



A U S T R A L I A N AGE OF DINOSAURS

SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

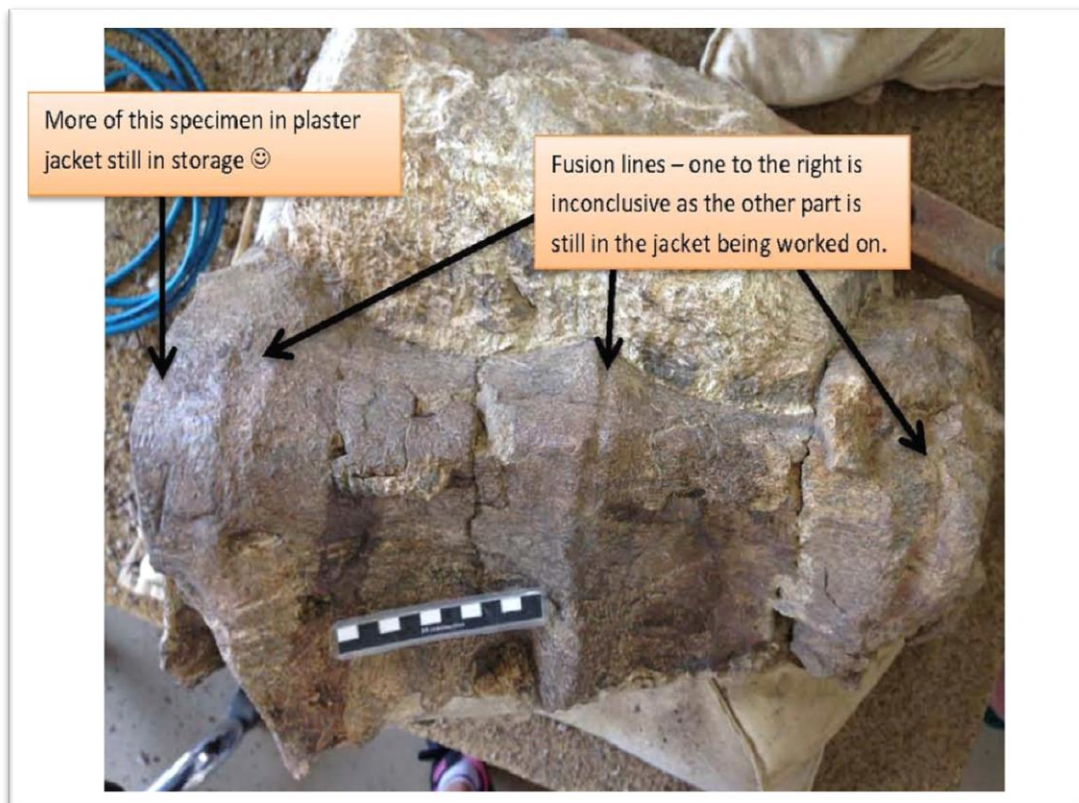
ISSUE 7, JUNE 2013

THE OLD GIRL HAS A TAIL!

As this newsletter reaches you, the 2013 two-week dig is just coming to an end and lots of interesting and important bones will have been discovered. Many inspiring discoveries are also made in the Museum Laboratory as the jackets of previously dug bones are explored.

Great progress has been made with a large plaster jacket called “The Southern Concretion” from the 2007 Matilda dig site. A big “prep” effort has been put in by staff members and honorary technicians over the past 18 months and, as we watched the bone being uncovered, it took on a resemblance to Wade’s caudal vertebrae with the same fusion lines. So far, three fused sacral vertebrae from *Diamantinasaurus matildae* (Matilda) have been revealed and they are in better condition than those from Wade.

AAOD Researcher Dr Steven Poropat advises that, based on her relationships with other dinosaurs, Matilda should have five or six fused vertebrae in her hips. Below is a progressive photo of the fused vertebrae. Preparation of this large fossil continues.



Matilda's fused sacral vertebrae

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT AAOD



Here are links to Museum stories and reviews that appeared recently.

- ❑ ABC Radio National's Richard Fidler radio interview with David Elliott:
<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/conversations/david-elliott/4680072>
- ❑ Trip Advisor:
http://www.tripadvisor.com.au/Attraction_Review-g499696-d2198103-Reviews-Australian_Age_of_Dinosaurs-Winton_Queensland.html
- ❑ Qantas Travel Insider:
<http://travelinsider.qantas.com.au/>
- ❑ Plus, the Museum's new Reception Centre is the "cover girl" for "Architecture Australia" in May/June 2013.

