CREATION RESEARCH

By Christ - For Christ

Creation Research News

August 2025

Megafauna finds in Queensland!

It was wonderful to have some of the far-flung Australian team come together for a fossil dig on the Darling Downs in July including John Mackay, Josiah Rossic, Diane Eager and Craig Hawkins. We were investigating a creek line owned by supporters where a fossilised Diprotodon (extinct giant wombat), marsupial lion (extinct) and giant kangaroo had been discovered in the past. Within a short period of time the well-trained eye of John Mackay saw a bone of a kangaroo sticking out from the bank and we immediately started excavating.

Fossil Kangaroo Bones in situ – Darling Downs, Queensland Australia.

As the lower back and tail vertebrae were uncovered, we discovered something very different. A line of much smaller, lesser developed vertebrae were also present, less than 2cm from and parallel to the larger ones. Our conclusion: there was a baby "Joey" in the pouch! As far as we can tell, this is only the second time a fossil Joey has been found together in close association with the adult.

See the picture below for the bones uncovered. They were heavy and clearly fossilized having been filled with iron, giving many of them a reddish colour.

Our new Brisbane Creation Discovery Centre Display showing the fossil kangaroo bones laid out as they were found

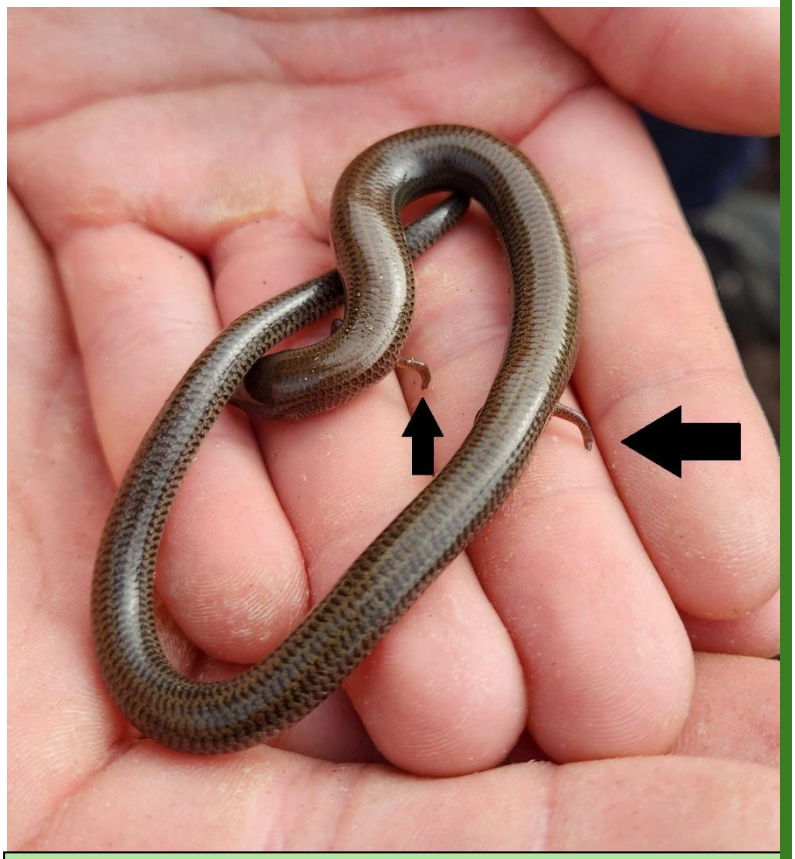
On the next days we also uncovered some yet to be confirmed bones including one possibly of a giant goanna (picture right).

These finds tell us the history of the earth is one of death and struggle resulting from the sin of man. The black soil plains of southern Queensland were formed after the flood as the basalt hills that still dot this landscape eroded. Wet weather can cause these soils to get very boggy and at times this would catch out the large megafauna that had made it to Australia. They would get stuck and die and either sink into the mud or get buried by subsequent flooding which is also common for the area.

