



A U S T R A L I A N

ISSUE

19

AGE OF DINOSAURS

SEPT

09

Winter Rain



NEXT NEWSLETTER—ISSUE 20, RELEASED DECEMBER 2016

NEWS FROM THE JUMP-UP

The June school holidays brought plenty of excitement to the Museum especially with the inaugural **Dinosaur Kids' Club**. With guidance and supplies from Honorary Technicians Judy White and Ali Calvey, and local help from Rachel Nutting, the program proved very successful.

In total, 65 children came to visit the Museum from all over Australia. They had a great time creating dinosaur-themed craft activities, touching fossils from our collection including cuddling a sauropod toe, and picking Ali's brain about all things Mesozoic.

The Museum will be hosting more school holiday programs in the future. For more details please check the website.

A big thank you to all those involved!



FAST NEWS FROM THE JUMP-UP

What's **hot** right now in the Museum **Shop**

- 1 Dinosaur Footprint Stamp
- 2 AAOD Hatching Egg
- 3 Banjo Wood Kit
- 4 Monsters in the Outback DVD
- 5 Matilda Wood Kit
- 6 Banjo & Friends Magnet
- 7 AAOD Logo Pin



POKEMON FEVER HITS THE MUSEUM

There have been a number of Pokémon sightings near the bronze Banjo at the front of Reception, such as *Zubat*, *Sandshrew*, *Clefairy*, *Geodude* and a *Nidorano*. Thankfully several dedicated staff members have been catching them before they have become too much of a problem. After all, you gotta catch 'em all!

NEWS FROM DINOSAUR STAMPEDE

The scenery at Dinosaur Stampede National Monument at Lark Quarry Conservation Park is refreshingly green and lush after some much needed but unexpected winter rain. Rainfall at Dinosaur Stampede is monitored and recorded carefully. During July over 76.5mm was recorded making the monthly rainfall higher than for all of 2015. This was enough to fill the dam and ensure the water tanks were overflowing. It also meant Dinosaur Stampede was cut off from civilization for 13 days!



Spinifex after the rain

Tour Guides Grace and Bec were rostered on over the closure, but rather than let cabin fever set in they kept their spirits high reading, writing and catching up on study. Luckily, the emergency food supplies were enough to see them through their extra-long shift!



Sand bank

Once the roads reopened we had a flurry of tourists travelling along the Winton-Jundah road to see the famous footprints - Grace and Bec headed straight to the pub to socialise again with other humans.

Despite the weather, both wet and hot, we receive a variety of visitors to Dinosaur Stampede, from international backpackers to travellers and families led by dinosaur-obsessed children. A very special visitor happened to stop by the conservation park on his way from Sydney.



Gordon and I taking a selfie

Gordon, a solo traveller in his late 80s made a powerful impression on me as he stopped to yarn. Retired at 80, and not content to spend his retirement "sitting down" Gordon shared his epic adventure across Australia with me. I really enjoyed our chat, and hope he has many more adventures along the way.

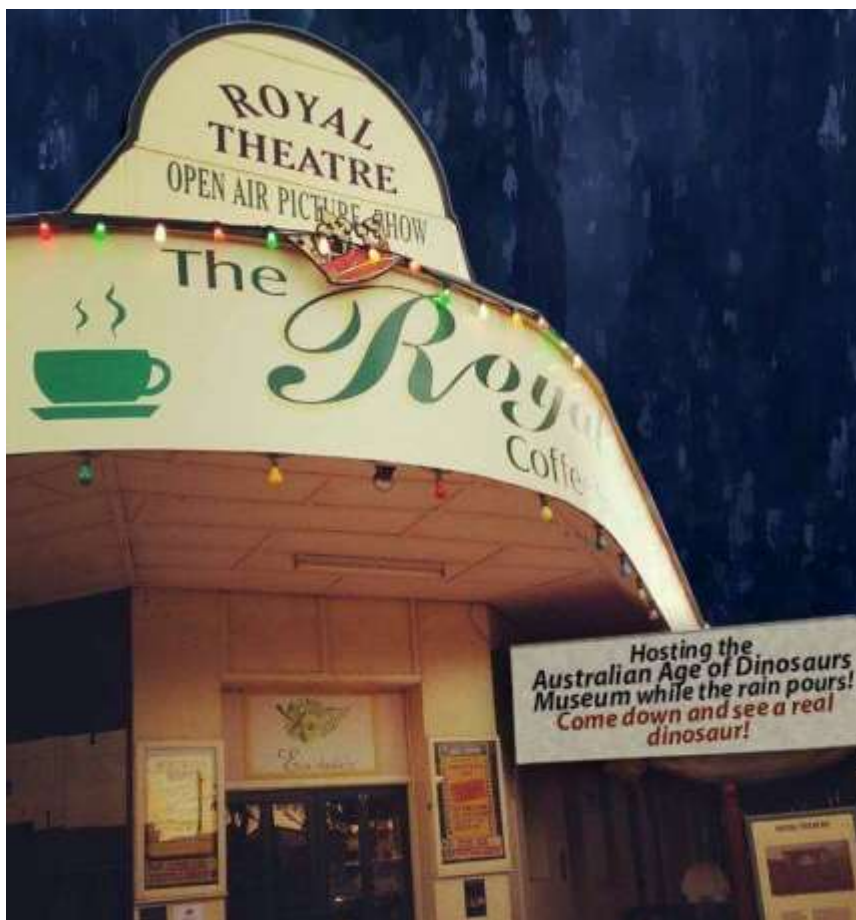
Every story is unique and it's the moments we are able to share with others that are truly memorable. If only these inspirational moments could also be captured in time like the footprints!

