



Creation Research News

Evolution of Kissing / TREX at Christmas / Live Snakes / Giant Tadpoles plus much more!

“O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together. I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.” (Psalm 34:3-4)

The past year has been an uncertain one for many people around the world, yet the call of the Christian is to fear not. King David who wrote this Psalm had much to fear from his enemies yet he desired to magnify the Lord and acknowledge His power over all that might cause us to fear. At this time of year, as we remember God’s provision of the saviour to the world we should pause and recall what the angels announced:

“Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:10-11). So put aside your worries and rejoice with us in God’s goodness and magnify Him as creator and sustainer as we provide our last report of the year on ministry work around the world plus, of course, some critiques of the latest creation/evolution issues.

Snakes Alive at Brisbane Creation Discovery Centre!

Redlands Immanuel Lutheran Church had a day out at our Brisbane Creation Discovery Centre and were treated to a live Biblical snake show with new team member and snake handler Josiah



Rossic. See more on Josiah in our Creation News Global with a link at the bottom of this email. While some visitors were a little nervous when a chance came to touch them, they were all non-venomous pythons and not one of the numerous dangerous Australian species. Craig Hawkins came up from Tasmania for the weekend and spoke on the lies of feathered dinosaurs.

The Creation Discovery Centres continue to grow with new displays. The Tasmanian Creation Discovery Centre recently obtained some museum quality amber samples one with a feather inclusion and another with a scorpion. Mass amber deposits with inclusions cannot be explained by an evolutionary worldview but a catastrophic flood provides the mechanism for the huge volumes of damaged trees needed to provide the resin source.



PRINT NEWS available online [here](#).

T-rex Shows Up at Christmas Parade

And now for some Christmas cheer from our USA team led by Glenn and Ruby Wilson who won 2nd place in their category in the Jamestown Tennessee, Christmas parade. The parade theme was Storybook Christmas so a big T-rex with a Dino-Night Before Christmas book on top of the float proved very popular. Others walked in dinosaur costumes and handed out candy and the “Creation Station” trailer declared Jesus as Creator to all onlookers. The team battled 16°F (-9°C) temperatures to set up in the morning. The Christmas parade for our UK team was cancelled due to cold and wild weather so it seems climate change has not helped Christmas conditions in the northern hemisphere yet.



Fossils galore

The Tasmanian creation fossil hunters are back in full swing with numerous more sites across the state being found in the last few months. We continue to build a powerful visual picture of the extent of fossil deposits across the state with six new locations on the east coast, two on the west coast and several more in the north. One beautiful fossil coral was found at Little Beach near Bicheno on the east coast (see picture).



Creation Headlines are a new regular feature on our weekly online broadcast Creation Conversations (check out our Youtube channel [LINK](#)). Some of our recent headline stories are included below for your enjoyment.

The Evolution of Kissing

An evolutionary vestigial action – or unique human characteristic?

The evolution of kissing has been suggested by researchers to have evolved from sucking parasites off each other. A paper in the Journal of Evolutionary Anthropology has looked at the various theories for the evolution of the human kiss. Is it a left-over of chewing up food and transferring it to another individual without teeth, or as

this study suggests, is it a way to clear one's mouth of debris and parasites collected after grooming one another? - A practice that's apparently observed in chimpanzees.



Researchers in this attempt at serious scientific research, conclude kissing is a “vestigial action” - that humans no longer need for hygienic purposes, but have retained as an evolutionary hangover. The kiss as a sign of affection between people of various relationships - is seen on many occasions throughout the Bible including numerous examples in the first book Genesis. The earliest known evidence of kissing in humans outside of the Bible comes from Mesopotamian art which suggests that it is a very early behaviour of humans.

We suggest that an evolution-based worldview will always struggle to explain actions such as kissing or laughing because they are unique human characteristics reflecting unique inter-personal emotions built into us by our creator. We also recommend that next time you want to be affectionate with your special person that you do NOT suggest you spot a parasite on them that you would like to remove or you might just cop something else in the kisser.

Claims - Plate Tectonics Gave Rise to Life A thimble-full of evidence

A Livescience News report asks “did plate tectonics give rise to life”? The report refers to new groundbreaking research on Zircons which are very hardy minerals that don't melt at mantle temperatures. Trouble is, that the total number of these that we have, measures less than a thimble full.

Nevertheless, these Zircons apparently indicate that the earth had water in the very early stages of its existence (sounds very Biblical). But the researchers speculate, [and speculation is a major component of this research], that if there was early water, there may have been early tectonics - and therefore tectonics and cycling of nutrients may have been an important factor in the appearance of life.