"MONSTERS IN THE OUTBACK"

The collaboration of \$250,000 funding from BHP/Billiton, filming and production by Bearcage TV of Canberra, dinosaur animation by EyeCandy and paleo-artwork by Travis Tischler has resulted in a spectacular new 10-minute video for the Museum's Collection Room tour. New audio visual equipment has been arranged and installed by David Pyle Creative of Brisbane and the early reactions from visitors to the new show is thrilling. To hear people's "ooohs" and "aaahs" as the dinosaurs are constructed on-screen, bone by bone, fleshed out and then come to life, tells us the project has been an instant hit. There's even been clapping!

A documentary-length DVD version has also been made focussing on activities at Belmont Station, The Jump-Up, Lark Quarry and in Winton. It will be available in the Museum Shop and online as soon as possible, hopefully by the end of June.

Huge thanks go to everyone involved, especially BHP/Billiton. Also David Pyle, Ray Foxwell and Harry Elliott for helping with the projector and sound panel installation, Mel Elliott for the new displays stands and Travis Tischler for setting up the displays.

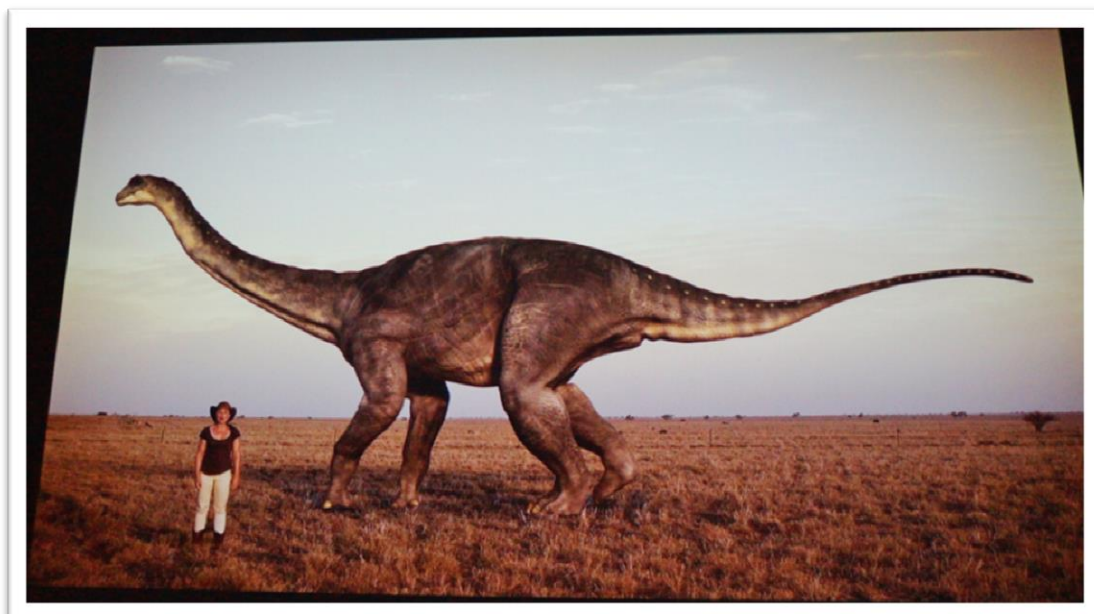


Photo of new AV presentation in action, captured by AAOD Director Carol Trewick

AAOD STAFF – IT'S KORALEIGH ELLIOTT



For someone so young, Koraleigh Elliott is wonderfully capable, confident and knowledgeable about dinosaurs. Her father, David Elliott, discovered his first fossilised dinosaur bone in 1997 when Koraleigh was only three years old. She wasn't really interested – the bones were just chunks of rock all over the place, being stored on her bed and puzzled back together on the kitchen table.

After finishing grade 12 and working in retail for three months, Koraleigh came back to Winton to work at the Museum as a Tour Guide. The great human fear of public speaking loomed large but she worked hard to learn all the information and develop her own style, which visitors love describing her tours as excellent, informative and passionate. For Koraleigh, the best parts of the job are the friendly environment, working as a team and being one of the first human beings to ever see the dinosaur bones. Puzzling bones is a piece of cake for Koraleigh and she says it still blows her mind when she sees the bones making the shape of a giant animal.



Koraleigh has come to realise that palaeontology won't be her career but she knows the experiences at the Museum will stand her in good stead when she takes on the next stage of her life. She is still to figure out her Big Hairy Audacious Goal but there's a chance it will be something creative, maybe interior decorating or cake decorating.

Parasaurolophus wins Koraleigh's favourite dinosaur award because of its awesome crest and the fact that it can walk on four legs or run on two. Enid Blyton gets the nod as her favourite author and anything mysterious and magical will attract Koraleigh's attention.

