



March 2013

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

**Wednesday 17 April 2013
Refreshments 6.30pm Talk 7pm**

**ACT Centenary and CAS Golden Anniversary - 50 years on:
CAS does Ginninderra (Gungahlin).**

Helen Cooke and Peter Dowling

The Society has been active in local archaeology and heritage protection for most of its 50 years. This is a history that should be recorded, but as we are all busy and writing our own work the overall task is too daunting, so we are beginning with several tales which we will turn into chapters in due course. Helen will start with a panoramic view of CAS involvement in identifying, recording, excavating, conserving and promoting cultural heritage in Gungahlin, including embarrassing photos, the ghosts of history past and the story of 'Girls' Own Archaeology'.

Peter will pick up the threads on two landmark sites currently, if belatedly, conserved, including the people who made and loved these sites, the saga of protection and the opportunities to enjoy them today. These are the Ginninderra Blacksmith's Workshop and the home of Thomas and Catherine Gribble, latterly called 'The Valley'.

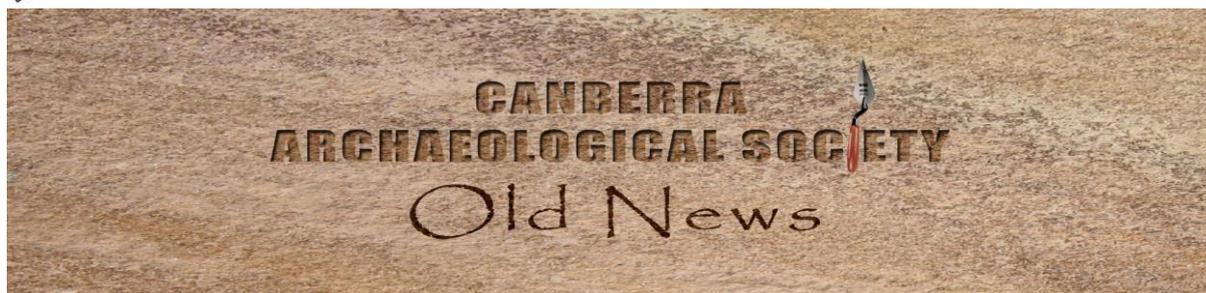
Peter and Helen invite anyone with an interest in the history of Gungahlin to come along and speak with us before and after the talk. Our dearest wish is to encourage a core of Friends of the History of Ginninderra to continue the vigilance and promotion of this iconic village, a foundation of modern Canberra.

DUE TO THE MULVANEY LECTURE

THIS PRESENTATION HAS BEEN

TRANSFERRED TO

WEDNESDAY APRIL 17 2013



March 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 two months and the topic of their presentation.

17 April 2013

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

15 May 2013

Aedeon Cremin – All the Kings Horses

No meeting in June

Saturday 20 July

CAS Symposium

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

Welcome

The Canberra Archaeological Society would like to welcome all the new student members for 2013 and look forward to seeing them at some of our meetings and our events and Archaeological field trips around Canberra.



March 2013

2013 Mulvaney Lecture

Collateral evidence: Ethnographic analogy revisited Professor Alison Wylie

Manning Clark Centre, Theatre 3, Bldg26A, Union Court, ANU

Wednesday, 20 March 2013

7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Reliance on analogy, especially ethnographic analogy, is as contentious in archaeology as it is ubiquitous, and it is once again the centre of sharp controversy about disciplinary ambitions, epistemic identity, and norms of credible practice. What basis can there be, ask contemporary critics of analogy-gonewrong, for projecting Malagasy cultural meanings onto Stonehenge, or Big Man models of colonial era leadership in Melanesia onto the European Neolithic?

Alison Wylie is a Professor in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Washington. She was awarded the Presidential Award from the Society for American Archaeology in 1995 and appointed Distinguished Lecturer by the American Anthropological Association in 2008. Alison's main research interests lie in the philosophy of the social and historical sciences, and feminist philosophy of science.

The Mulvaney Lecture is held biennially to honour Professor John Mulvaney, Foundation Professor of Prehistory in the Faculty of Arts.

Enquiries: Tanya Greig on 02 6125 3498

http://billboard.anu.edu.au/event_view.asp?id=98314

Careers in research: is Australia producing too many PhDs?

5:30 pm–7:30 pm (6 pm start)

Monday, 18 March

Lecture Theatre, CSIRO Discovery Centre
North Science Rd, Acton ACT 2601

Free with refreshments provided after the event.
Bookings essential

Long hours, short-term contracts, uncertain employment, and cutthroat competition for grants, fellowships and positions. The work may be on interesting and important issues and the company stimulating, but for many the reality of a career in research isn't so rosy. Join our panel of experts as they discuss the pros and cons of getting a PhD, and explore a best practice approach to how the career pathway of researchers might be improved.