But Christians need not fear that this thimble-full of sand mixed with a good dose of wishful thinking, has done away with the need for a Creator. As one skeptical professor of geoscience Mark Harrison (formerly of UCLA) has noted: “The evidence is pretty minimal” and he worries that scientists are over-confident in their claims. He said the last thing we need is a new form of groupthink based on, literally, a thimble-full of sand grains,”

It's great to hear a scientist acknowledging group think, but let us now extend that criticism to the whole idea that life can spontaneously arise - in the first place.

Evolution Stuck in the Mud Humans and Gorillas together on a mudflat walk

Now to Kenya, where scientists have discovered footprints of humans and gorillas together in rocks they believe to be 1.5million years old. Well, they do say that one is a footprint of human-like Homo erectus, and the other is a footprint of gorilla-like Paranthropus boisei – but let's not split hairs. What we are intrigued to know, is how does one distinguish between the human-like footprints of Homo erectus and Homo sapiens – or between the two types of gorillas?

What the evidence actually shows us is that humans and gorillas have always walked around in the same period of time, and this is supported by the fact that other footprints found in the study site included wart-hogs, antelopes and horses. An interesting find, but from an evolutionary point of view – nothing to see here folks.

Forgetting is an Evolutionary Advantage

Don't forget, or Do forget?

And finally, an article reported in *The Conversation* - that really is worth forgetting. Psychologists have suggested that the art of forgetting is an evolutionary advantage. If you didn't forget things and replace it with new information you might just overload your brain or get yourself in a spot of bother. The report cites an example of early humans who regularly visit a waterhole only to one day chance upon a bear down there.



You need to forget that going to the waterhole is a good idea and replace it with a memory of danger -or you might just be eaten by that bear next visit. Trouble is, you need to remember that the bear is dangerous in the first place - or you will soon become extinct, because the bear certainly hasn't forgotten that you are yummy.

But seriously, despite great research on what drives memories, whenever scientists try to add evolutionary story-telling to the origins of complex features, they are denigrating the master designer who put them there in the first place. One might say these researchers are forgetting their place in creation. And the Bible says in Romans 1 that they are deliberately forgetting the Creator.

PART 2 of DEMENTIA STUDY available on request. Please contact us on info@creationresearch.net

Giant Jurassic Tadpole



An international team of scientists has studied the “superbly preserved” fossil of a tadpole found in Patagonia, Argentina, and identified it as the larval stage of an extinct frog named *Notobatrachus degiustoi*. The tadpole is 16cm long, which is huge for a tadpole, and makes it a little larger than the adults of its species. The superb preservation enabled scientists to see the details of its eyes, nerves and other body structures. According to PhysOrg, “The fossil is strikingly similar to the tadpoles of today—even containing remnants of a gill scaffold system that modern-day tadpoles use to sift food particles from water.” The fossil is dated as 161 million years old, making it the oldest fossil tadpole so far found. Fossils of adult frogs have been dated as over 200 million years, so the new fossil is not the oldest frog. However, the scientists claim it shows that the two stage lifestyle must have evolved early in the evolution of frogs and “has remained stable for at least 161 million years.” An article in Science (AAAS) News is entitled “Oldest known tadpole sheds light on origin of two-stage lifestyle.

References: [PhysOrg](#) 30 October 2024; [Science](#) (AAAS) News 30 October 2024; [Nature](#) 30 October 2024, doi: 10.1038/s41586-024-08055-y.

ED. COM. The superb preservation of this fossil with identifiable internal organs could only happen if this tadpole was rapidly and deeply buried. This fossil is another reminder that slow gradual processes do not make fossils. Anyone who has handled a tadpole will know they are soft and squashy, and they only have a cartilaginous skeleton until the latter stages of their part in the life cycle when they start to form bones needed for their adult body.

The only light that has been shed on the origin of tadpoles from this fossil is that tadpoles appear in the fossil record as fully formed functional tadpoles and have not evolved since the time this fossil was buried. The so-called oldest adult frogs are also fully formed frogs with all the distinctive features of adult frogs. This fits with Genesis, where we are told God created separate kinds of animals, ready to reproduce according to their kinds. Therefore, frogs were created with all the genetic information needed to form tadpoles after they had mated

and laid eggs in accordance with God's instructions to be fruitful and multiply. (Genesis 1:22) The more frog and tadpole fossils we find, the more this is confirmed.

Canine Sweet-Tooth Could Pollinate Flowers

Wild dogs, known as Ethiopian wolves, living in the Bale Mountains of southern Ethiopia have been observed licking the nectar of flowers. Following anecdotal reports of wolves appearing to lick nectar scientists followed six wolves from three different packs and observed them foraging among patches of flowering red hot poker (*Kniphofia foliosa*). The wolves appear to enjoy the nectar and deliberately move from one plant to another licking up the nectar and getting their muzzles covered in pollen. According to Oxford University News, "There was also some evidence of social learning, with juveniles being brought to the flower fields along with adults." The article goes on to comment: "This novel behaviour is perhaps the first known plant-pollinator interaction involving a large predator, as well as the only large meat-eating predator ever to be observed feeding on nectar."

