



FRIDAY ENVIRONMENT FORUM

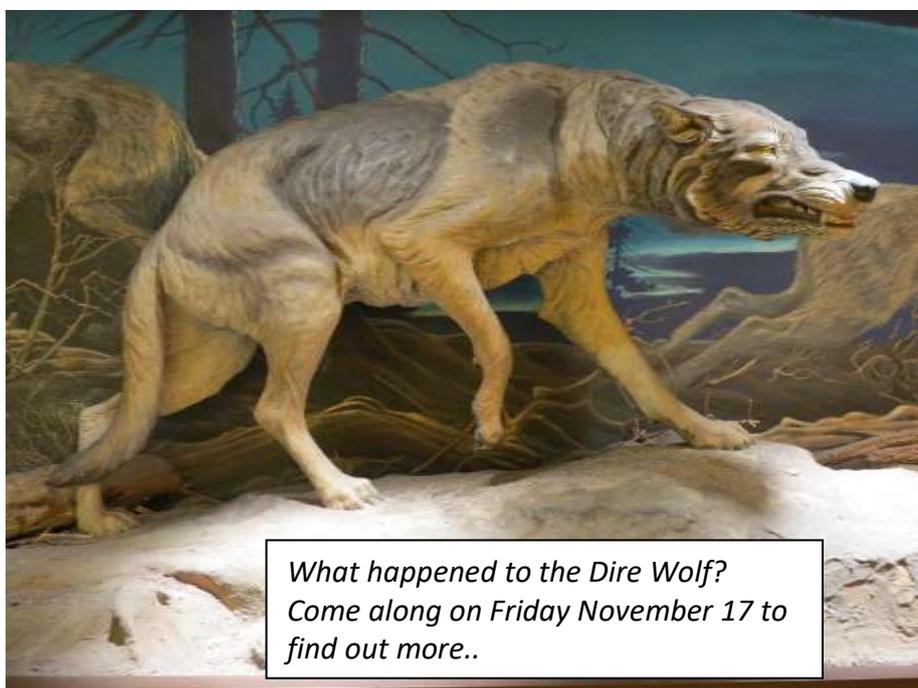
NPA Environment Centre

17 November 2017

Mysteries of Ice-age extinctions

Between about 40000 and 12000 years ago, at the end of the Pleistocene Ice Age, looking out over the southern California landscape would have been like looking over the Serengeti Plains in Africa. There were vast herds of herbivores grazing and browsing, stalked by massive predators. Many of the prey species were themselves huge, such as the towering mammoths, mastodons and giant ground sloths, Herds of giant bison, some with a horn spread of two metres, were the most abundant, closely followed by horses which had evolved in America, spread into Eurasia and Africa, and became extinct in their native land.

Preying on the large herbivores were great, muscular carnivores equipped with size, stealth, strong claws and huge fangs. Chief among these were the sabre-toothed cats. An equally large carnivore was the “American Lion” which after years of study turned out to be a giant jaguar.



*What happened to the Dire Wolf?
Come along on Friday November 17 to
find out more..*

Then, as the climate changed at the end of the last Ice Age, the plant fodder for the large herbivores had to adapt, migrate or die out. So did the megafauna which preyed on them. A puzzle remains: the most abundant fossils from that time show that another carnivore, the Dire Wolf, similar to the present-day timber wolf, but more robust and solid, was common. The Dire Wolf became extinct – the timber wolf, its contemporary, did not.

Friday Environment Forum is held at the **NPA Environment Centre, 5 Wallace Drive Noosaville** starting at **10.30am** with a conservation update before the guest speaker. Coffee and tea available from 10am and the forum concludes at 12.15pm. **All welcome.**

On Friday November 17, Noosa Parks Association welcomes guest speaker Kon Hepers to discuss the reason behind the extinction of the Dire Wolf and other fascinating aspects of the demise of the post Ice Age megafauna.

For those wanting to enjoy the birds of Wallace Park, join Valda and other bird observers at **8.30am** in the car-park for interpretive birding.