## when was the tasmanian tiger extinct

\*\*When Was the Tasmanian Tiger Extinct? Exploring the Mystery of the Thylacine\*\*

when was the tasmanian tiger extinct is a question that has intrigued wildlife enthusiasts, historians, and conservationists alike for decades. Known scientifically as the Thylacinus cynocephalus, the Tasmanian tiger was a fascinating marsupial predator native to Australia, Tasmania, and New Guinea. Its unique appearance, resembling a dog with tiger-like stripes, combined with its tragic disappearance, has made it a subject of enduring curiosity. In this article, we'll delve into the timeline of the Tasmanian tiger's extinction, explore the reasons behind its decline, and examine the ongoing debates and efforts surrounding this enigmatic species.

# The Last Known Tasmanian Tiger: When Was the Tasmanian Tiger Extinct?

Understanding when the Tasmanian tiger was officially declared extinct requires looking back at the 20th century. The last known individual in captivity died in 1936 at the Hobart Zoo in Tasmania. This date, July 7, 1936, is often cited as the extinction date for the species, making the Tasmanian tiger officially extinct in the wild and captivity since then.

However, the story is more complex than a single date. Reports of sightings and potential evidence have continued sporadically since the 1930s, sparking debate over whether the species might still survive in remote parts of Tasmania or mainland Australia. Despite these claims, no scientifically verified proof has emerged, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) officially lists the Tasmanian tiger as extinct.

#### Why Did the Tasmanian Tiger Become Extinct?

The extinction of the Tasmanian tiger was not caused by a single factor but rather a combination of environmental pressures, human activities, and ecological changes. Key reasons include:

- **Hunting and Bounty Programs:** Farmers and settlers blamed the Thylacine for livestock losses, particularly sheep. This led to government-sponsored bounty programs in Tasmania during the early 1900s that encouraged widespread hunting.
- **Habitat Destruction:** As European settlers expanded agriculture and logging, the natural habitat of the Tasmanian tiger diminished drastically, reducing its available territory and prey.
- **Competition and Disease:** Introduced species such as dogs and foxes competed with the Thylacine for food and may have brought diseases to which the native population had no immunity.
- Low Reproductive Rate: Thylacines had a slow breeding cycle, which made population recovery difficult once numbers declined.

These combined pressures created a rapid decline, culminating in the species' disappearance just a few decades after European colonization of Tasmania.

# What Was the Tasmanian Tiger Like? A Glimpse into an Extraordinary Creature

The Thylacine was a unique and intriguing animal, often described as a "marsupial wolf" because of its carnivorous diet and physical resemblance to canines. Despite its nickname, it was not related to tigers or wolves but was the largest carnivorous marsupial of modern times.

#### **Physical Characteristics and Behavior**

The Tasmanian tiger measured about 100 to 130 cm in length, not including its stiff, kangaroo-like tail. Its fur was short and coarse, with distinctive dark stripes running across its back and tail, giving rise to its common name. It was a nocturnal hunter, feeding mainly on small mammals, birds, and reptiles.

Unlike many predators, the Thylacine was relatively shy and elusive, which made studying it in the wild challenging. It carried its young in a backward-facing pouch, a characteristic shared with other marsupials.

### **Ongoing Sightings and the Hope for Rediscovery**

Since the official extinction date in 1936, there have been numerous reported sightings of the Tasmanian tiger, particularly in Tasmania's wilderness. These reports, although unconfirmed, have fueled hope among cryptozoologists and conservationists that the species might still survive somewhere in the wild.

## Why Are Sightings So Controversial?

Several factors contribute to the skepticism surrounding reported sightings:

- **Misidentification:** Other animals such as feral dogs, quolls, or even large cats have been mistaken for Thylacines.
- **Remote Habitats:** Tasmania's rugged terrain provides ample hiding spots, but the lack of concrete evidence despite modern technology suggests the species is unlikely to persist.
- Lack of Physical Proof: Despite camera traps, DNA sampling, and extensive searches, no recent verifiable specimens or remains have been found.

Nevertheless, these reports highlight how deeply the Tasmanian tiger is embedded in the cultural and natural heritage of Australia, inspiring ongoing interest and research.

