



Ginninderra Blacksmith's Shop

# Canberra Archaeological Society Inc Old News November 2009

**Canberra Archaeological Society  
AGM  
Wednesday November 18 - 7.30 to 7.45 pm  
Manning Clark Theatre 6 ANU**

Followed by

**Canberra Archaeological Society/Centre for Archaeological Research  
2009 Public Lecture**

**Tsunamis in WA  
Tony Barham**

At least four tsunamis are known to have affected the Western Australian coastline in the last 50 years. By far the most significant was the event of December 2004. They have all resulted from large earthquakes in the Indonesian region. The most recent tsunami event in Western Australia was on 17 July 2006, and came close to drowning some sea-side campers in the Shark Bay region.

*Tony is a geoarchaeologist by training and by inclination he works on landscape stratigraphy and archaeological site environments. His research spans Regolith and Soil Science, Quaternary Science and Archaeology. He has a long-standing interest in the Holocene geomorphological development and human occupation record of Australian tropical coastlines, especially regional syntheses of archaeological and palaeoenvironmental records in Torres Strait, and recently on the Kimberley coast of Western Australia (WA). Current research includes evaluating impacts of past tsunami events (and cyclone storm surges) in WA using archaeological data sets.*

**All welcome. Entry is by gold coin donation at the door.**

**Please join us afterwards for light supper to meet the speaker and continue the discussion**

**Subscriptions for 2010 are now due and may be renewed at the AGM.  
CREDIT CARD FACILITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE**

All positions on the Committee shall be declared vacant and nominations are invited for election to the following positions: President, Vice President (2), Secretary, Treasurer and Committee (up to 4).

Members are reminded that persons must be financial members of the Society before they may nominate for the Committee. All nominations must be signed by the nominee and be endorsed by at least two financial members of the Society. Nominations must be received at least three days before the AGM. In the event that no written nominations are received, then nominations may be sought from the floor of the meeting.

**A committee nomination form and proxy voting form are included at the end of the newsletter, also a membership renewal form. Thank you.**

## *Up Coming Events, Conferences & Tours*

### ***Murrays Bakery***

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November - meet at the Exhibition Centre, Commonwealth Park, at 1pm.**

Come on a pleasant short walk and site reconnaissance through Commonwealth Park to the site of Murray's Bakery, built in 1874, on the Molonglo River, near former Scotts Crossing. The bakery operated until 1923 when it burnt down. Join us for afternoon tea afterwards.

Phone Helen 0408 443 243

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### ***Barks, Birds & Billabongs:***

**Exploring the legacy of the 1948 American-Australian Scientific Expedition to Arnhem Land  
16 - 20 November 2009**

Presented by the National Museum of Australia through its Centre for Historical Research.

To register and view programs & events: [www.nma.gov.au/barks\\_birds\\_billabongs](http://www.nma.gov.au/barks_birds_billabongs)

Phone: 61 2 6281 6624 Email: [conference@conlog.com.au](mailto:conference@conlog.com.au)

*Message from Helen:*

*I have booked in but can't attend every day; if anyone wants to buy a day and attend, call me on 0408 443 243 to discuss a mate's rate. Also I have booked in for the dinner but it clashes with our AGM. If anyone would like a mate's rate dinner ticket, let me know.*

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### **Centre for Archaeological Research**

The next Quaternary Forum for 2009 is on Friday the 27th of November. Presentations will be from 3-5pm in Manning Clark Centre Theatre 6 (MCCT6) at ANU. This series is supported by the Centre for Archaeological Research and aims to bring together researchers from throughout the Canberra Quaternary community.

Features speakers for the 27th of November include:

**Tegan Kelly** "An Archaeometric Approach to Willandra Lakes Research: a study of Lake Mulurulu"

**Raphael Viscarra Rossel** "Can vis-NIR spectra be used for digital soil mapping?"

**Jo McDonald and Peter Veth** "Dating the Dreaming: rock art and dreaming stories on the Canning Stock Route"

Contact Ian Moffat ([ian.moffat@anu.edu.au](mailto:ian.moffat@anu.edu.au)) or Simon Haberle ([simon.haberle@anu.edu.au](mailto:simon.haberle@anu.edu.au))

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### **Australian Association of Archaeologists Conference 2009 - 11-14 December**

**Conference title: Old Guard, New Guard**

**Location: Flinders University, Adelaide, South Australia**

The keynote speaker for the conference is Professor Geoff Bailey, University of York. Professor Bailey has conducted research on shell middens in Spain, Australia and Denmark, and is currently working on submerged landscapes on the European continental shelf.

