

CAS News June 2015

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

Wednesday 24th of June 2015

6.30pm for refreshments, 7.00pm the lecture.

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

Dr Daryl Wesley

“The Silence of Daily Life [and] Aboriginal Voices”*: The Archaeology of Post-Contact Western Arnhem Land



This project set out to investigate how the archaeology of western Arnhem Land could demonstrate the range of historically documented impacts on Indigenous society from contact with the Macassan trepang industry, European colonial outposts, and later the formal 1870s settlement of the Northern Territory of South Australia. The research project started with the investigation of the timing of the Macassan trepang industry in north western Arnhem Land

by revisiting the famous Macassan Anuru Bay trepang processing site. Analysis of radiocarbon dates from the Anuru Bay site reveals there may have been an early phase of

visitation (mid-1600s AD) that pre-dates the industrial scale trepang processing phase (mid to late-1700s AD) at this location. The investigation then turned to Indigenous rockshelters and rock art sites to examine the impact of contact. Amongst a range of excavated contact archaeological materials was the significant find of a glass bead assemblage which presented many questions regarding the origins and use of these beads. Contact rock art in western Arnhem Land has also been a major indicator of change and continuity in Indigenous land use and occupation. The art depicts a great deal of complexity in terms of introduced imagery which aligns with various historical events and phases. The challenge for the project has been to analyse this array of Indigenous archaeological assemblages and to attribute which phases of the culture contact experience they reflect. The aim of this presentation is to demonstrate the complex links between Indigenous society and various European administrative, economic, and social enterprises that occurred in western Arnhem Land, including the impact of events of international scale, such as World War II.

* Robinson, C.J. 2005 Buffalo hunting and the feral frontier of Australia's Northern Territory. *Social and Cultural Geography* 6(6):885-901.

Daryl Wesley Biography:

Daryl has been involved in working with Aboriginal groups in the Northern Territory since 1991. He has been instrumental in negotiating with key Aboriginal Traditional Owners about cultural heritage issues and undertaking collaborative archaeological research. Through his Masters, PhD, and George Chaloupka Fellowship projects, he has always sought participatory engagement and planning with Traditional Owners and based these in his principles of archaeological work. Chiefly during this time he completed a PhD investigating changes that have occurred in Indigenous occupation of the Western Arnhem Land region in relation to contact with the mythological Baijini, the Macassans, and Europeans through the documentation and analysis of the unique rock art and archaeology of the Wellington Range and Anuru Bay region. He has previously completed a Masters in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies on the archaeology and management of Indigenous cultural heritage places in Litchfield Park and the Reynolds River region at Charles Darwin University. Research interests involve stone tool technologies, Indigenous settlement pattern analysis, contact archaeology, and rock art in western Arnhem Land.

ACT and Region Annual Heritage Partnership Symposium 2015

Saturday 18 July 2015

Sir Roland Wilson Building Theatre, Building 120, Australian National University, Acton

SHARING HERITAGE: CREATE, CHANGE, CHERISH

We all live in the Canberra region. We share its positive and negative attributes. We contribute to its vibrancy and growth and create its character. We all - communities, heritage professionals and decision makers - care about its future. In a time of continuous change for the city, its surrounds and the region, how do we measure successful

development and use; what does it look and feel like? In a city that is home to the nation's collective memory and cultural heritage organisations, what are the ways we create access and participation in local and national heritage, cherishing and celebrating collective and individual stories? And if Canberra is the centre of the nation's decision making, what international trends are we connected to? When change is the only constant, what role does heritage play in civic responsibility, ethical practices and authentic experiences?

Add your voice to the conversation. Abstracts of 200 words due by 18 May 2015. Please send your presentation abstracts to Eric Martin & Associates (emaa@emaa.com.au) by 18 May 2015 and send this message on to all you networks, colleagues, friends and acquaintances. Cost: \$70 full, \$50 members of the host organisations, \$30 concessions, full-time students and speakers. Registration details will be available early May 2015.

Hosted by: Canberra Archaeological Society, National Trust of Australia (ACT), Canberra and District Historical Society and Australia ICOMOS.

AIMA/ASHA Conference Geelong, Victoria 2015

The 2015 joint conference of the Australasian Institute for Maritime Archaeology and the Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology will be held over three days from Thursday 24 September to Saturday 26 September at the National Wool Museum in Geelong, Victoria.

Connected Environments and Changing Landscapes 2015 Ngunawal walks and talks series

Wednesday 29 July 2015 9.30am till 4.30pm

MANAGING ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

Join us on a bus ride across Canberra as we visit an old Canberra suburb, one of Canberra's lakes and a new broadacre development to discuss competing principles and changing values in the context of:

- The 'old Canberra' suburb: the Griffin's garden city response to the pre-Canberra landscape.
- Management of urban water: Canberra's lakes, rivers and creeks; ancient and present-day ecological processes; density; stormwater and aquifers.
- Planning and management of: rivers and creeks, biodiversity - grasslands and forest/woodlands, endangered and threatened species, and fire mitigation.

This event is designed for environment/heritage and planning professionals, and post-graduates \$80 per head - includes locally catered lunch. The co-ordinators are:

- Mr Wally Bell and Mr Tyrone Bell - leaders of the Buru and Thunderstone Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporations
- Dr Fiona Dyer – Freshwater Scientist
- Dr Karen Williams – Author, Scholar and Artist – landscape interpretation
- Dr Ken McQueen – Earth Sciences and Landscape Evolution

RSVP and payment: Bernie Bugden at Molonglo Catchment Group office: coordinator@molonglocatchment.org.au or phone 6299 2119.