

CAS Meetings and News February 2015

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

Wednesday 18th of February 2015

6.30pm for refreshments, 7.00pm the lecture.

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

Matthew Spriggs

THREE PACIFIC TASTERS: RECENT ARCHAEOLOGY IN VANUATU (AND ELSEWHERE)

There are three Pacific projects I am currently involved in which I hope will be of interest. The first, involving excavation at the 3000-year old Lapita Culture cemetery of Teouma on Efate Island in Central Vanuatu, is investigating the impact of initial human colonisation both on the organisms previously on the island, but also on the initially colonising humans themselves. After hearing this you will never want to be alone on a deserted tropical island again.

The second involves the excavation of early Presbyterian Mission sites in the southern islands of Vanuatu dating to the second half of the 19th century, including 2014 fieldwork linked to the ANU Master of Archaeological Science field school.

The final project is a new one starting officially at the end of next month looking at the history of Pacific archaeology, from its roots in 19th century ethnology to the present, and specifically examining the sources of the theories used at different stages of research. I will be joined by two postdocs, a research assistant and five PhD students (with hopefully more to come during the life of the project) for this five-year ARC Laureate Fellowship project.

Biography

Matthew's research interests are the archaeology of Island Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands, and also Cornish Studies. The thematic areas of interest are archaeology and linguistics, subsistence systems and agricultural origins, human-environment interactions, politics and archaeology and Cornish language history. He has have carried out archaeological research in Indonesia, East Timor, New Guinea, the Bismarck Archipelago, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia and Hawaii. He was appointed Professor of Archaeology in 1997 in what is now the School of Archaeology and Anthropology, College of Arts and Social Sciences at the ANU. Previously he was a Senior Research Fellow in Archaeology and Natural History, in what is now the College of Asia Pacific. Before joining the ANU in 1987, he was an Associate Professor in the Anthropology Department of University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu a position he took there after finishing his PhD at the ANU in 1981.

O-Week Market Day

Wednesday 11th of February 2015

Union Court, University Avenue, ANU

Students Archaeological Association and Canberra Archaeological Society

The O-week Market day is an opportunity to sign up and meet new members and show off the Canberra Archaeological Society. Would be great to see people stop in for an important yet busy day for new students.

Upcoming Conferences

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

23-24th 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>