



A U S T R A L I A N

ISSUE

18

# AGE OF DINOSAURS

JUN

06

## CARTER AND A DINOSAUR DIG



*Bennettiales*



Dean and Steve puzzling during week two - Pg3



Carter with his sister Charlize, Dad Wade and Mum Olivia - Pg2



NEXT NEWSLETTER—ISSUE 19 RELEASED SEPTEMBER 2016



# CARTER'S DINOSAUR ADVENTURE



Palaeontologist Carter

Earlier this month the Museum hosted some special visitors, Palaeontologist Carter and his family. From a very young age Carter has been an avid dinosaur enthusiast and wanted to see the Australian Dinosaur Trail (Hughenden, Richmond and Winton) for himself. To experience the prehistoric land of the dinosaurs and to solve a dinosaur bone puzzle!

The Australian Dinosaur Trail committee was only too happy to help Carter on his quest and on each leg of his trip he uncovered the bones of a giant dinosaur he would later put together at home; the perfect souvenir from his dinosaur adventure!

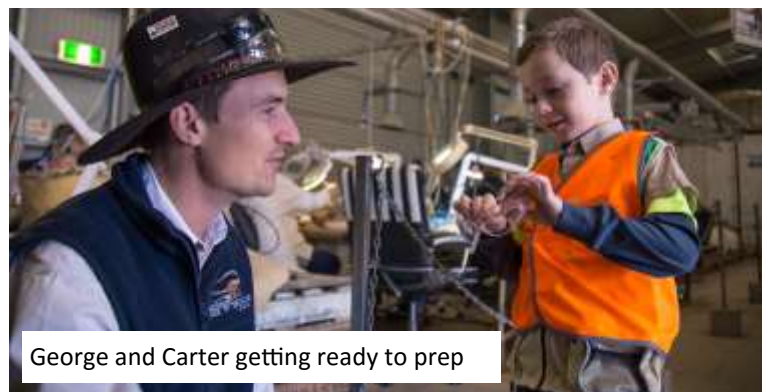
Beginning at the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Carter was invited to prep a real dinosaur with his equally enthusiastic sister Charlize. Together with staff and family, Carter and Charlize were able to uncover real dinosaur bones that had been hidden for over 95 million years. Then, much to Palaeontologist Carter and Charlize's delight, they were able to dig up a dinosaur and mould their very own Banjo claw. Along with dinosaur experts Steven and George—true dinosaur pros! From the entire AAOD team and Australian Dinosaur Trail, thank you Carter and family for visiting, your grins were contagious and we hope to see you back soon on the trail, to continue your dinosaur quest!



A dinosaur-enthusiastic family!



Steven ,  
Carter and  
Charlize  
moulding  
Banjo claws



George and Carter getting ready to prep

# 2016 DIG MIKEY VS MOGGSEY

This year's dig commenced with a competition! It all started when Judy decided to head off from the original site on Lovelle Downs in search of more fossil-rich dig sites. After walking only 50 metres she returned to camp with news of a new site. The week one diggers and duggers were divided into **Team Mikey**, those who would remain at the original site, and **Team Moggsey**, being those who would head to the new site.



After a while at the new site Team Moggsey became disappointed as the fossils began to “dry-up” - that is, until the intuition of Bobby Elliott kicked in. Jumping from the digger to investigate a suspicious rock, to everyone's surprise Bobby began to pull out pieces of a sauropod fibula - one of the many complete



or partially complete bones found during the dig. Other fossils found at the Moggsey site included pieces of sauropod cervical vertebrae - that were described as particularly beautiful by the diggers.

After the first week Team Moggsey claimed victory and the two teams were reunited to concentrate their efforts in search of more dinosaurs.

The site continued to prove challenging, with rain and rough conditions testing even the most experienced of duggers. However, the team was rewarded again with some truly amazing bone fragments, though interestingly, the grey layer of soil that ran through the site was found beneath the dinosaur fossils rather than above. This is highly unusual as all other dinosaur fossils from previous excavations have been found below this layer. The quality of the bones and their location (beneath the grey layer) made the site interesting but also very confusing!

The many examples of crushed bones suggest that this might have been an area where dinosaurs frequently travelled. The way the site was deposited also suggests that there would have been a fast-flowing creek present at the time, with a particularly slushy mud-base.



## 2016 DIG MIKEY VS MOGGSEY continued

An amazing find during the last two days of the dig was possibly a fully-intact low jaw of a turtle, as well as numerous freshwater turtle fragments. This find will give the Museum a great insight into the environment and conditions of the time for future scientific research.

