



February 2013

**Canberra Archaeological Society/Centre for Archaeological Research
Public Lecture
Manning Clark Theatre 6**

**Wednesday 20 February 2013
Refreshments 6.30pm Talk 7pm**

**Adventures in Vanuatu archaeology 2012
Matthew Spriggs**

2012 was the last year of a major 5-year ARC-funded archaeology project in Vanuatu co-directed with Stuart Bedford in CAP.

My own fieldwork participation involved a graduate field school on Santo Island, investigating a late Lapita site (c.2700 BP), the discovery on Aneityum, the southernmost inhabited island in Vanuatu, of the elusive Lapita site I missed by 15 metres in 1983, and the difficult task of investigating the archaeology of 'natural' sites on Tanna associated with very old oral traditions.

The year finished with my witnessing the living "megalithic" culture in northern Vanuatu at the opening of a new men's house on Pentecost Island and reflecting on how much of the archaeological record DOESN'T survive, at the traditional wedding of my brother-in-law. That brought in the New Year, I came home, and here I am to tell you about it.



Professor Matthew Spriggs is head of the School of Archaeology and Anthropology at ANU.

Matthew is currently involved in an ARC Discovery grant with ARC QEII Fellow, Dr Stuart Bedford, is "Persistence and Transformation in Ancestral Oceanic Society: the archaeology of the first 1500 years in the Vanuatu archipelago".

He is also involved in a project on the sourcing of Island SE Asian obsidian artefacts, with colleagues at ANU and with collaborators in Indonesia and the Philippines.

In his research on Cornish language history he is involved in editing the manuscripts of William Scawen (1600-1689) for publication, and writing about the linguistic research of Thomas Tonkin (1678-1742). In 2009 he was asked to join an Oxford-based project funded by the Mellon foundation to publish the letters of the pioneer Celtic Linguist and Scientist, Edward Lhwyd.



February 2013

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CAS/CAR Public Lectures- Manning Clark Theatre 6 Third Wednesday of the month

All our presentations begin at 7pm and we would like to welcome everyone to join us for drinks and nibbles prior from 6.30 pm.

Listed below are the speakers for the next three months and the topic of their presentation.

20 March 2013

Peter Dowling & Helen Cooke - ACT Centenary and CAS Golden Anniversary – 50 years on, some CAS achievements

17 April 2013

Alister Bowen – Chinese involvement in Australia's colonial fishing industry.

15 May 2013

Aedeon Cremin – All the Kings Horses

Canberra Archaeological Society 2013 Committee

President - Helen Cooke

Vice President - Daryl Wesley

Secretary - Sally Brockwell

Treasurer - Di Dowling

Committee Members

John Bundock

Peter Dowling

Danielle Harris

Tristen Jones

Bob Legge

Memberships are now due.

If you have not renewed your membership, this will be your last issue of *Old News*. To continue to receive "Old News" and information about CAS activities, please remit your renewal.

See last page for a renewal form for your convenience.



February 2013

50 years on and still going strong.

Not me! The Canberra Archaeological Society Inc,
(CAS to our friends.)

The Society was formed at a public lecture in Haydon-Allen Lecture Theatre (the Tank) at ANU on 10th December 1963. The decision to hold a meeting to form a Society was taken after considerable public interest was shown in archaeology at the exhibition 'Patterns of Culture' held at ANU a short while before this meeting. Mr (now Prof) Jack Golson, then of the Dept of Anthropology, was a leading proponent, along with Dr Noel Barnard of the ANU Dept of Far Eastern History and Dr Helmut Loofs of the Faculty of Oriental Studies.

The next day the Canberra Times informed the public of this new Society and quoted Mr Golson as saying that the Society would hold regular meetings, including film shows, practical field work and excursions to local and coastal archaeological sites. Fifty years on and the CAS Committee, including some experienced members, some new members from within academia (hooray!) and one old recycled President, are continuing the traditions. Our lecture series is now run jointly with the Centre for Archaeological Research (CAR) and we will have an open day on Sunday 21 April, during the 2013 ACT Heritage Festival, at Crinigan's Hut, Wanderer Court, Amaroo.

Our 50th Anniversary Dinner will be held on Wednesday 23rd October at University House. Why this date? Well, our real birthday in December is too close to the silly season, so we chose the anniversary of the beginning of the world according to Archbishop

Ussher. Details of all these happenings will be found in Old News as plans are confirmed.

