear about your special place.

-Sean Stevenson

“Education perhaps more than anything else is a passport to a better life.” - Peter Underwood AC
How well do you know Tasmania?

Help Professor Finn match the clues about 10 places in Tasmania to the photos, and write the number and location, if you know it, in the spaces provided.

1. Former convict settlement on Tasman Peninsula.
2. Lighthouse established near Devonport in 1899.
3. Site of former convict settlement in Macquarie Harbour.
4. Tasmania’s largest lake.
5. Rises to 1271m above sea level.
7. Bridge which spans the Tamar River.
8. Waterfall in the Mt Field National Park.
10. Volcanic plug at Stanley.

Answers will be provided in next week’s edition.

Spot the DIFFERENCE

There are seven differences between the first whale shark and the second one. See if you can spot them, then check the solution below.

Artwork: www.johnpollyfarmer.com.au

SOLUTION: 1. Dorsal fin longer. 2. Spot on head missing. 3. Stripe on peduncle (side) in missing. 4. Small fin at back missing.

Whale sharks are the largest sharks in the world and can grow to a length of 18 metres.

Guess the country?

1. Germany
2. France
3. Italy
4. Greece

Guess the country?

1. Hungary
2. Netherlands
3. Germany
4. Iceland