The dig area was rich in plant fossils and a couple of beautiful three dimensional fruit specimens of the rare angiosperm *Lovellea wintonensis* were found during the dig.

Operations Manager, Trish 'Tricky' Sloan, thought she might play a joke on David Elliott after she found a piece of rock that resembled fossil *L. wintonensis*. When she handed over the new 'fossil' to David, much to her surprise he began to describe it to her in great



scientific detail! At first she thought he was having a laugh at her, however, it turned out that Tricky had accidentally found a real *L. wintonensis* and her joke had back-fired! It now proudly sits in the AAOD Collection with its own AODF number!

Other botanical finds included many beautiful plant foliage samples imprinted into sandstone. Some of these finds included delicate pine cone imprints, conifer foliage and something that looks like a *Bennettital*.

There were more than enough team challenges throughout the dig with the sudden changes in weather. During the first week of the dig the rain didn't cause any major dramas. However, during the second week more rain saw the team washed out the site completely and in the third week the team only just made it back to the living quarters before the rain really fell! Although the duggers made it through the unexpected weather events, Tricky's camper was not so lucky and after becoming flooded and blown to pieces the camper will probably not attend any future digs.

The only other challenge the team faced was 'Dad' jokes, however, this was sorted out promptly with the main culprit



George being removed from the site

removed from the site forcibly. Everyone reported amazing food during the dig and there were mentions of staying overnight just for the breakfast! Thank you Les, the dig's personal chef!

## 2016 DIG MIKEY VS MOGGSEY continued

Presentations were given during the evening hours and many of the attendees commented on how much they enjoyed them. One of the presentations was delivered by David Elliott on Stage 3.1, Dinosaur Canyon, due to open at the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum next year. This was followed by an exclusive personalised tour for all the diggers (by David himself) at the new exhibit. The diggers also ventured down to Dinosaur Stampede National Monument with Red Dirt Tours operator Vicki Jones and were wowed by the new tour component and detour on to the Merton escarpment.



Dimitry, Adele and Harry getting plastered!

Overall, the results from this year's dig were so interesting that the team will be heading back out to the same site next year to see what other secrets can be revealed.

The final words come from Tricky, who was leader of the runner-ups: Team Mikey, "if Mikey had never been found and dug-out then Moggsey would never have been discovered." I guess that means that everyone on the 2016 dig is a winner!



Week three diggers at Dinosaur Canyon



# NEWS FROM THE JUMP-UP

## Kate Swan rocks Canada

AAOD work experience student Kate was one of six students representing Australia at the Canada-Wide Science Fair in May. She was able to share her passion for palaeontology and her love of Australia with many Canadians.

Kate kindly handed out brochures from the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum to interested Canadian students and had a wonderful time and experience.

On behalf of the entire Museum, thank you for representing Australia and the Museum, we hope to see you back on The Jump-Up soon!



Kate sporting Aussie gear



Boyd and Meghan after the BIG moment

## A romantic proposal...

Last month former Tour Guide Boyd 'Bones' Watson made a very special trip to the Museum with his lady-love Meghan.

After months of planning Boyd drove Meghan 1,300kms to Winton for what she thought was just a short break.

However, on a moonlit night on The Jump-Up, Boyd proposed and Meghan said YES!

Congratulations Boyd and Meghan! We wish you all the best for the future.



# NEWS FROM THE JUMP-UP

## Interview with an Honorary Technician

by Kate Louis

Our star prepper this quarter was Jill. Jill was introduced to the Prep-A-Dino experience during a visit to the Museum in 2009. Jill began her Honorary Technician course in 2014 and after 10 (non-consecutive) days completed the course in 2015. This visit has been Jill's third - and as a new Honorary Technician she has spent her time working on the final pieces of *Matilda*, *Diamantinasaurus matildae*.



Jill was asked to pick numbers randomly from 1-50 and decide which questions she would be presented (or challenged). The final few questions were decided upon by myself at the time of the interview.

**Q1. Who are your heroes?**

A. Iron Man. He has a cool suit although not cool as a baddie.

**Q2. How would you rate me as an interviewer?**

A. 10/10

**Q3. What is in your pocket right now?**

A. Purse and phone.

**Q4. If you could be anyone or anything else, who/what would that be?**

Matilda, 98 million years ago, and I'd be the first person to be a dinosaur!



