

EXPEDITIONS AND EVENTS – ON THE HORIZON – JANUARY 2020 ISSUE

Information about Waterhouse Club expeditions and events is available on your Club's website: www.waterhouseclub.com. There you will also find Expression of Interest Forms to complete on line, invitations to events and expeditions, and expedition and scientific reports. We will continue to provide paper communications to members who prefer to receive Club news that way.

In addition to the offerings below we are also planning other evening events, and one day and weekend expeditions – look out for further information as planning progresses!

RECENT ADVENTURES



Rocks, Fossils, Feathers and Fur, Kangaroo Island.



Weaving and yarning the Ngarrindjeri Way



Dr Jim Jago explaining sedimentary structures at Encounter Bay, Rosetta Head

COMING UP - SAVE THESE DATES IN 2020

Wednesday 19 February 2020

Dogs: a story of our best friend

Dogs have been integral in all human societies. What can science tell us about this most enduring relationship with dogs that began more than 15,000 years ago, indeed before people domesticated any other organism? What makes dogs so special that we have a carnivore (that can be up to 80 or 90kgs) living in our houses, guarding our borders, and assisting us in so many ways? The exhibition will highlight some famous dogs and enduring issues for managing dogs in the Australian context. Professor Steve Donnellan will take us on an adventure behind the scenes of the Museum's Dog Exhibition for a barking good time!

Event Coordinator: Margie Heylen

Thursday 19 March to Saturday 4 April 2020. Wait list only!

The Dinosaurs of China with Professor John Long

Get up to speed with your grandchildren with this unique experience to visit Dinosaur Museums and to see behind the scenes of some of China's world-renowned feathered dinosaurs and other prehistoric wonders. Other tourist destinations will be included in this extensive trip across eastern China.

Expedition Leader: Tim and Jen Tolley

Saturday April 18 and Sunday 19 April 2020. Wait list only, but see also September 2020!

Saving the Western Pygmy Possum – Expedition 1

Facilitated by the Museum's Professor Steve Donnellan, our Club has an opportunity to be involved in a three to five-year Citizen Science Project which aims to ensure the survival of the Western Pygmy Possum, a small marsupial in eastern South Australia. This endearing species is threatened by the predicted impact of elevated temperatures on its habitat over the next 50 years. The project will involve preparing and installing nest boxes in bushland in the Mid-Murray region as well as novel proactive conservation actions such as moving animals to the south ahead of climate change to ensure that vulnerable populations have access to existing arid adapted possums.

Expedition Leaders: Gaye and Tim Fischer

May 2020 (dates to be advised)

Roxby Downs Arid Recovery Reserve (ARR) Expedition – Express interest now

A proposed two day and three-night expedition exploring the progress of native animal breeding as well as some insect collecting in the ARR at Roxby Downs, a possible mine site tour and a visit to Andamooka. Motel accommodation and night walks are also planned.

Expedition Leader: Tony Williams

7 June to 5 August 2020

Waterhouse Natural Science Art Prize

The Waterhouse Natural Science Art Prize, hosted by the Museum, is Australia's premier science art prize. It encourages artists to make a statement about science through art and explore the issues facing our planet. An exhibition not to be missed!

Evening of 11 September to morning of 14 September, 2020 - Express interest now

Ediacara Fossils and the Acraman Meteorite: A weekend expedition to the Flinders Ranges

Professor Jim Gehling will take us to Ediacaran fossil sites in the Flinders Ranges, the home of the State's fossil emblem *Spriggina*. Professor Gehling is a world expert on the Ediacaran fauna and these fossil beds in particular. He will show us evidence of first complex life on earth – fossil specimens of such high quality that this location has given its name to a new geological era. Dr Vic Gostin, retired Associate Professor of Geology at the University of Adelaide, was involved in the detective work that linked the Acraman Meteorite impact site to the ejecta in the Flinders ranges. We will learn about the Acraman ejector meteorite event and the possible climate change that occurred, and see evidence of the meteorite impact and the geology of the adjacent Flinders Ranges.

Expedition Leaders: Don and Margie Heylen

Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 September 2020 - Express interest now

Saving the Western Pygmy Possum – Expedition 2.

