



# 70 MILLION YEARS AGO – PLESIOSAUR

A seven-metre-long plesiosaur was found in a massive concretion (boulder made of hardened mudstone) at Matakaea/Shag Point.

## FUN FACTS:

- The Shag Point plesiosaur is called *Kaiwhekea katiki*
- *Kaiwhekea katiki* is 70 million years old!
- Plesiosaurs went extinct at the same time as the dinosaurs – around 65 million years ago
- Plesiosaurs were NOT dinosaurs
- Plesiosaurs were marine reptiles (their name means ‘nearer to the reptiles’)

From the fossil record it is thought plesiosaurs:

Could swim fast

Had binocular vision  
(their eyes faced  
forward like ours)

Had loooooooooooooooooonnnngggg  
necks but they couldn't move  
these easily

Ate medium sized, soft creatures



Ref: Fordyce, R E 'Kaiwhekea Katiki, a Late Cretaceous plesiosaur from high southern latitudes' p 1 – 2, accessed 19 February 2020