



7 FACTS ABOUT A KIWI LEGEND

1. Joan was born in 1922 in Hawke's Bay
2. She was made to leave high school early as her father believed higher education was wasted on girls
3. At the age of 16 during World War 2, Joan joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force and served for six years
4. Joan discovered her passion for paleontology almost accidentally—her husband had started attending geology night classes at a local school and when he was sick one evening, Joan attended the class in his place!
5. In 1972, Joan found a map drawn by an oil company. Next to a remote stream in the Hawke's Bay region had been written a note 'Saurian bones found here'. So began her hunt for fossils.
6. Before Joan and her family were able to prove it, scientists had been convinced that no dinosaurs ever roamed New Zealand.
7. Joan discovered her passion at forty, found her first fossils in her fifties and by the time she died at 87 years of age, she was a world renowned expert in paleontology. Which goes to show, it's never too late to live your dream!