**website** <http://www.australianarchaeologicalassociation.com.au/>

## ***National Trust Tours 2010***

### ***Lake Mungo and the Murray***

A five day tour from Canberra/Mildura and return 25 - 29 March 2010



Experience 40,000 years of human history in Australia. This tour will depart from Canberra by air-conditioned coach, overnight in Griffith and then proceed on to Mildura arriving in time for a dinner on or by the Murray River. The next day the coach will drive to the World Heritage listed Lake Mungo National Park where experienced guides will explain the prehistory of human occupation. The coach will then return to Mildura. The coach will depart Mildura the next morning for an overnight stay at Rutherglen to sample the areas wines and cuisine. Return to Canberra the next day.

Group leader: Peter Dowling

### ***Ancient Italy – A Historical and Archaeological Tour of Italy***

Planned for September/October 2010 - itinerary to be advised soon



Another in the National Trust's very successful historical and archaeological series of tours to Europe. In the past five years we have conducted tours of Western Turkey, Egypt, Greece & Scandinavia. This tour will cover the fascinating history of the Roman World from right within the heart of the empire. We will spend up to two weeks on mainland Italy and one week on Sicily where we also experience the ancient places of the Greek civilization that has shaped the modern world.

Group leader: Peter Dowling

If you are interested please contact the National Trust Office on 62300533 to register.

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## ***RECENT ACTIVITIES***

CAS was delighted to join with the National Trust (ACT) for a visit to ***Rock Valley Homestead and Birrigai Rock Shelter*** in Tidbinbilla Nature Park on the 18<sup>th</sup> October.

There were about 30 on the walk and it was good to see intrepid CAS members with their picnics and stout boots. We were fortunate to have Mr Jeffries, a member of the Tidbinbilla Pioneers Assoc to tell us stories of the former inhabitants of Rock Valley and nearby homesteads. The roof and wooden bits in Rock Valley were burned in the 2003 bush fires and the ACT Government has replaced the roof and made the walls sound so that visitors can still see the structure. Some of the old trees and plants have survived and the garden is to be replanted as it was with the assistance of studies by University of Canberra and the National Trust.

Peter Dowling gave his impressions of the past occupation of the Birrigai Shelter, the site of the first Pleistocene date for the high country in Australia, excavated and studied by Dr Josephine Flood in the mid 1980s with the assistance of students at ANU and CAS members. The faunal assemblage from London Bridge Caves excavated by Boot and Cooke in 1989-90 revealed which small mammals inhabited a similar environment back to 20,000 years ago. These included alpine species, some of which are no longer present locally and some are extinct, showing that the climate was colder and damper than now. Fortunately it was a nice warm day for our visit, but the shelter would not be too attractively warm for much of the year even now. Perhaps the incentive to be there was more than the attractions of food sources and related to the men's business for which the Valley is named.

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The second workshop series titled *Fenced and Forgotten:(History, Heritage and Hackneyed Approaches)* was held on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October.

Introductions and welcomes by Dr Tracy Ireland, Donald Horne Institute and Helen Cooke, president of the Canberra Archaeology Society

Speakers and their topics included:

*The Molonglo Mystery* – Alan Foskett

*'The Valley' – Fenced, forgotten and forlorn* - Helen Cooke

*Ginninderra Blacksmith Shop* – Peter Dowling

*Rural, Ruin and Reuse: the dilemma* – Eric Martin

*The Importance of the Nolan Gallery* – Pam Swafield

*Adelong Falls Gold Mill Ruins 1870 1909* – Louise Halsey

*Fenced and Forgotten: Captains Flat Cemetery* – Elizabeth Estbergs

*Cultural Heritage and Conservation at the University of Canberra* – Tracy Ireland

*Rich Pastures. The Archaeology at HQ Joint Operations Command, Dairy Station Creek, between Queanbeyan and Bungendore* – Doug Williams

*Tralee Homestead* – Ann Forrest

*Archives ACT. Fenced and Forgotten No More* – Elizabeth Estbergs

FOR MORE DETAILS OF THE WORKSHOP CHECK OUR WEBSITE

<http://www.cas.asn.au>

ON BEHALF OF THE



PRESIDENT AND THE COMMITTEE



WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR MEMBERS,  
THEIR FAMILIES AND READERS  
A MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND A PROSPEROUS YEAR FOR 2010



## Book worms



### Mining in New South Wales - History and Heritage

NSW Department of Primary Industries , 2009, Sydney



This is a new book which should be of interest to most historical and industrial archaeologists.

