

**FIELD TRIP TO THE MACDONNELL RANGES AND NORTH QUEENSLAND
26 DECEMBER 2003 – 7 JANUARY 2004**

Main Participants in Trip:

Prof. Mikhail Fedonkin, Head, Laboratory of Precambrian Organisms, Paleontological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, 123 Profsoyuznaya, Moscow

Dr Tatayana Tumanova, Laboratory of Higher Vertebrates, Paleontological Institute, Moscow.

Dr Peter Murray, Northern Territory Museum, Alice Springs, N. T.

Dr Peter Latz, Northern Territory Museum, Alice Springs, N. T.

Dr Tom Rich, Museum Victoria, Melbourne

Prof. Patricia Vickers Rich, Monash University, Melbourne

Other people participated briefly who were working at the Lizard Island Research Station, run by the Australian Museum.

Purpose of the trip:

To collect Neoproterozoic metazoans (multicelled organisms) in the Northern Territory as a joint project with staff of the Northern Territory Museum, Monash University and the Russian Academy of Sciences. To photograph and locate field sites that have produced critical material for this time period. This is part of a UNESCO sponsored project, IGCP493 that runs from 2003-2007. Material collected on this trip is both for research and for a major exhibition that is being prepared as a joint venture by the Paleontological Institute, the Namibian Geological Survey, Monash University and the South Australian Museum. Photographs were made both for research purposes and for use in the exhibition and a popular book being prepared by Prof. Patricia Vickers Rich and Prof. Mikhail Fedonkin. Work on the Barrier Reef at the Australian Museum's Lizard Island Research Station where the major effort was made to photograph living organisms related to Neoproterozoic forms – these photos to be used for research, in the exhibition (being mounted by the Monash Science Centre and to open at a major museum in Japan in early 2006) and for the popular book, currently being considered for publication by the National Geographic Society. Further work on Lizard Island involved observations of living forms related to fossil forms, noting distribution correlated with sediment and ecological assemblages and discussing research with station scientists working on several groups related – especially in the Phylum Mollusca.