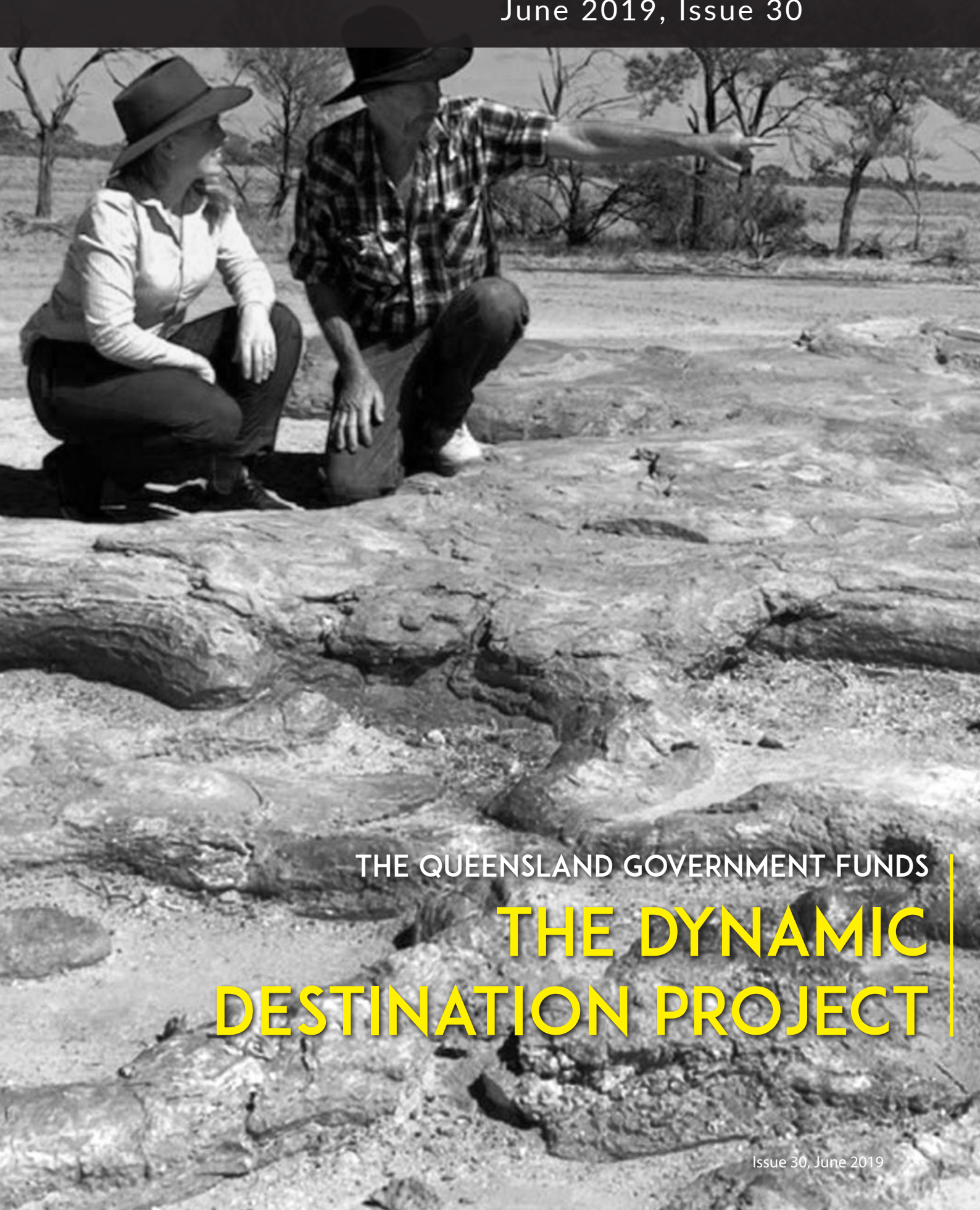


Australian Age of
Dinosaurs

museum
newsletter

June 2019, Issue 30



THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT FUNDS

**THE DYNAMIC
DESTINATION PROJECT**

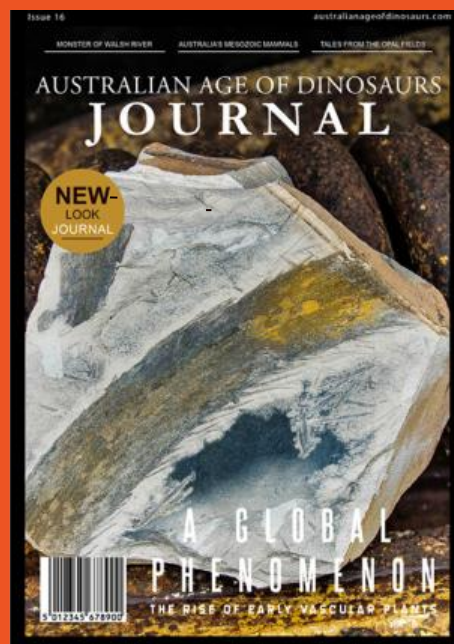
Issue 30, June 2019

NEWS FROM THE JUMP-UP

UPDATE ON AAOD JOURNAL, ISSUE 16

The new-look AAOD Journal, Issue 16, is still being finalised. Unfortunately, the publishing team were not able to send it by April as originally planned, but it has now gone to print and will be sent by late June. We apologise for this unprecedented delay; it's something we do not intend to repeat!

If you would like to check the status of your Museum membership you may do so by clicking [here](#). Thank you again for your ongoing patience!



NEW-LOOK JOURNAL

EDUCATION OUTREACH

Education Co-ordinator and Youth Tourism Leader Grace Elliott has been expanding the Museum's education outreach program. Accompanied by PhD student Adele Pentland, Grace made four school visits in Charters Towers over the last three months. During these visits Grace and Adele conducted in-depth talks that ranged from regional and palaeo-tourism to the intricacies of field palaeontology. These talks have been developed to give local students an understanding of the extraordinary opportunities and finds that exist in Outback Queensland.

Ranging from years 10 to 12, the students who attended these talks were interested in considering career pathways in the local area. With over two-thirds (69%) of Australians living in major cities, it is important that the remaining 31% in regional, rural and remote areas have the same opportunities and community benefits. With this in mind, these talks by Grace and Adele aid in creating a supportive community environment