This event is proudly brought to you by the Australian Science Communicators ACT Branch, Inspiring Australia and ABC's Radio National 'Big Ideas'.

Enquiries: info.discovery@csiro.au or 02 6246 4646.

Bill Gammage's *The Biggest Estate on Earth: How Aborigines made Australia*

Monday 18 March 2013

Theatrette, Sir Roland Wilson Building 120, ANU
9.00 am - 5.00 pm

The event cost is \$110/person or \$88/student

Made Australia A one-day professional update on this multi award-winning book providing critical perspectives on the issues raised and examining the implications for how our continent is understood and might be managed in the future.
Bookings Essential



CANBERRA
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Old News

March 2013

LOCAL DIG UNCOVERS NEW SPECIES OF ANCIENT FISH



Three-dimensional life-size model of *Edenopteron keithcrooki*, built by Baz Crook, on display at the Canberra Museum and Gallery, December 2011. A crocodile skull is shown on the left for comparison.

Researchers from The Australian National University (ANU) working on the New South Wales south coast have discovered a new species of ancient fish, after unearthing the largest fossilised lobe-finned fish skull ever found in rocks of Devonian age. The descendants of these ancient fish evolved into the first land animals.

Dr Gavin Young from the Research School of Earth Sciences and his research team were excavating the skeleton of an extinct armoured fish from 360 million-year-old rock near Eden, NSW, when the bones they uncovered suggested there was more in the site than met the eye.

“As we lifted out the block, we noticed a very large fang, at least 4 cm long,” said Dr Young. “Armoured fish don’t have teeth, so we knew there must be a much larger predator also preserved at the site.

“As we lifted out the block, we noticed a very large fang, at least 4 cm long,” said Dr Young. “Armoured fish don’t have teeth, so we knew there must be a much larger predator also preserved at the site.

“We uncovered an almost complete skull and

shoulder girdle of an enormous lobe-finned fish, with jaws about 48 cm long.”

Preparing the fossil in the ANU laboratory took several years.

“We compared the shape and structure of the preserved bones with about 100 fossil fish species from elsewhere in the world. It turns out that we have not only a species new to science, but also a new genus of lobe-finned fish, which we have named *Edenopteron* after the town of Eden,” said Dr Young.

The species name *Edenopteron keithcrooki* acknowledges Professor Keith Crook of the former ANU Geology Department, who supervised student geological mapping on the NSW south coast over several decades, when many of the important fossil fish sites were discovered. The new species is described today in the international journal *PLOS ONE*.

The discovery of this new species has implications for the classification of other Devonian lobe-finned fish, says Dr Young.

“This animal had some unusual features compared to Devonian fish fossils from the Northern Hemisphere, including extra bones in its palate, and strange ornamentation on the scales,” said Dr Young.

“These features were first identified in fish fossils from the well-known Canowindra fossil site in central NSW, and we have now found the strange scales at the Jemalong Range near Forbes, and in similar-aged rocks in Australian Antarctic Territory. The Eden site is only the fourth place in the world where Devonian fish show these unusual features,” explained Dr Young.

When *Edenopteron* was alive, Australia and Antarctica were joined in the great southern supercontinent of Gondwana.



March 2013

LOCAL DIG UNCOVERS NEW SPECIES OF ANCIENT FISH (cont)

"It's pretty clear that we had an endemic lobe-finned fish group in this part of the world, and that has very interesting consequences for hypotheses of where the first land animals evolved," said Dr Young.

The next step for the research team is to continue excavating the site to see if the body of *Edenopteron* might be preserved deeper in the rock.

"That would be a massive excavation because it would be 2 to 3m long, but would most definitely be an absolutely spectacular find," said Dr Young.

This work was completed under an ARC Discovery Grant. The article can be accessed at

<http://dx.plos.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0053871>

The ANU Friends of the Australian Archaeological Institute of Athens

Thursday 21st March at 8pm.

Haydon-Allen Tank, ANU

Pheidias's Statue of Zeus at Olympia – one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, by Dr Diana Bruton.

Pheidias's statue of Zeus at Olympia evoked profound religious awe in the onlooker. But how did the worshipper interpret what he or she saw? In this lecture, the iconography of the statue that Pheidias created will be discussed in terms of its effect on the viewer: what iconographical associations the statue had, and how they functioned in terms of cult.

Dr Diana Burton is a lecturer in Greek art at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.

Note also that it is their first meeting for the year the lecture will be preceded by a brief AGM.

Drinks will follow in the ANU Classics Museum.

