

His notes underscore dinosaur film

By Niki Burnside

A COMPOSER has lent his musical storytelling skills to the frightening feathered film *Dinosaur Island*, opening nationally this week.

Silverdale musician Chris Wright was called on to provide the audio for *Dinosaur Island*, an independent Australian film by Emmy-award winner Matt Drummond.

Filmed in part in the Blue Mountains, the movie also carries the torch for feathered dinosaurs. After recent evidence found the ancient reptiles may in fact have had coloured feathers, Drummond became the first to portray them on screen.

As the concept for his portrayal came together, the Blue Mountains director enlisted Wright's help.

The former St Dominic's College student and guitarist has a history of musical collaboration but the last 15 months of cinema in the making made for a distinct learning curve.

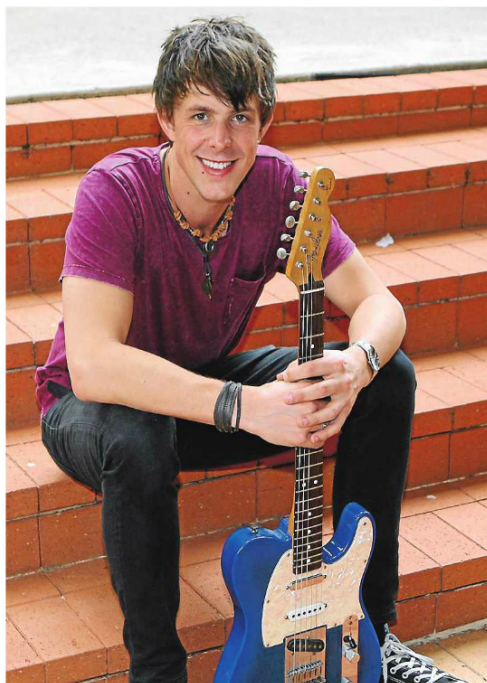
The composer relished the experience and looks forward to finding future film projects.

"If you're composing your own music without picture that's a very different way of communicating," Wright said.

"With a film there are so many things to consider — you have to think about the dialogue and the music itself has to tell a story."

Drummond's own background in music made Wright's job smooth. "I was incredibly lucky because Matt's quite a proficient musician himself. Sometimes he'd describe what he wanted in in colours and moods and other times he'd say: 'I really like this but can we try that in a minor tonality?'"

"You have to be on the same page. Though it's a collaboration you're really trying to bring the director's vision to life."



New direction: Silverdale composer Chris Wright has launched his career as a film composer with *Dinosaur Island*, filmed partly in the Blue Mountains.

Win tickets to show

WIN tickets to see the biggest show on earth that's about to roar into town.

Walking with Dinosaurs: The Arena Spectacular will stomp into Allphones Arena on March 18 before touring Australia.

The show, produced by Global Creatures, first thrilled audiences with its life-size animatronic dinosaurs in 2007.

Chief executive Carmen Pavlovic said the show has been updated to showcase spectacular and colourful changes to the ancient beasts based on the latest scientific research. "Many of our creatures have 'evolved' since the last tour, now featuring distinctive display feathers, head crests and tail fans, reflecting recent discoveries about massive creatures," she said.

The show depicts the dinosaurs' evolution, of the interactions between dinosaurs, how carnivorous dinosaurs evolved to walk on two legs and how the herbivores fended off their more agile predators. There are 10 species represented from the entire 200 million year reign of the dinosaurs, including tyrannosaurus rex, plateosaurus, iliensternus, stegosaurus, allosaurus, torosaurus, utahraptor and brachiosaurus. It took a team of 50 — including engineers, fabricators, skin-makers, artists, painters and animatronic experts — a year to build the production.

Pre-history is played out with the splitting of the continents and the transition from the arid desert of the Triassic period to the lush green prairies and forces of the later Jurassic. Oceans form, volcanoes erupt, a forest catches fire — up to the massive comet which destroyed the dinosaurs.



FAIRFAX Community Newspapers has 16 family passes valued at \$319.60 each to give away (two adult and two child tickets). For your chance to win one write or email us and tell us the name of your favourite dinosaur and why you like it. Email to FCNcompetitions@fairfaxmedia.com.au or post entries to FCN Competitions, unit 1, 1 Elyard Street, Narellan, NSW 2567. Include "Dinosaurs" in the email subject. Include your phone number, email address and street address. Competition starts Tuesday, February 24 at 12.01am and ends Tuesday, March 3 at 11.59pm. *Prizes not transferable or for resale.

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