



New evolution history 'for the birds', plus Just So you know "How the turtle got its shell along with more fossil Aussies and ... wait for it ... special query about UWA's (Upright Walking Apes). All this as John Mackay talks to several hundred students as you read today's ENEWS, and the rest of the team around the globe digs up evidence for God's handiwork in Creation and Judgement. Now enjoy Evidence News 10/13 with EDitorial COMment from the Creation Research Team worldwide.

P.S. Don't miss John Mackay in New Zealand next week.

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*ENews is available in 2 FORMATS – for EMAIL scroll down – for PDF see below index.*

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**1. CHECK OUT** our Museum gains...you'll luv em! [CLICK](#).

**2. QUESTION:** Upright Walking Apes? "I watched a documentary recently where Bonobo monkeys were shown walking upright all the time. Doesn't this prove we came from the ape family?" [Answer](#) by Diane Eager.

**DID YOU MISS:** Blood Groups: "How did so many differing blood types i.e. A B AB O & Rh come from only 2 people, Adam & Eve? What blood group could they have been?" [Answer](#).

**3. DESPERATE AUSSIE PM GILLARD** slams males in female vote blackmail speech. What is the truth about abortion? See our YOUTUBE documentary [CLICK](#).

**4. NOTABLE QUOTABLE ON RACISM:** “Before being ashamed of our simian ancestry we ought to study the lower races of men. We should then find that the degrees of differences, mental and physical, between the highest apes and the lowest men are by no means very great. “Some animals have more intelligence than some men,” writes Dr. Hornaday, “and some have better morals. I would rather descend from a clean, capable and bright minded genus of apes than from any unclean, ignorant, and repulsive race of genus *Homo*... There are millions of members of the human race who are more loathsome and repulsive than wild apes.”

From UK Surgeon Rear Admiral C. M. Beadnell, 1948 A Picture Book of Evolution, published by Watts & Co London...it probably helps to know this man was also President of the Rationalist Press.

**5. AUSSIE FOSSIL ATE SOFT LEAVES** claim scientists, according to a report in ABC News in Science 29 May 2013 and a University of Queensland (UQ) press release 30 May 2013. Scientists working at Riversleigh in north Queensland, Australia, have found “an exceptionally well-preserved partial skull” of an extinct species of koala. The animal was about half the size of a modern day koala, but had larger eye sockets. It has been named *Litokoala dicksmithi* and is dated as being over 20 million years old. The researchers suggest large eyes and small body size indicate it had better vision, and was more agile and active than living koalas, and may have been nocturnal. According to the UQ article: “Unlike today’s eucalypt-munching koala species, *Litokoala dicksmithi* fed on the rainforest plants that covered much of northern Australia 20 million years ago and may also have eaten some fruit. The onset of drier conditions in Australia about 15 million years ago led to the contraction of rainforest habitats and the apparent extinction of many koala species including *Litokoala dicksmithi*”. There are now 18 extinct fossil koala species, but only one still living.

Link: [ABC](#)

ED. COM. This rather elaborate story built on one partial skull, may however be true, but not because of evolution. If 18 species of koala once lived in a fully rainforested Australia, that is good evidence both the Australian environment and koalas have gone downhill. The one species of koala that survives in the eucalypt forests of Australia is another good example of survival, but not of evolution. It survives because it can digest the tough eucalyptus leaves and is able to tolerate the oils and other chemicals in these leaves. However, it pays a heavy price for this. This apparently cute cuddly animal expends most of its energy on digestion and detoxification, and therefore spends most of its life in a somnolent state sitting high in gum trees, with little energy for anything else. Even cuddling tourists exhaust them. They survive because there is no competition for eating eucalypt leaves, and no predators that want to eat them.

If koalas were once more numerous, more agile and ate soft leaves and fruit, that is more consistent with the Biblical history of the world, rather than the evolutionary one. Genesis tells us that God created a very good world, but following the Fall of Man and God’s judgement, the world has degenerated significantly, especially after Noah’s flood when extremes of climate set in, and the land mass we now call Australia has dried out. Eucalypts became the dominant trees in the temperate and subtropical regions, not because they evolved here, but because they could survive the harsh environment and other trees could not. As the trees with soft leaves and fruit died out, so did the animals that could only eat soft leaves and fruit. (Ref. marsupials, forest, diet)

**6. FOSSIL PUSHES ARCHAEOPTERYX UP A TREE**, claim scientists, in articles in Nature News, ScienceNOW and BBC News 29 May 2013 and New Scientist 30 May 2013. Pascal Godefroit, a palaeontologist at the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences in Brussels and colleagues have studied a fossil found in the Tiaojishan Formation, in China. The fossil is a four-limbed creature with a tail,

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approximately 50 cm long with similar features to *Archaeopteryx*, including bird-like hip bones and a robust furcula (wishbone). The researchers describe “traces of plumulaceous feathers, comprising a bundle of filaments” along a third of the tail, above the neck, and around the chest, but there are no flight feathers preserved with it as there are with *Archaeopteryx*. The fossil has been named *Aurornis xui* and is dated as 160 million years old.

