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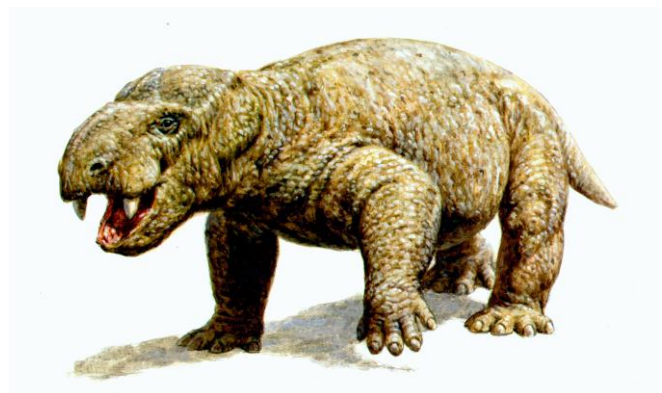
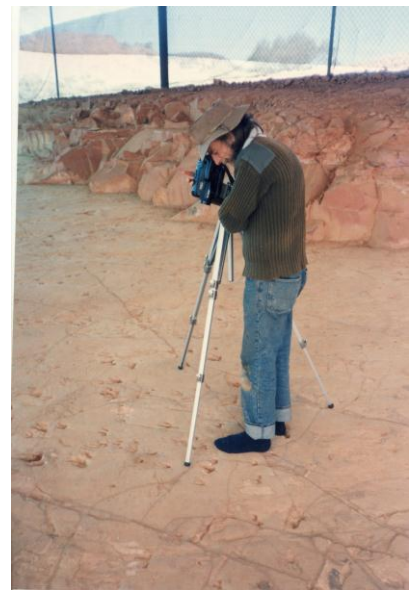
## *Fossil-Hunting in Australia*

*Presented by Susan Turner & Tony Thulborn*

Date: Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2014  
Time: 6.30 pm – 7:45 pm  
Venue: Conference Room 2 at Atkins China Ltd., 13/F Wharf T & T Centre, Harbour City, TST  
Seminar Fee: Free of charge  
Registration: Prior registration is required, please email Ms. Kitty CHAN at [kitty.chan@arup.com](mailto:kitty.chan@arup.com) to reserve a seat. Seating capacity is limited to 30 and the applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Attendance CPD certificates will be provided.

### **Synopsis:**

Ever since the arrival of the first European naturalists, Australia has been regarded as the home of bizarre creatures. The extinct animals of Australia are no less peculiar and thought-provoking than those that exist today, though the flat and deeply-weathered continental interior has always presented a serious challenge to palaeontological exploration. Nevertheless persistent effort and the introduction of alternative approaches have yielded many important, and sometimes surprising, discoveries of ancient vertebrate animals over the past 30 years. These range in age from Ordovician to Late Cretaceous and include some of the earliest jawless fishes and weird-looking sharks through to some of the most ancient terrestrial vertebrates, dinosaurs, pterodactyls and mammal-like reptiles. Such unprecedented discoveries are furnishing a wealth of unexpected insights into the evolution, distribution and life-habits of Australia's ancient vertebrates.



## About the Speakers:

### Dr. Susan Turner

She was trained in geology at Reading University in the 1960s, specialising with Honours in vertebrate palaeontology. She stayed on as research curator in the departmental museum. She began doctoral research in 1967 and gained her Ph.D. on biostratigraphy in the classic Silurian-Devonian of the Welsh Borderlands concentrating on early jawless fish. In mid-1971, Sue moved to the Hancock Museum, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, to be geological assistant, curating the classic Carboniferous Coal Measures fossil collection. She became a Junior Associate (1966) and then a Fellow of the Geological Society (1970), gaining the J.S. Tyrrell Fund in 1991 for research and field work in New Brunswick, Canada.



Re-education as a “Gondwanan” began in 1980 when she became an Australian resident and joined the Queensland Museum. She has now spent more than half her working life in Queensland conducting scientific and historical research wholly on soft money, especially on biostratigraphical use of early vertebrates and the understanding of ancient sharks.

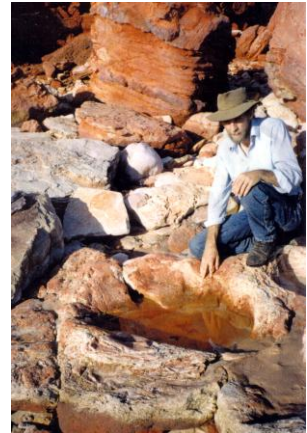
She was an Australian Research Fellow (1996-2000) and co-led a major international research programme for UNESCO:IUGS (IGCP 328:1991-1996). A highlight was the D.A.A.D. Visiting Professorship at University of Hannover in Germany (1998-1999), Australian Academy Exchange to China (1984, 2004) and Visiting Professor to University of Lanzhou in 2008 working with the Palaeobotany Department.

Her work has taken her to many countries, including Canada, China, Baltic States, and Iran. With the challenges of the knowledge industry in the last twelve years, she has 're-invented' herself as a consultant, writer, editor, historian of science and geotourism promoter.

### Dr. Tony Thulborn

He studied Geology (BSc, 1966) and Zoology (PhD, 1970) at the University of London and worked briefly in Britain and Germany before taking up a post-doctoral fellowship in the Department of Geology at the University of Birmingham, UK. In 1974 he moved to Australia, to teach and continue research in vertebrate zoology and palaeobiology at the University of Queensland, and soon began to work in collaboration with the Queensland Museum, where he was appointed permanent Honorary Research Fellow. In 2006 he retired early, in the hope of clearing a backlog of unpublished research.

His research interests lie in the area of Vertebrate Palaeobiology - the 'natural history' of extinct animals, mainly dinosaurs and other Mesozoic reptiles. In 1976 he joined the late Dr Mary Wade (then curator of Geology, Queensland Museum) in excavating and describing the Lark Quarry dinosaur track-site in western Queensland, now an Australian National Monument and the world's only known example of a dinosaurian stampede. That work (1979-1989) provided some unexpected insights into dinosaurian biology, including estimates of average and maximum speeds for all dinosaurs and was reputedly the inspiration for scenes of a dinosaurian stampede in Steven Spielberg's 1993 movie Jurassic Park.



Subsequently he went on to produce the first scientific textbook on Dinosaur Tracks (1990) and since 1993 he has been investigating some of the world's finest assemblages of dinosaur tracks along the western coast of the Kimberley region, in Western Australia. Other subjects of research have included mammal-like reptiles, pterosaurs ('pterodactyls'), sauropods ('brontosaurus'), plesiosaurs, trace fossils such as coprolites, eggs, nests and bite-marks, the earliest dinosaurs and the famous fossil 'bird' Archaeopteryx. Currently he is attempting to synthesize evidence from palaeontology and embryology in the hope of understanding the evolutionary development of avian wing structure.