Expedition Leaders: Gaye and Tim Fischer

29 December 2020 to 13 January 2021. Short wait list. Not too late to express interest!

The Islands That Darwin Missed - to the Subantarctic islands of New Zealand, and Macquarie Island.

These rarely visited islands are volcanic in origin and rose from the seabed as laboratories of evolution. Although it was the Galapagos Islands that sparked Darwin's ideas on evolution, these islands could have provided the same catalyst. This expedition will include four main projects in support of researchers both at the Museum and in New Zealand, including; loss of colour in pollinator-attracting flowers; the causes of the distribution of a beetle which lives exclusively on lichen growing on rocky coastal surfaces; Island biogeography of leaf-litter fauna (including flightless critters – how did they get there?); and the impact of macro- and microplastics on subantarctic food webs, sampling icefish. After training, expeditioners who are willing can contribute significantly to one or more of these projects. For the insectophile, photographer, bird-watcher, whale and seal aficionado, this is a very special opportunity and will feature opportunities to explore, photograph and understand these wonderful places in the company of scientists Professor Phillip Weinstein from University of Adelaide and the Museum, and Professor Steve Donnellan, the Museum's Chief

Research Scientist and polymath extraordinaire. Join us for a once in a lifetime hands-on research expedition.

Expedition Leader: Alastair Dow

In 2021

April and September 2021 (dates to be advised).

Saving the Western Pygmy Possum – Expeditions 3 and 4.

Expedition Leaders: Gaye and Tim Fischer

September/October 2021 (dates to be advised). Express interest now

Morocco and Canary Islands

Experience the history, architecture, culture, landscape and natural history of Morocco and the western Canary Islands with the Museum's resident Spanish palaeontologist, Diego Garcia-Bellido. The trip will include visits to several UNESCO World Heritage Sites, the Atlas and Anti-Atlas Mountains, the Sahara and the most famous fossil sites in this area of northern Africa. We will also visit the 3,718 metre high Teide volcano in Tenerife and the European Northern Observatory in La Palma.

Expedition Leader: To be confirmed

11 to 21 November 2021 – BOOK NOW – ONLY A FEW CABINS REMAINING

A Cruise from Sepik River to Bougainville Island on 'True North'

Our cruise commences as we enter the Sepik River. There we sail deep inland to villages that have evolved a riverine way of life absorbed deeply into their culture. Next is the coast of New Britain, rugged, spectacularly volcanic and on to Bougainville only recently accepting tourists and relatively 'unspoilt'. This itinerary is at your Club's request and it is likely that Club members will fill all cabins providing a stimulating collegiate atmosphere.

Excellent scientific presentations will add much to the travel experience and our two Museum scientists will add extra zest to your time with us.

Professor Steve Donnellan, Head of Science in the SA Museum is an evolutionary biologist. Steve's often startling talks range over many topics with personal anecdotes from his time collecting in Papua New Guinea.

Dr Steve Zagala, our World Cultures Fellow will share his enthusiasm for the creative ingenuity of the Melanesian people. Steve has a special affinity with the Pacific Islands where he spent his early years. He will host a pre-cruise tour of the Museum's Pacific Gallery.

Our days will include visits to coral atolls, shore parties to explore or meet the villagers. There will be fishing, snorkelling and scuba diving available with relics from WW2 to be seen. A helicopter offers flights at extra cost, one over a volcano. The opportunity to sit and read or chat is not to be overlooked, while the ships galley goes to great lengths to make every meal a highlight.

If this is for you, please call the Club office or Ant Simpson (0407 715 562) to book a cabin from the few remaining.

Expedition Leader: Ant Simpson

As the Club's expeditions and events are frequently over-subscribed, we offer you an opportunity to "express early interest" in any of our offerings. You can do this on line at www.waterhouseclub.com, or by completing the form attached, by email waterhouseclub@samuseum.sa.gov.au, or telephone the Club office on 8203 9802. This assists the Club to plan with confidence and places your name on a priority list which will be held open for two days following the distribution of invitations closer to the event. You will then be asked to confirm your booking request by return email reply or by a telephone call to the Club Office. Bookings will be accepted in order of receipt and a waiting list will be maintained if necessary.

Please Note: Dates, venues, itineraries, expedition leaders and scientific leaders may change as detailed planning progresses.