



Canberra Archaeological Society Inc
Monthly Newsletter

Old News

May 2011

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

Wednesday May 18

Not Just Ned

Objects which tell the story of the Irish in Australia
1788 to 2005.

Public perception of the Irish in Australia rarely gets beyond the story of the Kelly gang, rebels and convicts. The more than 480 objects in the NMA's Irish in Australia temporary exhibition take the visitor well beyond such stereotypes and into the varied and complex nature of the Irish presence here since 1788. As the exhibition title suggests, it's 'Not Just Ned'!

Dr Richard Reid is the Senior Curator of the National Museum of Australia's exhibition - 'Not Just Ned - a true history of the Irish in Australia'. An Irish immigrant himself, Richard has been a secondary school teacher, museum education officer, public historian and curator. For nearly 40 years he has been involved in researching the story of Irish-Australia and of the experiences of Australians at war.

Following are the dates for CAS/CAR public lectures for 2011

Third Wednesday every month

June 15 August 17

September 21 October 19 November 16

Please note these dates in your diary

If there is a change in these dates for any reason they will be highlighted on our website

www.cas.asn.au



NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK

Sunday 15 to Sunday 22 May

www.archaeologyweek.com



History of the Canberra Archaeological Society Inc

We need you all to contribute to this grand project to commemorate our 50th Birthday in 2013.

Cynthja Bolton is coordinating and editing the project, so scour your shelves for photos and memorabilia of CAS.

To kick off in style we invite all past and present members and interested others to share afternoon tea and memories at the end of National Archaeology Week. Benedict House is a historic property in which we have a room to ourselves and gracefully set tables with tea pots, china cups and little cakes and scones. Coffee can be ordered as well.

We hope you will join with those who were your friends and colleagues in CAS so we can secure your contact details and follow up to record your memories.

When: Sunday 22nd May 2011, 2pm - 5pm

Where: Benedict House, 39 Isabella Street Queanbeyan, NSW 2620

What: Afternoon tea supplied, history recollections encouraged

What do you need to bring: Photos, memorabilia and tales of CAS.

PLEASE RSVP to dipetaia@bigpond.com or on phone: 6231 5521 by Wednesday 18th May to assist with catering.

Visit to the ruins of the 'Calvary' site.

Sunday 29 May

8.45am to 12.30pm, with morning tea on site.

Meet at car park opposite Lake Tuggeranong College, between Cowlshaw and Pitman Streets, Yellow Pages Map 87 N13. Come a little early and be ready to leave by 9am. There is very limited parking space at the beginning of the walk so we will car pool. Bring a snack to have mid morning on site.

A late autumn half-day walk to the ruins of Calvary, the one room pisé cottage built by or for the Irish migrant, Michael Moloney, around 1900. The ruins are now very heavily eroded but occupy a commanding position in the Paddy's River valley. The family occupied the house for about 15 years while they struggled to make a living from the land and it has been decaying ever since. We will record the current state of the ruins photographically.

The walk from the Tidbinbilla Road is along a stock route and other formed tracks for most of its 6 km [return] length - stout footwear recommended. A total climb of about 150 metres is involved to reach the cottage.

Those wishing to share lunch after the visit may join us on the café strip on Anketell Street in Tuggeranong Town Centre.

In case of inclement weather, call Helen *before 8.30 am* on 0408 443 243 to check whether we will bravely face the weather or enjoying a coffee in the 'Dome'!



ACT Heritage Grant applications

CAS has submitted two applications for funding for projects under the ACT Heritage Grant program: one to undertake some exploratory excavations around the Old Tuggeranong Schoolhouse to add to the interpretation for visitors (a request from the tenant and museum curator, and CAS member Elizabeth Burness) and the other to prepare a history booklet on the Duntroon Dairy. The latter idea was the result of the number of people who came up to the CAS table at the Open Day and asked if they could buy a book on the Dairy. Some of those who lived there offered to help us with photos and memories.

Fingers crossed that we are successful as these will generate plenty of opportunities for you all to get involved with exciting local history projects.





