

Australian Age of  
Dinosaurs

museum  
newsletter

March 2018, Issue 25



CELEBRATING TEN YEARS  
**TRISH SLOAN**

Issue 25, March 2018

# NEWS FROM THE JUMP-UP

## LIGHTING DINOSAUR STAMPEDE

Taking good photos at Dinosaur Stampede National Monument has always been a bit difficult as light and shadow are needed to see the depth of the footprints clearly. After listening to this feedback from visitors the Museum decided it was time to shine a light on the problem. Five studio lights were attached to the walkway, casting shadows over the trackways. With these new lights in place it is possible to see footprints that were completely invisible previously. If you haven't been to see the trackways then now is the time to really see them!



*Dinosaur Stampede National Monument is home to the only known dinosaur stampede on the planet*

## AAOD JOURNAL, ISSUE 15 ARRIVES!

In February the annual publication of the AAOD Journal, Issue 15, was released. This year's Journal features articles by renowned palaeontologists and researchers on Australia's unique natural history. Articles include:

- ***The Last Last Labyrinthodonts*** by Dr Anne Warren
- ***Palaeo Penguins*** by Dr Travis Park
- ***Time Capsules of Ancient Life*** by Garry K Smith
- ***Take Palaeontology to New Heights*** by Dr Tim Holland
- ***The Early Cambrian on Kangaroo Island*** by Dr Natalie Schroeder
- ***The Koonwarra Fossil Bed*** by Dr Stephen Poropat

If you would like to renew or check your membership details visit the Museum's website and select *Museum Membership*





# NEWS FROM THE JUMP-UP

## QBR DISCOVERS DINOSAURS

On 11 March Winton played host to the Queen's Baton Relay for the upcoming Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. From the 13 Winton relayers chosen, Stephanie Greenwood carried the baton to The Jump-Up and around the Museum. While the baton's 388-day journey across the Commonwealth is almost over, Winton and the Museum can proudly say that Outback Queensland's prehistoric past has been represented!



## RECEPTION CENTRE MAKEOVER

As part of the Museum's strategic plan is to better accommodate large numbers of visitors, while continuing to provide world-class service, a new welcome desk is being custom built by Show Works Creative Solutions. The new desk will be installed

in March and will include space for four terminals, plenty of storage and custom add-on features for EFTPOS and receipt printers. The welcome desk is one of several upgrades to the Reception Centre that will occur over the next few months.





# SUMMER WORKSHOP: JUDY

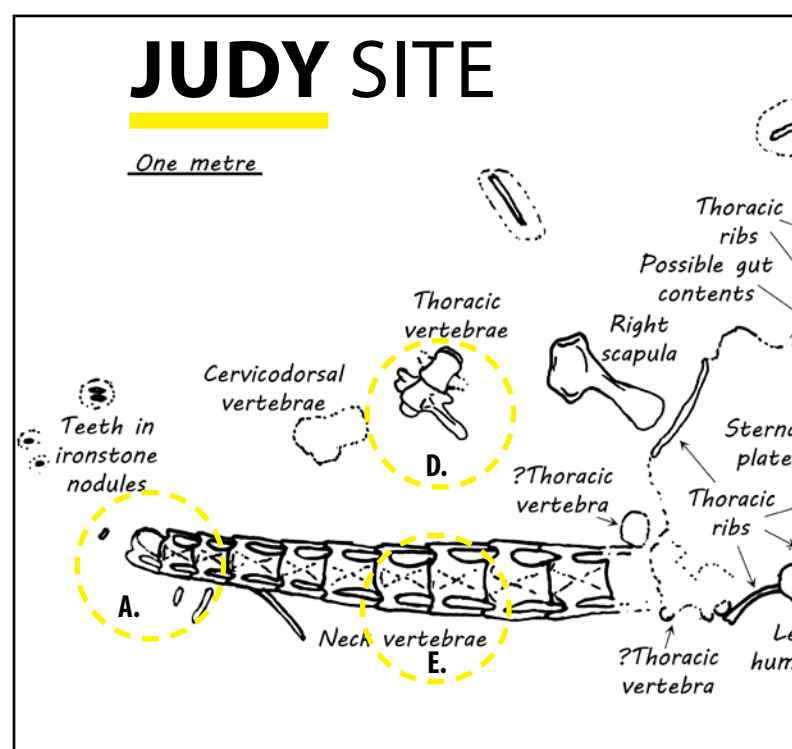
Earlier this year the Museum's annual summer workshop began with the opening of several plaster jackets from the Judy site dig. With help from the Museum's Honorary Technicians, preparation work is progressing quickly. This year's workshop is focused on preparing the exciting new find from last year's dig: a juvenile sauropod nicknamed Judy.