INTERESTING WEB SITES

A study of Neanderthal skulls suggests that they became extinct because they had larger eyes than our species

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-21759233>

The eminent University of Chicago anthropologist Marshall Sahlins resigned from the National Academy of Sciences

<http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2013/02/25/prominent-anthropologist-resigns-protest-national-academy-sciences#ixzz2NMmlaLeO>

The American Anthropological Association announced that it will be converting the journal *Cultural Anthropology* to an open-access format, accessible free of charge to anyone, as of January 2014. In addition to current material, the new format will also provide a 10-year backlog. *Cultural Anthropology* is the journal of the Society for Cultural Anthropology, a section of the AAA.

<http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2013/03/12/anthropology-journal-will-convert-open-access-format>

Saga of 'the Hobbit' highlights a science in crisis

http://theconversation.edu.au/saga-of-the-hobbit-highlights-a-science-in-crisis-12104?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=The+Weekend+Conversation&utm_content=The+Weekend+Conversation+CID_7a7fa17533959bcf25d369174a96138c&utm_source=campaign_monitor&utm_term=Saga%20of%20the%20Hobbit%20highlights%20a%20science%20in%20crisis



March 2013

Neanderthals died out earlier than thought



In a paper published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, Rachel Wood from the Research [School](#) of Earth

Science's radiocarbon laboratory has found evidence that Neanderthals in southern Spain died out thousands of years earlier than previously thought. Since the 1990s experts have believed the last Neanderthals sought refuge on the Spanish peninsula and died out around 35,000 years ago. However, new dating evidence on fossilised bones has cast doubt on this timing, suggesting that the fossils could be over 10,000 years older than previously thought. The findings, which have implications for whether Neanderthals and modern humans co-existed, are published in the latest issue of *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

The [study](#) used an improved dating method called 'ultrafiltration' that removes modern carbon that can contaminate the ancient collagen in bones, thereby giving inaccurate younger dates. The international research team tested 215 bones from 11 sites in southern Iberia where previous radiocarbon dating work had supported the late survival of Neanderthals until around 35,000 years ago.

In this latest study the vast majority of the bones were found to contain insufficient collagen to be dated successfully. Of the two sites where bone specimens did contain sufficient collagen for testing, the new dates were found to be consistently older than 45,000 years old.

Lead author Dr Rachel Wood said: 'Our results cast doubt on a hypothesis that has been broadly accepted since the early 1990s that the last place for surviving Neanderthals was in the southern Iberian Peninsula. Much of the evidence that has supported this idea is based on a series of radiocarbon dates which cluster at around 35,000 years ago. Our results call all of these results into question and suggest that Neanderthals may not have survived any later in this area than they did elsewhere in mainland Europe.'

The new dates are particularly significant in the debate about whether Neanderthals and modern humans interacted. It is commonly accepted that modern humans were present in the area from around 42,000 years ago. If the younger chronology was accurate, Neanderthal and modern humans would have been living side by side for thousands of years, presenting the heavily debated possibility that they could have interbred. This new evidence suggests that Neanderthals and modern humans may not have lived alongside each other in Iberia for 10,000 years.

The paper is available on the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science* [website](#).

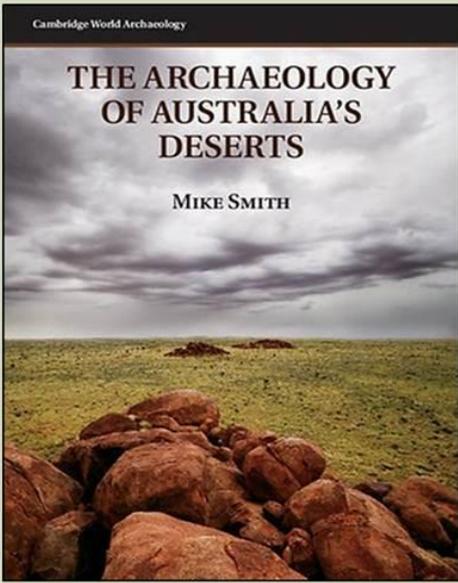
ACT & Region Heritage Festival

Canberra turns 100, Goulburn turns 150 as a city, and Queanbeyan celebrates 175 years since inception. These milestones provide an exciting opportunity for all those involved in the Canberra and Region Heritage Festival. Check their website for more information

http://www.environment.act.gov.au/heritage/heritage_festival



March 2013



The Friends of the National Museum of Australia and the Research Centre invite you to the launch of:

The Archaeology of Australia's Deserts
by Mike Smith

3:00 pm, Friday 22 March, Friends Lounge, NMA

Coffee & cake provided.
Bring along your copy for signing.
Copies of the book will be for sale in the Museum shop.

RSVP Anne Faris 6208 5103
Email anne.faris@nma.gov.au

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

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

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