Josiah's Reptile Find has a Humorous Twist

During the Darling Downs dig, we accidentally unearthed several hibernating reptile species (all of which were relocated out of harm's way) but one particular species of significance that we found was the Five-clawed Worm Skink, an endangered species of skink found along the western edge of the Great Dividing Range extending down into NSW. At first, John Mackay who led the expedition, joked that if it was a new species he wanted it named after him, so we were most entertained to learn that the skink already shares the same name (*Anomalopus mackayi*).

The most notable feature of this species is its reduced limbs giving it the appearance of a legless lizard, as well as its burrowing habits. Due to its conservation status there is still much not known about *A. mackayi*. We were very lucky to be able to find one. Reduced legs and legless lizards are not evidence of evolution but of devolution. It is change, but it is a loss of structure and function not a gain as evolution requires.



The Five-clawed Worm Skink (*Anomalopus mackayi*). Arrows point to its reduced legs.

Jurassic Ark survives Earthquake

A shake of 5.6 on the Richter scale shook Gympie Queensland on 16th August but our outdoor museum Jurassic Ark did not suffer any damage. Special thanks to all those who phoned in from around the world to check if we were impacted. At first we thought it was our caretaker Daryl making the ground move with his feverish work preparing for the September open day until government sources confirmed it really was an earthquake. According to some sources it was the biggest onshore quake in Queensland for 50 years. (For more details on Queensland Open Days see below.)

Earlier, in July, our skilled team (pictured) made modifications to our strata machine experiments allowing better footage to be recorded. Black and white sands of slightly different grades are poured into the machine and they self-sort into layers and various other formations. It is a powerful demonstration of how layers we see in the geological record can be formed quickly, since the properties of water remain the same irrespective of the scale you are

operating at. This is part of the puzzle in understanding the effects of the global flood of Noah's time, on geology.

Jurassic Ark team with the Strata Machine (L to R): Murray Ritter, Daryl Brenton, Clem Greiger

Sands self-sort into layers in a matter of minutes in the strata machine

Queensland Open Days

Join us for two exciting September Creation Research Open Days

Explore the evidence of God's amazing creation, see new discoveries, and connect with our team. Book now as spaces are limited.

BRISBANE – CREATION DISCOVERY CENTRE OPEN DAY…Saturday Sept 20.

See our new Aussie Flood Opal display. It's spectacularly beautiful and convincing.

Saturday 20th September 2025 Doors open 1:30 pm.

Program 2-4:30pm. Doors close 5pm.

Creation Discovery Centre, 9 Success Street, Acacia Ridge QLD 4110

*Entry is **free** and an offering will be taken to support the ongoing ministry of Creation Research.*

Book your place here: Brisbane Open Day Tickets

JURASSIC ARK OPEN DAY (Bells Bridge near Gympie) Saturday Sept 27.

This event will showcase our latest life-size giant's. Don't miss the world's biggest fossil snake, the Titanoboa. And our very own Aussie Giant Kangaroos.

Saturday 27th September 2025

Gates open at 10:30am, program 11:00am – 4:00pm (includes free lunch & drinks)

Jurassic Ark, 108 Sykes Road, Bells Bridge QLD 4570

An offering will be taken to support the ongoing ministry of Creation Research.

Book now for an exciting **free** day at Jurassic Ark, Australia's unique outdoor flood fossil creation museum. Book your place here: Jurassic Ark Open Day Tickets

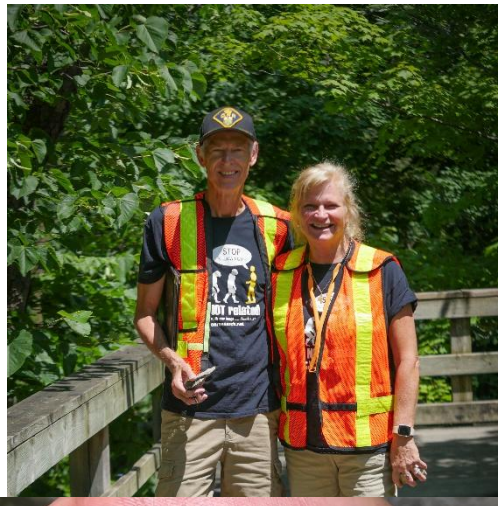
More Upcoming Events around the world at the end of the newsletter.