**Q5. If you could have two people to dinner, who would they be and why?**

My mum. She has been deceased for 25 years so it would be a cool thing to do. The other would be Donald Trump. He would be entertaining and I have a few questions for him before he becomes president.

**Q6. What if you could change the world but no one knew it was you? Would you still do it?**

No. I think we're living in a pretty good time.

**Q7. If you could brainwash people, what would you brainwash them with?**

Red cordial, to make them get out and get to work.

**Q8. If you could bring back dinosaurs or destroy the human race, what would you choose and why?**

Bring back the dinosaurs because they were in the past so humans will come after again.

**Q9. Would you rather fight one duck the size of a dinosaur or 100 dinosaurs the size of ducks?**

One hundred dinosaurs – I have a bird phobia.



**Q10. Do aliens exist?**

Oooh, yes, of course, (Jill's eyes light up at this one) there has to be something out there.

I believe since seeing the Min Min lights.

# NEWS FROM THE QUARRY



**by Kate Louis**

This place is calming. From the moment you arrive and see the spectacular building set among the arid landscape, you know there is something special about the place. The first night I was here I sat outside and looked at the stars... you can literally see nearby galaxies from your front porch.

There is no stress here. Within minutes of arriving the most “hot-and-bothered” visitors are generally smiling, in awe - and glad they have made the effort to “drive all this way”.



Lark Quarry with the sun setting

In terms of the footprints, it was a number of serendipitous events that resulted in the preservation and discovery of Dinosaur Stampede. It is amazing to think the events of the stampede are only one moment in time, in the life of the universe - a snapshot that occurred millions of years before humans even existed.

Dinosaur Stampede National Monument has seen some major changes over the last few months. From April 2016 the Museum took over the management of the attraction from and continues to work in conjunction with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service to maintain and improve Australia’s first National Monument.

There were some initial teething problems with the change in tour times, however, now with six tours a day, visitors seem a lot happier! We now have a mini-theatre where the dinosaurs are brought back to life and curtains are used to enhance the drama of the trackways. Additionally, there is now a Museum shop stocked full of unique Dinosaur Stampede merchandise, and a cafe for refreshments and snacks. We also now have EFTPOS!

All the guides agree they feel privileged to share the Dinosaur Stampede experience with visitors who have travelled many kilometres to see it. The visitors love it, the guides love it... will you get a chance to love it too?





## QTIF FUNDING PAVES THE WAY

Exciting news! The Museum has been successful in its second application to the Queensland Tourism Infrastructure Fund (QTIF) for Dinosaur Canyon Pathway Infrastructure.

This second dollar-for-dollar cash contribution is for a 2m wide, disabled-certified pathway infrastructure required for public access to the Cretaceous Garden and the first four Outdoor Galleries of life-sized bronze dinosaurs in Dinosaur Canyon.

It includes four viewing platforms, elevated concrete ramps and wheelchair accessible paths, hand rails, wheelchair guide rails, safety balustrades and concrete seating along with electricity cable installation and lighting bollards extending from the Dinosaur Canyon Outpost. This infrastructure carries on from the current work being done at Dinosaur Canyon, which is being funded by an earlier \$395,500 matching cash contribution from QTIF. The Museum's new tour component to Dinosaur Canyon will be open from April 2017. See you then!



Artist impression of Dinosaur Canyon

## GOODBYE FLOODS, HELLO NEW ROAD!

Over the years, as staff and visitors' vehicles continued to bump along the Museum's access road from the highway, we tried to console ourselves that the experience was all part of the adventure of visiting Australian Age of Dinosaurs. Much as Winton Shire Council worked hard to maintain the road with constant re-grading, it was always a lottery as to how bad the corrugations would be or, occasionally, whether flood waters would have closed the road completely. Well, that particular "adventure" is coming to an end.

Through Queensland Government funding for Local Roads of Regional Significance, Winton Shire Council has started work on lifting the road level and installing culverts in the flood-prone sections close to the highway. The first 4km are also being prepared for bitumen to be laid. This is pretty exciting but, in the meantime, there is a deviation in place through black soil that's great in the dry but gets muddy and slippery quite quickly when there's rain - so, please take extra care. The Council plans for the initial stage of bitumen construction to be finished by late 2016. This work will achieve a significant milestone and no doubt be appreciated by all future visitors.



