



ISSUE

16

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

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## Christmas at The Jump-Up



Banjo gets in the Christmas spirit.



The wet season begins.



Movember with George Sinapius.



NEXT NEWSLETTER—ISSUE 17, RELEASED MARCH 2016

## DAVID AND JUDY ELLIOTT *from the Founders*



### *Welcome to Issue 16 of the AAOD newsletter.*

It has been a busy year at the Australian Age of Dinosaurs! The Museum has launched the AAOD Legacy Fund and Stage 3 of our development plan, hosted another successful dinosaur dig and attracted over 26,000 people to the Museum. Aside from these monumental achievements the Museum has also acquired funding from The John Villiers Trust and the Queensland Infrastructure Tourism Fund and received many generous contributions toward the Outdoor Galleries at Dinosaur Canyon. In June the Museum took over the management of the Dinosaur Stampede at Lark Quarry Conservation Park—and we hope to officially launch its redevelopment in April 2017. Phew!

On behalf of Judy and myself I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas, and a healthy, prosperous New Year.

## NEWS FROM THE JUMP-UP

### **Extension along The Jump-Up Guard Rail**

At the beginning of November, David Elliott commissioned the construction of a new safety rail extension and gate. The extension will connect, the already existing fence line along the Jump-Up path to the Laboratory. At the end of the extended rail, the fence cuts across the walking path. The only accessibility past this point is by opening a latched gate. This measure will ensure our young visitors



Safety gate and rail.

will make it safely to and from the Laboratory in one piece! A huge thank you to Mel Elliott, Ray Foxwell and the hardworking men from the work camp for constructing the safety rail and gate.



Close up of the Safety Gate recently constructed on The Jump-Up.



# NEWS FROM THE JUMP-UP

## Outback Festival

At the end of September Winton hosted another very successful Outback Festival. One of the main events of the festival is the Australian Dunny Derby, where participants partake in an obstacle course pushing an outhouse. As is tradition, AAOD staff designed a new thunderbox for the occasion; 'Poopydactyl-The Poop From Above'.

The 200-metre Derby starts off Le Mans style with the jockey running to his thunderbox (seat) before the team pushes and pulls their dunny through the obstacles to the finish line. A five-person team consists of 2 runners pushing the dunny, two runners pulling the Dunny and 1 jockey riding on their thunderbox in the dunny.



AAOD 2015 Dunny 'Poopydactyl'



The 'Poopydactyl' team!

'Poopydactyl' made it into the Constipation Stakes (the BEST of the losers) where the team placed fourth overall. It was amazing to see how much effort the community put in to make this event and festival possible, with many locals going all out to get 'in the zone' for the derby. The Australian Dunny Derby was definitely a highlight of the week-long events!

## Growing the 'Mo' with George Sinapius

It's that time of year again when our very own George Sinapius puts the clippers away to grow the 'Mo'. The Movember Foundation is a global charity dedicated to raising awareness about men's health. The charity promotes awareness through gentlemen like George who grow their moustaches for the cause. If you would like to support George, please donate at the Movember Foundation website: <https://au.movember.com/donate>



George found another 'Mo Bro'

# NEWS FROM THE JUMP-UP

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## Dig-A-Dino 2016

The Dinosaur Discovery week for 2016, 2017 and 2018 are now fully booked!

If you have missed out on a spot in our up coming dinosaur digs , the Museum is still taking applications for Prep-A-Dino experiences or if you would like to qualify as an Honorary Technician. Prep-A-Dino participants can qualify as an Honorary Technician after completing 10 days of preparation and training with us. These days do not need to be consecutive.

Once you become an Honorary Technician you are able to prepare dinosaur bones free-of-charge provided you participate in refresher training every 12 months (at the cost of \$65). Applications can be made via our website or directly to: [prepadino@aaod.com.au](mailto:prepadino@aaod.com.au)

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## Sunset Extravaganza Charity Dinner

On the 24 September, a sunset charity dinner was staged on The Jump Up as part of the Outback Festival. Guests enjoyed live entertainment by the 1RAR Military Band as well as a delicious three-course meal overlooking the spectacular mesa. The MC for the evening was Liz Cantor from Channel 7's *Queensland Weekender* and *Great South East*, along with a host of special guests such as our very own Museum Advisor, Maureen Power.