Di Dowling continues to put together Old News, and it is no easy task, speaking as a former editor. Di begs us all to contribute articles, photos, news – any items that might interest our readers.

Fortunately her captive author Peter Dowling contributes some fine articles on archaeology and John Bundock finds links to interesting stories in the news, but I urge you to email contributions to Di (dipetaia@bigpond.com) for our monthly issues.

Sally Brockwell continues as our able secretary; since she volunteered for the Committee we have established better links with the staff and students at ANU, which we value highly as for the last several decades the involvement of current ANU academics had been minimal. Esteemed life members Professors John Mulvaney and Jack Golson continue to support us through attendance and advice.

New Committee members Tristen Jones, Daryl Wesley and Dani Harris are variously involved with undergraduate and post-grad students and are keen to develop a program of site visits that will include practical experience for students and interested members.

And me? Di asked me to say something about myself: you may remember that I was on the CAS Committee in 1990 with baby Xanthe on my hip at most meetings. I was then President from 1991 to 1994 before I escaped to South Aust to look after my elderly parents, and managed the Aboriginal Heritage Team in the SA Dept of Aboriginal Affairs.



February 2013

50 years on and still going strong.cont.

I survived until 2005 when I returned to ACT and couldn't refuse Prof Graham Connor when he asked me to be President again in 2006. I had a year off last year when the lovely Rose O'Sullivan took over the reins, but sadly her busy life as a consultant archaeologist took over, so here I am again. I retired from the Public Service in 2011 and am now a PhD candidate in Archaeology and Natural History at ANU. My involvement with heritage and community groups leads CAS into wider liaisons, with the jewel in our crown being the annual Australian Heritage Partnership Symposium, to be held this year on Saturday 20th July at ANU. We team with the National Trust of Australia (ACT) and Australia ICOMOS in this successful and stimulating event. Wish us well as we steer the CAS ship into our next half century, and please consider helping the Committee with whatever you are good at and enjoy doing.

Helen

Call for Nominations for the National Heritage List and Commonwealth Heritage List

The Hon Tony Burke MP, the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population, and Communities invites people to nominate places for inclusion in the National Heritage List or in the Commonwealth Heritage List for the assessment period 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014. Nominations must be received by the Department by **8 March 2013**. [Click here](#) for further information.

CAS Activity

Meet the Ancestors – not just the mature members of the CAS Committee!

Wednesday 13th February 5pm
AD Hope Lab, lower ground floor,
AD Hope Building, ANU

Friendly Physical Anthropologist Dr Debbie Argue will introduce us to the Archaeology and Anthropology's casts of our hominid ancestors. Spot-the-difference between *Homo habilis* and you; check out the newly acquired cast of *Homo floresiensis*' skull and jaw, and see what the skulls of the Neanderthals really look like.

Nibbles and drinks will be provided, so come and be entertained and ask any questions you might have directed to the TV screen in the past and are still waiting for an answer.
Gold coin supper donation

Please contact Helen Cooke on 0408 443 243 or email Helen.cooke@anu.edu.au for any further information.



CANBERRA
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Old News

February 2013

Canberra & District Historical Society
invites you to the

**Canberra Day Oration – Celebrating the
Centenary**

Tuesday 12 March 2013

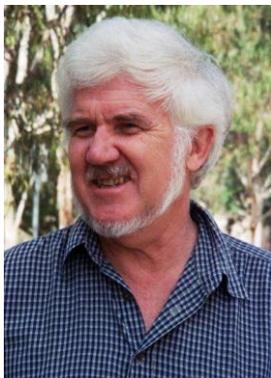
National Library of Australia

3:00pm

Canberra Day Orator 2013

Geoff Page - Poet

***Canberra: my first forty-nine years in the 'City of
Curves'***



Recipient of several major literary awards, Geoff Page, born on the Clarence River in northern NSW, first visited Canberra in 1959 and came to live in 1964. His talk will be a memoir of the city's decades as he experienced them, with particular reference to poetry, jazz

and teaching. It will also include some of the poems he has written about Canberra over the years. Geoff has a shorter version of this memoir in the forthcoming NLA publication: *Canberra Then and Now*. This extensively illustrated book will be available after the Oration as a book signing, as will some of Geoff's backlist titles, at a 20% discount.

