

Emblem of choice – Gogo fish

We may already have a floral, animal and marine emblem representing our State but is there any reason why we can't also include a fossil as a symbol? Now here's an interesting fact to consider, did you know palaeontologists have found the remains of an animal that lived along our Kimberley coast around 130 million years before dinosaurs lived on earth? How incredible it would be to have this amazing prehistoric creature have a place alongside the living symbols we treasure.

If you want to get serious about protecting our stunning Kimberley coastline, and you should, what better way of raising awareness than instating our local fossil known as the Gogo fish as a state emblem. Are you aware this interesting creature lived around a tropical reef teeming with life, life that lived some 350 million years ago on our Kimberley shores? What is truly incredible is that this past life has been beautifully preserved in the limestone rock and scientists think there are many more priceless fish fossils to be found captured in the reef. The Gogo fish emblem would serve as a reminder to protect our beautiful coastline from mining and development so we can enjoy our pristine coastline and continue learning about the amazing creatures from a time before we lived on earth.

Another excellent reason to have the Gogo fish as a state emblem is to inspire young people like us to want to learn about the science of fossils. From an early age most kids absolutely love dinosaurs, just look at how many movies and documentaries have been made about the subject. Children would love to learn about how scientists go about finding and identifying prehistoric animals and what special memories would be made from learning about the amazing discovery of new fossils in our very own state. The palaeontologist Dr Long, who led a team who discovered the Gogo fish, had his life changing moment at the young age of 7 when he discovered his first fossilised sea creature washed up on a hill near Melbourne.

One last important consideration in regard to making the Gogo fish our new state fossil emblem is to imagine just how proud we can feel as Western Australians to share with the world the secrets our scientists were able to unlock about this amazing long lost creature. Their find of the first ever complete fossil of the Gogo fish provided them with clues as to how fish were able to adapt and change over time to become the land animals we know today as amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. Their find enabled them to gather evidence from the Gogo fish showing the beginnings of a wrist joint and a complete front fin, with the same arm bones found in humans and four-legged animals adding to very important evidence how fish adapted to become the land animals we know today as amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals.

NB Teachers can draw on what has been presented here to model how to create a strong conclusion.