

Despite it's childish and wildly immature nature, Talking with Dinosaurs is NOT intended for children. It has blasphemy, swears, sexy talk, and bad, bad thoughts. It is for entertainment purposes only, and while care has been taken to keep information as accurate as possible, Palaeontology is an ever growing field with new data and theories constantly changing how we see these prehistoric monsters, so we make no guarantees about accuracy. Not that it matters, palaeontologists are just making it all up as they go along anyway!
Also Mum, I'm still very, very sorry.

Twas the Night before New Years, and all through the Holocene, not a creature was stirring, because humanity had destroyed them.

The kids huddled round the podcatchers with care, in the hopes that Talking with Dinosaurs (the world's number one rated comedy NSFW dinosaur Pop-Science Podcast hosted by a New Zealander) would soon be there,

But Stefan Ayto, your host, was nestled all up in his bed,
With visions of Ankylosaurus running through his head...

Wait, how long is this bloody poem? I'm not even 10% of the way through? Bugger that. Let's just get on with it! You know who I am, you know why I'm here. Dinosaurs. Its New Years, so I wanted to do something special to mark the first full year of Talking with Dinosaurs, mostly because I forgot to mark the first anniversary at the beginning of October. Bless my wee cotton socks, you may have noticed by now how good I am with, like, time 'n' shit. But not to worry! I am here now, ready to wow you with what I have prepared! What better way to celebrate 2018 than with a year in review, and what better way to do a year in review than a clip show, stitching together random bits of old episodes into a single incoherent mess? But then I remember that Clip Shows are Terrible, No one wants them, and they're actually even more work than a usual episode! Also, I would probably just end up stitching together every time I say "Dinosaurs" into a single compilation, which given that already is an episode which is entirely the word "Dinosaurs", would be intense. So, what to do? Sit down, eat another bag of chips and watch another deadline fly by? No! Not I, Noble Listener! I am here to review 2018's year in Palaeontology, a year in which we discovered so coOoOI new things! Maybe. Unless they turn out to be wrong, but whatever. Yolo. Etc. So, where do we begin? Well, I began with research, so I knew what to tell you poor fools... uh, I mean, beloved listeners! And what I discovered was that a shit ton of work is done every year by dedicated researchers who study all sorts of weird and wonderful long extinct jellyfish, plants, molluscs... Its genuinely impressive the effort and passion they put into these topics, and I would like to recognise them for it! I won't talk about them here, though, because, let's admit it, you don't give a shit about *Neopilophyllia*, a species of Chinese coral discovered this year in, well, China, by the Team of Wang, He, Tang, and Percival. There's nothing wrong with not caring about ancient Coral, but it's still important work, and they deserve recognition! Well, then, what am I going to talk about? Why, the big juicy ones, the ones that really grab you by the grabby bits and scream for your attention. So, of course I'll start with Memeist dinosaur of the year, and friend of the Podcast, Thanos Simonattoi. Oh Thanos, you probably not purple bastard, you certainly captured our hearts and minds this year, despite literally your name being the only interesting thing about you!

Speaking of creatures only interesting for their names, that brings us to the mighty Dynamoterror Dynastes, one of the most badass names in Dinosaur history! Described in October, Dynamoterror is a very early example of a Tyrannosaurid, found in New Mexico. Its name means Powerful, terrifying ruler, which is either really badass, or a very impressive measuring device! So, who's next in our brief sojourn through 2018? Ah, how about probably the coolest dinosaur described in 2018, Ledumahadi Mafube, the OG giant dinosaur? Ledumahadi also has a name designed to strike you down with awe, meaning "A Giant Thunderclap at Dawn". What a legend. Ledumahadi probably weighed in at about 12 tonnes, like a champion! An early relative of Sauropods, Ledumahadi was significantly different from Sauropods in that rather than the straight, relatively thin legs of later, similarly sized Sauropods, had bulky, bent legs, more like what you would expect from a much later theropod! Weird! Some amateur reconstructions even give them a semi-bipedal gait, freeing up their arms sort of like Spinosaurus, and allowing them to punch you with all the Jurassic fury it could muster. Badass. Kinda unscientific, but badass. Let's look at a true Sauropod, now, Lavocatisaurus was discovered in Argentina, and probably lived in the desert, which I can't really imagine being an easy life for a 12 metre long leaf eating machine! And finally, for this brief round up of 2018 dinosaur discoveries, we have Caihong Ju Ji, a tiny birdlike dinosaur from China. Caihong means Rainbow in Mandarin, and it is named because scientists were able to pinpoint its colour as mostly black, but with a rainbow iridescent frill around its neck. This exciting wee guy could be a direct descendant from birds, but is definitely the cutest murderbird I've seen so far! So, normally this is the point in the episode that I rate a dinosaur, so it makes sense that I would rank the dinosaurs discovered this year! I won't though, because each dinosaur is cool and interesting in its own. Just like you. You're great! That's all for the first half, let's head into the final questions of TWENTY! EIGHT! TEEN!