Sunset Extravaganza at The Jump-Up.



Mounted Calvary at The Jump-Up.

The dinner featured a live charity auction with funds going directly to the welfare sections of 7th Brigade (Enoggera), 3rd Brigade (Townsville) and the Australian Special Air Services Qld Assoc. Funds raised from the auction benefited soldiers returning from active service who are in need of support.

# THE LUNGFISH EXHIBITION 2015

## The Museum's Second Exhibition

The second Reception exhibition for the Museum shop coincides with the marine displays throughout the reception. Trish Sloan, our Operations Manager, decided upon a display that showcases a unique type of fossil.

Lungfish tooth plates are the fossilised remains of ancient fish that lived during the age of dinosaurs. Interestingly, Australian lungfish were first described by their fossils before the living animal became known. Lungfish are often described as 'living fossils' due to being the most enduring vertebrate species on earth. Australia has a continuous record of lungfish from the Devonian up to present day.



Above: A modern day Australian Lungfish.  
Below: Fossils of ancient Lungfish.



The second exhibition at the Museum.

The fossils Trish gathered for the display are all found locally in the Winton area. The Museum's second exhibition was inspired by a visit from Anne Kemp who is an Associate Professor at Griffith University, earlier the year. Anne studies modern day lungfish, in particular Australian lungfish populations that are suffering from environmental degradation due to human interference, primarily due to the damming of their native waterways.



Lungfish tooth plates on display.





## Christmas Gift Ideas

It's that time of year again - Christmas! If you're panicking about what gift to get the dinosaur enthusiast in your life, AAOD has you covered!

### Prep-A-Dino Present

A Prep-A-Dino experience is the perfect gift for the eager dinosaur enthusiast! Preparing 100 million year old dinosaur fossils includes the mechanical rediscovery of bones, restoration, repairs, consolidation of specimens, sieving, sorting of matrix for microfossils and helping to jigsaw pieces of the dinosaur puzzle together. The package also includes a guided tour in both buildings, a work health and safety induction, supervised training and a copy of the latest AAOD Journal. The only requirement for prep-a-dino is that the participants are 12 years and over. A fully furnished cabin-style lodge located on The Jump-Up is available for single or twin stay (minimum three nights). This package is a once-in-a-lifetime experience!



**Only \$67.00 for a full day of prepping for members.**

### Christmas Stocking Filler

The first in a series of collectable patches feature *Australovenator wintonensis*. Inspired by Australia's most complete carnivorous dinosaur, this Banjo patch is a perfect Christmas filler for any dinosaur enthusiasts! Available on the Museum website.

**Only \$8.95 for members** (not including postage)



# WINTON'S PROGRESS

## Waltzing Matilda Centre Progress

During the early morning of Thursday 18 June 2015, the Waltzing Matilda Centre, located on the main street of Winton, was ravaged by flames. The historical building, which was dedicated to Winton's famous past, was significantly damaged before the local firefighters could extinguish the blaze. Once the remains of the site were declared safe, it was soon realised that most of the damage was confined to the main building and that the artefacts at the far end of the site were intact.



The Waltzing Matilda Centre as it is destroyed by flames.

The Winton Shire Council has been actively pursuing options to demolish and rebuild this national icon. The demolition of the centre by a local company started in early November with the remains being torn down and trucked away. The Council are endeavouring to complete the redevelopment by mid 2017. In the mean time the community of Winton has held working bees to salvage some of the more damaged artefacts that will one day go on display again.



The demolition of the Waltzing Matilda Centre.

## *SPOTLIGHT: Steven Rumbold*

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Dashing over dust,  
In Winton, Q.L.D.  
Over plains we go,  
Blacksoil all the way.  
Find a fragment here,  
Find a fragment there.  
Oh what fun it is to dig up,  
And find some dino bones.

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS



Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way  
Discovering dinosaurs in Australia every day, Hey!  
Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way  
Discovering dinosaurs in Australia every day.