The fossil is nearly complete so the researchers carried out a detailed comparison of its skeleton with those of 100 dinosaurs and birds, and came up with a computer-generated evolutionary tree. This put *Aurornis* at the bottom of the bird branch, rather than *Archaeopteryx*. *Archaeopteryx* was moved further up the tree, making it definitely a bird, rather than a feathered dinosaur.

The status of *Archaeopteryx* has been disputed ever since it was found, and has been called a bird or a dinosaur according to whatever suited the ever changing evolutionary story. According to New Scientist: “One day the most famous flying dinosaur – *Archaeopteryx* – is a direct ancestor of all modern birds; the next day it belongs to a different dinosaur group, suggesting that feathered flight evolved twice. Practically every new fossil and study forces a rethink.” Ironically, the most recent attempt to knock *Archaeopteryx* out of the bird tree was by Xing Xu, the Chinese palaeontologist the new fossil is named after. (Xu, X., You, H. & Han, F. *Nature* 475, 465–470 2011)

Paul Barrett from the Natural History Museum, London, UK told the BBC that fossils were providing fascinating insights into the emergence of the bird line and the “evolutionary ‘experimentation’ that preceded it”. He commented: “The beginnings of the bird line is all about fine-tuning parts of their anatomy - of their wings, of their hips, of their chest muscles and shoulder girdles, and so on - to make them flight-ready”.

Links: [BBC](#), [Nature News](#), [New Scientist](#)

ED. COM. We can't say it better than New Scientist: “But if history is anything to go by, this won't be the final word on the matter. Another fossil that changes the picture again could be just around the corner – or under the next rock”. Meanwhile Genesis 1:21 continues to state “*God created ... every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good.*” No discovery of fossil or living creatures contradicts that at all. We can also add the idea that evolution was experimenting to make non-flying creatures “flight-ready” is also completely fanciful. Evolution is a totally mindless process that cannot have a goal, such as flight, in mind. Fine tuning structures to make them flight ready requires a creator who knows the physics of flying and what is needed to achieve it, and furthermore, any inadequate experiments do not survive. Just ask any aircraft engineer. (Ref. aves, flight)

For more on the supposed dinosaur-bird transition, see our answer to the question “Don't feathered dinosaurs prove that birds evolved from dinosaurs?” Answer [here](#).

**7. HOW TURTLES GOT SHELLS**, according to articles in ScienceDaily and ScienceShots 30 May 2013, and BBC News 31 May 2013 and Current Biology doi: 10.1016/j.cub.2013.05.003 30 May 2013. An international group of scientists have studied a South African fossil reptile named *Eunotosaurus africanus* and claim to have discovered how reptiles without shells evolved into turtles with shells. A turtle shell is a combination of broad flattened ribs, vertebrae and shoulder girdle bones. *Eunotosaurus* has nine pairs of broad flattened ribs and elongated vertebrae like a turtle, but the ribs and vertebral bones aren't fully fused to form an external shell as in living turtles. It also does not have shell on its belly side, but has gastralia – belly ribs. *Eunotosaurus*, is dated as 260 million years old making it about 50 million years older than the oldest dated turtle. According to Tyler Lyson of Yale University. “*Eunotosaurus* neatly fills an approximately 30–55 million year gap in the turtle fossil record. There are several anatomical and developmental features that indicate *Eunotosaurus* is an early representative of the turtle lineage; however, its morphology is

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intermediate between the specialized shell found in modern turtles and primitive features found in other vertebrates. As such, *Eunotosaurus* helps bridge the morphological gap between turtles and other reptiles.” Links; [BBC](#), [ScienceDaily](#)

ED. COM. This fossil was widely reported in many news sources, nearly all of them using a variation of the statement “How the turtle got its shell” for the headline. This is a good reminder that evolutionary stories are really like the classic “Just So” stories by Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936) which have the titles “How the Camel got its Hump” etc. Kipling’s stories are pure fantasy stories for children, but evolutionary theory uses the same mindset – an animal somehow acquired a new structure it didn’t have due to some outside agency acting on it. In Kipling’s stories it was a human being or a djinn (spirit). In evolution’s case it is the changing environment. However, change in the environment cannot produce the new genes required to give a living thing a new structure. Changing environments can only result in the death of creatures not already able to cope with the new environment. That is what natural selection does – it eliminates living things, it does not create new ones.

And not wishing to bore you but we can’t avoid reminding you that the fact this creature had unusual ribs, and is now extinct, is no evidence that it is an “intermediate form” that turned into a turtle with ribs incorporated into a shell, or that it once had “normal” reptile ribs. No-one has observed an animal with normal reptile ribs change into one with the broad ribs seen in this fossil, so it does not explain how the turtle got its shell. (Ref. bones, reptiles)

**8. FROM THE ARCHIVES:** [Extinct Marsupial](#), [Archaeopteryx](#), [Fossil Turtle](#).

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