

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

Dave Johnston



The Archaeology of Mitakoodi Country, Cloncurry, North West Queensland

The Mitakoodi peoples of the Cloncurry River (the 'River People') and region, have a rich and diverse archaeological history unknown to the rest of Australia. They are the custodians of the famous basalt axe quarries which along with the Kalkadoon (Mt Isa) axe quarries have been foremost as a regional stone source, supplying high quality stone axes to many language groups throughout Australia via the 'Channel Country' and its complex social exchange network system. The Mitakoodi peoples are also the custodians of the white ochre dreaming ceremonial and initiation sites, large and small tangible man made monuments and structures scattered throughout the harsh spinifex landscape.

With the permission and blessing of the Mitakoodi Elders, this paper presents publicly for the first time, the full diversity of the archaeology of the Mitakoodi peoples and the challenges they facing in managing their sites in the Cloncurry region an area announced four years ago, as the richest mineral province in the world.

Biography

Dave Johnston has worked with the Mitakoodi as their selected archaeologist for the past 11 years and continues to work closely with the Elders and their families to record and manage their important sites and heritage places. This presentation to CAS has been prepared by the Mitakoodi Elders and Dave.

Dave Johnston is the director of Aboriginal Archaeologists Australia and the director of the Boon Wurrung Foundation. He is also the chair of the Australian Indigenous Archaeologists Association and was the 2014 recipient of the Australian Government's National Heritage Award and the Australian Heritage Council Sharon Sullivan National Heritage Award.

Kimberley Foundation Australia Annual Public Lecture

Delivered by Professor Jane Balme

Thursday 26th of March 2015 at 6pm

Manning Clarke Lecture Theatre 2, Union court, ANU

50,000 Years of Aboriginal People in the Southern Kimberley

As co-chief investigator of the KFA-sponsored Life ways of the First Australians project, Prof Balme draws on the findings of multidisciplinary research in the southern Kimberley from an archaeological point of view. In this area, Aboriginal people's social and technological flexibility ensured continued survival through changing environments to the rich cultural traditions of today. Insights from the great wealth of artefacts, biological remains and art studied will be presented to discuss the deep history of the southern Kimberley's first people.

Biography

Jane Balme, Professor in Archaeology at The University of Western Australia (UWA), obtained her Ph.D. at Australian National University Jane has lectured, researched and consulted widely, with a primary interest on indigenous hunter-gatherer societies and Aboriginal subsistence economies. She has undertaken extensive fieldwork in northern Australia.

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 to reserve a place.

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>