for young people to discover pathways from education through to employment – particularly when the opportunities exist within their own backyard.

If you or someone you know is interested in gaining practical experience in tourism, palaeontology, hospitality or museum services, please contact Grace about the Museum's work experience and internship positions. Email [Grace Elliott](#) today.



NEWS FROM THE JUMP-UP

EASTER ON THE JUMP-UP

On 20 April the Museum held its annual Easter Egg Hunt on The Jump-Up. In addition to the Hunt itself, other activities included tic-tac-toe with eggs and footprints and a miniature six-pin bowling game. Visitors were able to post their visit highlights using a personalised social-media selfie frame provided by the Museum.

The sausage sizzle was carried out by volunteer BBQ *aficionados* Luke and Graham and Café Co-ordinator Janette. With almost 50 children attending the event, the Hunt was a resounding success!



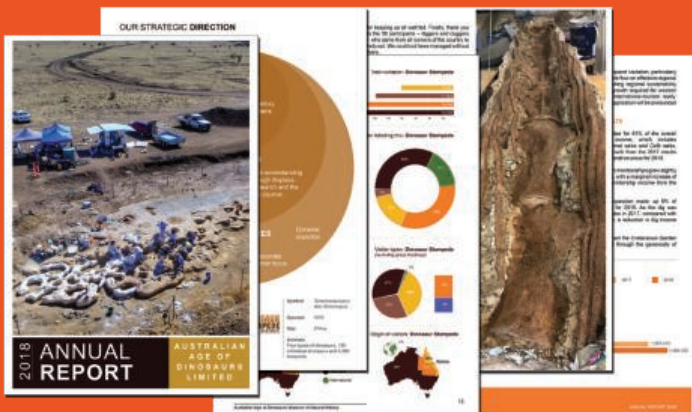
ART ON THE JUMP-UP

In March award-winning artist and leading Australian landscape painter Joe Furlonger held a "working *en plein air*" workshop in Winton. Artists from across the country attended to draw and paint scenes from around Winton including the Museum's Dinosaur Canyon. This event was held in conjunction with The John Villiers Outback Art Prize at the Outback Regional Gallery, Waltzing Matilda Centre.