A group of Canberra Archaeological Society members look at Aboriginal axe-grinding grooves on the roof of a cave near Sassafras in NSW — one of the sites visited by the group on the long weekend.

History is where one cares to wield a spade

To most people archaeology is a romantic remote subject, yet the evidence of an Aboriginal settlement several hundred years old can be found just 40 miles from Canberra.

Mrs Philip Flood, a research scholar with the pre-history department of the ANU has elected to study Aboriginal settlements in the Southern Tablelands and the Alps for her Doctorate of Philosophy.

She said these areas were archaeologically sparse, but evidence of early Aboriginal settlement could be found.

About 40 miles from Canberra Mrs Flood has excavated three sites on a property called Gudgenby.

She has found rock paintings and implements including bondi points and a few stone axes.

Finding sites was a combination of getting leads from country people and Mrs Flood's own detection work.

"You look for the sort of places you would

choose to set up camp and usually you find these are the same spots the Aborigines have chosen for a settlement", she said.

"I've found a few Aboriginal camping sites round the Cotter area. "I spend a lot of time in the field".

Mrs Flood's practical work is not limited to private research.

As a member of the Canberra Archaeological Society she spends a lot of time attending society's field trips, helping organise field trip programs, guiding members with less experience and piecing together the society finds.

On the long weekend, 32 Canberra Archaeological Society members, several of their children and a few four-legged field trip enthusiasts investigated a more fruitful archaeological area on the South Coast.

Among the sites visited was one excavated by Mrs Flood at Sassafras last year.

In one of her excavations, dug to 3ft, Mrs Flood found evidence of an Aboriginal settlement 4,000 years old.

"The sediments there were built up very slowly. If you were to dig to six feet, you might find evidence of an Aboriginal settlement 8,000 years old", she said.

Excavating could be a very slow process, Mrs Flood said.

"Sometimes you have to use toothbrushes or

By HELEN SHUMACK

even toothpicks so that you don't miss anything", she said.

Other sites visited by the society on the coast included two previously excavated by the society's president, Mr Ron Lampert, who found evidence of an Aboriginal settlement dating back about 20,000 years at Burrill Lake.

He found on the site several heavy tools —

signs of a former industry.

On the trip from Durras North to Nowra the group stopped at various points along the coast to see rock paintings, stencils and engravings.

"These were mainly in red, white, black, yellow and charcoal", Mrs Flood said.

One "stencil" depicted a sailing ship, Mrs Flood said.

The "stencils" were made by blowing ochre powder mixed with water around a solid object — a hand, a foot or even fish.

CAS History Project ~ quiz question number 1.

This article is in our archives without a date or name of the newspaper. Can anyone help us with the year and identify any of the happy CAS people in the photo?

Please respond to Helen Cooke at the.cookies@bigpond.com or 0408 443 243.

And don't forget to come to the History memories afternoon tea on Sunday May 22 at Benedict House - details in this issue.

OTHER EVENTS

The Friends of the ANU Classics Museum

Remembering Flavian Rome: Pliny the Younger, Trajan, and the Monuments of Domitian's City'

Illustrated lecture by Dr Paul Roche

Tuesday 17th May, 2011 8 pm

The Tank (Haydon-Allen Lecture Theatre), ANU Campus

(Note the day of the week, which is not the usual FCM Thursday evening.)

The architectural monuments built by the emperor Domitian (ruled 81-96 AD) left his successors with a



problem: what to do with the hated tyrant's physical legacy?

Domitian had used architecture and urban space for his own ends, and with no money in the treasury, Nerva and Trajan inherited an essentially Domitianic city.

Dr Roche will look at Domitian's most famous monuments, including the Stadium (modern Piazza Navona), the Odeum, the Forum of Nerva (Forum Transitorium), and his colossal palace on the Palatine Hill - considering both their ancient impact and their impressive modern remains - and how Latin authors such as Pliny the Younger remembered, reacted to, and helped shape the changing political meaning of the city. *Piazza Navona*

Dr Roche, Senior Lecturer in Classics and Ancient History at the University of Sydney, specializes in Roman literature, politics and culture of the first century AD.

Supper in the Museum will follow, where FCM items of merchandise will be on sale.

