

Dinosaur tracks in our 'Jurassic Park'

■ Staff reporters

A team of palaeontologists has identified 21 different types of dinosaur tracks on a 25km stretch of the Kimberley's Dampier Peninsula coastline dubbed "Australia's Jurassic Park" by the chief researcher.

Experts from the University of Queensland's School of Biological Sciences and James Cook University's School of Earth and Environmental Sciences have unveiled what they claim is the most diverse assemblage of dinosaur tracks in the world, embedded in rock 127 million to 140 million years old.

Lead author Dr Steve Salisbury said the diversity of the tracks around Walmadany (James Price Point) was globally unparalleled and made the area the "Cretaceous equivalent of the Serengeti".

"It is extremely significant, forming the primary record of non-avian dinosaurs in the western half the continent and providing the only glimpse of Australia's dinosaur fauna during the first half of the early Cretaceous period," Dr Salisbury said.

"It's such a magical place — Australia's own Jurassic Park, in a spectacular wilderness setting."

In 2008, the State Government selected James Price Point as the

preferred site for a liquid natural gas processing plant.

Dr Salisbury said the surrounding political issues made the project "particularly intense", and he was relieved when National Heritage listing was granted to the area in 2011 and the gas project collapsed in 2013.

"There are thousands of tracks around Walmadany. Of these, 150 can confidently be assigned to 21 specific track types, representing four main groups of dinosaurs," he said.

"There were five different types of predatory dinosaur

tracks, at least six types of tracks from long-necked herbivorous sauropods, four types of tracks from two-legged herbivorous ornithomorphs, and six types of tracks from armoured dinosaurs."

He said that among the tracks was the only confirmed evidence of stegosaurs in Australia, including some of the largest dinosaur tracks recorded, with some of the sauropod footprints measuring 1.7m long.

The research has been published in the 2016 Memoir of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology.



Dr Anthony Romilio and Linda Pollard create a silicon cast of huge sauropod tracks in the Walmadany area. Picture: Steven W. Salisbury

RESTORE SIGHT FOR JUST \$25

Photo: Michael Smith

The Fred Hollows Foundation

DONATE NOW
1800 352 352
HOLLOWS.ORG.AU

3487270

Parenting Partnerships
Presents
Tuning in to Teens

Tuning in to Teens is for parents and carers of children aged 9-16 years. The program supports parents in their role, focusing on the relationship with their child. It helps adolescents learn to understand their own, and others emotions, and self-regulate.

Tuning in to Teens aims to give parents helpful ways of teaching their adolescent the skills of emotional intelligence.

Tuning in to Teens supports parents:

- Awareness and regulation of their own emotions
- Awareness of their children's emotions and associated behaviours
- To use children's emotional experiences as an opportunity for closeness and teaching
- Skills in assisting children to identify, label and manage their emotions and appropriate limits
- To guide your adolescents to problem solve
- To understand adolescent development

When: 24th April to the 5th June (Monday's), 2017
Where: Broome CIRCLE (cnr Frederick & Weld Streets)

Time: 5.00 – 8.00pm

Cost: \$50 per session (discounts for couples) (full payment of 6 weeks must be received before commencement of the course)

For more information, or to register, please contact:
Tamara Austin – 0433011123
Tamara@parentingpartnerships.com.au
Please like our Facebook page **Parenting Partnerships**