AUSTRALASIAN SCIENCE

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Our Oldest Ancestor: Putting Meat on the Bones.

Last year scientists announced that they had found the "missing link" in the evolution of apes to humans, Now they have dated the fossils precisely between the last occurrence of *Australopithecus* and the first members of the genus *Homo*, and described anatomical features that suggest it is indeed a transitional species.

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When the World Is Turned Upside-Down.

When children are exposed to a traumatic event, most of them experience distress but eventually recover. Which factors predict persistent problems? *Eva Alisic*.

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The universe as we know it arose 13.7 billion years ago in the fiery birth of the Big Bang, but we are currently unable to answer the questions of where the universe actually came from. Cosmologists have many ideas, ranging from the strange to the outlandish *Geraint Lewis*.

From Greenhouse to Icehouse.

An ambitious drilling expedition off the coast of East Antarctic is looking for evidence linking declining carbon dioxide levels with the glaciations of subtropical Antarctica 34 million years ago.

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Towards an HIV Vaccine.

Potent antibodies force the HIV virus to mutate, opening up a new strategy for producing an effective HIV vaccine. *Ivan Stratov and Stephen Kent.*

Peer Review: Can We Rely On It?

Science depends on peer review. Is sloppy or hurried review a serious problem, and if so what can we do to fix it? *Stephen Luntz*.

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