

The site is open to the public, but removal of rock or collection of fossils is illegal without a permit.

**This applies to the whole of the Bass Coast.**

This restriction is for the very good reason that the fossils can be extremely difficult to recognise, and important specimens may be damaged or destroyed without correct technical facilities.

### WHAT IF I FIND A FOSSIL?

Fossil exploration along the Bunurong coast has been carried out by staff from Monash University and Museum Victoria, under a permit from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

It is a condition of this permit that all fossil specimens removed be sent to Museum Victoria for identification, cataloguing and research.

In addition, locals and visitors sometimes find specimens they suspect might be fossil bones or other interesting features in the rocks.

If you find something that you believe could be a dinosaur bone, you should follow the three golden rules:

1. **leave it there—don't risk damaging the fossil by trying to remove it without specialised equipment.**
2. **remember where you found it. Draw a sketch map, or take a photograph of the location.**
3. **report your find to the contact below:**

**Parks Victoria –  
Wonthaggi branch      03 5672 1066**

## **Inverloch's DINOSAUR DREAMING**

### Visiting the Dig Site

The Inverloch Dinosaur Dig is currently Victoria's only working fossil excavation.

Since the discovery of the site in 1991, palaeontologists from Museum Victoria and Monash University have been working during February and March each year, and have now collected **over 10,000 bones.**

The fossils are carefully removed from the rock and then housed in the Museum Victoria's **Vertebrate Palaeontology Collection** for further research.

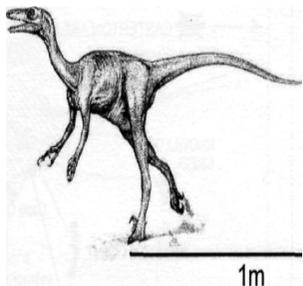
**The dig site** is on the open beach, but is not marked, and is almost impossible to find without being shown.

**Visitors** often call in when the summer digging season is underway, but because the palaeontologists are involved with their work, it isn't possible to stop for a chat with every visitor.

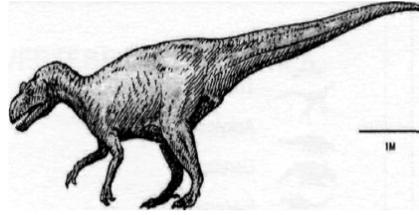
However, people bringing in fossils to identify or to report finds of possible fossils in other parts of the Park will normally be helped by staff.

The exacting task of breaking up the rock and extracting the small, fragile bones is carried out by experienced research staff.

People wishing to volunteer for the annual dinosaur digs can contact Museum Victoria's Discovery Centre for information on training and dates.



**Theropod**  
(THAIR-row-pod)



### **Carnosaurs**

During the summer holiday period, organised visits to the site, guided by a member of the dig team are conducted on allocated days, weather and tide permitting.

People joining in will experience:

- ♦ an explanation of the geology and palaeontology of the site
- ♦ A beach walk looking at interesting features including the earthquake zone, the volcanic rocks, and other highlights
- ♦ A supervised search through selected rocks with the possibility of finding genuine fossil bones. All specimens found in this way will be sent to Museum Victoria for identification, and the finder will receive official notification of the result. In this way visitors can make a significant contribution to the overall research program.

**Outside of holiday periods, school groups and other interested people wishing to visit the site with one of the dig team, should contact:**

**Bunurong Coast Education via our website:**

**[www.sgcs.org.au](http://www.sgcs.org.au)**

**or**

**phone Mike Cleeland on 0447 352 619**

**For more information on the Dinosaur Dreaming project visit these websites:**

[www.sci.monash.edu.au/msc/dinodream](http://www.sci.monash.edu.au/msc/dinodream)

[www.dinodreaming.blogspot.com](http://www.dinodreaming.blogspot.com)

**Want to read more on the subject?**

**Australia's Lost World** by Patricia Vickers-Rich, Leaellyn Rich and Thomas Rich. Published by Kangaroo Press in 1996.

**Dinosaurs of Darkness** by Thomas Rich and Patricia Vickers-Rich