## Conservation Lessons from the Tasmanian Tiger's Extinction

The story of the Tasmanian tiger's extinction serves as a poignant reminder of the impact human activity can have on wildlife. It underscores the importance of proactive conservation efforts to protect endangered species before their numbers reach critical lows.

#### What Can We Learn?

- Early Intervention Matters: Once a species' population falls below a certain threshold, recovery becomes increasingly difficult. The Thylacine's fate shows why early conservation actions are crucial.
- **Habitat Protection is Key:** Preserving natural habitats prevents species decline and supports biodiversity.
- **Responsible Wildlife Management:** Balancing human interests with ecological needs helps reduce conflicts that lead to hunting or eradication efforts.
- **Scientific Research and Monitoring:** Continuous monitoring of wildlife populations can detect early signs of decline and inform conservation strategies.

### Could the Tasmanian Tiger Be Brought Back to Life?

In recent years, the idea of "de-extinction" has gained traction, using advanced genetic technologies to potentially resurrect extinct species. The Tasmanian tiger is often cited in these discussions because of its relatively recent extinction and the availability of preserved DNA samples.

#### **Challenges and Ethical Considerations**

While cloning or gene-editing techniques offer exciting possibilities, they also raise complex questions:

• Technical Difficulties: Reconstructing a viable genome and developing an embryo to term

are still major scientific hurdles.

- **Ecological Impact:** Reintroducing a species into an environment that has changed drastically could have unforeseen consequences.
- **Ethical Issues:** There are debates about whether resources should be focused on reviving extinct species or protecting those currently endangered.

Despite these challenges, research continues, and the Tasmanian tiger remains a symbol of hope and curiosity in the scientific community.

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The question of when was the Tasmanian tiger extinct opens the door to a broader discussion about extinction, conservation, and the delicate balance between humans and the natural world. While the last confirmed death of this remarkable creature was in 1936, the legacy of the Thylacine endures in our efforts to understand and protect the planet's biodiversity. Whether through historical study, ongoing searches, or futuristic science, the tale of the Tasmanian tiger continues to captivate imaginations and remind us of the importance of safeguarding our natural heritage.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

### When was the Tasmanian tiger declared extinct?

The Tasmanian tiger, also known as the thylacine, was officially declared extinct in 1936.

#### What caused the extinction of the Tasmanian tiger?

The extinction of the Tasmanian tiger was primarily caused by excessive hunting, habitat destruction, and competition with introduced species such as dogs.

## Are there any confirmed sightings of the Tasmanian tiger after 1936?

There have been numerous unconfirmed sightings of the Tasmanian tiger after 1936, but none have been scientifically validated.

## Where was the Tasmanian tiger originally found before extinction?

The Tasmanian tiger was originally found in Tasmania, Australia, and New Guinea before its extinction.

## Is the Tasmanian tiger completely extinct or is there hope of rediscovery?

The Tasmanian tiger is considered extinct, but occasional unverified sightings keep hope alive for some that it may still exist in remote areas.

#### When was the last known Tasmanian tiger captured?

The last known Tasmanian tiger was captured in 1933 and died in captivity in 1936, marking the species' extinction.

#### **Additional Resources**

The Extinction Timeline of the Tasmanian Tiger: When Was the Tasmanian Tiger Extinct?

when was the tasmanian tiger extinct is a question that continues to resonate among wildlife enthusiasts, conservationists, and historians alike. Officially known as the thylacine, the Tasmanian tiger was the largest carnivorous marsupial of modern times, native to Tasmania, Australia, and New Guinea. The species' extinction has become emblematic of human impact on wildlife, raising important questions about habitat loss, hunting pressures, and the challenges of species conservation. Exploring when the Tasmanian tiger became extinct involves delving into historical records, scientific studies, and ongoing debates about possible sightings post-extinction.

## The Historical Context of the Tasmanian Tiger's Decline

The Tasmanian tiger (Thylacinus cynocephalus) was once widespread across mainland Australia and New Guinea, but by the time European settlers arrived in Tasmania during the early 19th century, its range had already been severely reduced. The species was primarily nocturnal and elusive, making it difficult to study. However, records indicate that the thylacine was a top predator that faced increasing threats from habitat destruction, introduced species such as dogs and foxes, and most significantly, widespread hunting campaigns.