All proceeds from sales help us acquire further items for the Museum.



England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So, they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, thread it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell.

Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night, (the graveyard shift) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be, "*Saved by the Bell*" or was considered a "*Dead Ringer*"

Mulvaney Lecture

Wednesday 1st June at 7.30 p.m.
Manning Clark Centre Theatre 1

"The Magician's House; towards an archaeology of the Druids".

Miranda Aldhouse-Green

The Druids are familiar elements in our perceptions of ancient Gaul and Britain, largely because of their 'press coverage' by classical authors such as Julius Caesar, Pliny and Tacitus. A range of archaeological discoveries of Iron Age and Roman-period ritual material in these regions has been made in recent years. New interpretations of such evidence have led to a quantum leap in our understanding of how complex the cosmologies of these 'barbarian' societies undoubtedly were.

New epigraphic evidence from Gaul demonstrates unequivocally that people known as Druids were functioning as religious specialists and, even more significantly, that they were on the scene long after Gaul had been conquered by the Romans in the 50's BC. This new evidence serves not only to prove the Druids' existence but also to throw into sharp focus the growing body of material culture that attests to the richness and sophistication of Gallo-British religious tradition, on the western periphery of the Roman world, that had its roots deep in its Iron Age past.

Miranda Aldhouse-Green is a Professor of Archaeology at Cardiff University. She gained her first degree in archaeology at Cardiff University, going on to postgraduate studies at Oxford and the Open University, where she gained her doctorate. She was the first winner of the John Legonna Celtic Research Prize, awarded by the National Library of Wales. From 2004-2006 she was President of the Prehistoric Society. Miranda's main research interests lie in the material culture of ancient European religion and ritual and, specifically, the cult-traditions of the Iron Age and Roman period.

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



Dr Patrick Guinness and Professor Matthew Spriggs, the School of Archaeology and Anthropology would like to invite you to attend supper following the 2011 Mulvaney Lecture on Wednesday June 1

RSVP for catering purposes

By Wednesday 25th May 2011 to Christine Dwyer T: 61253498 or email: Christine.dwyer@anu.edu.au

A good news story

Some of you might recall in April last year that AAA and WAC issued a joint press release about Dong Son bracelets being offered for sale on EBay through an Australian company (<http://www.australianarchaeologicalassociation.com.au/node/4023>).

After our having advised the Australian government of the situation, the artefacts were seized. Several people who work in SE Asia, including Dougald O'Reilly, Christophe Pottier and Roland Fletcher were consulted, and the goods were determined to have a provenance of NW Cambodia. Dougald, as Director of Heritage Watch (<http://www.heritagewatchinternational.org/>) was then asked if he might assist the Australian government in securing a request from the Cambodian government that future illegally imported artefacts be seized and repatriated. This request was made and now the Australian government can seize and repatriate Cambodian material as they see fit.

A hand back ceremony for the seized artefacts took place on March 10th at the Cambodian Embassy.



Ancient Egyptians and Clogged Arteries.

Medical books will tell us that one of the major causes of death today in the developed countries is heart disease resulting from a diet rich in animal fats, too much salt, too much cholesterol, too many cigarettes and lying about on the couch watching TV (or in the case of this writer, too much time in front of the computer screen with too much chocolate in the immediate vicinity). We are warned that our poor diets and lack of daily exercise ultimately lead to blocked arteries, heart attacks and strokes. In fact cardiovascular disorders are seen as an affliction of our modern lifestyles. But this is not really the case.

It seems now that strokes and heart attacks have been bedeviling humans for millennia. A team of archaeologists, biological anthropologists and medical doctors have identified blocked arteries (atherosclerosis) in Egyptian mummies. The team examined several mummies by running them through a CT scanner. They hypothesised that the mummies would not have heart disease because they lived active lives, their diet was much different and they didn't have tobacco. But no!

One of the mummies they examined was Princess Ahmose-Meryetamon, a princess of the 17th Dynasty aged in her forties who lived in the late 16th century BCE. The CT scan showed up blockages in her arteries.