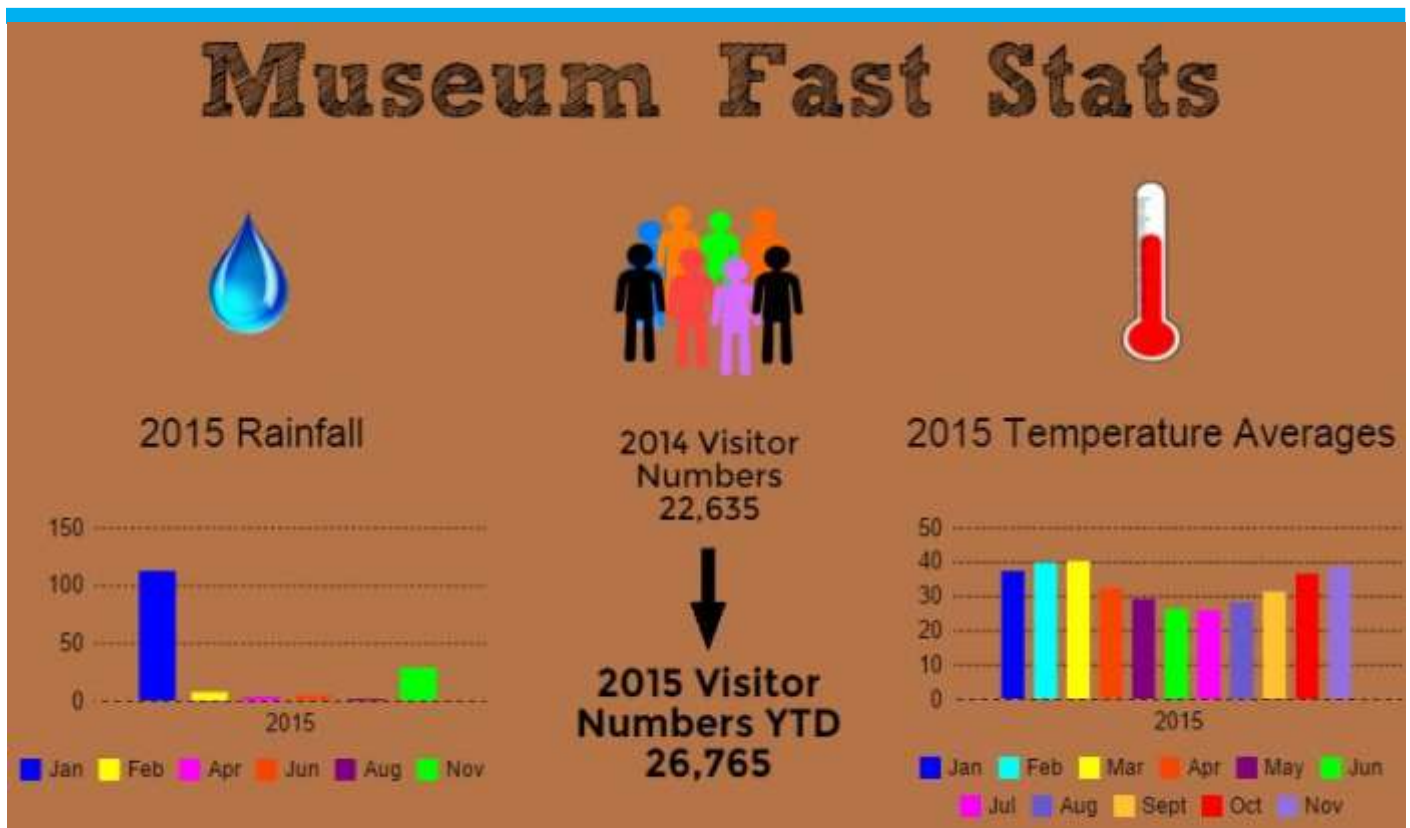
So far we've found a Wade  
Matilda and Clancy.  
They ate all the plants,  
While Banjo ate the meat.  
If we dig down deep,  
We will find some more.  
Maybe just a bone or so,  
But you can join us too.

Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way  
Discovering dinosaurs in Australia every day,  
Hey!  
Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way  
Discovering dinosaurs in Australia every day.





## FAST STATISTICS



## A DROP OF RAIN ON THE JUMP UP



# Christmas Colouring

There are eight dinosaurs  
hiding.

Can you spot them all?