European settlers viewed the Tasmanian tiger as a threat to livestock, especially sheep, and government-sanctioned bounties were placed on thylacines from the late 1800s. Bounty hunting, combined with disease and competition from introduced predators, accelerated the species' decline. By the early 20th century, the thylacine population was critically low, confined mostly to the more remote wilderness areas of Tasmania.

## When Was the Tasmanian Tiger Extinct? Official Records and Last Known Sightings

Determining the exact date when the Tasmanian tiger was declared extinct involves examining documented evidence and official records. The last known captive thylacine, named Benjamin, died

on September 7, 1936, in the Hobart Zoo in Tasmania. This date is widely recognized as the point at which the species became officially extinct because no verified sightings have been confirmed since then.

However, it's important to note that the declaration of extinction often lags behind the actual disappearance of the species in the wild. Some experts believe wild populations may have survived for years afterward but went undetected due to the animal's elusive nature and the dense Tasmanian wilderness. Nonetheless, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) lists the thylacine as extinct, with 1936 marked as the extinction year.

# Factors Contributing to the Extinction of the Tasmanian Tiger

Understanding when was the Tasmanian tiger extinct requires an in-depth look at the multiple factors that led to its demise. These factors are interlinked, demonstrating how human intervention and environmental changes can culminate in a species' extinction.

#### 1. Hunting and Bounty Programs

One of the most direct human impacts on the thylacine population was the bounty scheme initiated by the Tasmanian government in 1888. Farmers, blaming thylacines for livestock losses, were paid for each animal killed. Between 1888 and 1909, over 2,000 bounties were claimed, dramatically reducing the population.

#### 2. Habitat Loss and Fragmentation

Deforestation and land clearing for agriculture reduced the thylacine's natural habitat, fragmenting populations and limiting access to prey. The loss of dense forests and grasslands restricted the animal's hunting grounds, forcing it into marginal areas where survival was more difficult.

#### 3. Competition and Disease

The introduction of non-native species such as dogs and later foxes created new competition for food and territory. Additionally, some researchers speculate that diseases brought by these animals might have affected thylacine populations, although this theory is less substantiated.

### Scientific and Cultural Legacy of the Tasmanian Tiger

The question of when was the Tasmanian tiger extinct is not merely a historical inquiry but also a reflection on conservation lessons learned. The thylacine holds a unique place in both scientific

research and popular culture.

#### **Scientific Significance**

As a marsupial carnivore, the thylacine was an evolutionary marvel, often cited in studies of convergent evolution due to its resemblance to canids like wolves and dogs despite being unrelated. Its extinction has driven research into marsupial biology, predator-prey dynamics, and extinction processes.

#### Attempts at De-extinction and Cryptozoological Sightings

Despite its extinction status, the Tasmanian tiger remains a subject of fascination. Various unverified reports and supposed sightings have emerged sporadically in Tasmania and mainland Australia over the decades, fueling hopes that some individuals might have survived.

Scientists and conservationists have also discussed the possibility of de-extinction through cloning, using preserved genetic material. While technically challenging and ethically complex, this research highlights the enduring interest in the thylacine.

# **Comparative Extinction Timelines: Tasmanian Tiger and Other Iconic Species**

Putting the Tasmanian tiger's extinction into a broader context helps illuminate the pace and causes of species loss in recent history.

- **Passenger Pigeon:** Once numbering in billions across North America, the last known individual died in captivity in 1914, just over two decades before the thylacine's extinction.
- **Great Auk:** A flightless seabird hunted to extinction by 1844, highlighting how human exploitation can rapidly erase species.
- **Dodo:** The famed extinct bird disappeared by the late 1600s due to hunting and introduced predators.

Compared to these examples, the Tasmanian tiger's extinction in 1936 occurred during a period when conservation efforts were still in infancy, underscoring the need for early intervention to prevent irreversible losses.

#### The Importance of Accurate Extinction Dating

Determining exactly when was the Tasmanian tiger extinct is crucial for conservation biology. Accurately dating extinctions helps scientists understand the speed of biodiversity loss and the effectiveness of protective measures. It also shapes public perception and policy decisions regarding endangered species today.