VALE JIM

On 5 March 2013 we received the sad news that Jim Cronin, one of the Museum's valued Honorary Technicians, passed away from pancreatic cancer.

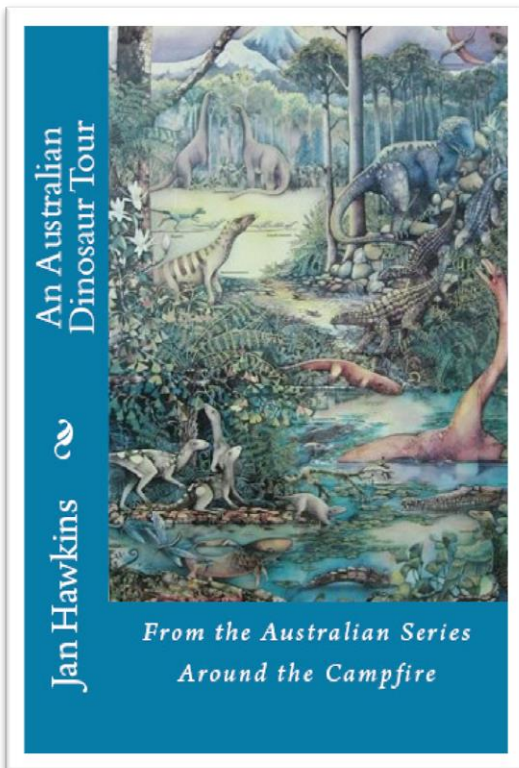
Jim was a happy-go-lucky, dinosaur-mad bloke who just loved the dinosaur digs, prepping in the Laboratory and working on Wade the dinosaur. He will be missed.

The AAOD Team send best wishes to the Cronin Family.



“AN AUSTRALIAN DINOSAUR TOUR”

FREE DOWNLOAD, 15 & 16 JUNE



If you enjoy travelogue and campfire stores, Australian author Jan Hawkins may already be known to you. She was raised in the Australian bush on the outskirts of Sydney on the Georges River. Now residing in Queensland, Jan spent 20 years in education at secondary level in the IT field. However, her love of computers pales in comparison with her love of the Australian bush.

Jan is passionate about Australian history, including dinosaurs, and a strong desire to discover and experience new places fuels her travels throughout Australia.

Jan includes her visit to The Jump-Up in “An Australian Dinosaur Tour” and enjoyed herself here so much that she is offering Museum members a free download of the e-book in Kindle (.mobi) format. The publication is part of Jan’s “Around the Campfire” series, an expanding collection of publications some of which are available in print, all available in digital format.

NATURE CORNER

Laboratory Co-ordinator George Sinapius and Laboratory & Tour Manager Trish Sloan, bring you an interesting moth – see at right. Photographer George says that the eye-like patterns indicate it is going to transform into a beautiful Hawk moth. Trish calls them “B52 Bombers” because they sound like that when they fly. The brown colouration could mean it’s a new species but the research isn’t conclusive until one is found in the transformation stage.



Go to <http://amazon.com>, enter “Jan Hawkins Kindle” in the search box and then scroll down to find the e-book link.

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Fax	07 4657-0716	Post	PO Box 408, Winton 4735, Queensland
Bookings	07 4657-0079	Visit	Dinosaur Drive (off Landsborough Hwy), Winton

News from The Jump-Up



DISPLAYS:

Museum fossils previously on display at Corfield & Fitzmaurice in Winton have been brought “home”. After time in the Laboratory having their condition assessed, then cleaned and treated as necessary, many are being incorporated into new displays in the Waiting Room and as part of the Laboratory Tour.

Incorporating this material has necessitated a major re-arrangement of existing display materials and the opportunity has been taken to improve presentation and interpretation, which also keeps the displays fresh for the Museum’s many repeat visitors.

FIRST BIRTHDAY:

The Reception Centre’s first birthday passed almost unnoticed on 8 April, however the visitor numbers since the opening have certainly impressed. Just over 18,000 people have taken tours and others have just popped in for a look at the building and view.

FINGERS CROSSED:

In February, Regional Development Australia invited expressions of interest for funding to support small town projects (Round 3) and for larger strategic projects (Round 4).

The Museum submitted EOs for a Staff & Volunteers’ Amenities building and Stage 3.1 Outdoor Galleries, landscaping, road and car park works.

The building grant has been approved for \$216, 963 and all fingers are crossed for good news with the Round 4 application as well.

Below: Judy Elliott putting Mick together. Here are the humerus and pubis bones, both great examples of surface material showing evidence of bleaching by the sun.