AGM AND ANNUAL REPORT

The 2019 Australian Age of Dinosaurs annual general meeting (AGM) was held at 5pm on Sunday 26 May 2019 at The Winton Club, 27 Oondooroo Street, Winton. The AGM was attended by seven company members and twelve proxies. For those interested in reading the Museum's 2018 Annual Report it can be viewed or downloaded [here](#)



OUTBACK ON TOUR

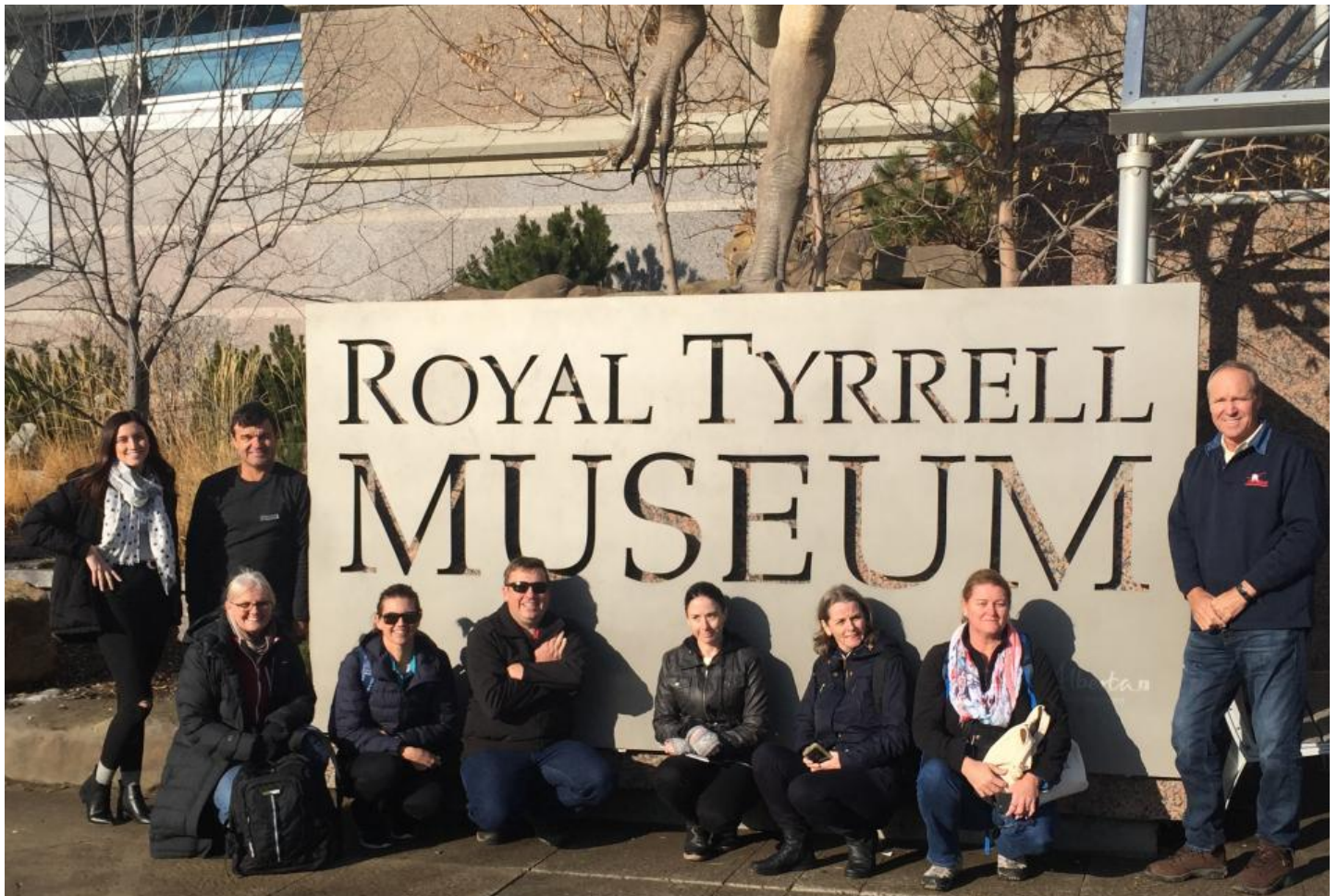
From 25 March to 2 April Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ) hosted a Palaeo-Study Mission across Canada and North America. Representatives on the trip included Matt Bron and Amy Merriweather (TEQ), Gavin Baskett and Jaci Laidler (Winton Shire), Sherilee Honnery (Flinders Shire Council), Becky Kuhl (Kronosaurus Korner), Robyn MacKenzie (Eromanga Natural History Museum), Stuart Mackenzie (Quilpie Shire) and Naomi Miles (Australian Age of Dinosaurs).