RSVP:

Canberra and District Historical Society by 6 March
on 02 6281 2929

or admin@canberrahistory.org.au

**The Friends of the ANU Classics
Museum**

invite you to a public lecture by

Dr Paul Burton

8 pm Thursday 21st February 2013

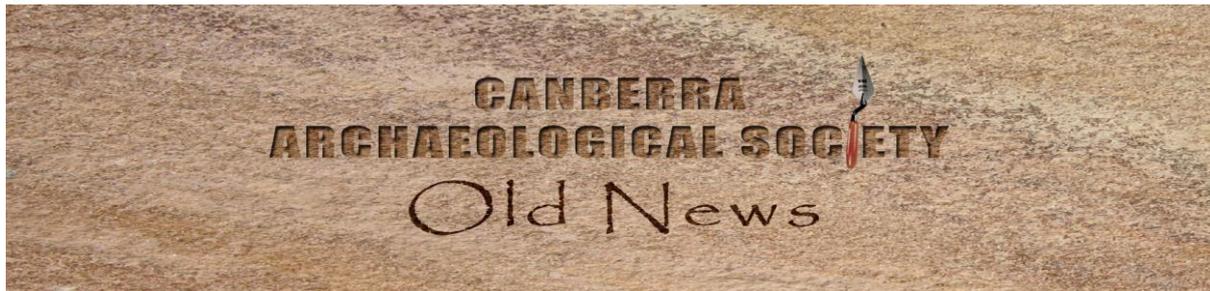
Haydon-Allen Lecture Theatre ('the Tank')

AD 13: THE YEAR OF THE TWO EMPERORS

Two thousand years ago this year, Rome experienced an event without parallel in her previous 740-year history, for it was in AD 13 that two emperors ruled the Roman empire. Most people date the beginning of the reign of the first emperor Augustus' successor Tiberius to AD 14, after Augustus died, but in terms of his power and right to rule, he was made the equal of Augustus through a very special grant in AD 13. The year 13 also witnessed another significant event: Augustus put the finishing touches on his own account of his own life—his version of the events of his remarkable career that he hoped the rest of the world would remember—the *Res Gestae Divi Augusti*.

Dr Paul Burton is a Roman historian in the Classics and Ancient History program at the Australian National University in Canberra, and is the author of *Friendship and Empire: Roman Diplomacy and Imperialism in the Middle Republic (353-146 BC)* (Cambridge University Press, 2011). He is a specialist in Roman international relations during the Republican period.

In 2013, Australia's capital, Canberra, celebrates its centenary, focussing on events that occurred 100 years ago in 1913. This evening the ANU Classics and Ancient History Program will take you back to AD 13, to see what was happening in Rome, at the heart of the empire, 2000 years ago!



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PITS REVEAL ALL IN SULAWESI

A Bronze Age burial jar and other archaeological artefacts have been uncovered by a team of ANU archaeologists working in the Lake Towuti region of Sulawesi, Indonesia.

The fieldwork team, led by Professor Sue O'Connor, included Dr Jack Fenner, Dr Ambra Calo, Tim Maloney and [Rose Whitau](#) from the Department of Archaeology and Natural [History](#) in the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific. The team was also joined by a number of Indonesian and international colleagues, and the work was conducted in September and October 2012.

After obtaining permits and consulting with Indonesian officials in Jakarta and Makassar, the team first established a base camp in Wawondula on the northwest shore of Lake Towuti. Excavation in nearby rockshelter, Gua Andomo, unearthed a mix of pottery, lithic and glass artefacts, while the open air site of Saone yielded a significant collection of stone artefacts.

Visitors at Gua Lampetia excavations



After crossing Lake Towuti, the team established a new base of operations in the village of Rauta, where they excavated a pair of test pits in the rock shelter Gua Lampetia. These pits revealed a Bronze Age jar burial, an extended burial and a relatively small assemblage of pottery sherds and other artefacts.

Two more rockshelters, 15 kilometres southeast at the village of Walondare, were also excavated which produced more high-quality stone artefacts, freshwater snail shell and fragmented animal bone, much of it burnt.

“Based on the stratigraphy, artefact types, and depths of known deposits, we are hopeful that the occupations at these sites extend back into the Pleistocene, which would make them more than 12000 years old”, said archaeologist Dr Jack Fenner.

