



THE UNIVERSITY
of ADELAIDE

FREE PUBLIC LECTURE

World-renowned palaeontologist, author
and TV presenter Richard Fortey FRS

Survivors: the animals and plants that time has left behind



Despite a commonly held view that evolution moves ever onwards and upwards, there are, scattered around the globe, living survivors that tell the story of ancient worlds. Many of these organisms have come through global crises that reorganised the entire biosphere through mass extinction: several of them have outlived both trilobites and dinosaurs.

Professor Fortey spent several years visiting these messengers from the past in their natural habitats to find out if there was a common factor in their longevity, or whether they were simply lucky. The journey took him to Yellowstone Park, remote mountains in China and, not surprisingly, Australia.

In this talk he will describe the lives of these survivors, and explore the threats they now face to their continued existence. We need to conserve what Charles Darwin termed “living fossils” for future generations.

The University of Adelaide, the Australian Centre for Ancient DNA and Environment Institute proudly welcome Professor Fortey. Famous for his entertaining and clear descriptions of life and evolution, his career at the Natural History Museum in London has taken him around the world, working on trilobites and early invertebrates, and presenting with people like David Attenborough. His best-selling books include *Life: A natural history of the first four billion years of life on earth* and *Survivors*. His BBC series include *Survivors: Nature's indestructible creatures* and *Fossil wonderlands: Nature's hidden treasures*. He has been awarded numerous prizes and medals for academic and popular science.



- DATE:** Friday 28 November 2014
VENUE: The Braggs lecture theatre
TIME: 5.30 – 6.30pm
BOOKINGS: adelaide.edu.au/acad/event/richardfortey

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