

Australian Age of
Dinosaurs

museum
newsletter

December 2017, Issue 24



'TIS THE SEASON
AUSTRALIAN MISTLETOE

ISSUE 24, DECEMBER 2017

NEWS FROM THE JUMP-UP

FAREWELL TO 2017 STAFF MEMBERS by Susan Elliott

Another tourist season draws to an end on The Jump-Up. It has been a record-breaking year (over 31,000 visitors) and, thanks to the Museum's amazing crew, a very enjoyable one. While some staff are finishing up and heading home, others are preparing for a Winton summer. We would like to say thank you for all your amazing camaraderie and spirit, and goodbye to Jess, James, Tim, Daniel, Tanya, Sarah, Jo, Alex and Jamie.



Insert: Tanya, Grace, Tom, Karen, Steve; Back row: Adele, Jess, Rumbo, James, George, Felicity, Tim, Daniel; Front row: Sarah, Jo, Kelly, Travis, Trish ; Sitting: Alexandra, Susan, Jamie, Nicole

WHS WORKSHOP

The Australian Age of Dinosaurs would like to thank the Winton Ambulance Committee (WAC) for donating an automatic external defibrillator. Felicity, Susan, Kelly, George, Steven and Trish took part in the CPR and defibrillator workshop hosted by Ryan Lindsay, our local paramedic. The new defibrillator has been installed and is ready to use in case of emergency.



NEWS FROM THE JUMP-UP

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Winton Mayor Butch Lenton sadly passed away on Friday 1 October following a two-year battle with cancer. Winton, its people and the Museum have lost someone great. A man who, at every opportunity, promoted his home town, its attractions and the unique community spirit of western Queensland. Butch was instrumental in redeveloping the Waltzing Matilda Centre, implementing the geo-thermal project and enhancing the film industry. He loved Winton and was a true champion for his community and the Outback region. Winton has lost a true leader, visionary and legend.

Mayor Butch Lenton accepting the Queensland Tourism Award on behalf of the Museum in 2016



DINOSAUR DRIVE

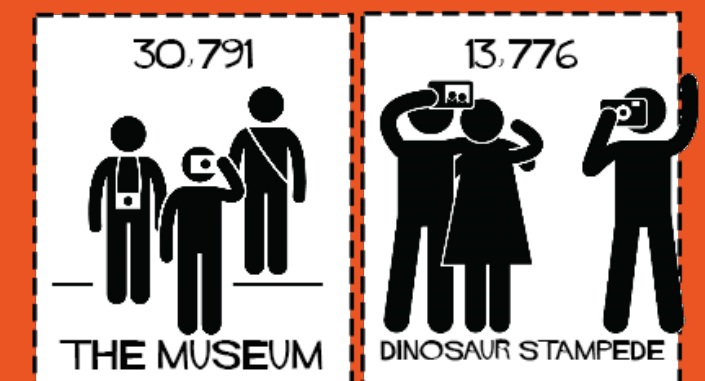
The Winton Shire Council has completed 23.5km of Dinosaur Drive! The new sealed bitumen surface was made possible through additional funding support from the Australian Federal Government and the Queensland State Government. The remaining 1.5km, from the base of The Jump-Up to the Museum gate, is scheduled to be completed by April 2018. While this

will present some delays for visitors to the Museum over the next few months, it will be a fantastic leap forward for the Museum and its accessibility.



The remaining section to be sealed

A RECORD-BREAKING YEAR



January to October visitor statistics

MULTI-AWARD-WINNING



David Elliott, Melinda Watt, Hon Kate Jones MP, Ann Augustine and Daniel Gschwind

SEPTEMBER 2017 QUEENSLAND TOURISM INDUSTRY COUNCIL PRIZE FOR INNOVATION IN TOURISM

In September the Queensland Tourism Industry Council's Prize for Innovation in Tourism was announced in Brisbane. David Elliott attended the event and accepted a runner-up prize on behalf of the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum, alongside the other runner-up winner Capricorn Caves. EarthCheck was awarded the top prize.

The goal of the prize is to encourage individual tourism businesses and the industry as a whole to continually renew, change and create more effective processes, products and services. Tourism Minister Kate Jones said, "Australian Age of Dinosaurs and Capricorn Caves both demonstrate innovative tourism product by combining

education and research as part of their investment in new visitor experiences. They both cater to increasing visitor expectations for unique experiences, but also have the potential to enhance our understanding of the past and future through collaborative education and research efforts and to grow our \$25 billion tourism industry."