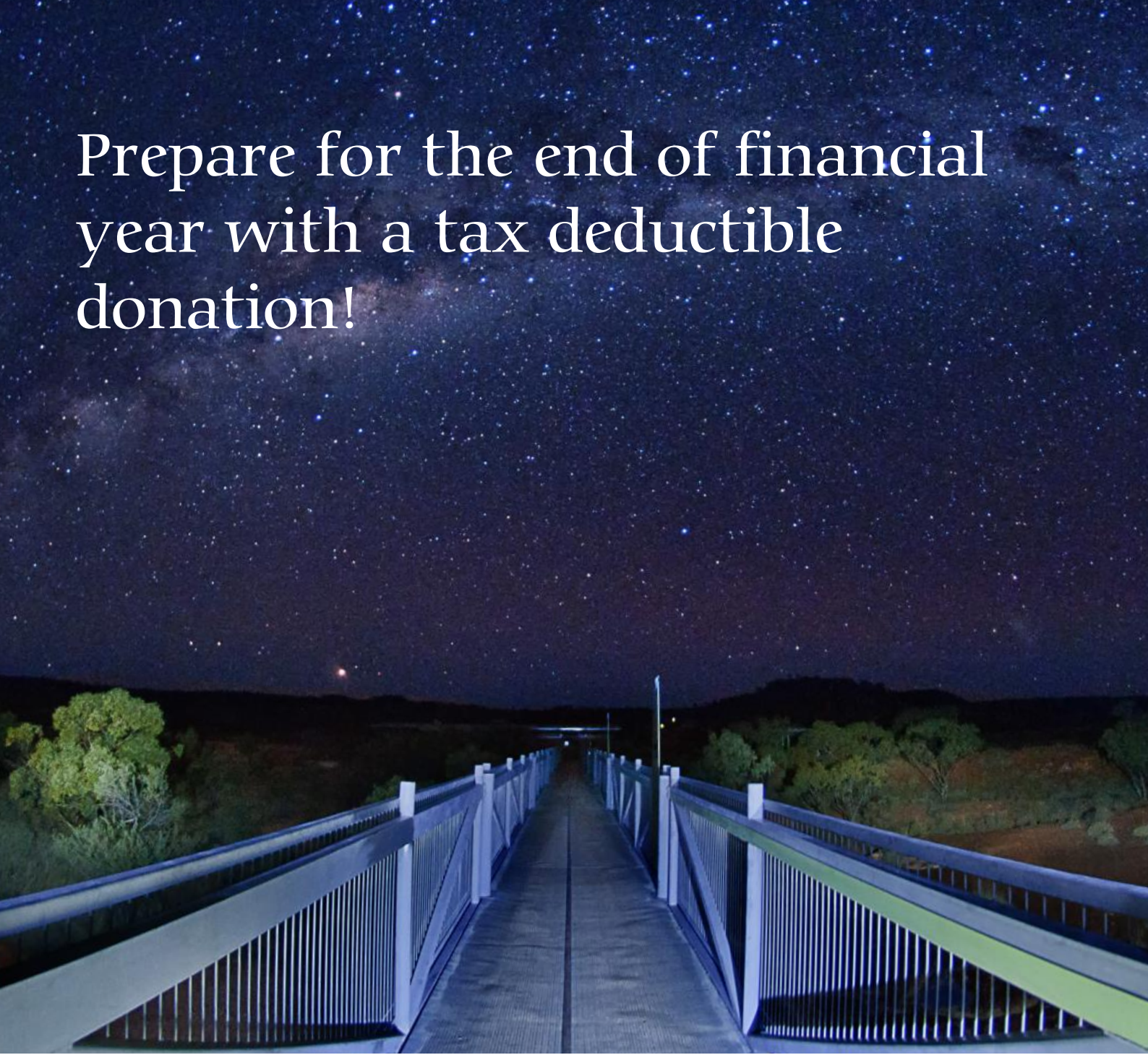
Over the last ten years Outback Queensland has been at the epicentre of prehistoric tourism development. So much so that palaeo-tourism/dinosaurs has been identified as one of four distinct destination 'hero' experiences that have