Research on the excavated materials is ongoing and the team expects to return next year to extend the excavations both laterally and vertically. A [survey](#) of the nearby rock shelters known to Walondare residents also identified several other good candidates for possible future work.

http://asiapacific.anu.edu.au/news-events/all-stories/pits-reveal-all-sulawesi?utm_source=3&utm_medium=Ss&utm_campaign=20130107



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INTERESTING WEB SITES

Royal Australian Historical Society

<http://login.brandmail.com.au/em/mail/view.php?id=1049170&a=35148&k=08f63c9>

Evidence of substantial gene flow between Indian populations and Australia about 4,000 years ago.

<http://au.news.yahoo.com/world/a/-/world/15841361/indians-broke-australian-isolation-4-000-years-ago/>

Digital scanning of archaeological objects. (BBC)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-21235980>

Earliest Evidence of Chocolate in North America in Utah village

<http://news.sciencemag.org/sciencenow/2013/01/earliest-evidence-of-chocolate-i.html>

Were artifacts thought of as broken Roman gaming pieces really scratchy toilet paper?

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/environment/archaeology/9810790/Museums-ancient-gaming-display-actually-primitive-toilet-paper.html>

Italian mission discovers Luxor necropolis

http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/nations/egypt/2013/01/10/Archaeology-Italian-mission-discovers-Luxor-necropolis_8054164.html

Minoan civilization had strong martial traditions

<http://www.sci-news.com/archaeology/article00826.html>

Mysterious Shaman Stones Uncovered in Panama

<http://news.discovery.com/history/archaeology/shaman-stones-panama-130116.htm>

Hundreds of Neolithic Artifacts Found at Koutroulou Magoula, Greece

<http://www.sci-news.com/archaeology/article00810.html>

Archaeologists Unearth Agricultural Suburb at Ancient City of Petra

<http://www.sci-news.com/archaeology/article00804.html>

Bulgaria claims find of temple to Priapus

<http://sofiaglobe.com/2013/01/06/archaeology-bulgaria-claims-find-of-temple-to-priapus/>

Scale Model Discovered for Florence Cathedral

<http://news.discovery.com/history/archaeology/scale-model-discovered-for-florence-cathedral-130110.htm>

2000+ years old medicines analyzed

<http://www.hurriyetaidailynews.com/ancient-medicines-analyzed.aspx?pageID=238&nID=38702&NewsCatID=375>

Roman theatre discovered in Kent

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/stage/2013/jan/07/roman-theatre-discovered-in-kent>

Were Viking structures brewhouses, not bathhouses?

<http://io9.com/5977029/archaeologists-mistake-viking-brewhouses-for-bathhouses>



February 2013

Australia ICOMOS 2013 National Conference—Centenary of Canberra
...imagined pasts... imagined futures...

Thursday 31 October – Sunday 3 November 2013
Call for Conference Session Proposals
'Imagined pasts, imagined futures' is an exciting multidisciplinary conference that coincides with the centenary of Canberra and the array of cultural activities, performances, exhibitions and events that are planned for Canberra in 2013. Australia ICOMOS is partnering with the Museum of Australian Democracy in the unique setting of Old Parliament House to explore how heritage participates in the 'imagined communities' and 'imagined geographies' of nations and communities in a globalising world. Conference activities will feature special events that showcase Canberra's unique cultural, historical and political heritage—from indigenous heritage futures, to the imagined frontiers of science and the heritage of political debate and satire! Pre and post conference activities will explore the heritage and cultural landscapes of the region, including its fantastic cool climate wines and produce. Proposals are encouraged for sessions, workshops, panel discussions, performances, as well as individual papers – suggested themes are set out on the [conference website](#). Be creative! Non-traditional formats welcomed.

PLEASE NOTE NEW DEADLINES
The deadline for proposals for sessions, workshops and panel discussions etc is **28 February 2013**. The deadline for abstracts for individual papers or performances is 30 April 2013. Please email proposals [to Tracy Ireland](#) (Conference Organising Committee).

CAS Annual Membership Form – 2013

Send to : The Treasurer, Canberra Archaeological Society
PO Box 8086
Australian National University
Canberra ACT 0200

NAME(S):

ADDRESS:

PHONE: h] _____

m] _____

EMAIL:

Please write clearly as several emails have been returned undelivered

MEMBERSHIP TYPE:

- Family \$40 Single \$30
 Concession \$20

DIRECT DEBIT DETAILS

Commonwealth Bank –

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If you use direct debit, please email your details to dipetaia@bigpond.com

The monthly newsletter, *Old News*, is usually sent out by email.