

ISSUE

21

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

MAR

03



Explore Australia's
prehistoric past
DINOSAUR CANYON 2017



NEXT NEWSLETTER—ISSUE 22, RELEASED JUNE 2017

NEWS FROM THE SHOP

The Museum Shop has released more exclusive products including a new book by Honorary Technician Rose Siva entitled *Dinosaurs Fight to Survive*, a limited edition Dinosaur Canyon token and a children's "I Survived Dinosaur Canyon" T-shirt. To purchase these and many more amazing Australian dinosaur products visit the Museum's website.



\$22.00



\$16.00



\$16.95



Rose at a book signing for her new book, *Dinosaurs Fight to Survive*.

Dinosaur Stampede

An Australian Age of Dinosaurs publication

Dinosaur Stampede

A terrifying encounter frozen in time

Ninety-five million years ago hundreds of small dinosaurs congregated by the edge of a lake. All of a sudden they were interrupted by a large meat-eating theropod dinosaur. With the lake blocking their escape the panicking small dinosaurs ran madly away from the lake and into history...

Learn about the history and prehistory of the famous trackways, in one publication for the first time.
By Dr Stephen Poropat

\$11.95 softcover, 64 pages

BUY online at australianageofdinosaurs.com

WELCOME NEW MUSEUM MEMBERS

In 2016 the Museum added six new Million Year Members to the Australian Age of Dinosaurs family. Thank you Yvonne Hampton, Judy White, Lyn and Allan Scrymgeour, Tom Rich and Patricia Vickers-Rich, Alan Bulbeck and Karen Corkill for your continued support. In addition to these life members the Museum has received an overwhelming response to its annual membership drive, a testament to the hard work involved in compiling the journal year after year.



The AAOD Journal is a treasure trove of articles and information relating to changing ideas in Australian palaeontology and natural history. Compiled by David and Judy Elliott since 2003 the Journal has become an unmatched archive of Australian dinosaur fieldwork and interpretation. The back issues of the AAOD Journal are now available for purchase at a special 50% discount for members.

AAOD Journal, Issues 1–5	were \$79.90	now \$39.95
AAOD Journal, Issues 6–10	were \$79.90	now \$39.95
AAOD Journal, Issues 1–13	were \$156.00	now \$78.00

This offer is available online by using the voucher code: **50%OFFJOURNALS** during step two of the checkout process on the website. Note: The discount does not include postage and handling, offer valid to 31 December 2017.



AAOD GUIDED TOUR EXPERIENCE – 2017



From 16 April 2017 the Museum's public tours will be expanded to include the latest tour offering, Dinosaur Canyon. Guided tours will start in the most productive Fossil Preparation Laboratory in the Southern Hemisphere where visitors will watch as fossil technicians prepare real dinosaur fossils for display. You may even have the chance to touch a real dinosaur fossil!

Visitors will leisurely walk back along The Jump-Up to the Reception Centre where the next part of the tour commences in the Collection Room. This is where our Museum houses its fully prepped fossils from three holotype specimens of Australia's most well-known dinosaurs: *Savannasaurus elliottorum* (Wade), *Diamantinasaurus matildae* (Matilda) and *Australovenator wintonensis* (Banjo). This tour includes an in-depth interpretation and small movie presentation.

Visitors will then depart on the Noble Express shuttle for their 2km journey along Britton Way, as a Museum guide describes The Jump-Up environment and geology of the region.

The shuttle will arrive at Dinosaur Canyon Outpost, a building designed by Cox Rayner Architects. The Outpost includes a rest area with facilities such as cold water, ambulant bathrooms and beautifully crafted concrete seating.

A Museum guide will take visitors on a walk along the pathways and lookouts through Dinosaur Canyon's five galleries. The Macmillan Littlewood Gallery features the Death in the Billabong exhibit. This exhibit shows dinosaur bones in a muddy billabong as they would have appeared 95 million years ago prior to becoming fossilised in the Winton

Formation. Dinosaur footprints overlay fragmented bones creating a realistic glimpse into in situ sauropod bones from animals that died from exposure or starvation, or were killed by predators.



Dinosaur Canyon Outpost during construction

AAOD GUIDED TOUR EXPERIENCE — 2017

The Denise O’Boyle Gallery features a life-sized bronze *Pterodactylus* family as they may have appeared in real life around 115 million years ago.



Pterodactylus Family exhibit

The Wavish Family Gallery was made from 3D digital reconstructions by Travis Tischler and features the Dinosaur Stampede exhibit including 24 small dinosaurs leaping across a chasm in a desperate bid to escape the clutches of a 5m long theropod!



