



📷 Snake catcher Mark Pelley with a tiger snake, which he says are rife in Diamond Creek. Picture: Alex Coppel.



## Where's the deadly tiger snake? Reptile has one of the most deadly bites but is very well-camouflaged

Christine McGinn, Herald Sun

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VENOMOUS and deadly, tiger snakes are not to be messed around with. But what happens when you can't even see them?

Snake catcher Mark Pelley, from Diamond Creek, posted an image of an eastern tiger snake on his Facebook page, with fewer than one in 1000 people able to find the deadly reptile in its native habitat.



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📷 The Snake Hunter took this picture of a well-camouflaged eastern tiger snake. Can you see it?

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## SCROLL DOWN TO SEE WHERE THE SNAKE IS

Mr Pelley spotted the well-camouflaged tiger snake behind residential homes on Broad Gully Rd while walking his dog through Diamond Creek, 23km northeast of Melbourne CBD, in late July.

“The snake is quite obvious in the image. People think of a long snake, they look for patterns,” Mr Pelley said.

“But generally it’s just the eyes and the mouth looking at you. There are a lot more snakes than people realise.

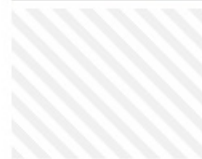
“Personally, Diamond Creek is the tiger snake capital of Victoria. I find copious amounts over there.”



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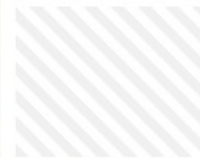
📷 Where the tiger snake is located — only its head is pictured. Did you find it?

Mr Pelley ran a 46-hour competition to spot the snake in an effort to make people more aware of snake season.

But with more than 20,000 views, just 21 people found the snake.



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📷 Where the tiger snake is located — only its head is pictured. Did you find it?

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Mr Pelley ran a 46-hour competition to spot the snake in an effort to make people more aware of snake season.

But with more than 39,000 views, just 31 people found the snake.

“Tiger snakes are the fifth or sixth most venomous snake. You could die in about half an hour from the bite without treatment,” he said.

“The bite contains a combination of toxins — neurotoxins which shut down the nervous system, mycotoxins which cause muscle necrosis and haemolysins which destroy red blood cells.

“These work combined to cause paralysis, difficulty breathing to death.”

Mr Pelley catches more than 100 snakes in the spring, and more than 200 in summer.

## STILL CAN'T FIND THE SNAKE? HERE'S A VIDEO EXPLAINER



Can you spot the snake?



Can you spot the snake?

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“There are lots of tiger snakes that live in residential areas. They hide in long grass, logs, under dog kennels, dark spaces,” he said.

Mr Pelley commonly found snakes in Ivanhoe, Eltham, Doreen and Fairfield, and saw many brown snakes living in Campbellfield and Tullamarine.

He said Melbourne was also home to other venomous snakes including; red-bellied black, low land copperhead and the eastern brown snakes.

“If you see a snake, there is no need to kill or harm them,” he said. “Call a snake catcher.”

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