

# The players

(in order of appearance)

## THE LARK QUARRY TRACK-MAKERS

Three types of dinosaurs feature in this drama — two types of theropods: two-legged meat-eaters of order Saurischia (“lizard-hipped” dinosaurs); and ornithopods: two-legged plant-eaters of suborder Ornithischia (“bird-hipped” dinosaurs).

### TRACKWAY TYPE 1

*cf. Tyrannosauropus* (“foot of *Tyrannosaurus*”)

<i>Track-maker</i>	A large theropod
<i>Size</i>	Hip height 2.6 m total length 8–9 m head height 3–3.5 m
<i>Average footprint size</i>	51 cm
<i>Average stride length</i>	3.3 m
<i>Average walking speed</i>	6.9 km/hr
<i>Diet</i>	Other dinosaurs

The *Tyrannosauropus* trackways were made by a large theropod, similar to *Tyrannosaurus* but slightly smaller. Its footprints are symmetrical, with three long toes, each sporting a sharp claw. These dinosaurs ran as fast as 30 km/hr.

No bones of large theropods have been found yet in Queensland. *Allosaurus* ankle bones have been found in southern Victoria in rocks of a similar age to those at Lark Quarry.

### TRACKWAY TYPE 2

*Skartopus australis* (“southern nimble foot”)

<i>Track-makers</i>	Small theropods, most likely coelurosaurs
<i>Size</i>	Hip height 13–22 cm total length 45–75 cm head height 15–25 cm
<i>Average footprint size</i>	4.5 cm
<i>Average stride length</i>	62 cm
<i>Average running speed</i>	12 km/hr
<i>Diet</i>	Insects, small animals (frogs, lizards and mammals), eggs, possibly fruit and berries

These tracks were made by agile, chicken-sized theropods called coelurosaurs. They had three toes of same length, with sharp claws. There are footprints of fully grown adults of various sizes and smaller juveniles.

Scientists think that some coelurosaurs may be the direct ancestors of modern-day birds. Some were even covered with bristle-like filaments or true feathers.

No small theropod bones have been found in Queensland, but isolated bones have been discovered in Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia.

### TRACKWAY TYPE 3

*Wintonopus latomorum* (“Winton foot” + “stonemason”, in honour of the many volunteers who assisted with the Lark Quarry excavation)

<i>Track-makers</i>	Ornithopods
<i>Size (small–medium)</i>	Hip height 14–158 cm length 45 cm–4.5 m head height 20–160 cm
<i>Size (large)</i>	Hip height 1.6m length 5.5m head height 1.7 m
<i>Average footprint size</i>	6.7 cm long (small– medium) 30 cm long (large)
<i>Average stride length</i>	131cm (small–medium) 3.3 m (large)
<i>Average running speed</i>	16 km/hr (small–medium) 17 km/hr (large)
<i>Diet</i>	Plants

The *Wintonopus latomorum* footprints are asymmetrical, broader than the theropod tracks, with a strongly divergent second toe. They do not show heel-pads or sharp claws. The ornithopods ranged from chicken to emu-sized. There are also tracks of a larger ornithipod, about half the size of *Muttaborrasaurus langdoni*, crossing the mudflat before the stampede. *Wintonopus* trackways have also been found near Broome, Western Australia.