



CAS News October 2014

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Canberra Archaeological Society/ Centre for Archaeological Research Lecture Series

Wednesday 15th October 2014

6:30pm refreshments, 7:00pm

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

New findings from old mission houses, Erromango and Tanna Islands, Vanuatu
James Flexner

The mission house, rather than the church, was arguably the most important building in Christian missionary settlements in the Pacific Rim. It was in the domestic sphere that many of the actual interactions between missionaries and potential converts took place. The house was a multipurpose object. It served as a safe, comfortable space for missionaries. In addition, the mission house was a showcase of civilisation meant to create a sense of consumer desire among potential converts. It was thought that a desire for material wealth

would lead to external transformations in behaviour and material culture, seen by some as a necessary first step to true conversion. This talk will explore this dynamic using materials recovered from excavations at mission house sites from the islands of Tanna and Erromango, Vanuatu, dating from the 1850s through the early 1900s. Comparing mission assemblages can give a sense of the individuality of different mission families. Perhaps more important has been the recognition of the "hybrid" nature of domestic assemblages. The recovered materials indicate that desire ran both ways in these early interactions.

James Flexner

Biography

James L. Flexner holds a BA from the University of Virginia, and an MA and PhD from the University of California, Berkeley in anthropological archaeology. His field experience has ranged from the landscapes of plantation slavery in Virginia, to coastal village sites on Pemba Island, Tanzania, to Amazonian dark earth sites in Brazil. His main interest, however, is in the Pacific Islands. James' PhD research focused on the leprosy settlement at Kalaupapa, Moloka'i, Hawaii, where he examined the 19th century landscape to understand the everyday lives of exiled people. James is currently an ARC DECRA fellow in the School of Archaeology and Anthropology at ANU, where he is focusing on a research project studying the early mission sites of Tanna and Erromango, Vanuatu, and the surrounding Melanesian landscapes

“The Luck of the Irish” – National Trust Speaker’s Night

Wednesday 1st October 2014 5.30pm – 7.00pm

Babette Smith

Babette Smith is one of Australia's most respected experts on convict history and author of the bestselling *Cargo of Women* and *Australia's Birthstain*.

The Luck of the Irish is a fascinating portrait of colonial life in the mid-19th century, which reveals how the Irish helped lay the foundations of the Australia we know today.

The luck of the Irish was chronic bad luck, as their sad history attests. That's how it looked for 250 Irish convicts when their ship, the *Hive*, sank ignominiously off the NSW coast in 1835. Miraculously all survived, guided to safety by local Aboriginal people.

They landed at a time when the so-called slave colony was at its height, ruled by the lash and the chain gang. Yet as Babette Smith tracked the lives of the people aboard the *Hive*, she discovered a very different story. Most were assigned to work on farms or in businesses, building a better life than they possibly could have experienced in Ireland. Surprisingly, in the workforce they found power, which gave rise to the characteristic Australian culture later described by DH Lawrence: 'Nobody felt better than anybody else, or higher.'

Cost: \$10.00 entry. Drinks & nibbles included.

Venue: The National Archives of Australia, Queen Victoria Terrace, Parkes

Please RSVP by 25 September 2014: call 02 6230 0533 or email

info@nationaltrustact.org.au

Archaeology Fieldwork Opportunity

Sunday 12th October 12:00pm – 4:00pm

Meet at the Red Gum Gate car park at the corner of Cleggett St and Amy Ackman St, Gungahlin. Please be aware that the fieldwork will involve a casual 2km walk.

Have a fun 4 hours and be trained in recording Aboriginal stone artefact sites

Recording: Participants will join a field excursion to several archaeological sites and obtain an excellent level of training in many archaeological procedures, including the practical components associated with locating stone artefact sites, stone artefact identification, site investigation, archaeological mapping, site and artefact recording and photography. The site locations, contents, current condition, mapping and photographs will be used to complete a site record form that is to be lodged with the ACT Heritage Unit. All participants will receive a Canberra Archaeological Society Certificate stating that they have participated in a site recording event and received archaeological training in these areas.

What: Isolated stone artefacts and medium to dense level stone artefact scatters occurring within the Mulligan's Flat Nature Reserve. These intriguing archaeological sites include a range of stone artefact types and materials and many other treasures still to be revealed by the diligent site recorder.

Transport: To ensure a place in the session, please contact Alister Bowen on 0418 210 755 or email alister@bowenheritage.com.au. CAS members can offer lifts to those without their own transport. Please contact Alister before the day to either seek or offer a lift. If you want to be collected from the ANU campus, for instance, pick up time is 11.30am.

Dress: According to the weather – a sun hat and stout footwear essential. If raining on the day, the event will be postponed.

Bring: An A4 clip board, HB pencil, sharpener, eraser, ruler, a few sheets of plain A4 paper, compass (if you have one), camera (if you have one), plenty of water, your lunch and any other items you may require.

Fenner School Seminar Room Building 141

16th October at 1pm

Population and mobility of prehistoric Australia: developing a continental narrative for archaeological and palaeo-climatic correlation

Harper's Mansion and Joadja, Berrima National Trust (ACT) Bus Trip

Sunday 9th November 2014

We invite you to join us on one of our interesting regional heritage tours, this time to the Berrima region. Harper's Mansion. The tour will also visit the historic Joadja valley and Joadja town. **Details:** <http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/act/HarpersMansionJoadja>

Cost: \$80 National Trust & U3A members, \$90 others (includes bus, morning tea, BBQ lunch and Joadja entry).

Depart: **7.30am in Deakin** (car park behind the Deakin Fitness Centre, Deakin Shops) **OR** **7.45am** northside at the bus stop on Northbourne Ave (outside the Southwell Park netball courts).

Please specify when booking, plus any dietary requirements.

Bookings: 6230 0533 or info@nationaltrustact.org.au

Barry Fankhauser's Memoir

Thanks to James Dixon, former CAS President Barry Fankhauser's memoir is now available for public download on the Links page at the Canberra Blues Society website at <http://www.canberrabluesociety.com.au>.

The precise address for the PDF file is <http://www.canberrabluesociety.com.au/wp-content/uploads/Barry-Fankhauser-My-lifes-story.pdf>.

The doc will be available for download for two or three months.

Upcoming Centre for Archaeological Research Seminars

Time for each lecture is from 3:30 – 5:00pm

Date	Presenter	Location	Lecture Topic
Friday, 3 October 2014	Prof. Peter Bellwood	Coombs Ext 1.04	Recent perspectives on the origins and dispersals of the Austronesian speaking peoples
Friday, 10 October 2014	Dr. James Flexner	Hedley Bull 1	Vanuatu mission work
Friday, 24 October 2014	Prof. Paul Tacon	Hedley Bull 1	Caves, animals, art origins and early human diversity: the changing story of us from a Southeast Asian perspective.

Friday, 7 November 2014	Dr. Ladislav Nejman	Hedley Bull 1	The Early to Upper Palaeolithic Transition at Pod Hradem Cave, Czech Republic.
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car@anu.edu.au