QTIC CEO Daniel Gschwind said, "The QTIC Prize for Innovation in Tourism is an opportunity for Queensland tourism businesses to be publicly acknowledged for their dedication to develop products, services or processes designed to drive our industry forward."



OCTOBER 2017 QUEENSLAND TOURISM INDUSTRY COUNCIL YOUNG TOURISM LEADER

In October Museum Tour Guide Grace Elliott received the Queensland Young Tourism Leadership Award for 2017. The Young Tourism Leaders program is an initiative of the Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games supported by the Departments of Education and Training. This program aims to provide influential and inspiring role models for young people considering a long-term career in the tourism industry. The young leaders chosen will be inspiring, passionate individuals who represent a business or perhaps an industry sector. Grace is one of the Museum's senior guides and a

Savannah Guide who inspires our visitors at every chance she can. Grace is a fantastic role model for the staff and will now impart her knowledge and passion in the tourism industry to school children right across the central west. Congratulations Grace – the team at Australian Age of Dinosaurs are proud of you.



Hon Kate Jones MP and Grace Elliott

NOVEMBER 2017 OUTBACK QUEENSLAND TOURISM ASSOCIATION MAJOR TOURIST ATTRACTION

In November the Outback Queensland Tourism awards were held in the historic town of Cloncurry. Amongst the Outback's finest, Australian Age of Dinosaurs received the Major Tourist Attraction award.

On accepting the award, Business Development Manager Naomi Miles said, "Receiving the Major Tourist Attraction award in Outback Queensland is absolutely thrilling as the hard work, dedication, support and passion of everyone involved in the Museum is recognised. Thank you Winton Shire Council, Outback Queensland Tourism Association (OQTA), Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ) and Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) for your continued support and encouragement. I would also like to thank everyone who

submitted an application to the awards; it was a privilege to attend and be surrounded by such passionate ambassadors for the Outback".

Congratulations to other award winners Kronosaurus Korner, Outback Aussie Tours, Kinnon & Co, Mount Isa Rodeo, Goldfields Hotel, Lakeview Caravan Park, Julia Creek Visitor and Information Centre, McKinlay Shire Council, BooBook Ecotours, Cobbold Gorge Village, Camden Park Station and Bob Wilson.



Winton Mayor Shane Mann and Naomi Miles

'TIS THE SEASON AUSTRALIAN MISTLETOE

BY KAREN CORKILL

Last season, over summer, whilst working at Dinosaur Stampede, I took up birdwatching. Armed with new binoculars and a bird book I ventured into the wide world of birds and, in a short time, successfully began to identify the birds around the Lark Quarry, including a spinifexbird.

After the summer it was time to get ready for the annual Savannah Guide School, which this year was hosted by the Museum. As part of my training I learnt about all the plant life on The Jump-Up, including the fascinating life-cycle of mistletoe. Mistletoe is distributed by *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*, commonly known as the mistletoebird. By eating the seeds and transporting them through its deposits the trees are dispersed further than their initial parent tree.

One particularly interesting fact about this dispersal was that as some deposits land on the branches of other trees, the seeds, despite their aerial location will begin to grow. Following my training at the Savannah Guide School I arrived eagerly back at Dinosaur Stampede with a keen eye ready to spot more birds and their... deposits.

On a cool, windy day, with my camera in hand, I zig-zaged through the spinifex. Before long I spotted a lone bird in a nearby gum tree. Through my binoculars I could easily see a distinctive red breast and a few red tail feathers. As I crept closer to the tree the black and white feathers on the birds breast under the red feathers, confirmed my suspicions. I had finally identified a mistletoebird. As the little bird took flight I watched as it landed on another branch and left an oddly shaped deposit.

On closer inspection I noticed that the low hanging branch now contained a long, pale-green, sticky substance with three seeds inside. I swiftly took some photos and made a mental note to return. Over the next few days the deposit started to dry out and sprout, sending shoots along the branch. My

only concern was that the mistletoebird had left its deposit on a dead branch.

