



Creation Research News

Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his face continually. 1Chronicles 16:11

OCTOBER HAS BEEN A MONTH OF BLESSING THROUGH HARDSHIP as Anne Mackay, who lost the use of her legs nearly 8 weeks ago has been placed into a full-time care home as she cannot even turn herself in bed. Yes, it's tough, but the Lord is tougher, so pray for Anne and John as they negotiate this very rough road with radical changes that affect Creation Research also.

As a result, Craig Hawkins, (SEE TEAM PICS ABOVE) who has been a friend, a supporter and full-time worker for Creation Research plus Director of the Creation Discovery Centre Tasmania, will move into being a co-Director alongside John. Craig will then progressively take over John's full-time ministry role while John moves into directing research projects, writing books, presenting on the radio and supplying local ministry plus overseeing our Brisbane Museum, all of which John can do around home.

We have known Craig since he was a student, and then a keen supporter after his father Pastor Ray Hawkins opened the doors to his church and their home. Craig went full-time for Creation Research last year and undertook his first extensive ministry trip through eastern Australia during July/August this year, which was a real success. Interestingly enough, Craig's mom is also now in full-time care, suffering Dementia, so he understands totally what we are going through. This ministry transition will hopefully be complete by the start of 2025, so pray much for Craig Hawkins and John Mackay and the team as they work this through. Craig's Report below.

THE HAWK REPORT

We are praising God for answered prayer with new locally based volunteers at the Creation Discovery Centre Tasmania. If you are in Tasmania and can even spare one day per month, it all helps, so please give us a call. (Ph Craig 0487343 348)

Visitor numbers are picking up again as the Tasmanian tourism season ramps up. Over 5000 people have been to the museum now, giving us many opportunities to point people to our Creator Jesus. Recently, two schools came with over 70 staff and students, many of whom come from non-Christian backgrounds. It has been great to see a number of visitors whom we met on our road trip a few months ago.

Exciting new displays on the dispersal of people from Babel and its clear links with ancient history are being prepared. Recently, the British museum deciphered a Babylonian cuneiform tablet that they have had for

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over 100 years. The tablet mentions the king of Elam. Elam was a grandson of Noah through Shem, so we should not be surprised that he is mentioned as the originator of a post flood nation.

HQ FINANCES are exceptionally low at the present as being busy caring for Anne means John has been unable to do much ministry for many months. So if the Lord has burdened your heart to maintain this Ministry, get behind us with your gifts and blessings as the Lord continues to build this work around the globe.

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UK GEOLOGICAL AWARD as our Joe Hubbard is appointed a Fellow of the London Geological Society. Pray this will be used of the Lord to expand this Ministry. Pray also for Joe as he continues his PhD work on dinosaur bones containing collagen which is an impossibility if they have been in the ground for millions of years. Joe's work is making great progress and he has presented several papers at International Conferences in relationship to this.

UK TEAM REPORTS hectic times for Creation Research as their Museum project goes from strength to strength. Steve Chedgzoy, our newest staff member, is doing a great job renovating the upstairs in preparation for self-guided tours. From living fossils to dinosaurs, Biblical archaeology to fast fossils, the museum displays show abundant evidence the Bible can be trusted from the very beginning. The museum centre in Oswestry is also the base for all our UK ministry activities, including research.

Recently Joe and Andrew Dalzeil headed out to north Manchester to uncover a polystrate fossil tree that John had uncovered many years previously. The trip was a success and the great research gained, will form part of Joe's lecture at the upcoming Answers in Genesis Conference in Birmingham. Join Joe, who will be speaking there alongside friends of Creation Research, such as Profs. Andy McIntosh & Steve Taylor, as well as Ken Ham and others. Dr Diane Eager will also be attending as an International Guest of AiG, so come and say hi at our Creation Research museum exhibition which is part of the conference. Australian-designed murals have been utilised in these displays as roller banners, so praise the LORD for provision in this new way to reach people.

Pray much also for upcoming UK ministry, as Joseph has a full two months ahead of travelling around the UK and to Poland with Prof Andy. Steve C will hold the fort in the UK, as the museum gets ready to open fully, and yes, the Australian financial situation affects our ministry in the UK too, so pray much as we pray much about being self-sustainable in the UK – something we are still a way from achieving. Can you partner with us to see this essential ministry survive and grow?

UK TRUST DETAILS

TASSIE FIND as National news outlets reported on an ancient forest being exposed at Badgers Head Beach in northern Tasmania below the high tide mark. Fierce storms in September washed away sand and mud and revealed the preserved stems and stumps. The site is only ten minutes from the Creation Discovery Centre, so Craig Hawkins has been to have a look and see what it tells us. A University of Tasmania researcher has identified it as a preserved remnant of a Melaleuca (paperbark) forest which grew when Bass Strait water levels had dropped during the ice age. The uncovered timber is squishy when squeezed, so it is not petrified, but it has been preserved while encased in the mud. Our expectation is that if it does not get covered quickly again by sand as expected, the surf will soon destroy the evidence of this ancient forest. (PIC BELOW)

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The researcher claimed the forest grew there about 8000 years ago or even many more. We agree that the forest grew there during the ice-age, but closer to 4000 years ago in the period following the flood of Noah's time. (Ice is first mentioned in the Bible in Job's day) The post flood ice-age dropped water levels enough to enable aboriginals to walk to Tasmania, but they were stranded on the island when levels quickly rose again perhaps some hundreds of years after it had receded. This more recent date, which accords with Biblical history, may also be part of the answer as to why there were so few aboriginals in Tasmania when Europeans first arrived here.



