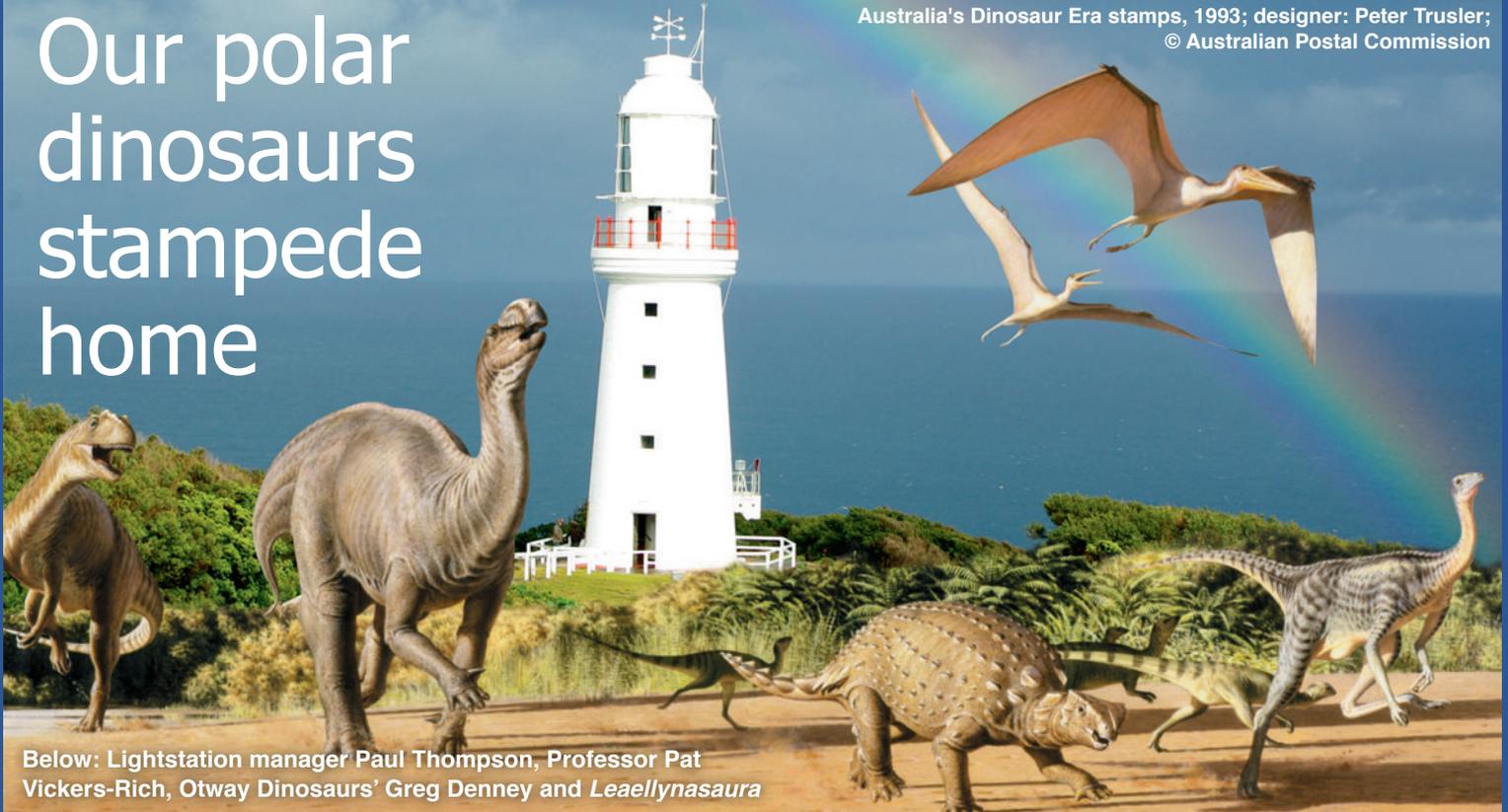




## Summer Newsletter 2013/14

Australia's Dinosaur Era stamps, 1993; designer: Peter Trusler;  
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# Our polar dinosaurs stampede home



Below: Lightstation manager Paul Thompson, Professor Pat Vickers-Rich, Otway Dinosaurs' Greg Denney and *Leaellynasaura*

CAPE Otway Lightstation has brought *Leaellynasaura*, a tiny polar dinosaur, home.

*Leaellynasaura*, the pin-up girl of the dinosaur world who rewrote the world's pre-history books, is back on her stomping ground.

The remarkable little dinosaur, discovered during digs in the Eighties, is on display at the Lightstation until April in an exciting exhibition created by palaeontologists who have made a string of internationally important discoveries on the coast immediately east and west of the iconic lighthouse.

Monash University's Emeritus Professor of Geosciences Pat Vickers-Rich, who was part of the team that discovered *Leaellynasaura*, said the exhibition represented some of the rich finds in the region and

was of great interest to those fascinated by life on Earth dating back more than 100 million years.