Thank you Gordon for stopping by and if you are heading out this way I look forward to hearing your story soon! Kat x



Classic shot over the dam, this time with water

PLAN B: A POP-UP MUSEUM



In mid-June the Museum had been closed for ten days due to unforeseen rainfall, which made the temporary detour through black soil on the road to The Jump-Up impassable. As anyone who has been bogged in black soil can relate, describing it as a quagmire would be an understatement!

When the July weather radar showed rain was on its way Museum staff knew that a backup plan was needed. Strong sauropod bones from the Museum's collection were packed and taken into town. These included Wade's toe bones and Dixie's ulna (two large

sauropods), and a replica of Banjo's hand and claws. George packed one each of our pneumatic air tools and material belonging to the Matilda site so that prepping could continue. A bucket of sieved matrix from the Matilda site was also packed for staff to sort through.

The Royal Open Air Theatre in Winton's main street was confirmed as our temporary venue and a small shop was set up under the world's largest deckchair. The shop sold new plush toys of Banjo, the very popular AAOD Hatching Egg, AAOD Journal Issue 13, hat pins and dinosaur wood kits. Tour groups that had booked well in advance were duly notified of Plan B and visited our pop-up Museum, with tourists of all ages taking the opportunity to cuddle Wade's toe bone!

The rain started on Wednesday night and by morning it was obvious that Plan B had to be put into action. A team meeting was called at 9am and the first tour of the day was held at 10am. Rain and temperature continued to fall as staff and visitors alike sat huddled around big gas heaters. We handed out posters and walked the streets to let everyone know where we were and what we had to offer.

PLAN B: A POP-UP MUSEUM continued

Our first day saw 67 people come through the pop-up Museum. Visitor numbers rose over subsequent days and then started to fall as the roads were opened. Once the Landsborough Highway was reopened more buses came through doing tours of our mini collection room and Lab tour.

The rain was spectacular to see and Plan B was a great experience for all visitors, Winton locals and staff. However, we couldn't wait to get back to The Jump-Up.

A big thank you to Peter Evert, Jenny Elliott and the staff at the Visitor Information Centre and, all those who visited our pop-up Museum.



Karen cradles Wade's toe



Adele on tour



The world's largest deck chair



George and Steven explain how bones are prepared to a visiting family

STAGE 3.1 UPDATE

Stage 3.1 is well and truly underway, with the walls and roof of Dinosaur Outpost erected this month. Although the walls are up, there is still plenty of work to be done! To perfect the rustic look the roof will have six coats of rust paint applied. The walls need four layers of a special mixture of cement, *chem-crete*, sand and colour to mimic the cap rock of The Jump-Up. These layers are applied to the walls by hand by David, Judy and their two sons, Bob and Harry. The walls are then stamped with latex moulds, to give an authentic and three-dimensional look. Although this is a rather long process it is well worthwhile as the result is nothing short of spectacular.

Dinosaur Outpost will be a gathering point for visitors

and form a gateway to tours through the Valley of the Cycads and exhibits in the outdoor galleries. The amenities at Dinosaur Outpost include restrooms, cold filtered water and seating for weary travellers.



