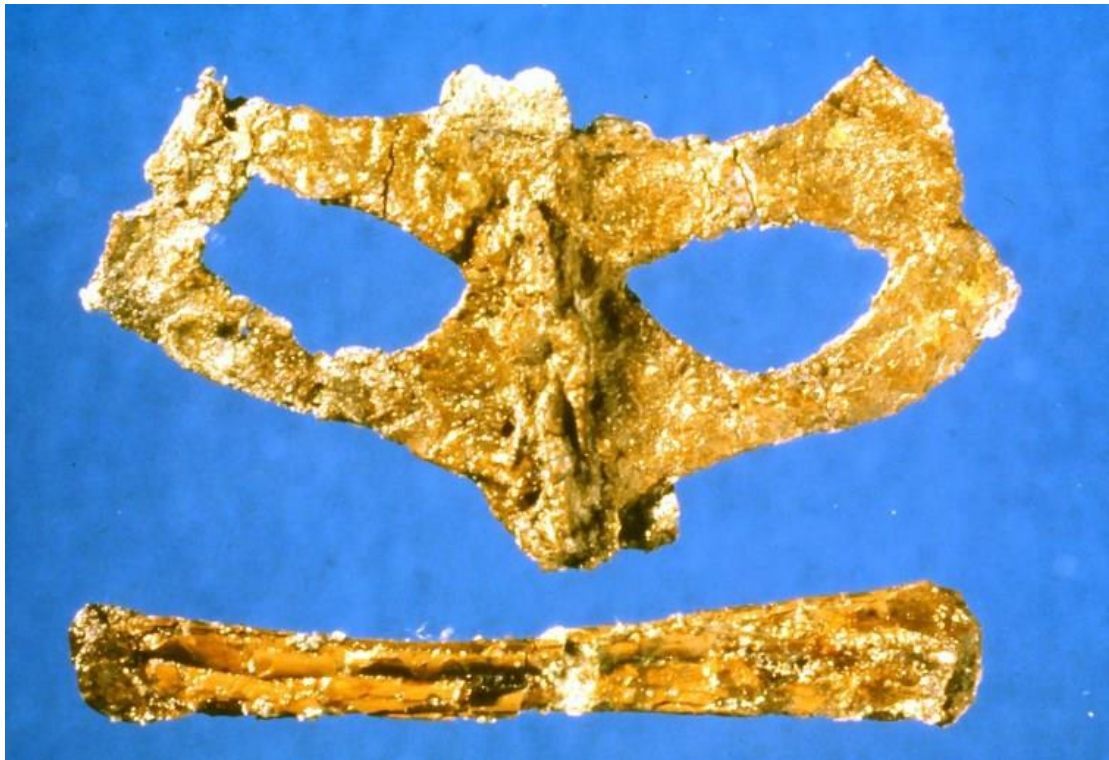


Pterosaurs in Dinosaur Cove

One of the many surprises to be found during the 1985 Dinosaur Cove field season was evidence of pterosaurs; a small wing bone from an animal about the size of a fruit bat. Pterosaurs have been found in most continents in the world, but this was only the second record of these flying reptiles in Australia.

The following field season what initially looked like a pair of fossilised reading glasses turned out to be the hip bones of a small pterosaur. Pterosaur bones are uncommon in the fossil record as they are hollow, thin walled and extremely fragile, so they tend not to be preserved. So to find even a small number of pterosaur bones at Dinosaur Cove was exciting.

Unfortunately, none of the pterosaur bones has been diagnostic enough to identify which group they belonged to, but at least we know that they were here, in Victoria around 112 million years ago.



Pterosaur hip and wing bone. Courtesy of T.H. Rich Collection.