

KRONOSAURUS KORNER, RICHMOND, QUEENSLAND

Richmond in Queensland is part of “Australia’s Dinosaur Trail”, which also includes Winton and Hughenden. These three towns are well known for the amazing fossil discoveries that have been made and are still being made today.

Richmond is the home of Kronosaurus Korner; a small but impressive Museum based on the discoveries of Cretaceous marine reptiles in the area. A visit to their website at www.kronosauruskorner.com.au will tell you everything you ever wanted to know about Australia’s largest predator *Kronosaurus queenslandicus* and many other marine animals that lived in the huge inland sea that covered most of Queensland and parts of New South Wales around 100 million years ago.

Kronosaurus Korner houses not only marine reptiles but also an almost complete skeleton of an armoured dinosaur called *Minmi paravertebra*, discovered near Richmond in 1989. Even though Minmi was found in marine sediments it is thought that the animal died on land and its carcass was carried out to sea, possibly by a river, shortly after it died. The body settled into the muddy floor of the seabed before it rotted away and the bones were preserved in articulation, that is to say that they are still attached to each other as they were in life. Minmi is the most complete Australian dinosaur skeleton that has been found to date.

Kronosaurus Korner also displays turtles, ammonites and huge fish fossils, including “Wandah” (*Cooyoo australis*) - Australia’s largest fish fossil.

The Museum staff conduct fossil fossicks to nearby quarries where bones and teeth of marine reptiles are regularly found. Just recently a family from Victoria discovered a partial ichthyosaur skull at one of the quarries, so if you are visiting the area, check with the Museum as to when their next fossil fossick is taking place.

If you love dinosaurs (and other fossils) and are wondering where to go to see them, head up to Queensland and Australia’s Dinosaur Trail. You will not be disappointed.



Kronosaurus Korner and the life size models of *Kronosaurus queenslandicus* and *Minmi paravertebra*. Photographer: Lesley Kool



Inside Kronosaurus Korner. Photographer: Lesley Kool



Wandah – Australia’s largest fossil fish. Photographer: Lesley Kool



Minmi paravertebral skeleton and reconstruction. Photographer: Lesley Kool