Bob and Harry Elliott hard at work rendering the concrete walls



Dinosaur Outpost at Dinosaur Canyon



Large concrete Sauropod vertebrae

One of the exhibits at Stage 3.1 will be a dead sauropod lying in a muddy billabong. The bones for this skeleton are being crafted by hand by David and Judy. Large replica sauropod bones are made using fibre glass cradles as moulds. When the concrete has dried, David adds texture and paint to make them more authentic looking.

STAGE 3.1 UPDATE continued

Rex Littlewood has generously funded this display.

Along with the vertebrae, Judy has also been busy making the ribs of the sauropod dinosaur by mixing 6kgs of sugar with fine-grained sand to use as a base. After the base is compacted Judy scoops out the sand with a spoon to make the shape of a hollow rib. Once she is happy with that, it's filled with concrete and left to dry.



The final resting place for the dinosaur skeleton will be a dried river bed. To create the creek bed David has taken latex moulds of a creek drying on his property, Belmont Station. He will use these to make a concrete cast and to perfect the look down to the fine details including small snails, fish and shell fragments.



Dinosaur Canyon tours will be launched in April 2017—come by and take a look!



ONCE BITTEN by Adele Pentland

While at the Royal Open Air Theatre, pop-up Museum Tour Guides had the opportunity to sort through material collected at the Matilda site. From afar, it seems odd that staff are hunched over a plastic bucket, sorting through gravel-sized pieces of rock. Most finds from matrix are small gypsum crystals (calcium sulphate), sedimentary rock and ironstone. Among the rocks are even bits of plaster, plastic and araldite!

On Sunday 24 July, I had a EUREKA! moment.

Karen was just finishing her tour when I discovered what looked to be a fossil tooth. I wasn't completely sure whether it belonged to a crocodile or dinosaur, but having seen a small collection of crocodile teeth in a vial just days earlier, and based on the size, I was leaning towards crocodile. Unable to contain my excitement, and despite Karen's tour taking place metres away, I leapt from my chair, eyes wide, and I hovered next to George, Laboratory Co-ordinator at the Museum, waiting for him to confirm the discovery.

It is by far the best fossil I've discovered while sorting through the Matilda site material and the preservation is spectacular. Although broken in half, you can still see the original enamel on the crocodile tooth. This crocodile tooth tells us more about what the environment was like at the time of the dinosaurs, and which animals were living in this ecosystem.

I'm dreaming of finding the rest of my crocodile, somewhere in that bucket but, if it's not there, George tells me there are about ten tonnes of the stuff to sort through!



The size of the crocodile tooth by a 50p coin



Me, just after my EUREKA moment!

WEATHER IN REVIEW

JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS

Coldest day 4° (30 June)

Warmest day 33.8° (8 June)

Wettest day 48mm (20 July)

The drought-breaking rain has already made an impact on the landscape at Dinosaur Stampede and the Museum - green as far as the eye can see! Throughout the green are patches of purple, white and yellow wild flowers.

Did you spot the five Pokémon in this newsletter that also came out to enjoy the weather?





FUN FUN FUN with Susan Elliott

Dinosaur feet

What you'll need

- two empty tissues boxes
- green or brown tissue paper
- glue stick
- one green sponge
- a pair of scissors



Once you have all your supplies see if your feet fit into the tissue boxes. If not you will need to cut the opening a little bit bigger. Tear coloured tissue paper roughly and glue it to the outside of each box. Use scissors to cut a green sponge into six triangles and glue them to the front top of the tissues boxes. These are your terrifying dinosaur claws and **voila!** your dinosaur feet are

Dinosaur cookies

- 3 cups flour
- 1 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup butter
- 1 egg
- 3 -4 tbsp Carnation evaporated milk
- 1 tsp vanilla



Preheat oven to 200 degrees.

Mix the dry ingredients together.

Add wet ingredients and mix together with dry ingredients to form a dough.

Divide mixture into 12 even balls and flatten; use your favourite dinosaur to make imprints on each cookie.

Bake for 5-8 minutes (do not over bake!).

Dinosaur, Dinosaur



Dinosaur, dinosaur,
Turn around,
Dinosaur, dinosaur,
Stomp the ground.
Dinosaur, dinosaur,
Show your claws.

Dinosaur, dinosaur,
Snap your jaws.
Dinosaur, dinosaur,
Turn around.

Dinosaur,
dinosaur,
Sit back down!

