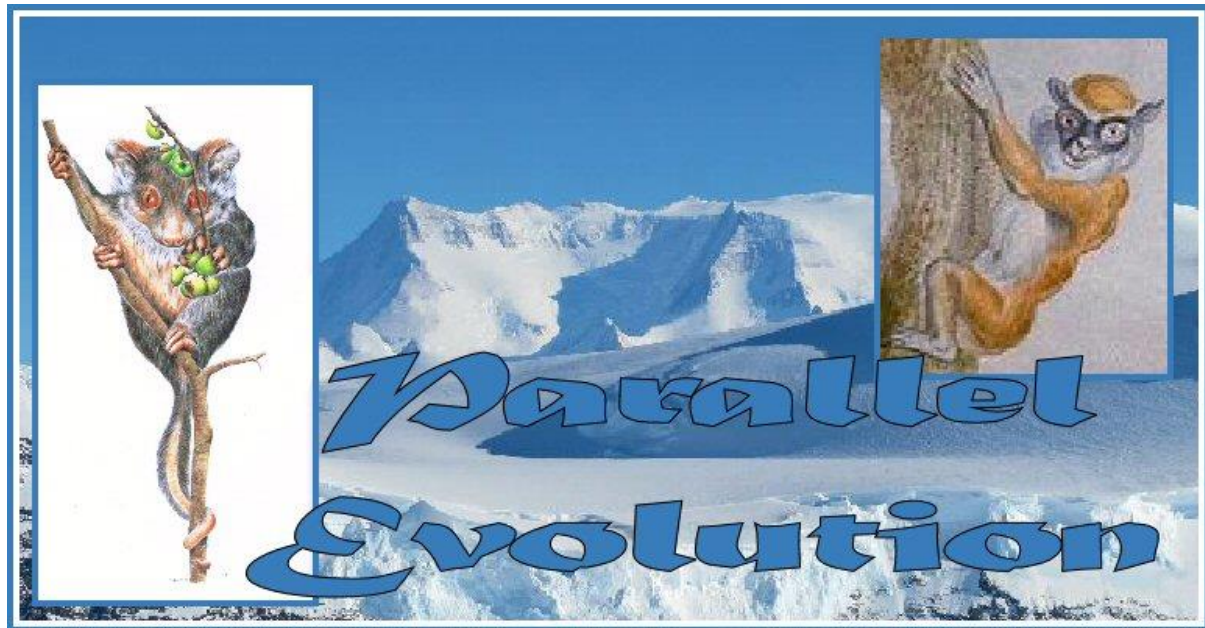




PARALLEL EVOLUTION

Dramatis Personae

The John Lort Stokes Society

Sir David Trout (founder of the John Lort Stokes Society) – and what would prove to be fun is the casting of Sam O’Neill for this part *[since we have referred to his role in “Jurassic Park”]*

Claudine Cabot (his stepdaughter)

Others who work with/for Sir David: Leon Baste & Gordon Tremont

Darwin University Faculty Of Science

Brent Forelli head of the Faculty of Science, Darwin University, Belhairt Street campus

The University of Philadelphia Alumni

Anton Whiteley (an obese specimen) & Fenn Larssen

Daniel’s American family

Daniel T. Marchbank

The part of Daniel Marchbank was specifically designed to be played by US actor B. J. Novak (of Saving Mr Banks).

Kath and husband Jake and his mother Lyndelle (the dead mother being Virginia, and Pop was Walter)
Uncle Vernon, Aunt Irma, Cousin Luke & Cousin Tootie

Family of the Australian Prime Minister & Staff

John Sturt Dahlgetty – the new PM of Australia

His wife and children: Leanne, James, Megan, Jayne [cousins: Piers and Mamie Dahlgetty]

Mike Munday – assistant to the PM

Commonwealth Of Australia

Joey Milam.

Female lab assistant.