Kunbarrasaurus ieverisi exhibit

The John Villiers Trust Gallery features the *Kunbarrasaurus ieverisi* exhibit of three exquisitely detailed life-sized models based on the original skeleton of *K. ieverisi*. Take a moment to ponder how life may have looked 104–102 million years ago when these armoured dinosaurs roamed the Australian Outback.



The last gallery, the Cretaceous Garden, features the Valley of the Cycads, one of several Cretaceous Garden exhibits planned for Dinosaur Canyon. The cycads in this gallery are 700–800 years old, making them older than the US Declaration of Independence, Captain Cook’s circumnavigation of Australia and China’s Ming Dynasty!

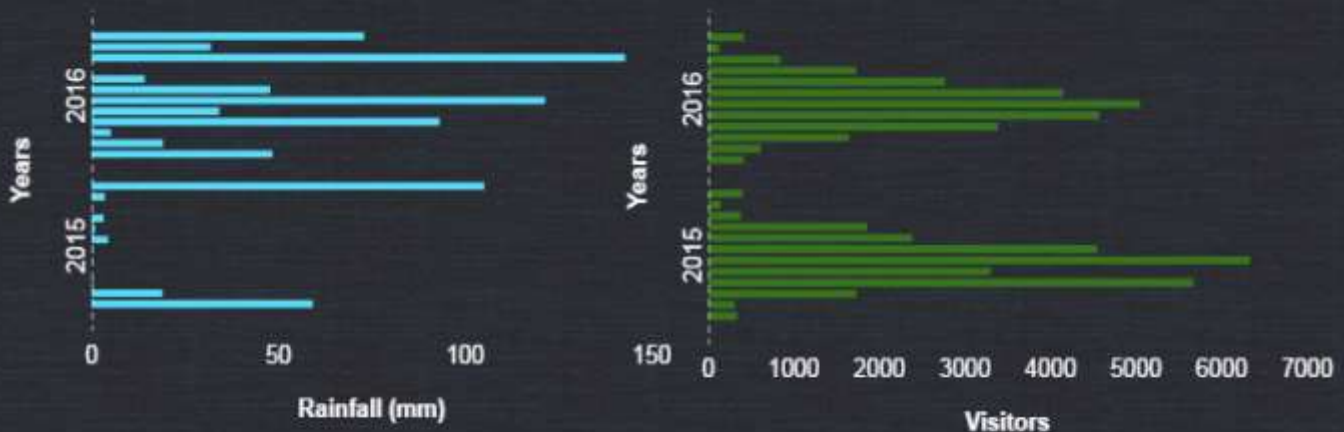


Prepare for your visit by downloading the Museum’s free audio guide for Dinosaur Canyon.

1. Scan the QR code (left) or download the “IZI TRAVEL” app by going to <https://izi.travel/app>
2. Select audio guides and search for Australian Age of Dinosaurs, Dinosaur Canyon (for best results download the app ahead of time in case of internet issues).

FAST STATS

RAINFALL VS MUSEUM VISITATION



In 2016 the Museum was closed or partially closed for 22 days during June and July from flood events and subsequent road closures. Did you know that Winton recorded 435mm more rain in 2016 than the previous year?



32 degrees

Average annual temp recorded at 9am



631 mm

Total annual rainfall



25,713

Total Museum visitors



8,056

Total Dinosaur Stampede visitors

VISITOR AGE DEMOGRAPHICS



WHAT YOU MAY HAVE MISSED ON FACEBOOK

Wanted: Museum Tour Guides

15 February 2017

Interested in becoming a Museum Tour Guide? Applications for 2017 are being sought now. If you have an interest in natural history, the need for an adventure, opportunities—like being part of a dinosaur dig, prepping fossils and helping our Museum go forward—then send an expression of interest via our website.

www.australianageofdinosaurs.com



Flipping the Femur

25 February 2017

In early February the Lab team flipped a giant femur ready for its final stage of preparation. Initially it was thought to be a thigh bone of a *Diamantinasaurus*, but as time goes by it is looking more and more like a fossil from *Wintonotitan*. Stay tuned for more updates.