Creation Research Canada

Exciting Field Day Finds!

Martin Legemaate and Laura Reilly report on a successful field day.

As the Summer arrives The Creation Research Museum of Ontario takes a back seat to fossil trips around Southern Ontario. This year we added a new location and had the first trip in July. Arkona/Hungry Hollow is a popular fossil location because no Hammer is needed. The fossils just fall out of the clay beds.



Participants collecting in the Arkona clay beds

Well preserved brachiopod specimens.

Some brachiopods were so well preserved you could still see the pearly shell as if you were picking them off the beach. That's great evidence for rapid burial!

Many horn coral were found laying down in-between the rock layers indicating turbulent water washed them in.

Left: Several horn corals clumped together.

Above: A bed of horn coral

Closeup of a tiny pyritized ammonite. Pyritization only works in a low or no oxygen environment.

Site number 2

On to the second site where many micro fossils are found. Beautifully well-preserved ammonites and cephalopods can be found here.

All in all, it was a fine day with lots of evidence for a quick and deep burial!

Interested in coming on a fossil trip?
Visit: https://www.creationresearchontario.com/

New Bank and Address Details

We thank all our supporters for enabling the ongoing work we do through your generosity.

With Craig Hawkins moving to leadership of the Creation Research Association as John Mackay becomes Director Emeritus and is freed up to write and research for the Ministry, please note the following changes. Pray as we anticipate John recording his extensive knowledge of the creation subject into print.

New Banking Details for Direct Deposits to Creation Research will be changed to the following:

Creation Research, BSB: 633 000 (Bendigo Bank); Account: 233 380 062

All cheques must be made to "CREATION RESEARCH" only please.

New Postal Address for all Correspondence is also changing to enable Craig Hawkins to manage the administration of the Ministry:

Creation Research, PO Box 337 Beauty Point Tasmania, 7270.

Please note that the existing bank account and PO Box will also continue, until the end of the year to facilitate the changeover, but we would appreciate supporters updating these details as soon as possible.

SCIENCE UPDATES with Diane Eager

Researchers at Princeton University have examined the feathers of brightly coloured birds to understand how their colours can be so bright and vibrant. They studied 72 feathers from tanagers – songbirds with particularly vivid colours, and found the coloured feathers had black or white at the base of the feather so that where the feathers overlapped the black or white regions were hidden, but provided a background for the coloured part. To see if the hidden black and white areas made a difference to the appearance of the coloured part of the feathers

the research team photographed the feathers on different backgrounds and measured the absorption and reflectance of light. They found that red and yellow colours were enhanced by white but blues and violets were enhanced by black backgrounds.

The different enhancement backgrounds for different colours relates to how these colours are produced in bird feathers. Reds, oranges and yellows are produced by pigments called carotenoids in the feathers. Pigments produce colour by absorbing some light wavelengths and reflecting others. When placed on a white background backscattering from the white surface makes these colours brighter. Blues and violets are structural colours, i.e. the result of microscopic structures in the feathers that selectively scatter light. A black background absorbs light, making the scattered blue and violet colour look more intense.

Top: Western tanager.
Bottom: Brazilian tanager

The researchers also found the background layer in the plumage of some species explains the difference between the colouration of males and females. Males had white backgrounds for their reds and yellows, while females had black backgrounds. This meant the female colours were not as bright even though they were the same pigments as the males.

The research team noted that the combination of colour production and light absorbing or reflecting layers resembles a technique used by artists to enhance or soften colours, where a neutral coloured layer is applied first and then the colourful sections of the image overlayed on this.