Australian Academics

Sam Craig (Reader) (UQ) and Leonie Carter (Fellow) (U of SA)

The Darwinians and Islanders

The beach cricket boys at WDI: Wally, Ed, Zack, Dom, Nat, Josh

Unnamed tender driver

Wanspik

Guest head-hunter Wanspik, the cricketing fanatic

Australian journalists & paparazzi

Tinny Mafrici

Auro Virak



FULL SYNOPSIS

PROLOGUE

We begin with the (for want of a better word) peroration occurring at the beginning of the film, which makes no sense at all. However, all the various throbbings must knit together. It seemed convenient and “user-friendly” to allow Daniel the luxury of a recapitulation prior to the action. It gives us a sense of purpose. Otherwise the tale is simply a tapestry of unrelated business.

Explaining the Title.

Yes, it was difficult to choose between “Convergent Evolution” and “Parallel Evolution” as a title. However, I was thinking of the lovers. It was **their** love which evolved from mutual hatred. They had both gone to great lengths to avoid each other. Somewhere along the line Daniel had found Claudine vile. He had bitter memories of times when they had been together.

Then she was ditched by a rich Italian pasta purveyor not long before what would have been a futile marriage. Daniel found that apt and fitting (that Claudine should have been dumped for an airhead model.)

The pair come together again after Virginia’s death. Claudine’s expressed sympathy and compassion unman Daniel. Out of his quest to unravel the threads of the Marsumonk controversy, Daniel finds himself falling in love with the beautiful scientist.

~~~~~

© January 2015 Property of QUEENSLAND TRUCKIE'S MATE

THIS DOCUMENT IS SOLELY OWNED BY QUEENSLAND TRUCKIE'S MATE and is intended solely for use as an entertainment. QUEENSLAND TRUCKIE'S MATE retains exclusive and inalienable rights to this document, which may not be reproduced in any way without the express authorisation and permission of QUEENSLAND TRUCKIE'S MATE. Any disclosure, reproduction, copying, distribution, or other dissemination or use of this document or of the intellectual property contained in this document is strictly prohibited without the express authorisation and permission of QUEENSLAND TRUCKIE'S MATE. ([www.qld-tm.net.au](http://www.qld-tm.net.au))

We also have the story running alongside of the Australian Prime Minister (who turns out to be Daniel's biological father) and his second son, James. There's a piece of work for you! Cousins Piers and Mamie (along with James) indicate just what it takes for a PM to (a) get to the top and (b) hold onto his popularity. As a hatchet man, James assists his father in stitching-up the dirty work. And how!

I had to have a threat from the natives in Niugini.

Without that brewing fear of sudden reprisals, I had no story.

I apologize to anyone who is offended. However, I called them "Wanspiks" such that they do not really exist.

However, I realize that someone or other will jump out of the woodwork and be appalled.

Still, Daniel does fall on their side. He pronounces that in all his long experience as an anthropologist, he has never met with anything but helpfulness from natives he met.

Christmas Day is only a couple of weeks away.

The newly elected Prime Minister of Australia (a former world-class cricketer) is riding on the "honeymoon" period of popularity. He celebrates his political party's success with his fellow parliamentarians.

The date is now December 21<sup>st</sup>, which in Australia is the longest day. In Antarctica, the sun remains visible for a full 24 hours.

At a temporary base on Ellsworth Land (part of the Argentine possessions), an English billionaire (Sir David Trout OBE) and his small team are achieving brilliant results in bouncing-back 3-D "fossil" outlines of possums from the Eocene epoch. It is revealed that Sir David's stepdaughter (Claudine) and the main character (Daniel) have a history of antagonistic back chat.

The Argentine authorities threaten the English team in that they overstayed their permit. The Australian Navy rescues the team, which is seen as a further boost to the Prime Minister's approval rating.

## ACT I

Australia is still enjoying the longest day. US anthropologist Dr Daniel Marchbank (the main character who bears an uncanny resemblance to the new Prime Minister) is in Darwin, where he receives news that his mother has passed away. Daniel intends to fly back to the States.

At the funeral, a discussion takes place covering the fact that Daniel and his sister do not share the same father, and that Daniel did not ever enquire as to who his real father is.

At a family Christmas dinner, Daniel announces that he has developed a love for the game of cricket, and on returning to Australia in the last days of December will travel to a dig on Wet Dog Island. The concept of “Marsumonk” (a cartoon representation of a pouched monkey) will be introduced, as the preliminary investigations of the fossils and 3-D model seem to suggest that a marsupial monkey might have evolved during the Eocene epoch.