also been adopted by the Outback Destination Tourism Plan 2017–2020.

The aim of the trip was to experience world-class attractions and form collaborative partnerships and connections with similar attractions within the Outback region.

Support amongst all attractions in the Outback is necessary to create attractive and vibrant town precincts and regionally diverse world-class attractions to develop dynamic destinations. From this trip it is hoped that new partnerships across the region focusing on prehistoric-tourism collaboration will be expanded to build our collective profiles and brand.





Prepare for the end of financial year with a tax deductible donation!

PHOTO STEVE LIPPIS

THE AAOD LEGACY FUND

was established to build an investment portfolio that will provide ongoing and permanent income for operations and development of the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum of Natural History.

Every time you make a gift to the AAOD Legacy Fund your charitable donation is tax deductible. As long as your donation is \$2 or more, you will most likely be able to claim the full amount of money that you donated on your tax return (check with IRD if you are unsure). Tax deductible donations are a great way to give your tax refund a boost while contributing to a worthy cause. The AAOD Legacy Fund relies on the generosity of Museum supporters to ensure a lasting legacy to Australia's natural heritage.

To donate, visit [make a donation](#) and in comments write: AAOD Legacy Fund.

LABORATORY UPDATE

Every year as the weather cools and the flies disappear Prep-A-Dino participants from around the country flock to the Fossil Preparation Laboratory. With this help, Lab staff have now opened almost all of the Judy-site plaster jackets and preparation has commenced on the second side of Judy's neck vertebrae, tibia, fibula and dorsal vertebra.

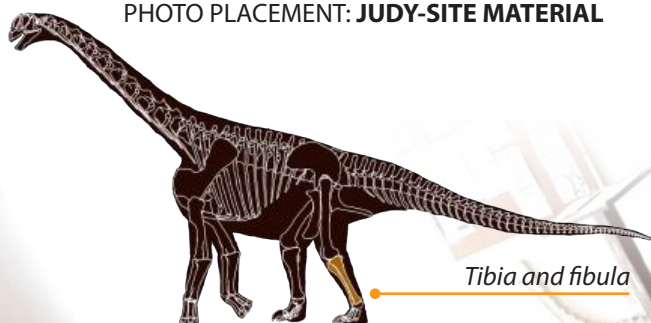
As the majority of the Judy-site fossils are either prepared or nearing completion, work has now begun on the Trixie site material, starting with the sauropod's

fibula and a vertebra. The fossils are in excellent preservation condition.

The second scapula, part of a rib and bits of vertebrae from the Matilda site are also in the last stages of preparation and puzzling. The Lab team are confident the last of the Matilda fossil material will be completed by the end of the year.

As preparation continues the Lab team have also sieved an extraordinary amount of site matrix ready for upcoming work-experience students with sharp eyes and patience to consolidate. Without these dedicated Museum volunteers and enthusiasts the progress on Australian palaeontological discovery and conservation would be greatly hindered.

PHOTO PLACEMENT: **JUDY-SITE MATERIAL**





Left: John Carlow preparing a tibia from the Judy site. Above: Bev Gordon carefully preparing the fibula from the Judy site.





THE QUEENSLAND
GOVERNMENT FUNDS

THE DYNAMIC DESTINATION PROJECT

In late June 2019 the Queensland Government officially awarded the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum a share in the \$36 million Growing Tourism Infrastructure (GTI) Fund to deliver the Dynamic Destination project: to build the Gondwana Stars Observatory and *March of Titanosaurs* exhibition.