Mining in NSW: History and Heritage presents the history of mining in NSW from the first workings at Newcastle to the end of the boom days of mining in the early 1900s. Written by two of the leading professionals in the area of mining history and heritage, the aim of this book is to enable the reader

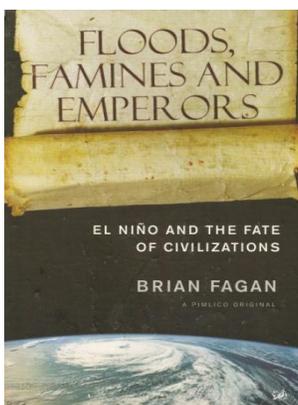
assess a site and determine its heritage significance based on the mining of 25 different mineral groups. The book also includes fascinating history on mining in NSW and provides an insight into what our early miners had to face. Access to I&I NSW's extensive photo library, and a number of private libraries, has given this book 124 photos of outstanding quality.

To order your copy (\$60.00 + p&h) contact I&I NSW (Minerals) bookshop on 1300 736 122 or email [orders@minerals.nsw.gov.au](mailto:orders@minerals.nsw.gov.au)

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### Floods, Famines and Emperors

Brian Fagan 2000, Pimlico, London.



I was first introduced to the writings of Brian Fagan an eon ago in first year prehistory at ANU; his is book *People of the Earth* was the text book which we all avidly consumed for that unit. *People of the Earth* has been republished many times over the years with each edition being updated as new research in archaeology is published. Fagan has the knack of writing about our past in a way which is understandable by the public and even the sometimes rather confused undergraduates. His prolific output on many aspects of our past has made him a legend in world history and prehistory. I recently picked this book up at a remainders outlet and, although published in 2000 and being a bit outdated in its relation to the current theories in the science of world

climatology, the discussions on how changes to climate in the past has affected the rise and fall of cities are still relevant.

One of the questions I puzzled over as an undergraduate was why many of the civilisations, cities and smaller communities we studied vanish leaving just the archaeological traces of their lives? The answer given was always centred on the phenomenon of humans overexploiting their agricultural bases because of overpopulation. But why did this happen

continually and globally, I kept wondering, and why to some areas where there appeared to be enough resources for an agrarian based civilisation, and why did some in more marginal areas hang on? These questions were asked before the buzz words of sustainability, climate change, El Niño, La Niña and the Southern Oscillation (now commonly called ENSO) were in the common lexicon and the brain of a naive undergraduate. These concepts are now well known to archaeologists today and realising that they are world-wide phenomena we are beginning to arrive at a better understanding as to what was happening in the past with the fate of the civilisations we are studying. We now know, for example, that there were ENSO events in the early Holocene period around the world when farming was beginning and that for the last 300 years events were occurring but were very weak. Fagan's book takes the reader through this discussion in a way that that is highly readable and understandable. He looks at several prehistoric and historic situations in which climate change seems to have been the overriding factor in the rise and fall of human affairs. Fagan looks at the cases in the Americas - the Moche in Peru and the Maya who failed to adapt to the changes in their climate regime, and the abandonment of Chaco Canyon in New Mexico. He does not limit his discussion to this area of the world but continues with the Little Ice Age in Europe and further afield. But in all cases Fagan points out that climate and the institutions of humans interact in a very complex way. One disappointment with this book is that Fagan does not cover Australia in his discussions on climate change. During the Holocene period, particularly the last 3000 or more years prior to British colonisation, many innovations took place in the hunter-gatherer populations, particularly in stone tool technology which were most likely related to changes in climate throughout the continent. These innovations are, however, well covered by Mulvaney & Kamminga, 1999, in their book *Prehistory of Australia*, but could well have been reviewed and discussed by Fagan. (He did discuss the colonisation of New Zealand albeit briefly).

But despite the Australian omission, I recommend this book to all who are interested in the past and in the future. I particularly recommend it to our politicians who seem to have the idea that there is some type of short-term political ground to be won over with the present discussions on the changes to our climate. Climate is dynamic, it is forever changing - it is up to the humans to adapt to the change.

Peter Dowling

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### ***Journal of Pacific Archaeology***

Editor: Atholl Anderson

Associate Editor: Tim Thomas

<http://www.pacificarchaeology.org>

The *Journal of Pacific Archaeology* (JPA) is a new venture in academic publishing. It sets out with a wide remit, to publish scholarly articles, reports and notes on the prehistoric and historical archaeology of continental margins and islands throughout the Pacific Ocean, and upon related topics in biological anthropology, environmental sciences, historical linguistics, material culture, ethnography and history.