They also commented that to understand the colours and patterns in bird plumage it is necessary to study the interacting layers of the feathers on the bird's body, not just the pigments and microscopic structures within the feathers. They then go on to claim: "By demonstrating this feature of avian coloration, we hope to invite a closer look at hidden layers of feathers in a wide range of birds, which can ultimately provide fresh insights into how colourful plumage functions and evolves across birds."

References: New Scientist 23 July 2025; Science (AAAS) News 23 August 2025; *Science Advances* 23 July 2025 doi: 10.1126/sciadv.adw5857

Editorial Comment: The interaction between the different coloured feathers is another reminder that nothing in the living world works in isolation. The research team are correct when they say that understanding these birds' colours and patterns cannot be understood just by studying pigments and structural colour in the individual feathers, but also how the feathers interact with one another to achieve an overall pattern. This means that more genetic information is required to explain the distinctive appearance of individual species of birds than just that for the pigments or structural colour.

This study will help understand how colourful plumage functions, but it will do nothing to explain how it could evolve. To do that, evolutionists need to explain how random changes to the genes that control feather colour and arrangement, managed to achieve something that artists deliberately use to produce an effect they want. Artists can only do this using their knowledge of how colours interact to achieve an image they already have in mind. Bird feather patterns and artists' paintings require an outside intelligence who knows the overall appearance of the coloured object ahead of time, and knows the steps involved for its completion.

The researchers who did this study, recognised the colour interactions they observed were used by artists. They are therefore without excuse for failing to acknowledge they were observing the work of a much greater artist – the Lord Jesus Christ who created light and all things that are beautiful.

ANTEATERS EVOLVED TWELVE TIMES, claim scientists who carried out a detailed survey of animals that eat ants and termites to see where they fitted in the evolutionary tree of mammals. Anteaters are found in all three main subdivisions of mammals – monotremes, marsupials and placentals, and are found in Asia, Africa, the Americas and Australia. In spite of these differences, they all have the same distinctive features that enable them to feed on ants and termites. These include a long snout, a long sticky tongue, small teeth and strong forelimbs and claws (for digging into ant and termite nests). They also have a low metabolic rate and enzymes that break down chitin (insect exoskeletons).

A group of scientists led by Thomas Vida of University of Bonn compiled data on the diets of 4099 mammal species and mapped this on to a mammal evolutionary tree. According to this analysis animals that feed exclusively on ants and termites evolved 12 times.

The researchers claim this is an example of convergent evolution, where creatures that are unrelated according to evolutionary trees have separately evolved the same features. They claim the reason that animals as diverse as the Australian echidna, the Asian pangolin and the African aardvark have evolved the features required to live on a diet of ants and termites is because these insects became so plentiful and widespread after the end of the Cretaceous period of evolutionary history. One of the researchers, Phillip Barden of the New Jersey Institute of Technology, explained: "Ants really seem to be engineers of convergent evolution."

Thomas Vida summed up the research team's results: "Things keep evolving into anteaters, somehow." In the response to this an article in Science (AAAS) News concludes: "If history is any guide, there will be no rest for the world's ants or termites anytime soon—with evolution constantly threatening to turn mammals into relentless colony-gobbling machines." An article in the *Guardian* responded to Vida's claim by commenting: "Which raises the question: will humans one day follow suit?"

The researchers also claim to have found one example of reverse evolution, i.e. changing from exclusive ant eating to eating other things. The short-eared elephant shrew of southern Africa

has the features seen in other anteaters but also eats seeds and berries and other plant matter as well as ants.

References: PhysOrg 16 July 2025; Science Alert 18 July 2025; Science (AAAS) News 25 July 2025; The Guardian 6 August 2025; *Evolution* 16 July 2025 doi: 10.1093/evolut/qpaf121

Editorial Comment: This study is a classic example of how useless evolutionary theory is to science and it exposes the lengths that devotees of evolution will go to in order to cling onto their theory. No matter how many ants and termites there are in a particular region their presence will not alter the genes of a mammal to change the structure and function of its head, tongue, jaws and claws, or its internal biochemistry. It takes a giant leap of faith to believe that could happen once. It is preposterous to believe it happened 12 times.