Maxine **(A)** is prepping the top section of the sauropod's neck around what is hoped to be fragments from the back of the skull. Ironstone nodules containing what look like teeth were uncovered near this area during the dig.

Joan **(B)** is working on the sauropod's left ulna and there is still quite a lot of rock to remove. When the bone was flipped a metacarpal or toe bone was discovered. It can be seen in the foreground in the middle of the jacket lying across the length of the ulna.

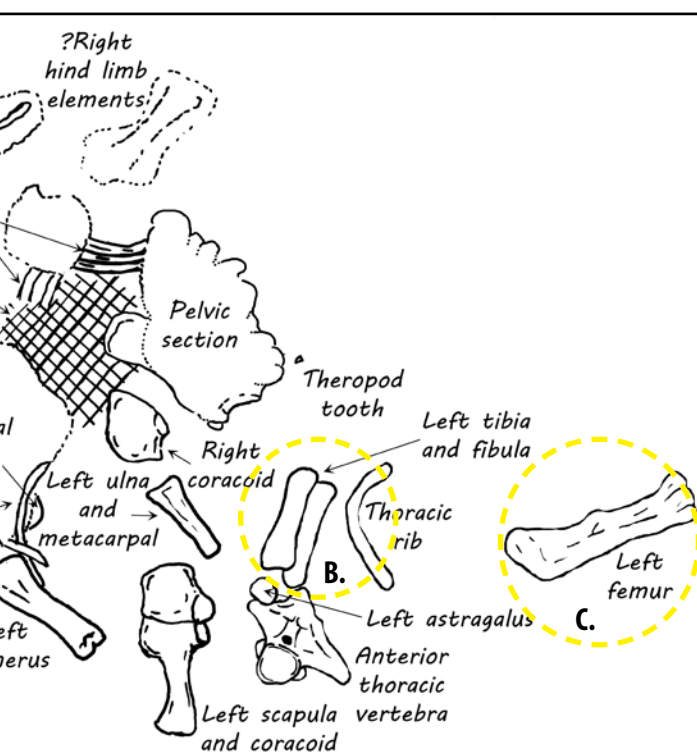
Margo **(C)** is prepping the left femur that was located away from the main carcass. It is remarkably well preserved with a smooth bone surface.

Similar to the femur, the dorsal vertebra **(D)** was found away from the main carcass, high in the deposit within the blacksoil layer. This articulated vertebra appears to have been kicked or pulled out of the main body section, possibly by another dinosaur.





Denise is working on the long, thin cervical ribs (**E**) that sit beside the cervical vertebrae. These ribs were up to three times the length of the neck vertebrae and were probably very flexible in life. Some of these ribs have been twisted under the neck, making preparation particularly difficult. As the time draws nearer to make a fibreglass jacket to hold the complete neck, there is much discussion about how to proceed.





## CELEBRATING TEN YEARS

# TRISH SLOAN



On 11 February 2008 Trish Sloan began working for the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum. Ten years later a group of past and present staff and volunteers celebrated the milestone with a surprise party on The Jump-Up. The evening was filled with live entertainment, speeches, messages and stories about Trish's many dinosaur adventures.

While Trish officially started at the Museum in 2008 as a Tourism Officer her career with dinosaurs began a lot earlier as a Tour Guide at Dinosaur Stampede National Monument, dinosaur dig cook on Belmont Station and later as a Fossil Technician.

Trish has helped build a world-class Museum, moving from the Elliott's make-shift fossil laboratory at Belmont to The Jump-Up site in 2009. Trish has seen the Fossil Preparation Laboratory, Maloney Lodge, Reception Centre, Staff Amenities and Dinosaur Canyon

built during her time with the Museum. On a personal note, Trish has worked with over 91 staff members, consumed 1,876 litres of coffee and spent nearly \$20k on fuel driving to and from the Museum.



*Trish prepares a fossil in 2008*

In the last ten years Trish has become a qualified workplace trainer, Work Health and Safety representative, accredited Savannah Guide and trainer, photographer and collections management professional.