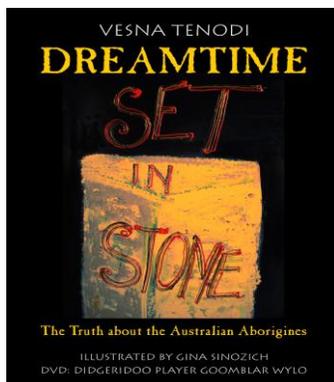
JPA is an international, peer-reviewed journal, which is committed to the theoretical, methodological and substantive progress of archaeology in the region and to linking Pacific interests to disciplinary issues worldwide. JPA will be published, promptly, twice a year (January and July), beginning in 2010, and it will be available in both paper and electronic formats.

Replacing the *New Zealand Journal of Archaeology* (1977-2008), JPA is published by the New Zealand Archaeological Association with the assistance of the Department of Anthropology, University of Otago.

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### ***Which way home***

By Vesna Tenodi



Archaeologist Vesna Tenodi, is releasing her second book, titled *Dreamtime, Set in Stone*.

In contrast to her first biographical work, *Which way home?* which explores the Balkan conflict in 1992, her second book explores a conflict closer our own stage. *Set in Stone* is a non-research style appreciation of aboriginal history, illustrated by well established artist Gina Sinozich. The book will be launched on 10<sup>th</sup> of December at the ModroGorje Gallery, 71 Lurline Street, Katoomba, NSW, 2780.

All those with interest are cordially invited.

For more information guests can contact Vesna at [ves@theplanet.net.au](mailto:ves@theplanet.net.au) or on (02) 9567 0765.

### ***Turn of the First Clay – Our Brickmaking Heritage*** by Allan M Hackett

The scale and scope of this book is extraordinary. It is the most extensive photographic narrative of over 800 of the earliest bricks, and other clay products in Australia from convict days to more recent times.

Released in November 2009 as a Limited Edition of 1000 and signed by Allan Hackett, the book is A3 size and beautifully presented on high quality gloss paper retailing for \$250 AUD.

This is no dry historical reference book. This book tells the stories of the people who made bricks and where they were made. It gathers together information and remarkable early pictographs representing the time and context in which bricks were used in a way that will interest historians, architects, students, archaeologists, collectors and genealogists.

Bricks were a crucial element in the building of our new nation and were part of the cargo of the First Fleet to Australia. Five thousand bricks along with a skilled brickmaker and moulds were carried on *HMS Scarborough*.

Brick making was the first industry in the colony. Australia's first brick building, *Government House*, was officially opened on June 4, 1789 just 16 months after the landing at Sydney Cove.

Brickmakers were passionate about their products. From their earliest use in this country, bricks were marked by their maker resulting in an interesting and traceable heritage. Most of the old brickworks are no more.

In a book dedicated expressly to the history of brick and clay products, one can enjoy an introduction to this material so deeply connected with our Australian history.

TO PURCHASE OR TO ENQUIRE ABOUT THE BOOK CONTACT ALLAN DIRECTLY ON

Tel: 61-2-4739 1395

AH: 61-2-4777 5628

Email: [bricky1@aapt.net.au](mailto:bricky1@aapt.net.au)

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## *Some interesting websites*

### **\*Free access –**

The American Anthropological Association (AAA) has made AnthroSource, its online compilation of published anthropological research, **available for free during the months of November and December**. This is a valuable resource worth exploring, especially if you don't have good access to the published literature.

<http://www.wiley.com/bw/journal.asp?ref=ANTH-SOUR>

### **\*Cambridge Journal Online** <http://journals.cambridge.org>

New issue of Cambridge Archaeological Journal is available on Cambridge Journals Online

### **\*Planning a holiday-** <http://www.erih.net/welcome.html>

If you are heading off to Europe and interested in seeing how the industrial revolution worked out, check out the European Route of Industrial Heritage (ERIH) website. ERIH is the tourism information network of industrial heritage in Europe. ERIH links a wide variety of industrial heritage sites and museums into an overall network which presents and promotes Europe's industrial heritage. Outlines the routes, anchor points and websites of the places.

These are sites that Fodor's or Lonely Planet never include in their guides and even if you are not heavily into Industrial Heritage there may be something there that catches your eye for your next trip.

### **\*Something different for a group.** <http://www.thebigdig.com.au>

Bring your group to Sydney in 2010 and stay in a stunning harbourside location in The Rocks. The new Sydney Harbour YHA offers purpose-built groups accommodation above The Big Dig, an exciting archaeological dig site.

The Big Dig Archaeology Education Centre and Sydney Harbour YHA ;