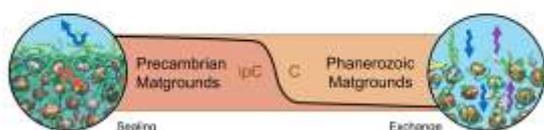
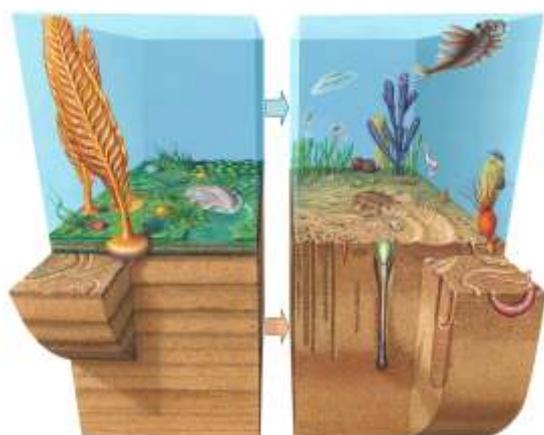


Image

2. BIG REEFS AND SPIKEY OBJECTS - HARD CORE EVIDENCE.

The Agronomic Revolution



Artist note:

To elucidate the previous theme and introduce this second theme. - Occasionally, I am called to illustrate important concepts in biology in a simple, direct diagrammatic way. It is a standard text-book idiom and this is one such example, reproduced here to provide a connection between the Precambrian and the profound changes that dictated all that follows. It was gradual change of course, because the signs became increasingly evident during the Ediacaran. In geologically relative terms, that slow and subtle process reached a tipping point after which the transformation of the marine environment was very rapid and complete by the Middle Cambrian. The evolutionary explosion, as it is often regarded, which gave rise to a plethora of anatomical developments produced a major ecological effect. A phenomenon known as bioturbation. The now constant churning of the sea bed by organisms was to change the nutrient and food cycles in profound ways and it represents the first global ecological transformation mediated by the physical activity of animals. From here at last, I could contemplate a world that could see and feel and move!

Associated Fossil/s

- Original Stromatolite (7890), 160mm x 170mm x 80mm
- Original Stromatolite (Boorthanna Loc 93), 137mm x 100mm
- x 60mm
- Microbial mat slab & Elephant Skin(v-343),140mm x 40mm x230mm
- Nemiana White Sea
- Microbial mat White Sea
- Surface burrows
- Deep burrows (skolithos)
- Trilobite trackways would be fantastic if we've got some.
- Any good trilobite fossils ?
- Any good slabs packed with Cambrian small shells, brachiopods, arthropod sclerites/carapaces, ammonites etc.

Image

2. BIG REEFS AND SPIKEY OBJECTS - HARD CORE EVIDENCE.



"GOGO REEF RECONSTRUCTION"1991
A reconstructed underwater scene from the Late Devonian of North-Western Australia;(360 million years before the present.)
Featured are the 'Duck-billed Lungfish', *Griphognathus whitei* and the predatory Arthodire Placoderm, *Eastmanosteus calliaspis*.
Alkyd Oil on Linen over Hardboard, 74 x 95 x 5 cm
PETER TRUSLER, Copyright Peter Trusler
Private Collection
Exhibit ID 6

Artist note:

A Devonian scene from north Western Australia shows the complex advances in body structure in fish and invertebrates. The interaction of predator and prey. The deeper inter-reef environment in which the life of the time was preserved. The variously spiralled shells of ammonites and nautiloids can be seen and the robust scales and body plates of the two fishes represented evidence to hard structure that were preserved in exquisite detail. Also gives a hint of evolutions future direction.

Associated Fossil/s

- Large casts of the Canowindra surfaces
- Phyllolepis from Mt Howitt material

Image

2. BIG REEFS AND SPIKEY OBJECTS - HARD CORE EVIDENCE.

"GRIPHOGNATHUS WHITEI" 1991.

A posture study of a Devonian Lungfish for "GOGO REEF RECONSTRUCTION".

Graphite on Paper.

28 x 58 cm.

Private Collection.

Artist note:

A dipnoan or early "lungfish" shows the duality of structural and behavioural specialisations that enabled life to exploit particular environments. Strong independently controlled limb-like fins facilitated manoeuvrability. A highly sensitive "duck-billed" head was a sieve which manipulated and crushed invertebrates detected beneath the muddy seabed.

Image

2. BIG REEFS AND SPIKEY OBJECTS - HARD CORE EVIDENCE.

Eastmanosteus

Artist note:

The streamlined shark-like body of a well-armoured predatory fish, a placoderm - the first group of fish with jaws. Large, perceptive eyes and jaws with slicing serrations made this a fearsome carnivore.

Image



2. BIG REEFS AND SPIKEY OBJECTS - HARD CORE EVIDENCE.

Phyllolepis digital

Artist note:

A reconstruction illustration and hypothetical behavioural study showing the oldest known sexually dimorphic anatomical structures that would have allowed internal fertilization. Other of placodem fish also preserve evidence of internal embryonic development- "Sex", "in-utero" development and "live-birth", as we know it, may have a 360-400 million year history.



Associated Fossil/s

Image



2. BIG REEFS AND SPIKEY OBJECTS - HARD CORE EVIDENCE.

"BULL SEALS" 1983
Cont'e Pastel and Gouache on Paper
Framed 80 x 122 x 4cm
Signed and dated lower right; Trusler 1983
Copyright Peter Trusler
Private Collection
Exhibit ID 54

Artist note:

The consequences of competition in all guises has always fascinated me. It is a central tenant to this exhibition and of any biological discussion. It seems so difficult for us to see it within ourselves. Having spent a couple of weeks in a research station on a fur-seal colony observing the lives of contesting bulls, the mirrored thallic symbolism seemed appropriate. The injuries were ultimately fatal.

Image



2. BIG REEFS AND SPIKEY OBJECTS - HARD CORE EVIDENCE.

"RESIGNED AS DELPHINUS DEATH" 1986
Cont'e Pastel on Paper
Framed 85 x 120 x 4
Signed and dated lower right; Trusler 1986
Copyright Peter Trusler
Collection of the Artist
Exhibit ID 51

Artist note:

The relationship between form and function might seem obvious, but on occasions I am struck by its synergy when it presents in a simplified or abstracted way - when detail, complexities and the narrative of life is stripped away.

This juvenile Dolphin had stranded and died. It looked a little thin, but otherwise a perfect individual, despite a subtle series of grazes of adult dolphin teeth marks that were evident along its flanks and about the bases of its fore-flippers. The corpse was wrapped in a wet sheet to prevent any further desiccation before an autopsy was conducted. The lifeless body form simply appeared to be constantly swimming beneath the turbulent, fluid folds of its shroud.

I set to work on my own visual documentation before the vets and zoologists arrived. My sketches and measures were to later enable me to reconstruct a life-sized cardboard and painted plaster model of the youngster that I could drape with cotton fabric to suit myself. The work could then proceed in detail as a still life exercise. The production of "form-models" in a variety of media (depending upon the project) became an intrinsic part of my reconstruction illustration in palaeontology.

(he young dolphin had a massive infection of worm parasites throughout its abdominal organs).