Tourism Industry Development Minister Kate Jones said the funding is part of the Government's \$180 million commitment to future-proof Queensland's tourism industry. She said, "This fund is about developing new attractions that will bring more visitors to the state, increase visitor nights and increase spending. The work we do in encouraging new infrastructure will create new, sustainable tourism jobs for the future.

"The Observatory will complement the Museum's international designation as

Hon Kate Jones and David Elliott OAM examine the sauropod trackway recently relocated to The Jump-Up. PHOTO MELANIE ANDERSON

Australia's first International Dark-Sky Sanctuary.

"The *March of the Titanosaurs* exhibition will contain two life-sized sauropods, two ornithomimids and five coelurosaurs cast in bronze and is a welcome addition to the home of the largest Australia dinosaur fossil collection.

"Supporting these new attractions will be key operational infrastructure including paths, seating, lighting and a shuttle bus

shelter station and roadway."

The Museum's Executive Chairman David Elliott said the Dynamic Destination project was expected to lift visitation by 250% over its first five years of operation. He said, "This equates to an additional 7,000 visitors a year with total visitation expected to climb to 60,000 by 2024.

"Based on a conservative two-night stay (on average) in Winton, the economic impact of international and domestic visitors is



estimated to be \$8,814,000 to the Winton community over the five years between 2020 and 2024."

The Museum expects the Dynamic Destination project will play a major role in the future of tourism in regional Queensland and Australia. The project will introduce Australia's best-preserved sauropod dinosaur trackway and a wide range of fascinating night-sky experiences to Outback Queensland's already-significant tourism attractions. This catalyst project

will greatly expand visitation, particularly in summer, and provide flow-on effects to regional businesses, strengthening regional sustainability and instigating the growth required for western Queensland to be international-tourism ready.

The Dynamic Destination project will be ready to open to the public by the middle of 2020.

GONDWANA STARS OBSERVATORY

The Gondwana Stars Observatory will be situated approximately 100m south-west of Dinosaur Canyon Outpost. Its design is in keeping with the Museum's visual brand and values, incorporating the red-rock and rust themes of other public infrastructure on The Jump-Up. The building walls will be concrete tilt panels that assume the texture and colours of a meteorite in the middle of a simulated impact crater, reflecting the bolide impacts that have caused world extinction events throughout deep time.

MARCH OF THE TITANOSAURS EXHIBITION

To protect the newly discovered sauropod trackway, an architecturally designed air-conditioned building will be erected over it. A disabled-certified pathway will circumnavigate the trackway and solar panels will supply power for air conditioning and lighting. Landscaping will be in keeping with other public buildings at the Museum. This 100sqm building will be located 150m west of Dinosaur Canyon Outpost and 100m north-west of the Gondwana Stars Observatory.



