

Dinosaur Dreaming Featured Researcher - September 2020

Barbara Wagstaff

Dr Barbara Wagstaff has been involved in the **Dinosaur Dreaming** project from its inception and before that with the **Dinosaurs of Darkness** project at Dinosaur Cove. As a palynologist at the University of Melbourne Barbara studies fossil pollen and spores and estimates their age. She recently completed a major study of a number of fossil localities along the south coast of Victoria, which resulted in the publication of a paper in Alcheringa, the Australian Journal of Palaeontology (June 2020) entitled “ Palynological determination of Early Cretaceous vertebrate-bearing beds along the south Victorian coast of Australia, with implications for the spore-pollen biostratigraphy of the region”.

The results of her comprehensive study of Early Cretaceous sites has improved the dating accuracy to a degree that she was able to determine a mean age for the Gippsland coastal sites to 126.3 million years, which is an impressive feat.

Read her story in the feature article on [“Thirty five years of Palynology”](#)