Aside from these studious endeavours Trish:

- was recognised in 2015 as Australian of the Day by the Commonwealth Bank
- has co-authored several scientific papers on four new species of Australian dinosaurs (*Australovenator wintonensis*, *Diamantinasaurus matildae*, *Savannasaurus elliottorum* and *Wintonotitan watti*)
- had a dinosaur named in her honour (the former Pete site located 80m from the site of Dixie is now nicknamed Trixie)
- has travelled extensively around the world, from Africa to Antarctica
- has her own photography business and
- is a proud homeowner!

With a 6,000 square metre Museum on the cusp of construction and many more projects not yet conceived, it is exciting (if not daunting) to think of all Trish's new achievements over the next ten years.

Congratulations (Trish) for all your hard work and dedication. You should be

#### Q & A with Trish Sloan

**You've been on many digs and discovered amazing fossils. Which discovery had you most excited?**

*Without a doubt, last year's excavation of the Judy site. During this dig we excavated a well-preserved juvenile sauropod in life position. Fossil preparation during the summer workshop has confirmed this is going to be a very remarkable little dinosaur!*

**What was your most embarrassing moment at work?**

*Definitely my 'incredible hulk' moment. During one of the digs I was busy plastering a fossil when my old favourite dig pants ripped in multiple places, simultaneously. I am still living it down!*

**What is something about yourself that would surprise the people you work with?**

*I have a Nanny/Governess certificate combined with a Certificate IV in Children's Services. Surprisingly, these qualifications have come in handy over the years!*

incredibly proud of your achievements to date and, on behalf of the entire Museum, we wish you every happiness and continued enthusiasm for the next ten years.



2015 Australian of the Day recipient Trish Sloan



AUSTRALIAN AGE OF DINOSAURS

# EASTER ON THE JUMP-UP



A PREHISTORIC-LOAD OF FUN!

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## 9AM EASTER EGG HUNT

**EASTER SATURDAY** 31 March 2018  
RECEPTION CENTRE

Bring the children along to hunt for real dinosaur eggs. Find the golden egg and win the **Golden Egg Prize!**

**FREE** tours for Winton residents

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For more information visit [australianageofdinosaurs.com](http://australianageofdinosaurs.com)



# EDUCATION TOURS GO LIVE

In late February Ben Newsome, Managing Director of *Fizzics Education* in New South Wales, visited the Museum to introduce staff to virtual excursions and remote education programs. This exciting development has been a long time coming but, with the improvements to the Museum's internet speed, is now possible.

During the session Ben showed Museum Tour Guide's Tom and Grace how to setup the hardware as well as engage with children across the new medium. As a Churchill Fellow, Ben has a wealth of experience providing educationally fun content to audiences across Australia and overseas. There is still quite a bit of work involved to finalise the equipment and content, but this will be an exciting way to introduce Australian natural history to the world.



*Tours conducted online to multiple schools at once*



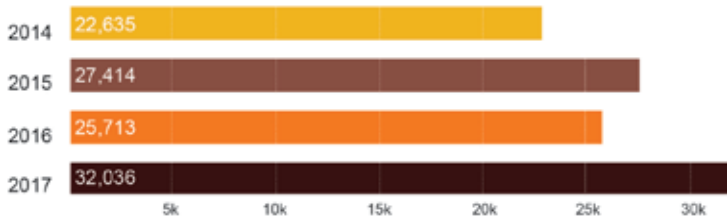
*Ben demonstrates video conferencing to Grace and Tom in the Collection Room*