THE JUMP-UP IS AUSTRALIA'S FIRST

INTERNATIONAL DARK-SKY SANCTUARY

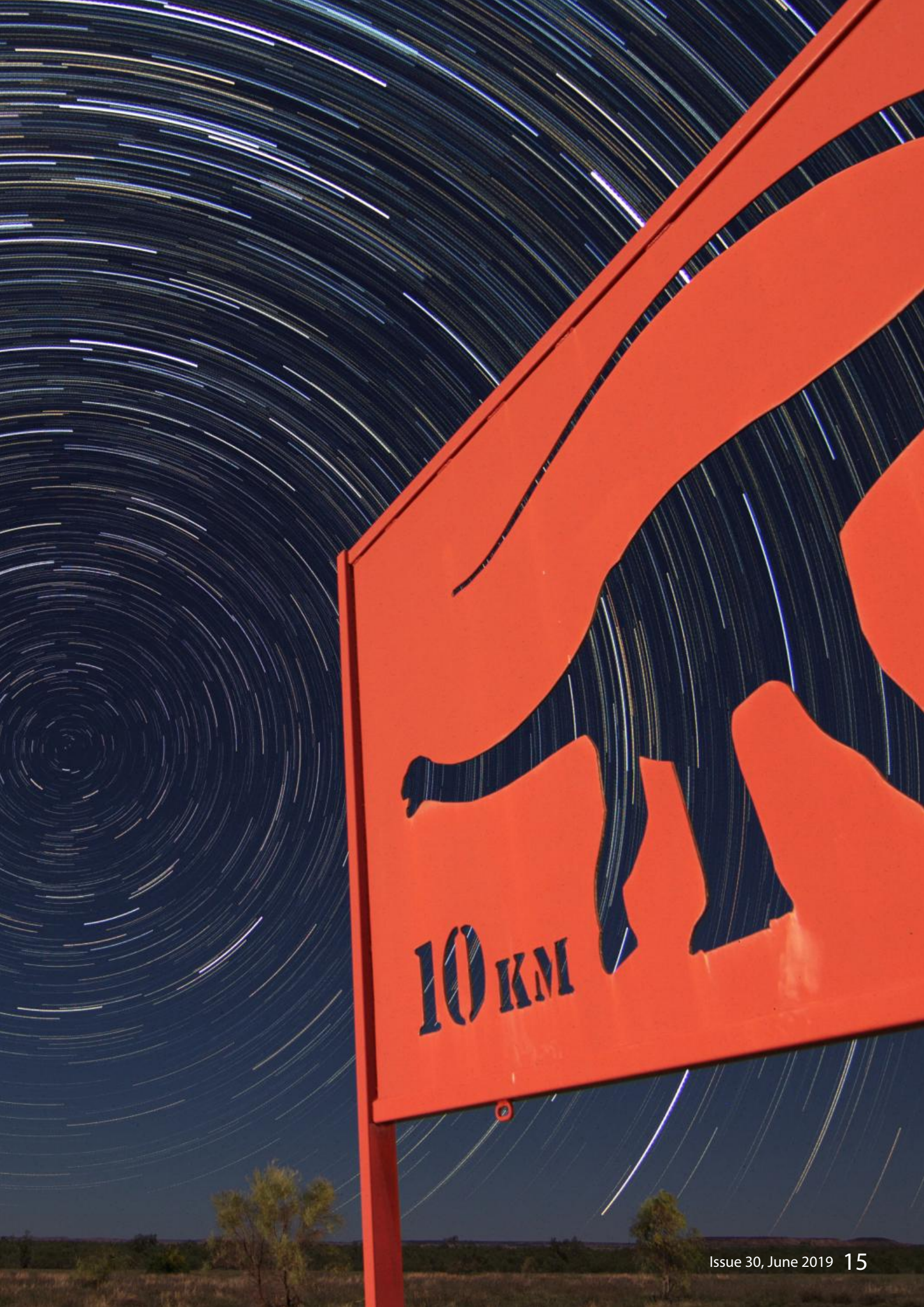
On 27 April the Museum site, The Jump-Up, was designated Australia's first International Dark-Sky Sanctuary by the International Dark-Sky Association.

Since 2016 Grant Salmond and Kate Louis have collected and collated night-sky brightness readings using a Unihedron hand-held Sky Quality Meter and later using two stationary Unihedron Sky Quality Meters (SQM) at sites across the Museum. The data collected overwhelmingly demonstrated that the night sky above The Jump-Up is exceptionally dark.

In fact, 40% of The Jump-Up's average monthly sky-quality measurements have equalled or exceeded 21.5 magnitude per square arcsecond (mpsas), and from February 2018 to November 2018 over 60 nights were recorded with an average

Looking towards The Jump-Up, with the Museum's iconic Elliot sign in the foreground. PHOTO GRANT SALMOND





10 KM

measurement greater than 21.75 mpsas. The Jump-Up rates between a class 1 to 2 on the Bortle scale and achieves a typical luminance of below 0.2 millicandela per square metre (mcd/m²). Night-sky brightness readings of 21.5 mpsas or greater on The Jump-Up are common and in complete agreement with visual observations.

International Dark-Sky Places Program Manager Adam Dalton calculated that from November 2018 approximately 70% of recorded measurements on The Jump-Up were between 21.33 mpsas and 21.99 mpsas – making the Museum site home to one of the darkest night skies in the world.

Through the compilation and adoption of a formalised Lighting Management Plan the Museum has committed to the long-term integrity and protection of the dark skies above The Jump-Up. To this end, a public night-sky viewing area, The Star Gallery, has been made available to visitors year-round and the recently funded Gondwana Stars Observatory will be developed. The Museum will continue to develop relevant tours and educational programs focused on understanding the benefits of truly dark skies to the environment and our own well-being.

