



Children's University Discovery Quiz - Tocal Homestead

Use the map to find your way around our historic site. The numbers indicate the stops which can be visited in any order. Record your answers on this sheet.

Before you leave, ask the staff member to stamp your passport and give you our answer sheet to compare with your answers.

Stop 1. Lord Howe Island Banyan Tree

Can you see a new trunk on the far side of this tree? It started out as a bundle of roots growing out from the branch. Look for other evidence of aerial roots.

Please keep your feet on the ground. We love our trees and don't want you or the tree to be injured.

Why do you think the tree grows these roots from its branches?

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Felix Wilson planted this tree here in 1841 when the Homestead was first built.

How old is it?.....How tall do you think it is? (in metres).....

You might like to try this method of finding out the height of a tree. With the stick (in your bag) walk away from the tree across the lawn to the far side. Face the tree, outstretch your arm and hold the stick straight up. Align the end of the stick with the top of the tree. Move your fingers up or down on the stick until they align with the base of the tree. Then tip the stick over (90 degrees) with your fingers still at the base of the tree. Note where the top of the stick comes to and have someone stand at that spot. Measure the distance from this spot to the tree trunk. This is the height of the tree.

Later on, head around to the back of Stop 8, **Thunderbolt's Cottage.** You can see our giant Moreton Bay Fig tree close up. It is growing on the creek bank and its roots get water from the creek. Walk down the stairs to get another view of it.

This is the biggest tree on our farm – and it's still growing!

Stop 2. Homestead Dining Room (*Enter the house, first door on left*)

Look for the cruet set.

There are six cut glass ‘cruets’ in a silver cruet stand.

It was set on the table at every dinner time.

What do you think was kept in these cruets when they were in use here?.....

.....

What would you have in this cruet set if it was on your own dinner table?.....

.....

Stop 3. The Front Parlour (*across the entry hall*)

Look around the walls and find the needlework sampler.

When did Janet Robertson make up this sampler?.....How old was she?.....

We do not know anything more about Janet Robertson. She was never at Tocal and we think this sampler may have been a gift to one of the Alexander girls when they lived in Ballarat.

If you could slip back in time to visit Janet Robertson, what would you like to ask her?.....

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What do you think she would ask you about?.....

.....

Stop 6. Brick Stables

Charles Alexander installed this ‘power station’ here in 1927. The generator makes the electricity and the glass batteries stored the electricity.

Each battery carries two volts. How many volts was this system?.....

Some of the batteries were damaged when this building was hit by lightning about 70 years ago.

What do you think Mr Alexander used electric power for in 1927?.....

.....

Stop 15. Aboriginal Grinding Grooves

Tocal is the traditional land of thepeople.

They called this place *tugal* which means abundance (of food).

Look around at the landscape. Why did they call it *tugal*?.....

.....

As well as food, what other useful resources would you expect to find in the bush here?.....

Stop 12. Blacket's Barn

Have someone measure you against the horse measure in the Barn.

How tall are you in hands?.....

How do you think the measurement of 'hands' came about?.....

.....

Stop 20 & 21. Graves and Orchard

Who is buried here?.....

What is interesting about when they died?.....

This orchard has examples of the fruit trees found locally over the past 100 years.

Write down five different fruit/nut trees that you find here?.....

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Now that you have had a look around our historic site – do you have any questions?

Write them here and remember to ask our staff member on your way out.

What was the best thing you saw today? (Write or Draw)