**DAY
1**

As my shift at Dinosaur Stampede came to an end I realised I wasn't going to be able to check on the sprouts for another 26 days. Unable to curtail my curiosity, I managed to hitch a ride with another staff member back to Dinosaur Stampede 12 days later to find they were still alive and had grown a little more.

**DAY
2**

Unfortunately, when I returned two weeks later for my next shift the mistletoe had begun to turn brown and was almost dead. Even though the mistletoe wasn't growing, my interest in mistletoe was.

In search of more mistletoe, I soon discovered a small acacia shrub at the nearby dam with a few flowering mistletoe plants attached to it. Closer inspection revealed that the entire tree was covered with mistletoebird deposits and mistletoe sprouts in different stages of growth.

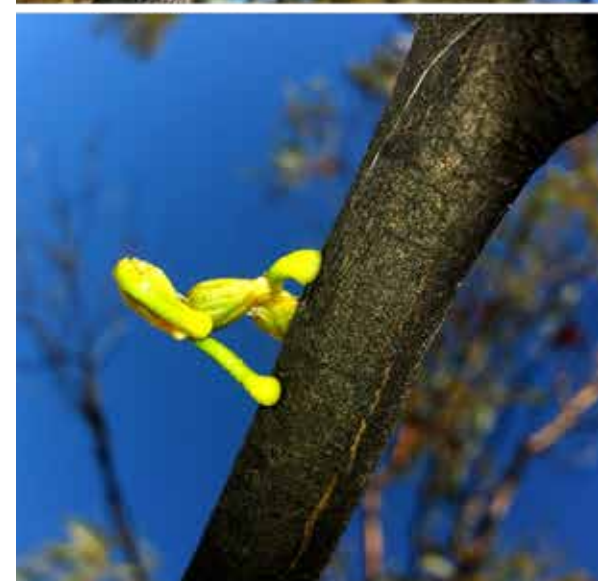
**DAY
3**

Through my research into the phenomenon I found it only takes 4–15 minutes for the mistletoebird to deposit mistletoe seeds after eating them—explaining the well-covered acacia shrub. I have been photographing some of the seeds that are sprouting and will follow their progress over the coming months. Little did I know that bird watching was going to lead to a fascination with the humble mistletoe plant!

**DAY
4**



Australian mistletoebird



RACING DUNNIES

Screaming fans, loud music and 18 dunnies dolled up and ready to race. On Friday 22 September it was derby time again. Crowds of people from all over Australia gathered at the Eric Lenton Memorial Recreation Ground for the 2017 Quilton Australian Dunny Derby. This year's Museum dunny, the *Savanna-sore-ass*, was in with a chance! The Museum team consisted of Tom (Jockey), Grace, Jo, Tim, Travis and George (sub) with Felicity as trainer.

In their first race they were up against Runny Rumps (*Winton Butchers*) and Piratesofthecara-peein (*Wando Connection*). It was a tough race, with pirates, dinosaurs and butchers everywhere. The traditional Dunny Derby start commenced with the jockeys running to their dunnies with their undies around their ankles. Sadly, the Museum team lost and went straight into

the constipation stakes. "I thought I was going to die," said Tom.

The final race was against Norweld Nuggets (*Tully Tigers*), Forpoops Sake (*Senior Shitzens*) and The Hot Box (*Gabrielli Greats*). The team took off with a smooth start and, for a moment, it looked like a sure thing until the other teams caught up and their luck ran out.

Controversially, *The Hot Box* team were disqualified for leaving their jockey behind. The final results were *Norweld Nuggets* first, *Savanna-sore-ass* second and *Forpoops Sake* third. Although they still came somewhere near last overall, it was unanimously agreed to be completely worth it.