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SCIENCE UPDATES from **DIANE EAGER**, who is our Science Reports editor. She will be an international guest at the AiG conference in the UK in Oct/Nov so pray for her. Diane will continue her science news reports, her role in our weekly YouTube broadcasts around the globe, as well as assisting at the museums both in Australia and soon, for a short time, in the UK while she is there.

SHOCKING ANTARCTIC GREENING. A group of scientists from Universities of Exeter and Hertfordshire, and the British Antarctic Survey, have carried out a survey of satellite images of the Antarctic Peninsula and concluded it is “getting greener with shocking speed”. The research team studied Landsat images collected between 1986 and 2021 and used them to assess how much of the Antarctic Peninsula was covered in vegetation rather than bare rock or snow and ice. They found the area covered with plant growth increased from 0.863 sq km in 1986 to 11.947 sq km in 2021 – a 14 fold increase. One of the researchers, Thomas Roland, an environmental scientist at the University of Exeter, UK, commented: “These numbers

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shocked us. It's simply that rate of change in an extremely isolated, extremely vulnerable area that causes the alarm." He went on to claim the results show "that even this vast and isolated 'wilderness' is being affected by anthropogenic climate change."

The plant growth is mainly mosses, which can colonise bare rock and help create new soil, which can then support other kinds of plants, along with microbes and small invertebrates. Another researcher, Olly Bartlett from the University of Hertfordshire commented: "Soil in Antarctica is mostly poor or non-existent, but this increase in plant life will add organic matter and facilitate soil formation – potentially paving the way for other plants to grow. This raises the risk of non-native and invasive species arriving, possibly carried by eco-tourists, scientists, or other visitors to the continent." Thomas Roland also commented: Our findings raise serious concerns about the environmental future of the Antarctic Peninsula, and of the continent as a whole. In order to protect Antarctica, we must understand these changes and identify precisely what is causing them."

References: [Nature News](#) 4 October 2024; [ScienceDaily](#) 7 October 2024; *Nature Geoscience* 4 October 2024
doi: 10.1038/s41561-024-01564-5

ED. COM. The comments about "non-native species" growing in Antarctica expose the hypocrisy of environmentalists who believe in evolution, but don't want it to actually happen, i.e. natural selection. If plants are now able to grow in a place that used to be too cold and barren, that is natural selection at work, i.e. the new plants show survival of the fittest in the struggle for life.

Why would the transformation of a barren wilderness where nothing can live into fertile ground covered with vegetation be "shocking"? The emergence of plant life in Antarctica is not shocking when you realise there is plenty of evidence that Antarctica has been previously covered in plant and animal life. The greening of Antarctica is part of a global trend of greening that is occurring as a result of warmth and increased carbon dioxide.

Yes, the climate is changing – it has been ever since Noah's Flood when God told Noah that there would be times of heat and cold. Despite claims of "anthropogenic" (man-made) climate change, climate is dependent on forces that humans cannot control, including the sun, clouds, and ocean currents. Only the Creator, who is Jesus Christ, can control these, so we should be looking to Him for guidance on how to live on this planet and how to be saved from sin, so we are ready to live in the New Heavens and Earth that He has promised to create.

CHECK OUT CLIMATE CHANGE on the Creation Research YouTube channel [here](#).

BOWER BIRD SOUND ENGINEERING. Male bower birds attract potential mates by building an elaborate structure consisting of a tunnel-like avenue of twigs arranged in a series of arches and two court areas decorated with objects such as shells, pebbles, bones and even pieces glass or plastic. When a female is attracted into the avenue the male flies into one of the courts and puts on a display involving moving back and forth in front of the avenue and picking up and tossing the collected objects accompanied by noisy screeching calls. John Endler, a natural historian at Deakin University, and colleagues recorded sounds made by a courting bower bird and then played them through speakers in a bower bird court and recorded the sound with microphones positioned in the avenue where the female would hear them. They also tested the effect of removing the court objects on the sound. They found the shape of the tunnel amplifies the sound and the objects alter the frequencies of some sounds and diminish others. According to Science News "Male great bowerbirds, it turns out, are excellent sound engineers." The research team claims the combination of bower building and visual displays associated with sound is an example of sexual selection resulting in "extreme development of multimodal mate-attracting traits, including complex constructions." One of the conclusions from their experiments is: "We need to understand how multimodal signalling evolved given that it is widespread."

References: [Science](#) (AAAS) News 27 September 2024;

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ED. COM. Sexual selection is the belief promoted by Charles Darwin and followers that certain structures and behaviours evolved specifically to attract members of the opposite sex, even if they are otherwise of no value for day-to-day survival, e.g. elaborate tail feathers, bright colours. However, like natural selection, sexual selection only describes a phenomenon that already exists. It does not explain how it came about in the first place. In this case bower building and the male display does attract female bower birds, but that does not explain how the original male birds that didn't build bowers discovered how to build a bower, collect, and arrange acoustically appropriate objects and manipulate them in the right way during their display.

Sound engineering takes plan and purpose, as well as clever manipulation of the environment and objects within it. Furthermore, it is only effective if it communicates the right message to the female birds, which means both male and female both must be pre-programmed to understand it. Putting information into any system requires an intelligent mind at work. It will not happen by mindless chance random processes, so these scientists will not get to "understand how multimodal signalling evolved". They will only understand how bower bird signalling came about if they forget evolution and submit to the Creator's word which tells us that God created birds according to their kinds, fully functional and ready to reproduce after their kinds.

Useful Links from the Archives: [Antarctic Flowering Plants](#), [Fossils Indicate Warm Antarctica](#), [Arctic Goes Greener](#), [Bower Birds Build Optical Illusions](#), [Bower Birds Cultivate Fruit](#), [Sound Engineering for Birds](#)

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