In the case of the thylacine, the 1936 extinction date serves as a poignant reminder of the consequences of neglecting ecological stewardship. It also emphasizes the importance of maintaining robust wildlife monitoring systems to detect and respond to species declines before they reach a critical threshold.

As interest in the Tasmanian tiger endures, so too does the commitment among researchers and conservationists to learn from its story. The legacy of the thylacine continues to influence how humanity approaches the challenges of preserving biodiversity in an increasingly fragile world.

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when was the tasmanian tiger extinct: John Gould's Extinct and Endangered Mammals of Australia Dr. Fred Ford, 2014-10-01 How poignant it is to look at some of Gould's beautiful images of our animals and know that some are no longer with us, and some are fighting for their lives? In this book, author Fred Ford compares Gould's world, and the world that the animals live in at that time, with the world today. John Gould's Extinct and Endangered Mammals of Australia includes 46 Australian mammal species that, today, are threatened or extinct and that were portrayed in the lavish colour plates in John Gould's 1863 publication, The Mammals of Australia. Each animal 'opener spread' begins with a Gould plate accompanied by 'At a Glance'—a very short summary; the conservation status according to the EPBC (Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation) list, the species names, a map of its former and current distribution and sites of reintroduction; and a timeline of the species history since European colonisation. Accompanying the pictures are accounts of the animals as they lived in the relatively untouched Australia that John Gould knew, and evidence of the attitudes of European settlers towards the native fauna. The author provides the reader with fascinating, and often poignant, material and stories of what would be

considered today as shameful behaviour and attitudes towards Australia's native fauna. In this book are not only sobering stories of the fate of these animals after Gould's time, but also success stories of reintroducing species to places, ridding areas of introduced pests, and preserving habitat.

when was the tasmanian tiger extinct: Extinct Species and the Fight to Protect Them Pasquale De Marco, 2025-07-23 \*\*Extinct Species and the Fight to Protect Them\*\* is a comprehensive guide to the extinction crisis and what we can do to stop it. This book is packed with information about the causes and consequences of extinction, as well as the steps we can take to protect endangered species. Written in a clear and engaging style, \*\*Extinct Species and the Fight to Protect Them\*\* is perfect for anyone who wants to learn more about this critical issue. The book is divided into 10 chapters, each of which covers a different aspect of the extinction crisis. Chapter 1 provides an overview of the extinction crisis, including the causes and consequences of extinction. Chapter 2 discusses the role of habitat loss in extinction, and Chapter 3 examines the impact of overexploitation. Chapter 4 explores the effects of pollution on extinction, and Chapter 5 discusses the importance of conservation. Chapter 6 looks at the future of conservation, and Chapter 7 provides a list of animals that have gone extinct in recent years. Chapter 8 discusses the animals that are currently at risk of extinction, and Chapter 9 provides a list of animals that we can still save. Chapter 10 concludes the book with a call to action, urging readers to take steps to protect endangered species. \*\*Extinct Species and the Fight to Protect Them\*\* is an essential read for anyone who cares about the future of our planet. This book is a powerful reminder of the importance of protecting biodiversity, and it provides a clear roadmap for how we can achieve this goal. If you like this book, write a review!

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when was the tasmanian tiger extinct: Threatened and Recently Extinct Vertebrates of the World Matthew Richardson, 2023-03-09 Habitat loss and degradation are currently the main anthropogenic causes of species extinctions. The root cause is human overpopulation. This unique volume provides, for the very first time, a comprehensive overview of all threatened and recently extinct mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fishes within the context of their locations and habitats. The approach takes a systematic examination of each biogeographic realm and region of the world, both terrestrial and marine, but with a particular emphasis on geographic features such

as mountains, islands, and coral reefs. It reveals patterns useful in biodiversity conservation, helps to put it all into perspective, and ultimately serves as both a baseline from which to compare subsequent developments as well as a standardization of the way threatened species are studied.

when was the tasmanian tiger extinct: *Thylacine* Gareth Linnard, Branden Holmes, 2023-03 Until the mid-20th century, the thylacine was the world's largest carnivorous marsupial, and its disappearance has left many questions and contradictions. Alternately portrayed as a scourge and as a high value commodity, the thylacine's ecology and behaviour were known only anecdotally. In recent years, its taxonomic position, ecology, behaviour and body size have all been re-examined scientifically, while advances in genetics have presented the potential for de-extinction. With 78 contributors, Thylacine: The History, Ecology and Loss of the Tasmanian Tiger presents an evidence-based profile of the thylacine, examining its ecology, evolution, encounters with humans, persecution, assumed extinction and its appearance in fiction. The final chapters explore the future for this iconic species – a symbol of extinction but also hope.

