



ANNOUNCEMENT

Please feel free to forward this to interested friends and colleagues.

Science Centre Singapore
cordially invites you
to

Science in the Café

on
Wednesday, 27 July 2016 at 7pm
at
Science Centre Singapore
with

Emeritus Professor Patricia Vickers-Rich

Geologist-Palaeontologist, Monash University

Dr Thomas H Rich

Senior Curator, Museum Victoria

Mr Peter W Trusler

Artist & Scientist

on

The Artist & The Scientists

Please see below for more information.

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#### **Pre-registration is required.**

*Reservations are accepted on a first-come-first-served basis due to limited seating.*

*Please make your reservations by replying directly to this announcement.*

*Please include your name, the number of attendees & Science Centre membership link number (if any).*

*Please check your complimentary admission eligibility at the weblink below.*

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We will only retain your e-mail address so that we may inform you of future Science Centre events.

If you wish to have your email address removed from our list, please inform us.

Thank you.

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## The Artist & The Scientists

Peter, Tom and Pat will explore the approach that is critical in translating the details in fossils into the visualizations that scientists as well as the general public can understand and ponder. Peter's approach has always been one of caution: the art needs to be constrained by data, never to over-indulge the imagination. So, any art that results from their collaboration must agree and explain what the three of them see and what the fossils reflect, so that it forms the mutually agreed-to outline of the steps taken to get to the final image. Where imagination is called upon – such as the colours of an ancient life form – the result will be based on the closest analogues in living organisms and the environments in which they live. Sometimes, chemical indicators in the fossils or surrounding sediments can help to deduce those past environments, but care to not let the imagination run wild when evidence is scarce, must always be kept in mind in the artistic reconstruction.

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### Mr Peter W Trusler

... is a Melbourne freelance artist and is a Zoology graduate from Monash University, Clayton. He has a special interest in biological illustration – his work in this field is highly regarded internationally and has been featured in numerous popular and scientific publications: his first was Kloot and McCulloch, (1980), *Birds of Australian Gardens*, Rigby, Adelaide (which won the 1980 Whitley Award for Best Illustrated Book); his most recent is Rich, Vickers-Rich and Trusler, (2010), *The Artist and the Scientists*, Cambridge University Press, Melbourne.

Peter was twice awarded the Lanzendorf Paleo Art Prize by the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology – for scientific illustrations in 2001 and for 2-dimensional art in 2005. He is a foundation member of the Wildlife Art Society of Australasia and his design work has been featured on national philatelic issues and coins. His present involvement in international geological and biological research projects spans the geological record from the Ediacaran through to the Late Pleistocene. His original artwork was featured earlier this year in a joint exhibition by the American Museum of Natural History, San Juan National Science Museum and Monash University, held at the ArtScience Museum in Singapore. In 1993, his artwork graced the front cover of *Time Magazine*, highlighting the polar dinosaurs of Australia. It was his art of the past that was the centrepieces for several exhibitions around the world – most recently in a spectacular 4000m<sup>2</sup> show at the ArtScience Museum – *Dinosaurs: Dawn to Extinction*. Peter is currently about to complete his PhD at Monash University, on the methodology of reconstruction art, centring on Pleistocene and Ediacaran faunas, with emphasis on Australia.

In addition to all the above, Peter has been the principal illustrator and photographer on several remote-area field expeditions to Argentina, central Australia, Saudi Arabia, Africa and Russia, with teams from Monash University, the Namibian Geological Survey, the Geological Survey of Saudi Arabia, the Paleontological Institute (Russian Academy of Science) and Museum Victoria.

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### Dr Thomas H Rich

... is the Curator of Vertebrate Palaeontology, Museum Victoria, Melbourne, Australia, with an AB (1964) and MA (1967) in Palaeontology from the University of California, Berkeley. He received his PhD (1973) in Geology from Columbia University. Tom is married to fellow palaeontologist, Prof Patricia Vickers-Rich with whom he received the Chairman of the Committee for Research & Exploration of the National Geographic Society Award, 2000 that reads:

*In their investigations of vertebrate paleontology in Australia, Dr. Thomas Rich and Dr. Patricia Vickers-Rich have accumulated an extraordinary record of life from the Age of Dinosaurs in Australia ranging from dinosaurs to mammals. This has completely revised our understanding of Mesozoic life at high latitudes. In recognition of their tireless and virtually superhuman efforts to gather and interpret fossils of great significance, this award is given.*

Tom's many professional accomplishments include being the first to recognise the [pseudotribosphenic condition and its significance in mammals](#); he found and described the only tribosphenic Mesozoic mammals known from Australia, excavated the first two tunnels to be cut for the sole purpose of recovering fossils, recognised the first



features of a non-avian dinosaur adapted specifically for the polar environment. He is a qualified mine manager in the State of Victoria, Australia. He carried out vertebrate palaeontological fieldwork in North America, Australia, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Argentina, Antarctica, New Zealand and China. He published 13 books and 117 scientific papers.

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### Patricia Vickers-Rich

... is Emeritus Professor of the School of Earth, Atmosphere and Environment, Monash University, Australia. She is also the Founding Director of the Monash Science Centre, currently called [PrimeSCI!](#), a unique place with programmes designed to explore how science works, and, to connect science and technology with the arts, politics, economics, law and many other disciplines. Its vision is to open a window on science that offers an in-depth look at science opportunities to use scientific thought and knowledge in everyday life – tools for facing the future realistically and sustainably.

Pat continues to be super-active in her research and her interests – on understanding the changes in the biota during the late *Proterozoic* – at a time when complex animals first appeared and when the different major animal phyla were forming. She continues to travel the world ... to Southwest Africa (particularly Namibia in a joint program with the Namibian Geological Survey), the Eastern European Platform including the White Sea and Siberia (in conjunction with the Paleontological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences), Northwest Argentina and the Flinders Range of South Australia (with the South Australian Museum). She also works with Tom Rich (Museum Victoria) on the polar biotas of the Early *Cretaceous* in southern Australia.

Pat remains ever involved in public science education, bringing cutting-edge science into primary and secondary schools, and to refugee camps in destabilized areas of the world.

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2016 Café Calendar

@ <http://www.science.edu.sg/events/Pages/sciencecafecalendar2016.aspx>

Science Centre Admissions

@ <http://www.science.edu.sg/visitorinformation/Pages/admissioncharges.aspx>