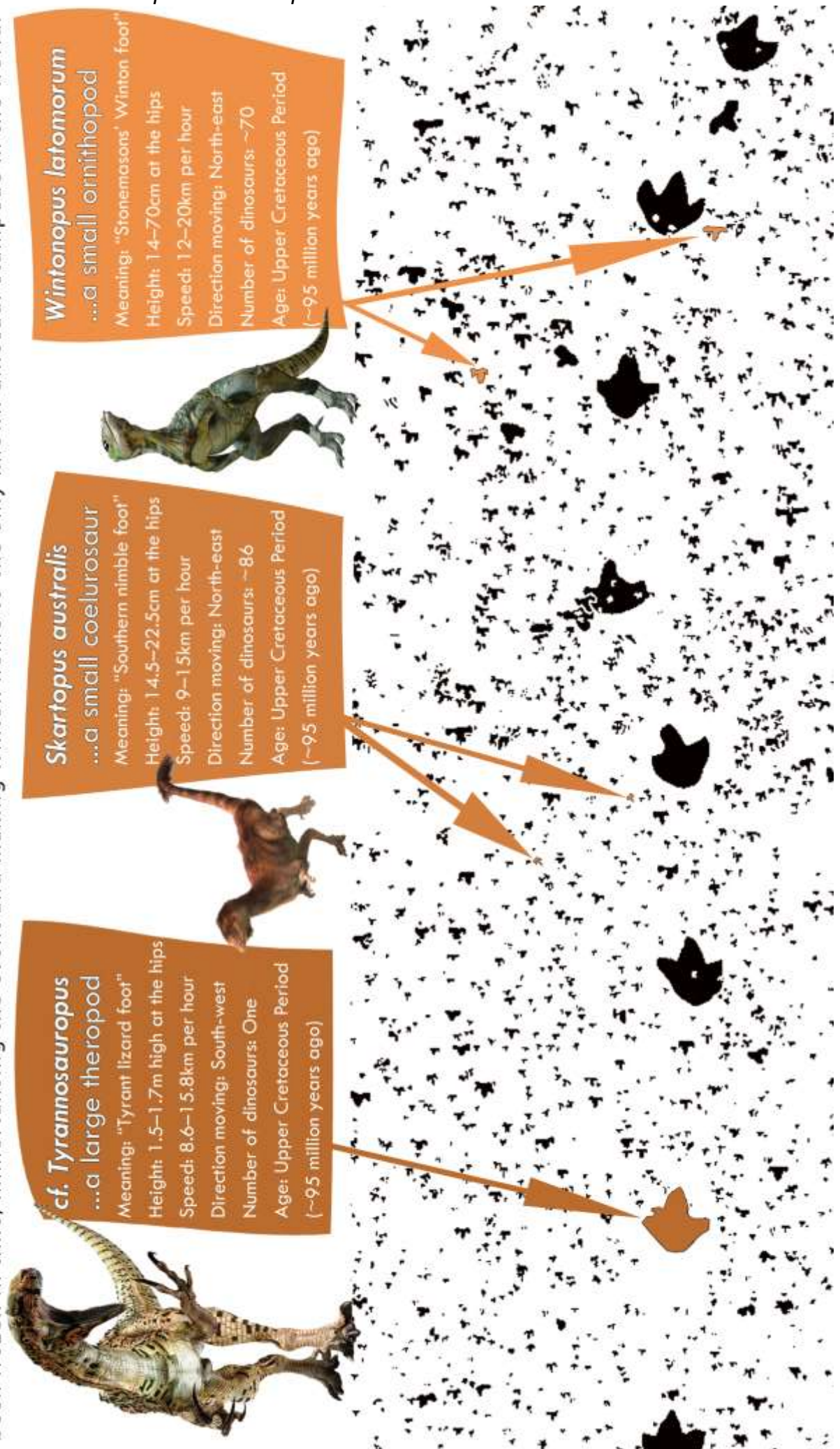
# DINOSAUR STAMPEDE NATIONAL MONUMENT

Find out more by visiting: [dinosaurtrackways.com.au](http://dinosaurtrackways.com.au) & [australianageofdinosaurs.com](http://australianageofdinosaurs.com)

## A minute – a hundred million years ago...

Over 3,300 footprints of these long-extinct dinosaurs are scattered over the rock face, stark evidence of the terror they must have experienced as they fled the scene upon the arrival of a large theropod. This snapshot of a few terrifying moments has been frozen in time, immortalising the event and making Winton home to the only known dinosaur stampede in the world!