when was the tasmanian tiger extinct: Tasmania Extinction Nakoa Rainfall, AI, 2025-03-20 Tasmania Extinction explores the tragic, intertwined fates of the Tasmanian Tiger (Thylacine) and the indigenous Palawa people, arguing that their demise stemmed from the same roots of colonial violence and ecological destruction. The book uncovers unsettling parallels in how both the Thylacine and the Palawa were perceived as impediments to colonial progress, leading to systematic persecution. For instance, a bounty system encouraged the killing of Thylacines, while the Black War aimed to eliminate the Palawa, revealing a shared ideology of domination. Beginning with an introduction to the unique characteristics of the Thylacine and Palawa society, the book then develops a historical narrative, examining the policies and practices that led to the Thylacine's extermination and the near-eradication of the Palawa people, including forced relocations and reserves. It draws upon historical archives, government records, and oral histories to construct a multi-faceted account. The book's value lies in its parallel analysis, revealing the underlying ideologies that fueled both tragedies and offering insights into contemporary environmental issues, reconciliation, and indigenous rights. This examination offers a crucial understanding of colonial dynamics and their lasting effects on both the environment and indigenous communities. By connecting ecological and social injustices, Tasmania Extinction challenges conventional narratives and highlights the urgent need for conservation and ethical engagement, providing practical considerations for a more sustainable and just future.

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broader implications of losing a species forever. How do we honor such a loss? Can we grieve for species we never knew? These animals range from the well-known passenger pigeon, thylacine, and great auk, to lesser-known creatures like the Arabian ostrich, Saint Helena earwig, and Bramble Cay melomys. Through her poignant portraits, Barbara Allen not only tugs on the heartstrings but also aims to inspire readers to protect vulnerable and endangered species today, motivating us to play a positive role in conserving our planet's biodiversity.

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when was the tasmanian tiger extinct: <u>De-Extinction</u> Rebecca E. Hirsch, 2017-01-01 In the twenty-first century, because of climate change and other human activities, many animal species have become extinct, and many others are at risk of extinction. Once they are gone, we cannot bring them back—or can we? With techniques such as cloning, scientists want to reverse extinction and return lost species to the wild. Some scientists want to create clones of recently extinct animals, while others want to make new hybrid animals. Many people are opposed to de-extinction. Some critics say that the work diverts attention from efforts to save species that are endangered. Others say that de-extinction amounts to scientists playing God. Explore the pros and cons of de-extinction and the cutting-edge science that makes it possible.

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ausgestorbene Arten wieder zum Leben zu erwecken. Schon ein kleiner Funke DNA genügt. Aber – ist das sinnvoll? Muss die Wissenschaft alles, nur weil sie es kann? Die Grundfragen von Mensch und Wissenschaft als unterhaltsames und inspirierendes Leseerlebnis. Nie zuvor in der Geschichte wusste der Mensch mehr über den Bauplan des Lebens im Allgemeinen und der individuellen genetischen Ausrüstung von Individuen und Spezies, genannt Genom, im Besonderen. Der Mensch weiß so viel darüber und hat die Biotechnologie so weit entwickelt, dass er sich gottgleich zum Schöpfer neuer Spezies hochschwingen oder verschwundene Arten wieder zum Leben erwecken kann. Britt Wray erstellt eine Chronologie der genetischen Erkenntnisse, amüsiert mit Anekdoten der damit verbundenen Weltanschauungen und stellt letztlich auf unterhaltsame Weise die Frage aller Fragen: Müssen wir, nur weil wir können?

