

This story is from page 7 of *First News*. Read the story, and then try the puzzle. To help you, we have underlined the answers to the crossword puzzle clues in the story – but you will need to match the correct word with each clue!



BIG NEWS

ANCIENT CREATURES UNCOVERED

PALAEONTOLOGISTS on the other side of the world have uncovered two very peculiar **prehistoric** creatures.

This week, palaeontologists revealed the fossilised remains of a new type of marsupial lion that they've described as "extraordinary".

It's long been known that tens of thousands of years ago, large marsupial lions roamed the forests of Australia.

Like other marsupials, these creatures would carry their young in pouches.

This newly discovered lion, named *Lekaneleo roskellyae* and believed to have died out 35,000 years ago, had extremely powerful teeth that could slice straight through bones.

"They had teeth a bit like micro bolt cutters," explained Michael Archer, professor of environmental sciences at the University of New South Wales. "There is nothing this animal couldn't have cut into bite-sized, swallowable pieces almost immediately."

Meanwhile, in the north of Myanmar, a slightly less terrifying creature has been discovered.

Trapped in 99-million-year-old amber (fossilised tree sap),



An artist's impression of *Lekaneleo roskellyae*

Peter Shouten

palaeontologists found a tiny, bird-like skull, just 7.1mm in length.

Despite its tiny size, the creature, which has been named *Oculudentavis khaungraae*, was believed to have been a predator, since its small beak was packed with razor-sharp teeth.



An artist's impression of *Oculudentavis khaungraae*. Below: the skull preserved in amber

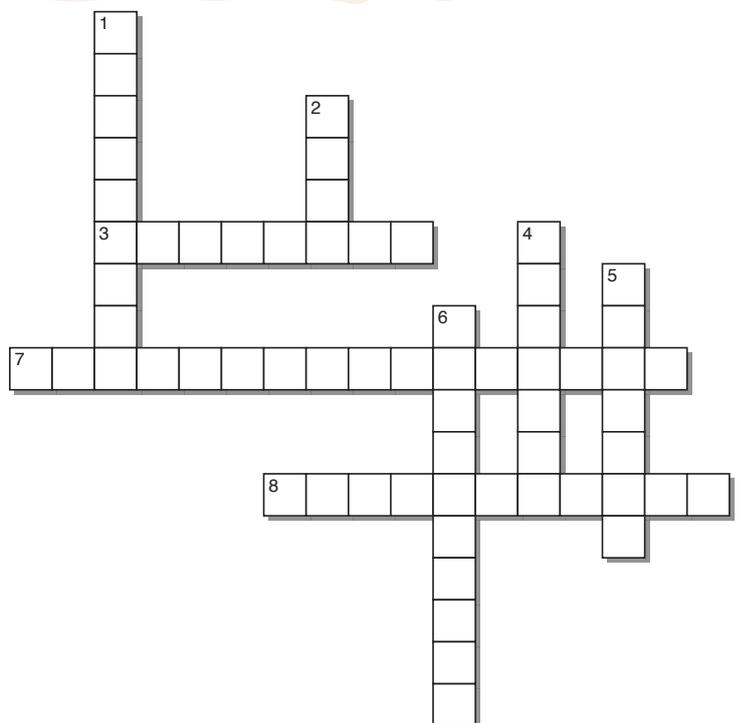
Han Zhixin

ACROSS

- 3) An animal that hunts and kills other animals (noun 8)
- 7) People who study fossils (plural noun 16)
- 8) Human prehistory; the time before people wrote anything down (adjective 11)

DOWN

- 1) This kind of creature's babies are carried in a pouch on the mother's belly (adjective 9)
- 2 and 5 down) Tough tools with sharp blades for cutting chains etc (plural noun 4, 7)
- 4) Belonging to the very distant past (adjective 7)
- 5) See 2 down
- 6) When a once-living thing is preserved (adjective 10)



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