## Site Map



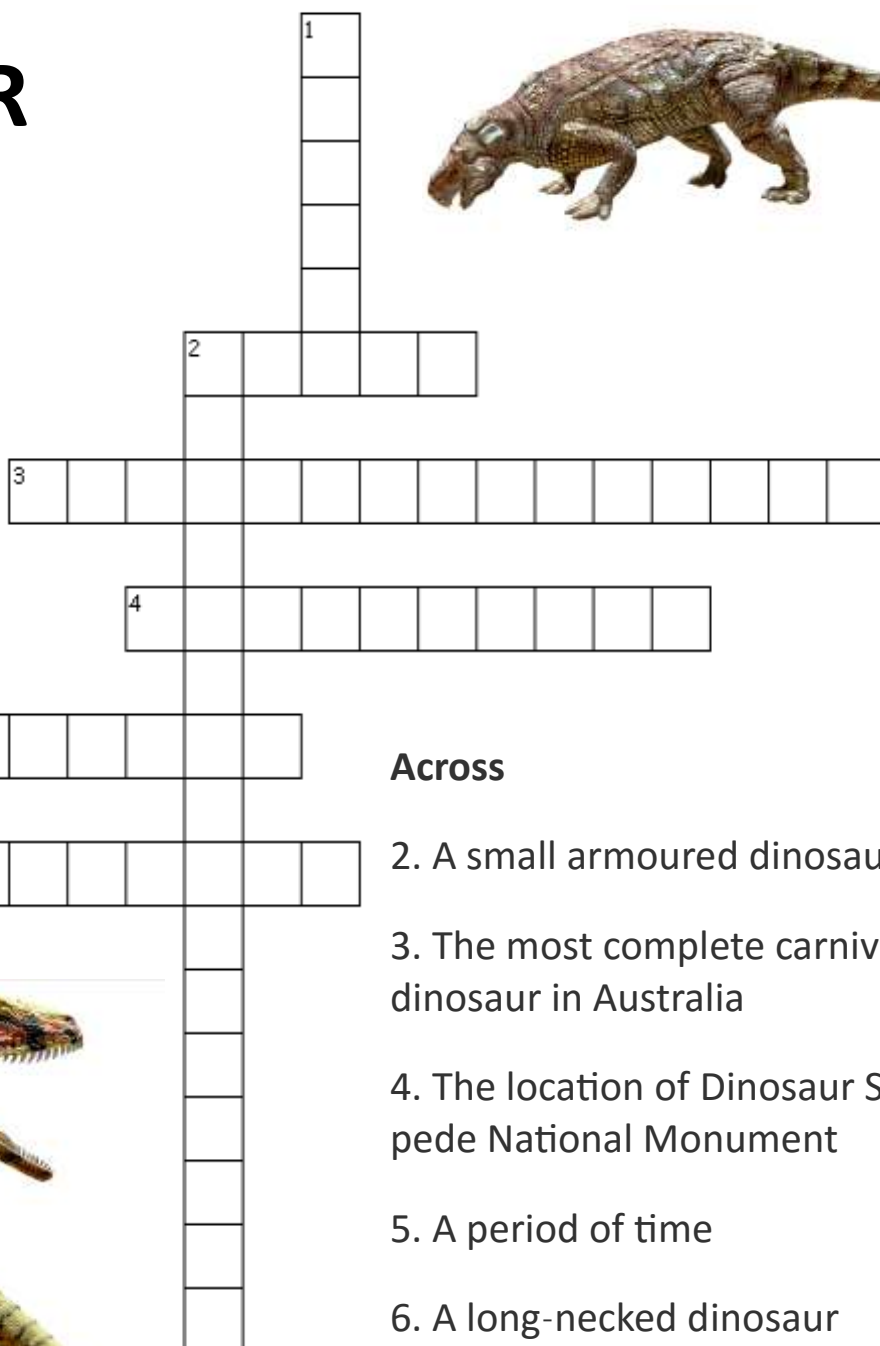


FUN FUN FUN

# DINOSAUR

## Crossword

## Puzzle



### Across

- 2. A small armoured dinosaur
- 3. The most complete carnivorous dinosaur in Australia
- 4. The location of Dinosaur Stampede National Monument
- 5. A period of time
- 6. A long-necked dinosaur

### Down

- 1. The town where the Museum is located
- 2. A large ornithomimid dinosaur



6. *Diamantinasaurus Down* 1. Winton 2. *Muttaburrasaurus*

Across 2. *Mimmi* 3. *Australovenator* 4. Lark Quarry 5. Cretaceous