References: [Oxford University News](#) 22 November 2024; [ScienceDaily](#) 20 November 2024; [Science](#) (AAAS) News 20 November 2024; [Ecology](#) 19 November 2024, doi: 10.1002/ecy.4470

ED. COM. It is unlikely that the nectar from these flowers contributes much to the nutrition of these wolves, but it is a reminder that wolves and other canines can and do eat plant foods. It is interesting that wolves were even interested in licking flowers if they were really obligate carnivores. In the beginning when God created whole functioning ecosystems, all animals ate plants, and in doing so they would have helped pollinate plants and disperse seeds. After the world was devastated by Noah's flood animals moved into tough environments such as the Ethiopian highlands where plant foods would not sustain them. The Bible also tells us that in the New Heaven and Earth the wolf and the lamb shall graze together (Isaiah 6:25). Maybe flower nectar will be a sweet additive to the diet of both of them.

Birds' Legs Inspire Jump Start Drone

Scientists and engineers at the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) in Switzerland are developing an "uncrewed aerial vehicle", aka a drone, with fixed wings and bird-inspired legs. Most drones are powered by four rotary wings and can take off and land from just about any surface, but they are not the most energy efficient way to fly. Fixed wing aircraft are more energy efficient and can fly for longer, but they need a runway for take-offs and landings. A team of scientists and engineers in Switzerland have taken inspiration from the way birds are able to take off and land without runways, and can also move about on the ground when they are not flying. They have built a small flying robot with fixed wings and a bird-like undercarriage that can hop, walk and jump on the ground, and launch itself into the air with a jumping action like a real bird. The research team studied the structure of bird legs and designed robot legs with moveable joints and energy storing springs that can efficiently propel the craft into the air. The robot has been named RAVEN, for Robotic Avian-inspired Vehicle for multiple ENvironments. Won Dong Shin, one of the engineers, explained: "The RAVEN robot can walk, hop over obstacles, and do a jumping take-off like real birds." The researchers hope to develop their robot for use in search and rescue missions, where it could land and manoeuvre in difficult terrain.

Dario Floreano, of the EPFL's School of Engineering, who led the project, commented: "Avian wings are the equivalent of front legs in terrestrial quadrupeds, but little is known about the coordination of legs and wings in birds -- not to mention drones. These results represent just a first step towards a better understanding of design and control principles of multimodal flying animals, and their translation into agile and energetically efficient

drones.” He also commented: “Translating avian legs and feet into a lightweight robotic system presented us with design, integration, and control problems that birds have solved elegantly over the course of evolution.”

References: [Ars Technica](#) 6 December 2024; [Interesting Engineering](#) 5 December 2024; [ScienceDaily](#) 6 December 2024; *Nature* 4 December 2024, doi: 10.1038/s41586-024-08228-9; [Nature video](#).

ED COM. The project is a good reminder that flying involves more than just having wings. A flying animal needs to be able to take off and land and move about on the ground or in a tree. As the lead engineer stated, there are design, integration and control problems that must be understood and solved before anything can fly autonomously. This team of scientists and engineers solved these by using their built-in intelligence to carefully study the way birds do this, and then make a simple copy using creative design and clever manipulation of suitable materials. They rightly deserve praise for their achievement, but in spite of their intelligence they are fools if they really believe the same results came about by mindless random evolution, or that half-evolved birds elegantly solved the problem of suitable take-off and landing gear.

They should be giving praise to the Creator who made fully functioning birds with all their body parts well designed and integrated together, ready for take off and landing and everything in between. One day all scientists and engineers who have taken inspiration from living things will have to face their Creator. If they have given the credit for the living things they studied to a false god named evolution this will be a terrifying experience. We urge you to come to the Creator, who is Jesus Christ, while you are still in this world, and it will be a joyous experience to meet the One who made the original Very Good world and will create a New Heavens and Earth for us to enjoy forever.

Useful Links from the Archive: [Indian Frog Living Fossil](#), [Oldest Rainforest Frogs](#), [Perching Plane Lands Like a Bird](#), [Old Wolves Had Toy Dog Genes](#), [Frogs as Pollinators](#)

More Creation News from our recent print news mailout: CREATION NEWS GLOBAL is now available. Ministry news and Bible teaching from Creation Research around the world. Highlights include: Ministry in UK, USA and Poland; Exciting new exhibits in our museums; Farewell to Joy, and welcome to Josiah and his reptilian friends; and Museum display wows people at AiG UK conference.

PDF version now available from [here](#).