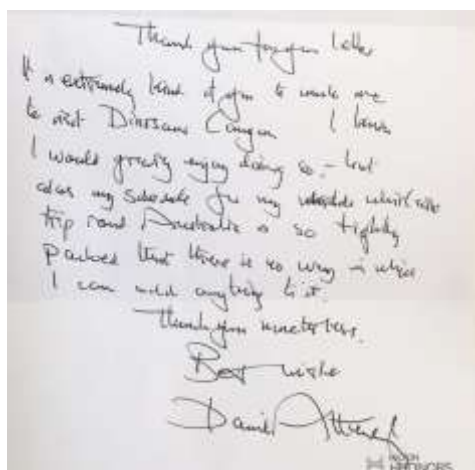


Sir David Attenborough

27 February
2017

In February
Dugger Jenni
Creagh kindly
invited Sir
David
Attenborough
to attend the

Museum's official opening of Dinosaur Canyon in April. While he is unable to attend, his handwritten letter, sent while still on tour, has made our day!



INTERVIEW WITH MICHAEL BROCK



Michael, otherwise known as 'Brocky', started out as a digger in 2006 and then moved to preparing fossils, something he now prefers over digging up dinosaurs. Brocky used to prep at David and Judy Elliott's property in the old motor bike shed and can even remember helping to look for land before the Britton Family donated The Jump-Up. To ensure his place in the Laboratory is always available, he now books a year ahead of time! Chances are, if you are visiting you will see him busily prepping a large sauropod fossil.

What does success look like to you?

Being happy in your environment.

What can you teach me today?

I can teach you about elephants, working with the poor in Peru, early Australian settlement and history, and genealogy.

Do aliens exist?

I'm open to the possibility of aliens. I'm not sure whether they would be in the same form [as us] – that is unlikely – but there are so many planets and stars out there. I'm also open to the possibility of ghosts.

Favourite thing in the universe?

We don't know how big the universe is; we've only seen a part of it. We've just discovered the solar system is 4.5 billion years old. I'm excited about new dinosaur discoveries, touching an elephant for the first time, meeting my first blind elephant and seeing how much that animal had to rely on his friends.

If time travel was possible, where would you go?

As I teach Australian history, I'd visit early Australian settlement times to meet some of the people such as Lachlan Macquarie. He saw there was good in everyone and that after the convicts finished their sentences they could go and live their lives, all as equals. He believed in people even when others didn't agree. And he was a Scot.



YOUR DINOSAUR EXPERIENCE OPTIONS



All passes include a copy of the Dinosaur Canyon Visitor Guide!

1 Attraction: The Ultimate Dinosaur Pass

Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum

Includes a guided tour of the **Fossil Preparation Laboratory, Collection Room** and **Dinosaur Canyon**

Adult	\$55.00
Concession*	\$50.00
Family^	\$115.00
Child (5 to 16 years)	\$30.00

* Student, Veteran or Senior cardholders
^ Two adults and their children

2 Attractions: WDCOA VIP Pass

Winton Dinosaur Capital of Australia

Includes **Ultimate Dinosaur Pass** and **Dinosaur Stampede National Monument** at Lark Quarry Conservation Park

Adult	\$75.00
Concession*	\$70.00
Family^	\$170.00
Child (5 to 16 years)	\$37.00

* Student, Veteran or Senior card-holders
^ Two adults and their children

4 Attractions: Australian Dinosaur Trail Pass

Hughenden, Richmond & Winton

Includes **WDCOA VIP Pass** + **Kronosaurus Korner**, **Richmond** and **Flinders Discovery Centre**, **Hughenden**

Adult	\$95.00
Concession*	\$85.00
Family^	\$215.00
Child (5 to 16 years)	\$50.00

* Student, Veteran or Senior card-holders
^ Two adults and up to four children



MARbled EASTER EGGS

- * Eggs (as many you like)
- * Liquid food colouring
- * Water to boil the eggs
- * White vinegar
- * Sandwich bags one for each colour of dye



Step one: Place the eggs in a pot and cover with water. Bring to the boil and continue to boil for 7 minutes. Turn off the heat and let the eggs sit in the water for about 5 minutes. **Step two:** Remove the eggs from the water and let them cool. Now that your eggs have cooled down, lightly tap the eggs until there are cracks all over. Make sure you don't over do it as you want to make sure that the shell stays intact. **Step three:** Place one egg at a time into each sandwich bag and add about 7–8 drops of food colouring on to the egg. Seal the bag and massage the dye over the egg until fully covered. **Step four:** Leave the eggs in the bag for 30 minutes to let the dye set, before gently peeling the eggs to reveal an *egg-cellent* design! **Step 5:** Dry your eggs off and get ready for an extra cool surprise! Crack the eggs open and look what's inside.