A big thank you to Grant and Kate for their enthusiasm and commitment to the exceptionally dark skies above The Jump-Up

To read the Museum's application to the International Dark-Sky Association, click [here](#).

Even on the outskirts of the Winton township the night sky is exceptionally clear and bright. PHOTO STEVE LIPPIS





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PALAEOPETE FUN

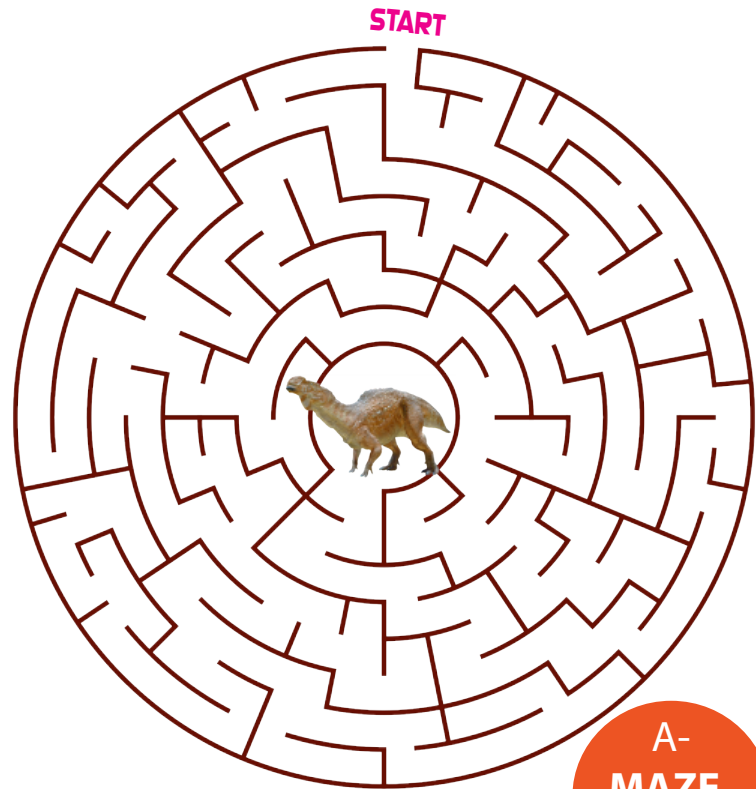
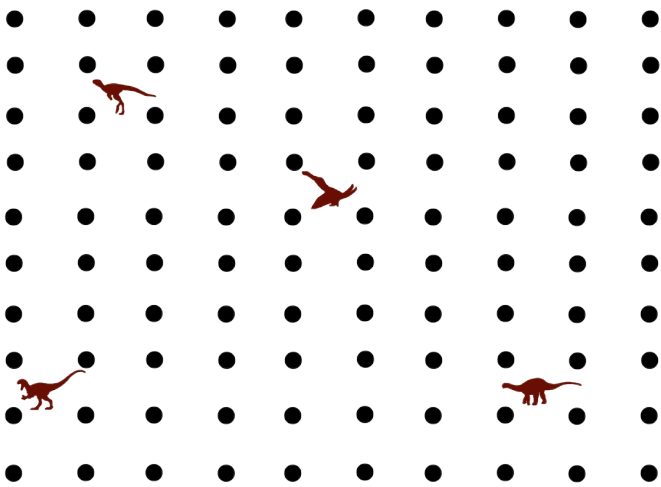


HOW TO PLAY

Find the lost dinosaur in the centre of the maze then **UNSCAMBLE** the words below to discover the name of the dinosaur.

It's time to box!

HOW TO PLAY With a friend, take turns drawing horizontal or vertical lines between two dots until your lines complete a box. Try for a box that has a prehistoric animal in it. The player completing most boxes wins!



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Answer on page 12

MUSEUM SHOP

Unique Australian natural-history products at affordable prices.
Your one-stop shop!

This jewellery has been made by local palaeontologist Adele Pentland.

Adele is studying Australian pterosaurs as part of her PhD through Swinburne University, subsidising her research with the sale of these fashionable creations.



AVAILABLE ONLINE

Head to the Museum Shop
www.australianageofdinosaurs.com