when was the tasmanian tiger extinct: Extinct Animals Raina Mooncrest, AI, 2025-03-10 Extinct Animals explores the science behind extinction, investigating the disappearance of remarkable creatures like mammoths and saber-toothed cats. The book delves into paleontology, examining the fossil record and DNA analysis to understand how scientists piece together the lives of vanished species. Learning about past mass extinction events, such as those caused by asteroid impacts or volcanic eruptions, offers insights into the current biodiversity crisis and the factors threatening species today. A key focus is de-extinction, exploring the possibility of bringing back extinct animals through cloning and genetic engineering. The book evaluates the ethical considerations surrounding de-extinction, weighing the potential ecological, economic, and social impacts. Beginning with the principles of evolutionary biology, the book progresses through major extinction events and concludes with conservation strategies to prevent future losses, offering a comprehensive overview for anyone interested in biology, life sciences, and nature.

when was the tasmanian tiger extinct: The Fall of the Wild Ben A. Minteer, 2018-12-11 The passenger pigeon, the great auk, the Tasmanian tiger—the memory of these vanished species haunts the fight against extinction. Seeking to save other creatures from their fate in an age of accelerating biodiversity loss, wildlife advocates have become captivated by a narrative of heroic conservation efforts. A range of technological and policy strategies, from the traditional, such as regulations and refuges, to the novel—the scientific wizardry of genetic engineering and synthetic biology—seemingly promise solutions to the extinction crisis. In The Fall of the Wild, Ben A. Minteer calls for reflection on the ethical dilemmas of species loss and recovery in an increasingly human-driven world. He asks an unsettling but necessary question: Might our well-meaning efforts to save and restore wildlife pose a threat to the ideal of preserving a world that isn't completely under the human thumb? Minteer probes the tension between our impulse to do whatever it takes and the risk of pursuing strategies that undermine our broader commitment to the preservation of wildness. From collecting wildlife specimens for museums and the wilderness aspirations of zoos to visions of "assisted colonization" of new habitats and high-tech attempts to revive long-extinct species, he explores the scientific and ethical concerns vexing conservation today. The Fall of the Wild is a nuanced treatment of the deeper moral issues underpinning the quest to save species on the brink of extinction and an accessible intervention in debates over the principles and practice of nature conservation.

when was the tasmanian tiger extinct: Literary Location and Dislocation of Myth in the Post/Colonial Anglophone World, 2017-11-01 The English-speaking world today is so diverse that readers need a gateway to its many postcolonial narratives and art forms. This collection of essays examines this diver¬sity and what brings so many different cul¬tures together. Whether Indian, Canadian, Australasian or Zimbabwean, the stories dis¬cussed focus on how artists render experi¬ences of separation, belonging, and loss. The histories and transformations postcolonial countries have gone through have given rise to a wide range of myths that retrace their birth, evolution, and decline. Myths have enabled ethnic communities to live together; the first section of this collection dwells on stories, which can be both inclusive and exclusive, under the aegis of 'nation'. While certain essays revisit and retell the crucial role women have played in mythical texts like the Mahābhārata, others discuss how settler colonies return to and re-appro¬priate a past in

order to define themselves in the present. Crises, clashes, and conflicts, which are at the heart of the second section of this book, entail myths of historical and cultural dislocation. They appear as breaks in time that call for reconstruction and redefinintion, a chief instance being the trauma of slavery, with its deep geographical and cul-tural dislocations. However, the crises that have deprived entire communities of their homeland and their identity are followed by moments of remembrance, reconciliation, and rebuilding. As the term 'postcolonial' sug¬gests, the formerly colonized people seek to revisit and re-investigate the impact of colo-nization before committing it to collective memory. In a more specifically literary sec-tion, texts are read as mythopoeia, fore-grounding the aesthetic and poetic issues in colonial and postcolonial poems and novels. The texts explored here study in different ways the process of mytho¬logization through images of location and dislocation. The editors of this collection hope that readers worldwide will enjoy reading about the myths that have shaped and continue to shape postcolonial communities and nations. CONTRIBUTORS Elara Bertho, Dúnlaith Bird, Marie-Christine Blin, Jaine Chemmachery, André Dodeman, Biljana Đorić Francuski, Frédéric Dumas, Daniel Karlin, Sabine Lauret-Taft, Anne Le Guellec-Minel, Élodie Raimbault, Winfried Siemerling, Laura Singeot, Françoise Storey, Jeff Storey, Christine Vandamme when was the tasmanian tiger extinct: Jacaranda Core Science Stage 4 New South Wales

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