Above: Bobby Elliott and Laboratory Co-ordinator George Sinapius securing the replica of Matilda’s front leg

EASTER PROGRAM:

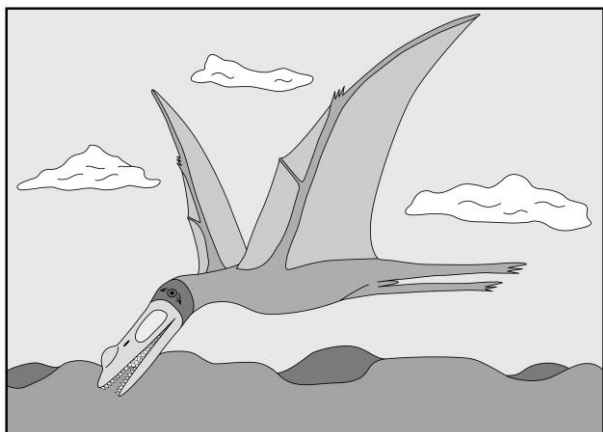
A hunt for “real” dinosaur eggs and a sausage sizzle were the drawcards for the Museum’s annual Easter program for children. Our thanks to Keldan Enterprises for donating the hatching eggs and our congratulations to 9-year-old Kaillem Paterson who won a coveted “golden” egg.



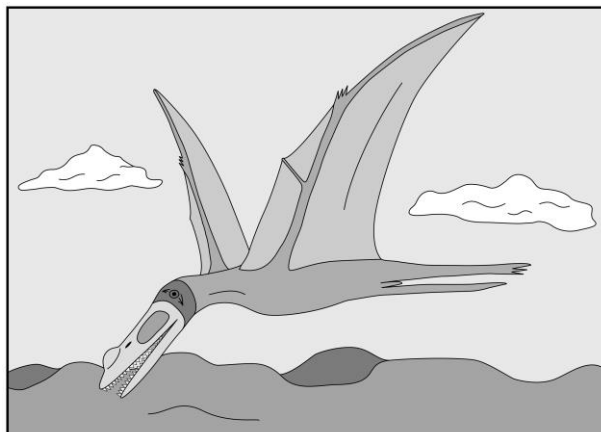
AAOD SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



Irene Elliott was copying a pterosaur picture but she became sleepy and made mistakes. Find and circle all 10 of the mistakes in Irene's copy.



Original pterosaur



Irene's copy with mistakes



Trish says this Mystery Bone is awesome, of course. Do you know what it is? Hint: Think of what's missing. The answer is on page 7.



A dig site from the air ... and at ground level



Join the AAOD team at DIG-A-DINO 2014

To find out more about going on a dig, please contact Dig Co-ordinator Judy Elliott on tel 07 4657-0414 or email judy.elliott@aaod.com.au

There is dig slide show and information on <http://australianageofdinosaurs.com/aa-dig-a-dino.php>

Dates for the 2014 dig have not been set yet. Register your interest with Judy Elliott and she will notify you of the dates in due course.

WELCOME MADDIGHAN AND SARAH



For the busy 2013 tourist season, we welcome Maddighan Taylor (left) and Sarah Turner as Tour Guides and fossil preparators.

Maddy is an ex-zookeeper from the Sunshine Coast who was looking for an adventure. She hopes to possibly keep working at the Museum or continue her travels.

Sarah is from Narangba, north of Brisbane and wanted a break from the same day-to-day “stuff”. She plans to finish her university studies and see where that, or AAOD, takes her from there.

Both score “Banjo” top of the favourite dinosaur stakes. Maddy says he’s cool and is interested in his hunting technique while Sarah sees him as “new, vicious and fascinating”.

DINOSAUR MERCHANDISE GROWS

The creation of AAOD merchandise had a spurt over the quiet season and many new items are arriving by the box load. There are super-cute “Wonderful Friends” T-shirts for children, inspired by Rose Siva’s book series, and “Roaring Banjo” T-shirts for children and adults. The two key rings – one with the Reception Centre and Journal masthead and one with Roaring Banjo and the logo – sold so fast we were ordering more within a week!

There are now also stainless steel goblets and mugs featuring a small, black Museum logo, and a range of coloured stainless steel drink bottles. The branded shot glasses also shot out the door and more are on the way, and we love all the new postcards. Still to come are children’s legionnaire hats, new adults’ caps and children’s AAOD work shirts. Most anticipated of all, are the Banjo and Matilda placemats featuring exciting new imagery by paleo-artist Travis Tischler.

The web shop is getting a makeover, all these items and more will be added, and members will receive a code to access their 10% discount. In the meantime, continue to email linda.young@aaod.com.au to arrange your discount.



Mystery Bone: It is Banjo’s second manus (hand claw). Remember, this is only the bone. For the full size of the claw you need to picture a sheath (nail) on the outside which means the claw would be 25-30cm long!