



DINOQUEST: A SUCCESS



Image courtesy of P. Vickers-Rich

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In last year's Field Report we got a sneak peek into the making of *DinoQuest - An Exhibition* hosted by the Singapore Science Centre with teams from the Singapore Science Centre, Digimagic, dezinformat and PrimeSCI! working together to bring our Australian polar dinosaurs to the world.

This year, we can walk you through the exhibition and tell you that, of course, it has been a thundering success! So much so, that the exhibition in Singapore was extended to October 2019, after which it will become a travelling exhibition.

The exhibition itself is very reminiscent of being on one of our digs. First you have to express your intent to dig this year (get your RFID ID card complete with a bone for you to identify in the exhibition) and travel to beaches where dinosaurs rest (go through the Time Tunnel).

Of course, nothing quite captures the imagination like giant and tiny beasts (which were reconstructed with meticulous skill by Peter Trusler working with the researchers — with visitors able to digitally take part in the process). Then the pièce de résistance — finding a fossil, presenting it to Lesley (in the

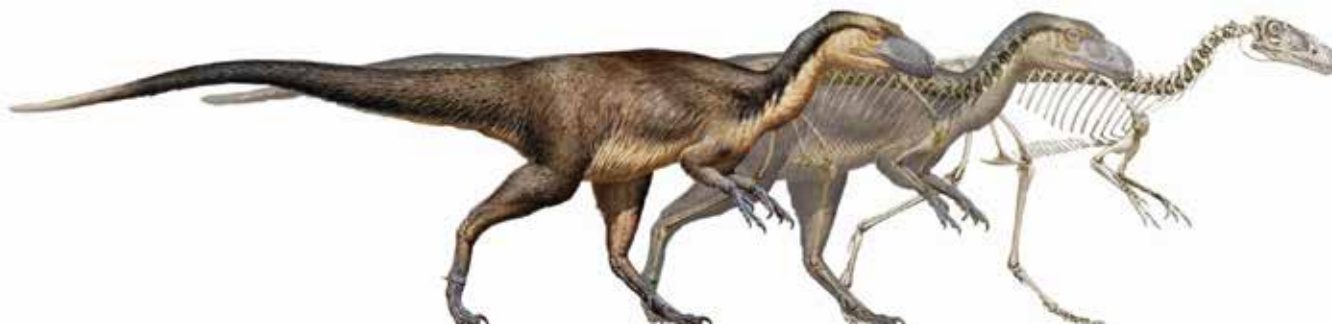


DinoQuest RFID Card

Image supplied by P. Vickers-Rich

exhibition she is represented by one of the explainers) and getting that big thrill when she makes her “that’s interesting” sound (watch as 3D holographic mapping brings fossils found to life). The teams working on this exhibition went all out to make sure that people visiting DinoQuest got a clear understanding of the scientific process and a very similar experience to our digs on the coast of Victoria.

In fact, the entire exhibition had many interactive elements, including 3D props that people could touch, animatronics, and an actual dig site where people could see into a pit or walk into a reconstruction of the entry to the tunnels at Dinosaur Cove and try out the dig jackhammer (the Atlas Copco Cobra) for themselves. Within the Laboratory, visitors could go to the Bone Station where they could drill into rocks from Dinosaur Cove to discover actual fossils!



Peter Trusler's reconstruction of Timimus as a basal tyrannosauroid — specially crafted and financed for release at the launch of DinoQuest

Image supplied by P. Vickers-Rich



Image supplied by P Vickers-Rich

Peter Trusler's studio at DinoQuest

A favourite of the kids was the finale of the exhibition. There they were able to identify the unknown bone given to them at the start on their RFID ID card, scan it in along with all the data they had collected at the many info stations, and get a printed reconstruction of unknown fossils they had been assigned. They could then colour this printout of the reconstruction, scan the finished product and see it up on screen as a moving image. Their ancient critter came to life before their very eyes, and those of all the other visitors near them.

It was really inspiring to see families getting into the interactive elements that taught them how current science is done, how important it is to be as accurate as possible in palaeo-reconstructions, and learning why most of the dinosaurs, even the polar ones, went extinct. Most importantly, it taught them how we might use our super-brains to live sustainably on the planet we call home and not go the same way as most of our polar dinosaurs — except perhaps the small tyrannosaurids and their relatives that now fly.



Image supplied by P Vickers-Rich

Welcoming sign to the Singapore Science Centre's DinoQuest, with Prof V and T. Rex, her assistant (do they look familiar? — add about 40 years).

RECENTLY PREPARED FOSSILS



PHOTOS BY LESLEY KOOL



Theropod tooth from Flat Rocks



Pterosaur tooth from Flat Rocks



Dinosaur caudal vertebra from ETRW 2017



Ornithopod premaxillary tooth



Pterosaur tooth from Flat Rocks