For more results of the 2017 Quilton Dunny Derby head to the Winton Outback Festival website: www.outbackfestival.com.au



The Savanna-sore-ass team



TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS



On the first day of Christmas, the Museum sent to me:
An ammonite in an inland sea



On the second day of Christmas, the Museum sent to me:
two tiny Matildas and an ammonite in an inland sea



On the third day of Christmas, the Museum sent to me:
three terrible Banjos, two tiny Matildas and an ammonite in an inland sea



On the fourth day of Christmas, the Museum sent to me:
four ancient cycads, three terrible Banjos, two tiny Matildas and an ammonite in an inland sea



On the fifth day of Christmas, the Museum sent to me:
five dinosaur tracks... four ancient cycads, three terrible Banjos, two tiny Matildas and an ammonite in an inland sea



On the sixth day of Christmas, the Museum sent to me:
six Prep-A-Dino participants, five dinosaur tracks... four ancient cycads, three terrible Banjos, two tiny Matildas and an ammonite in an inland sea



On the seventh day of Christmas, the Museum sent to me:
seven new holotypes, six Prep-A-Dino participants, five dinosaur tracks... four ancient cycads, three terrible Banjos, two tiny Matildas and an ammonite in an inland sea



On the eighth day of Christmas, the Museum sent to me:
eight flying pterosaurs, seven new holotypes, six Prep-A-Dino participants, five dinosaur tracks... four ancient cycads, three terrible Banjos, two tiny Matildas and an ammonite in an inland sea



On the ninth day of Christmas, the Museum sent to me:
nine palaeo salads, eight flying pterosaurs, seven new holotypes, six Prep-A-Dino participants, five dinosaur tracks... four ancient cycads, three terrible Banjos, two tiny Matildas and an ammonite in an inland sea



On the tenth day of Christmas, the Museum sent to me:
ten unprepped fossils, nine palaeo salads, eight flying pterosaurs, seven new holotypes, six Prep-A-Dino participants, five dinosaur tracks... four ancient cycads, three terrible Banjos, two tiny Matildas and an ammonite in an inland sea



On the eleventh day of Christmas, the Museum sent to me:
eleven blazing meteorors, ten unprepped fossils, nine palaeo salads, eight flying pterosaurs, seven new holotypes, six Prep-A-Dino participants, five dinosaur tracks... four ancient cycads, three terrible Banjos, two tiny Matildas and an ammonite in an inland sea



On the twelfth day of Christmas, the Museum sent to me:
twelve tired Minmi, eleven blazing meteorors, ten unprepped fossils, nine palaeo salads, eight flying pterosaurs, seven new holotypes, six Prep-A-Dino participants, five dinosaur tracks... four ancient cycads, three terrible Banjos, two tiny Matildas and an ammonite in an inland sea!

P A L A E O P E T E F U N



Dinosaur Word Search

To complete the puzzle find all the words listed below...

Have fun!

~~AUSSIE~~

AUSTRALIA

BANJO

CANYON

CLANCY

CRETACEOUS

ELDERSLIE

ELLIOT

FOOTPRINT

FOSSIL

HOLOTYPE

MATILDA

MINMI

QUEENSLAND

SAUROPOD

STAMPEDE

THEROPOD

WADE

WINTON

I	A	U	S	S	I	E	D	I	E	N	E	Q	T	S
O	M	S	A	U	R	L	S	I	T	P	U	A	N	T
R	U	N	L	E	I	K	L	H	Y	E	G	I	I	A
C	A	H	I	S	H	S	E	T	E	Z	B	L	R	M
R	U	F	S	M	R	R	O	N	Y	A	M	A	P	P
E	U	O	T	E	O	L	S	F	G	Q	W	R	T	E
T	F	V	D	P	O	L	A	A	K	Q	A	T	O	D
A	W	L	O	H	A	N	C	D	U	C	D	S	O	E
C	E	D	Y	N	C	J	O	L	L	R	E	U	F	W
E	U	C	D	M	D	A	R	T	A	I	O	A	Q	M
O	E	L	L	I	O	T	N	O	N	N	T	P	L	P
U	A	U	B	A	N	J	O	Y	H	I	C	A	O	M
S	N	D	V	K	I	H	G	W	O	T	W	Y	M	D
O	T	N	W	O	B	B	B	P	K	N	X	D	V	Q
M	N	K	S	E	Z	X	E	J	A	A	C	V	G	R

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS

It's that time of year again! Stuck for unique gift ideas? We have you covered.

COELUROSAUR FOOTPRINT IN BOX



\$19.95

\$8.00



DINOSAUR DUST IN GLASS VIAL

NOVELTY NOBLE EXPRESS PLATES



\$29.95

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AAOD Journal – a subscription to the acclaimed AAOD Journal, released once a year, delivered to your home!

AAOD Journal, Issue 15 (due February 2018)



from \$24

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