Professor Vickers-Rich said *Leaellynasaura* changed the world's understanding of dinosaurs - she was most likely warm blooded, and had huge eyes so she could see in the long, polar winters.

Professor Vickers-Rich said palaeontologists continued to work the Otways coast and were looking forward to making more



finds this summer near the Lightstation.

"Every time we have a dig we find something - we've literally got a treasure trove here," Professor Vickers-Rich said.

"All the way along this Otways coast is scientifically very important, because it has the most biodiverse polar dinosaur fauna on the planet.

"The exhibition here at the Lighthouse is a taster for what a lot of us are trying to grow into a proper and permanent display down here. It's about time we promoted what we have."

Lightstation manager Paul Thompson said showcasing the pre-history of the Cape for locals and tourists during summer was an exciting new addition to the heritage precinct.

"We're all about history at the Lightstation - indigenous culture

and stories, our rich maritime history, our active role in guarding the coast in World War Two, and now we're travelling way, way back in time to meet our local stars of prehistory," Mr Thompson said.

"Apart from the museum standard exhibits, including fascinating fossils and dinosaur eggs, we will have guides and activities for young people - including a dinosaur dig.

"This exhibition helps us to understand the prehistoric creatures that roamed the Cape and the important discoveries that palaeontologists continue to make on the Lightstation's doorstep."

The Lightstation has partnered with Otway Dinosaurs to present the exhibition.

Entry is free with a ticket to the Lightstation.

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# Aiming for a fun summer



INDIGENOUS guide Brad West loves sharing the stories and culture of the Cape's first people the Gadabanud.

Throughout the summer holidays visitors can visit Brad, at the Lightstation's Aboriginal Cultural Site, to experience throwing a spear, try their hand at making damper, paint an abalone shell and hear about the bush foods and culture of this creative community and their connection to country at the Cape.

Visitors can learn about bush foods, traditional shelters and see vital tools at the mia mia - a contemporary artistic take on a traditional style stone and wood dwelling, based on the talking huts where the Gadabanud would meet, and shelter during the cold, wet, winter months.

**Pictured left: Indigenous guide Brad West takes aim with a woomera and spear.**

## Lightstation among State's best

THE LIGHTSTATION was named a finalist in the 29th 2013 RACV Tourism Awards Tourist Attraction category in early November.

Peninsula Hot Springs ultimately won the category, with Queen Victoria Markets and Melbourne Zoo vying for the Major Tourist Attraction category, which was claimed by the Zoo.

Manager Paul Thompson said the Lightstation lease owners Tourism Great Ocean Road and the Lighthouse team were thrilled to be held in contention with tourism attractions the calibre of Peninsula Hot Springs.

"This is the first year we've entered the awards, so to come away as a finalist is a real boost for the Lightstation team who work really hard to ensure our local, Victorian, interstate and international visitors have a great experience when they visit Australia's most important lighthouse," Mr Thompson said.

"We have a longstanding commitment that our exceptional heritage precinct and its vital role in the maritime history of Australia should be tangible - we make our rich history come to life with historical re-enactments, experienced guides, Aboriginal cultural interpretation, tours and great hands-on activities.

"We regularly add new experiences and touring exhibitions to embellish our wealth of historical and cultural stories."

Following the awards ceremony at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, on November 11, State Minister for Tourism and Major Events Louise Asher said: "The tourism awards celebrate business excellence, and recognise outstanding achievements in the Victorian tourism industry."

Mr Thompson said being named a finalist, among more than 90 entrants across 32 categories, was rewarding for the dedicated Lightstation workforce.

## Watch our sunset

FOR most of the year the Lightstation's gates close at 5pm, but for the summer holidays we invite our visitors to stay later, buy a drink from bar and enjoy the beauty of the sunset as it casts beautiful light on the ocean and the white lighthouse tower before disappearing behind the majestic sea cliffs to our west.

## Whale of a time

KEEP an eye on our website for details of our annual Wonder of the Whales weekend in June. More than 600 people joined us, and a Sea Shepherd crew, this year to hear stories of the majestic mammals which grace our shores from May to October. See [www.lightstation.com](http://www.lightstation.com)

**ARTIST Scott Felstead is creating a contemporary sculpture of a shipwreck, soon to be on permanent display at the Lightstation.**

Created from wood, stone and metal the sculpture will depict a clipper that's been slammed by treacherous seas into the rocks off Cape Otway - a sadly common story which resulted in hundreds of lives being lost before the "Beacon of Hope" lighthouse was built in 1848 to safely guide ships through Bass Strait, known as the Eye of the Needle.

"More than half the boat is submerged and it will appear as if it's been dumped vertically and slammed into the stones," Scott said.

Scott, pictured, hopes his 6½ metre tall work will give visitors an understanding of the real drama of shipwrecks.



## When wrecks become art