On Boxing Day, Sir David Trout and Claudine expand on the whimsy of Sir David and intimate that the team will clear-out of London for the Niugini dig (that is sponsored by the billionaire).

## ACT II

Two Australian gutter-press journalists become suspicious about the existence of an American who closely resembles the new Prime Minister.

On New Year’s Eve, Category Four Cyclone Myrtha causes chaos to Darwin, where Daniel is simply trying to find the man who is scheduled to take him to Wet Dog Island in the tender. A violent brawl breaks out amongst drunken men sheltering Myrtha. Due to an unfortunate happenstance, Daniel is arrested, fingerprinted and swabbed by the Darwin police.

Several days later, the Prime Minister’s son James comes over as a very likable young man who is acting irresponsibly, to the possible detriment of the new government’s popularity rating in the media. At this time, Daniel takes the tender to Wet Dog Island, ruminating on his late father’s words (whereby his Dad doubts that he was ever Daniel’s real father.)

Once on the island, Daniel discusses with his co-worker Fenn the now very real possibility of the existence of marsupial monkey fossils.

Sir David, Claudine and team are now established in a fossil-rich valley in central Niugini, which they have dubbed “Marsumonk” base camp. Fearful of local unrest, Sir David organizes that Daniel and Fenn would join them, bringing along firearms.

## **ACT III**

### **January 5th**

The Darwin Coroner begins to investigate the outcomes of the New Year’s Eve cyclone, whilst the two dodgy journalists have received a strong lead regarding Daniel.

Daniel’s DNA sample causes a security kerfuffle regarding his close blood relationship with the PM, such that a Commonwealth police officer tips off James. Meanwhile, the 3-D model (Chuck) parachutes onto Wet Dog Island.

James reveals Daniel’s existence to his family.

### **January 6th**

In Darwin, a sombre memorial service is in progress at the same time that Jamie embarks for Niugini in a Black Hawk helicopter.

During an impromptu game of beach cricket, Daniel has an inspiration, such that he contacts his Philadelphia University contact. From there, the news that Daniel and Fenn are to up-stumps and relocate (with armaments) to Niugini is delivered.

James unexpectedly drops into Marsumonk base camp.

The promised marsupial experts fly in during a tropical downpour.

Daniel and Fenn along with a native digger fly into Marsumonk, bringing sophisticated weaponry and Chuck for further analysis. There is some badinage when Claudine and Daniel are reunited; but then she condoles Daniel over the loss of his mother.

An interlude occurs whereby Claudine and Daniel re-invent the Levin/Kitty scene from Anna Karenina, whereby they write initials on a felt-covered card table.

## ACT IV

### January 6th

James privately admits to Daniel that they are half-brothers. This episode concludes with Daniel taking comfort in hugging Claudine.

### January 7th

The gutter-press guys make a fruitless visit to Wet Dog Island.

Daniel and the marsupial experts get down and dirty to discuss the possibility of a marsupial monkey. They are interrupted by a somewhat petulant Sir David Trout, who demands that the boffins progress to his desired result.

The two disreputable Australian journalists are discovered to be in a rent-a-bomb 4WD headed towards the Marsumonk base camp.

A comic interlude occurs when a huge wanspik joins in the cricket break.

### January 8th

The Prime Minister answers criticism from his minder.

Daniel rethinks the marsupial monkey proposition after staring at both the cartoon of Marsumonk and at Claudine.

## ACT V

### January 8th

Using Claudine as his model, Daniel negates the possibility of marsupials evolving into monkeys.

The two dodgy journalists are hacked to death in the jungle of Niugini.

### January 9th

Claudine and Daniel are attracted to each other; this is manifested physically.

The discovery of the bodies of the dodgy journalists leads to a headcount at Camp Marsumonk.

Daniel (after being warned that his father is flying in on a Black Hawk helicopter) realizes the truth about his half-brother. As the PM flies in with a small entourage, Daniel lets James know that he (Daniel) understands James's activities.

The PM gives a surprising rev-up to the wanspiks, and then lives up to his promise to interview his son for a special TV showing.

The distraught Darwin Coroner brings down his verdict on the unnecessary deaths occurring during the category four cyclone.

### Late January

Daniel accepts the challenge to play in the PM's Fantasy cricket game, explaining to the movie audience his feelings (echoing those expressed in the Foreword).

