

## CAS Meetings and News April 2015

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## Canberra Archaeological Society/Centre for Archaeological Research - Public Lecture Series

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> of April 2015**

**6.30pm for refreshments, 7.00pm the lecture.**

Manning Clark Centre, Theatre 6, Bldg 26A, Union Court, ANU

**Joakim Goldhahn**

(Linnaeus University, Sweden)

### **ENGRAVED BIOGRAPHIES: Rock Art and the Life-Histories of Bronze Age Objects**

This presentation deals with engravings depicting sometimes life-sized Bronze Age metal objects from "closed" burial contexts and "open-air" sites in northern Europe. These rock art images have mainly been used for comparative dating with the purpose of establishing rock art chronologies, or interpreted as a poor man's substitute for real objects that were sacrificed to immaterial gods and goddesses. In this presentation, these rock art images are pictured from a perspective that highlights the mutual cultural biography of humans and objects. It is argued that the rare engravings of bronze objects at scale 1:1 are best explained as famous animated objects that could act as secondary agents, which sometimes allowed them to be depicted and remembered. Moreover, two different social settings are distinguished for such memory practice: maritime nodes or third spaces where Bronze Age Argonauts met before, during or after their journeys, e.g. places where novel technological

and/or famous objects entered and re-entered the social realms, and burial contexts where animated objects sometimes was buried at the end of their life-course.

## **Biography**

Joakim Goldhahn is a professor in archaeology at Linnaeus University in Sweden. He has published six monographs, edited nine collections, and written extensively on North European Bronze Age and its rock art traditions, death rituals, monuments in landscape and landscapes in monuments, prehistoric ritual specialists, cultural memory practice and the history of archaeology. At the moment he is a visiting fellow at ANU.

## **The Birth of Canberra: An archaeological study of Springbank Island, Canberra's earliest remaining homestead**

**12-4.30pm on Saturday 18th of April 2015**

Hospital Wharf/West Acton Wharf, Lawson Crescent, ANU

An engaging and hands on experience at the site of Canberra's earliest homestead at Springbank Island on Lake Burley Griffin. Participate in an archaeological excavation bringing together both European and Aboriginal significance. There will be a BBQ and information session about the European and Aboriginal significance of the site, along with some activities for kids. \$5 Children \$10 Adult. Bookings essential by 16 April please call 0401 787 293 or email [contact@cas.asn.au](mailto:contact@cas.asn.au) to reserve a place.

## **Canberra and Region Heritage Festival**

**11 April 2015 to 26 April 2015**

The Canberra and Region Heritage Festival theme for 2015 is Conflict and Compassion. Just how has our identity and heritage been shaped by conflict and compassion? Search for answers and celebrate the importance of the region's heritage. Heritage is retro, it's vintage, it's the region's story, it's part of everyday life. With over 100 events, most free, you can enjoy tours, open days, dances, talks, dinners, markets and more. The festival raises awareness to the ongoing need to conserve the region's natural, historic and Aboriginal heritage.

Check their website for exact programming times. <http://www.nationaltrustfestival.org.au/>

## **Walk through Gudgenby Valley to the indigenous rock art site of Yankee Hat (National Trust Event)**

**10-3pm on Saturday 18th of April 2015**

Yankee Hat indigenous rock art site is located within the Gudgenby Valley of Namadgi National Park in a complex of boulders situated at the foot of Yankee Hat Mountain. Carbon dating of the campsite deposits in the Yankee Hat rock shelter show that Aboriginal people began using the shelter more than 800 years ago. However, evidence from nearby archaeological sites suggest that people were camping in the area, and presumably painting, as long as 3,700 years ago.

Participants will meet at the Namadgi Visitors Centre where carpooling arrangements will be made for the drive to the commencement of the walk. Advice will be taken from Park rangers if weather is inclement. Participants should bring a small lunch and water, good walking shoes and a hat.

**Cost:** \$25 members, \$35 non-members

**Bookings essential contact the ACT branch of the National Trust** During office hours Mon-Thurs 9.30am-3pm 02 6230 0533

## Upcoming Conferences

### **The Archaeology of Portable Art: South East Asian, Pacific, and Australian Perspectives**

23-24<sup>th</sup> of May 2015 at the Australian National University

Plenary Speaker: Prof. Francesco d'Errico, Université Bordeaux 1, UMR, CNRS, PACEA

This symposium aims to reignite the dialogue about portable art across Island South East Asia, the Pacific and Australia and by doing so review future directions for research. Specific themes are: object histories; use of ethnography/museum collections for informing archaeological research; use of 'intangible technologies' and organic artefacts for expressing community affiliation/identity; cognitive development, the role of portable art in Pleistocene and Holocene expansions; and experimental studies.

<http://archanth.anu.edu.au/portable-art>