Echidna – a monotreme (egg-laying mammal).
Picture: Enguerrand Photography - Unsplash

The concept of convergent evolution is a complete non-explanation of why living things that live in similar environments have similar features, e.g. the streamlined shape of fish and dolphins, or why very different living things can perform the same functions, e.g. echolocation in bats and dolphins. This is where the evolutionists have things upside down and back to front. Living things survive in particular environments because they already have the necessary features. If they didn't, they would die out or migrate to a place more suited to their structure and function. This is natural selection and "survival of the fittest" at work. This is a real process, but it will not make anything evolve. It is far more logical to believe complex living things were created with features appropriate for the environment the Creator wanted them to live in.

The African elephant shrew is interesting, as it is good reminder of the real history of mammal diets according to Genesis. The evolutionists have got things backwards again. This animal is not an anteater evolving into a vegetarian, it is a vegetarian that has extended its diet to include ants and termites. Genesis tells us that all animals originally ate plants. Therefore, animals with long snouts and long sticky tongues would have eaten berries, seeds and other items of small plant matter, but not ants. After Noah's flood, when the environment degenerated animals had to scrounge for food using whatever features they already had. Animals that were already equipped for licking up lots of small items of food could survive on a diet of ants and termites, so they were able to live in environments where there was an abundance of these insects.

Overall Biblical Biology, i.e. creation followed by judgement and degeneration, provides a much better explanation for anteaters.

NEW QUESTION (on AskJohnMackay.com):

How did insects survive Noah's Flood? Answer here.

Useful Links from the Archive: Nanotech Inspired by Bird Feathers, Hummingbirds Have Most Colours, Parrots Discarded Dull Colours

Upcoming Events

United Kingdom

October 9th -11th: **The Record in the Rocks Conference**, Woodhouse Eaves Baptist Church, Loughborough, Leicestershire. Joseph Hubbard and Craig Hawkins will be speaking together with others from Answers in Genesis.

- Friday 10th , 8.15pm - Joseph Hubbard, 'The Pagan Roots of Evolution'
- Saturday 11th 9.30am – Craig Hawkins, 'The Geological Creation of Tasmania'
- Saturday 11th 11.15am - Joseph Hubbard, 'Around the UK with Noah'

Sunday 12th October: Salem Baptist Church 907 Uxbridge Rd Uxbridge

- **a.m.** Joseph Hubbard. Adam or Ape? Refuting theistic Evolution
- **afternoon** Diane Eager. The Created and Recreated Woman
- **p.m** Craig Hawkins. Finding Truth in a World of Lies. The Feathered Dino Dilemma

Saturday 18th October – FIELD TRIP Charmouth 10am-3pm

Saturday 18th October – Ivy Bridge Baptist p.m. Craig Hawkins. Creation and Environmental Extremism

Sunday 19th October - Ivy Bridge Baptist a.m. church service. Craig Hawkins, The Gospel in the Stars

Further details of conferences will be provided at www.creationresearchuk.com

If you have any queries about ministry in the UK, including field trips, meetings and museum visits, please contact us at: info@creationresearchuk.com

United States of America

Keep tuned for Joseph Hubbard and Glenn Wilson in the USA during 2025 including Portland, Washington around 13-14th September (details being confirmed)

Canada

For details contact Martin Legemaate: (www.creationresearchontario.com) or email creationresearchontario@hotmail.com. 12919 Warden Ave, Stouffville Ontario Canada L4A-3X9

Saturday 13th September: 'Kawartha Lakes Field trip' (Fall)

Australia (Tasmania)

- Sunday 24th August – Roland Gospel Hall, Craig Hawkins. 'Creation IS a Gospel Issue'
- Saturday 13th December – Field Trip – St Valentines Peak TAS. Call Craig for details.
- Friday 20th - Sunday 22nd Feb 2026 (proposed Lune River fossil, fossicking field trip)

Queensland See September Open days information in the body of the Newsletter

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