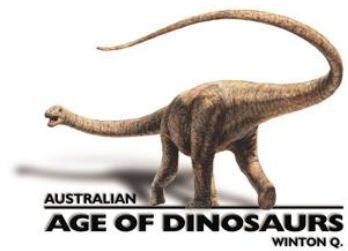


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David Elliott named a 2025 Queensland Great

Trailblazing palaeotourism pioneer honoured for founding the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum of Natural History

- David Elliott, founder of the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum of Natural History, named a 2025 Queensland Great.
- Curated the world's largest collection of Australian dinosaur fossils.
- Pioneered palaeotourism, boosting science, education and the Outback economy.
- Put Winton on the global map as a major destination for palaeontological discovery.

The Queensland Government has today announced David Elliott, founder of the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum of Natural History, as one of the 2025 Queensland Greats – honouring his extraordinary contribution to science, tourism and education in Queensland and beyond.

David Elliott's achievements have transformed the cultural and scientific landscape of regional Australia. As the visionary behind the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum in Winton, Mr Elliott pioneered the concept of *palaeotourism* – establishing a world-class institution that houses the largest collection of Australian dinosaur fossils, including several species previously unknown to science. His work has not only put Winton on the map but has also influenced state-level tourism planning, with palaeotourism recently recognised in the Queensland Government's *Destination 2045: Delivering Queensland's Tourism Future* as a key focus area for developing and promoting dinosaur tourism experiences and increasing awareness of the state's unique fossil heritage.

Through hands-on visitor experiences, community-led dinosaur digs, and ground-breaking scientific collaborations, Mr Elliott has brought natural history to life for people of all ages – drawing thousands of visitors annually and delivering lasting economic and educational benefits across Outback Queensland.

"This recognition is a huge honour, not just for me, but for everyone who has helped bring the Australian Age of Dinosaurs to life," David Elliott said. "I never imagined a fossil on a sheep station would lead to all this – it just shows what's possible when people come together with passion and purpose."

From grazier to pioneer of palaeotourism, David Elliott is a living example of citizen science making a global impact. By establishing a world-class museum and fossil program, David's passion and perseverance have transformed how Australia connects with its prehistoric past.

The Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum of Natural History is located in Winton, Queensland. As a not-for-profit charity, its mission is to inspire people about Earth's deep time past and future by delivering extraordinary experiences that focus on Australia's natural history. Built in stages since 2009, the Museum is now preparing for its final and most ambitious stage: a 10,000-square-metre Museum of Natural History that will showcase prehistoric life across the Australian continent throughout deep time.

David Elliott joins a prestigious list of Queenslanders whose lifelong contributions have helped shape the state's identity and progress – including former Winton Mayor Graham “Butch” Lenton and Australian Age of Dinosaurs Patron, Dame Quentin Bryce.