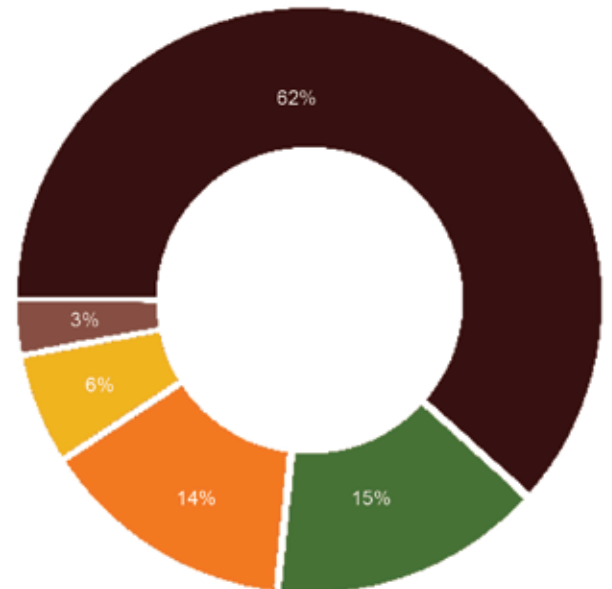
## AUSTRALIAN AGE OF DINOSAURS

# 2017 VISITATION OVERVIEW

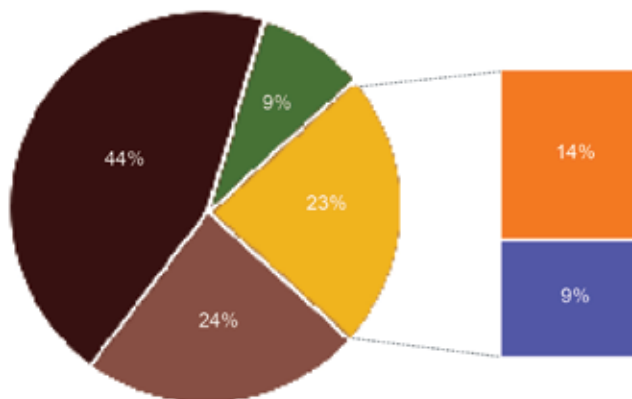
Total visitation



Visitor ticketing mix



Visitor types (excluding group bookings)



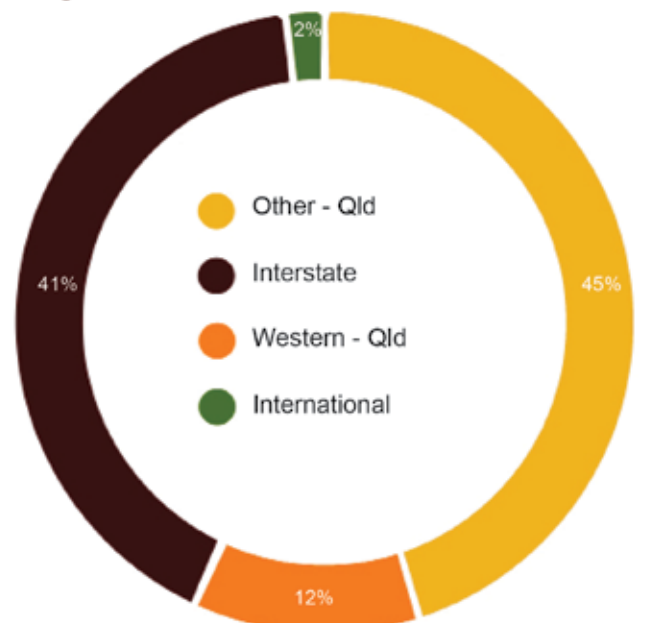
- Concession
- Child
- Adult
- Family
- Family - Child
- Family - Adult

- General admission
- Group booking
- Winton Dinosaur Capital of Australia Pass
- Australia's Dinosaur Trail Pass
- Free of charge

### Far more than a Museum...

In April 2017 Australian Age of Dinosaurs opened **Dinosaur Canyon** to the world. The new experience includes five outdoor exhibits featuring life-sized bronze dinosaurs, the Cretaceous Garden and Dinosaur Canyon Outpost. Since its opening 62% of all visitors to the Museum visited Dinosaur Canyon.

Origin of visitors



Our guiding values: Shared curiosity, Passionate customer focus,  
Fair dinkum integrity, Dynamic evolution



# PALAEOPETE FUN



Colour and  
Count  
**Banjo<sup>2</sup>**

How many squares are surrounding Banjo?

*Hint: Colour in the squares as you count them!*

**Rwarr!**



## MUSEUM SHOP

Unique Australian natural  
history products at  
affordable prices.

**Your one stop shop!**

**ORNITHOPOD  
FOOTPRINT IN BOX**



**\$39.95**

**\$14.95**



**DINOSAUR STAMPEDE  
TEA TOWEL**

**\$9.95**



**AUSTRALIAN AGE  
OF DINOSAURS  
DRINK BOTTLE**

**NOBLE EXPRESS SINGLET**

**\$24.00**



Head to the Museum Shop  
[www.australianageofdinosaurs.com](http://www.australianageofdinosaurs.com)