

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 29 October 2013

EMBARGOED UNTIL 5.30PM ACDT

LIFE STARTS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SA FOSSILS INSPIRE 2014 ADELAIDE FESTIVAL POSTER

Fabulous fossils for curious collectors will be on show at the South Australian Museum for audiences as part of the 2014 Adelaide Festival – to be announced in tonight’s Festival program launch.

Dig it @ The Museum will feature access to our **newly revamped** Ediacaran fossils gallery (to be unveiled in December), which illustrates ancient life from 550 million years ago, as well as opportunities for budding palaeontologists to dig for fossils in the sand on our North Terrace front lawns.

Combine this engaging hands-on exploration ‘in the field’ with a visit to the new Gallery, which will display fascinating finds to amaze all ages.

Adelaide Festival’s 2014 poster design:

The Museum’s palaeontological team also advised the Adelaide Festival on the scientific accuracy of the 2014 poster design (pictured right), which features fossils from the Ediacaran biota in South Australia’s Flinders Ranges, together with a selection of illustrations by Ernst Haeckel from his masterwork, *Art Forms in Nature*.

***Dig It @ The Museum* is a FREE event as part of the Adelaide Festival.**

Sat 1 Mar – Sun 23 Mar 10am-4pm daily
South Australian Museum, North Terrace



About Palaeontology at the South Australian Museum

South Australia has the enviable position of holding many of the world’s earliest life forms – and the South Australian Museum is the guardian of these fossil records. Our scientists collect and study

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these fossils at many of our 'outdoor laboratory' locations around the state and work with international colleagues to produce top research papers. Currently we hold 50,000 registered specimens.

Our specialist team (which continues to attract international recognition, and has twice been visited by Sir David Attenborough), works with fossils from a variety of regions, including Ediacaran fossils of the Flinders Ranges, Cambrian fossils of the Flinders Ranges, Kangaroo Island, Yorke Peninsula and Mt Lofty Ranges, late Triassic plant fossils from the Leigh Creek and Springfield Basins, marine vertebrate and invertebrate fossils of the early Cretaceous of the Eromanga Basin of South Australia and Queensland, including opalised fossils, and many other fossils from parts of South Australia.

The **revamped Ediacaran Gallery, opening in December** will effectively illustrate life from the Pre-Cambrian period with the best-preserved fossils collected and prepared for display by our scientists.

The Ediacaran Gallery project was made possible through the generous support of individual donors to the South Australian Museum Foundation.

To arrange interviews, images or information, please contact:

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Ediacaran fossil Charniodiscus Arboreus