



The Royal Society
of Western Australia

RSWA Free Public Lecture

PO Box 7026, Karawara,
Western Australia 6152
secretary@rswa.org.au
ABN: 52 760 771 990

www.rswa.org.au

Assembling the Human Body - A Tale Told by Fossils

presented by Professor John Long,
College of Science and Engineering, Flinders University, South Australia

Friday, 27th July 2018

6.30 pm to 7.30 pm, The University Club Auditorium,
The University of Western Australia, Hackett Drive, Crawley. WA.

Free admission

To register online via Eventbrite [click here](#)



Professor Long researches the early evolution of vertebrates in order to unravel the early stages of how the modern vertebrate body plan was assembled. Many parts of our human anatomy had their origins back in the Early Palaeozoic (540-350 million years ago). This was when jaws, teeth, paired limbs, ossified brain-cases, intermittent genital organs, chambered hearts and paired lungs all appeared in early fishes. For the past 30 years he has been collecting from the Gogo sites in northern Western Australia, whose perfectly preserved 3-D fish fossils have yielded many significant discoveries, including mineralised soft tissues and the origins of complex sexual reproduction in vertebrates. Current research projects include describing new Late Devonian Gogo fishes and reconstructing their soft tissue anatomy (with Assoc. Prof. K. Trinajstic, Curtin Univ.), new Early Devonian placoderm (stem-gnathostomes) from the Taemas region, NSW (with Dr G.C. Young, ANU); and investigating the role of trace elements in mass extinction events (with Prof. Ross Large, U.Tas).

More information:-

<http://www.flinders.edu.au/people/john.long>