Here we go, everyone! It's time for the final questions of the year! First up, I owe a heartfelt apology to a couple of people. I was sent a couple messages two months ago, one that I missed completely, because I am the silliest of geese. If I haven't responded to your question, or you asked it MORE than two episodes ago, let me know! I MUST REITERATE HOW BAD I AM AT STUFF! You've seen the release schedule (or lack thereof, I guess) for this podcast. Thankfully Destinora got back in touch with me, so I am more than happy to make things right! Destinora asks "I have a question I'll have to choose a university soon and I want to learn about paleontology, but the closest thing I can chose in Hungary is geology and I don't really care about rocks. What should I do?" Well, Destinora, I've got bad news. Paleontology is inextricably linked to Geology, you're going to have to learn a LOT about rocks! But worry not! Geology is not the only way to become a scientific dinosaur specialist. If you're more interested in the actual animal side of Paleontology, why not try zoology? Its well and good knowing all about rocks, but without a knowledge of how animals work, you won't do a great job of reconstructing these great beasts! What I would suggest doing, is contacting the Geology and Zoology departments of the Universities you're interested in, and maybe finding if any local (or even slightly further afield) museums have any Paleontologists on staff who would be willing to talk to you about it as a career path!

Many scientists are happy to share such knowledge with passionate young people, and I'm sure they could give you some excellent advice! I'm in a similar predicament myself, where I would love to directly study paleontology, but I would have to study Geology first. Also, I'm not allowed into any of the universities, because I keep sending the paleontologists who work in them threatening emails, but that's besides the point! NEXT QUESTION! This one comes from Alex, in Toronto, who I also forgot to respond to! Alex asks "What do you think dinosaurs tasted like? In your expert opinion which dinosaur was the tastiest? Any recipes?" Well, Alex, I'm disappointed to have to let you know that I talked about this almost exactly a year ago, but I'll let you off with just listening to the Megalodon episode again, since I didn't reply for two months! As discussed in that episode, Gallimimus was probably the tastiest dinosaur, due to its athletic nature! I will, however, give you my favourite dinosaur recipe. Its a really simple one for Sauropod Neck Steak! Just carve the neck into human sized portions, season with cajun spices and garlic powder, and fry it up! Mmm, Mmm, love me some Supersaurus Steaks! Hope that livens up your next dinner party, just... uh... don't tell 'em where you got the meat... or that its been sitting there for about 153 million years. Aging beef for a couple of weeks is one thing, but... some things are just taken too far.

That's it! Now we're on to Great Contributions to Dinosaur Science, except by Paleontologists, because fuck those guys!". Except Destinora in a few years. You'll be awesome. Anyway, this weeks winner is YOU! Yes, you, dear listener, for keeping the joy of dinosaurs in your heart, and spreading it to others. Every time you've shared a dinosaur meme, talked about the latest Jurassic World movie, or told someone to listen to the World's Number One Rated NSFW Comedy Dinosaur Pop-Sci Podcast Hosted by a New Zealander! (That last one being the most important, of course), you have helped spread the joy of dinosaurs, and have helped someone develop a passion they didn't know they had. If anyone has ever shushed you, or judged you for liking dinosaurs, ignore them, because if it's something you love, you can share it in anyway you like! And if they've ever told you they don't like my podcast... well, you don't need that kind of negativity in your life. Cut them out completely, they're probably secret bigots or something.

That's all the time I have for our 2018 year in review! Thank you so much for sticking with me through what was quite a tumultuous year. I hope I've helped you get through what I'm sure has been a really tough time for a lot of you, in the same way you've helped keep me going through some personal stuff, mental health issues, and an inability to stick to a deadline! I would like to make special thanks, as usual, to Adam Donohue, designer of both logo and seguments, constant supporter and general amazing human being, and to Alectricity for the amazing theme, check out the link in the description if you want to hear more of his amazing stuff! I would like to thank everyone who follows the podcast, however you do it, in particular the great people on the Discord, Ed, Adam, TFielding and Dinofuckmesaurus. If you want to get in touch with me, I promise, I'm getting better about replying and answering questions! Hit me up on the facebook page, or the group Talking with Dinosaurs: Dinophiles Anonymous, twitter (@talkingdinocast), instagram, or email me at talkingwithdinosaurs@gmail.com! I do have a task for you all. Bring a little good into 2019. Help someone, donate money to a charity, punch a nazi or a TERF or

something. Help make the world a better place. That's my message for the year, Ka Kite Ano, I'm Stefan Ayto, And We Have Spent Over a Year Talking with Dinosaurs.