### Two Years Later

Daniel tries out some simple simian experiments on his new baby daughter. Claudine appears and carries the infant to her bath.



## **SINGLE PAGE SUMMARY**

This is a “used-to-hate-you-but-now-I-love-you” romance between Daniel and Claudine.

Several American, Australian and English academics begin initial investigations into an extinct marsupial monkey which possibly flourished in Eocene Australia and Niugini.

Using modern 3-D technology and old-fashioned fossil-hunting, a spare picture of such a creature emerges. This places the cast members variously in Canberra, Hayman Island, Antarctica, London, Philadelphia, Niugini and a restricted-access island in the Timor Sea. Furthermore, Daniel spends time in Darwin during a catastrophic category four cyclone.

There are many intertwining threads to follow:--

A DNA swab from Daniel reveals his biological father’s identity.

The Machiavellian nature of Daniel’s half-brother is uncovered.

The romance between the lead characters blossoms.

There is tribal trouble in Niugini, affecting the dig, whereby the Prime Minister of Australia takes centre stage.

~ ~ ~

The title “Parallel Evolution” does not necessarily refer to the palaeontological investigation.

As described by Daniel in his Foreword, many facets of the story run in parallel and develop/evolve as the tale unfolds.

## BACKGROUND NOTES

In early December, there had been a Federal election in Australia which the Conservative Party (known in Australia as the Liberals) has won. The new Prime Minister is John Sturt Dahlgetty who is in his early 60's.

John Sturt Dahlgetty was a top class cricketer (batsman) in his youth. He was capped for Australia, but only played in a handful of Test matches. From his brief cricketing career, John moved quickly into politics. With his commanding presence, sharp brain and charismatic style, John has shot to the top. The general election held a few weeks previously gave the Liberal Party a commanding victory.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The idea that Daniel is the illegitimate son of Australia's new Prime Minister comes to us very early in the piece. There is no surprise about it. But this nifty ploy leads us to one of our parallel threads.

Basically, the film depicts the several threads which run in parallel.

- The underlying theme is that a marsupial "monkey" might have evolved in parallel to the eutherian monkeys of Africa and South America. It is nowhere near as easy to find a starting point as it might seem, as witnessed by the vituperative debate regarding the origin of birds. A genesis fossil would be expected to exhibit certain indications: and up until Claudine, Gordon and Leon establish such a specimen (EF206), there was nothing concrete to go on.
- The love-story between Claudine and Daniel which has them starting out as combatants but ending with their romance warming right up.
- The differences and yet similarities of the two sons: Daniel and James.
- The developing tragedy in the aftermath of Cyclone Myrtha, as described by the Coroner.

## Christmas Decorations

The Prologue and Act I take place prior to Christmas, on Christmas Day and on Boxing Day. Of course, it is winter in the American and London scenes, and Summer in Antarctica (with 24 hours of sunlight per day) and Australia/Niugini.

The Christmas decorations (affectionately termed "deckies" in Australia) will be quite different for each locale.

- At Ellsworth Land, where a few members of the John Lort Stokes Society have been working for months in makeshift accommodation, the decorations are old, battered, hand-made and despicable. Most of them hang from an old cloth banner proclaiming the name of the society.
- In Darwin, in the Science Faculty wing (located in Belhairs Street), the decorations are loud, tacky, gaudy, overdone shop-bought items, such that the flashing lights and tasteless tableaux are almost repulsive.
- In Canberra, in the function room at Parliament House and in the PM's office, the decorations are very stylish and in keeping with the decor. These decorations were artistically placed by professionals.
- The most heart-warming decorations and tree are found where Kate and Lyndelle serve Christmas dinner in the USA. These are all "to-die-for" tributes to the warmth and love of the family.
- In the London flat of Sir David Trout, the Christmas decorations amount to some rather grand pieces in the centre of the festive table and loads of flashing coloured lights. A gigantic Christmas tree (covered in tasteful ornamentation) is visible during the scene where this flat is featured.

## SUBTITLE VERSUS SIDE-NOTE

The subtitles will be used only where necessary to avoid confusion.

In other instances, the "subtitle" is merely an informative side-note.

~ ~ ~