Other mummies the team examined also showed various degrees of atherosclerosis, enough in fact to compromise their health. Presumably these people ate fresh food and were not sedentary (or at least as sedentary as we often are). Archaeological evidence has shown that Egyptians did have access to meat in their diet but they ate mainly grains, fruits and vegetables. So what was happening?

One answer (or part answer) is that mummification was largely a privilege of the elite classes in Egyptian society and the mummies examined therefore represent a small portion of the ancient Egyptian society. The mummies do not represent the majority of the population - the working classes - who presumably were very active and ate little meat. Atherosclerosis leading to heart disease and strokes could then be restricted mainly to the lazy elite classes. But was their diet as bad as ours, and were their lifestyles just as sedentary as ours? Or is there a genetic factor involved? We know that in ancient Egypt there was a high degree (notoriously so) of interbreeding among the royal families and the elite classes. Could a high prevalence of heart disease in Egypt be a result of a diminished gene pool?

One way of answering these questions is to test mummies from outside the elite classes. There are, in various collections throughout the world, mummies from the less exalted middle classes but these have yet to be examined for their cardiovascular health. So answers to those questions will have to wait for further research. One thing emerges in this study and that is that the clogging of arteries that we are all warned about when we visit our GPs is an ancient disease and may not be wholly related to our modern lifestyles. Maybe we do not understand the disease as well as we think.

But one thing is for sure. I am not going to sit much longer in front of my computer with a mostly eaten block of chocolate on the desk next to me waiting for further research to be done. I'm off for a brisk walk then a leafy salad for dinner.

The mummy of Mairherpri a noble from the 18th Dynasty who lived in the late 15th century BCE undergoes a CT scan. He was also found to have atherosclerosis.



ACT Symposium 2011

Saturday 23 July 2011, 9am - 4.30pm
Sir Roland Wilson Building Theatre, McCoy Circuit, Acton

Heritage and Planning: partners in development

What works well, what hasn't been a success and what has fallen through the cracks?

Call for papers and sponsors

Planners, developers, engineers, historians, archaeologists and heritage professionals are invited to present papers on suburban or amenity planning with cultural heritage themes, conservation projects and priorities, specific historic sites, ghosts of heritage past and any other relevant topic.

- Organisations are invited to join as sponsors (running a session or assistance with planning will suffice!) Sponsors logos will be displayed on flyers etc.
- Presenters please register your interest and you will be advised when to send a summary.

COST: \$50 per person - Students \$25. Ticket price includes:

Morning & Afternoon Tea, Lunch and After Sessions Drinks & Nibbles.

Event sponsored by:

Canberra Archaeological Society Inc; Centre for Archaeological Research (CAR); Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists; National Trust of Australia (ACT); Institute of Professional Practice in Heritage and the Arts, ANU; Donald Horne Institute for Cultural Heritage UC; Canberra and District Historical Society; Biosis Research; Godden Mackay Logan, [Navin Officer Heritage Consultants](#); ICOMOS.

Further Information: contact@cas.asn.au or phone 0408 443 243.



Acton Walkways

May 2011 events

This month we will showcase Gardens and Grounds in Acton. This will include the popular National Film and Sound Archive Garden Tour, lead by Head Gardener David Norris; an exploration of ANU sustainability initiatives with ANU Green; and two new tours of ANU gardens and landscape design with Grounds Manager George Abrahams.

In addition, Bradley Cummings will take photographers for an autumn stroll through the National Botanic Gardens, and Allen Mawer will present part 1 of the Old, Old Acton tour, comparing old photographs of Acton Peninsula with new vistas.

View the May 2011 Guided Tours Schedule on our website

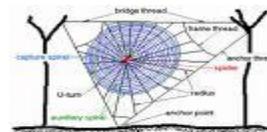
Please remember to **book** for these tours, as numbers are limited. Bookings can be made on the Contact Us page on our website, or by email or phone.

Website: www.actonwalkways.com

Email: info@actonwalkways.com

Phone: 0437 301 390

Interesting Websites



<http://www.dayofarchaeology.com/>

The Day of Archaeology 2011 is an online project that will allow archaeologists working all over the world to document what they do on one day, July 29th 2011. This date coincides with the Festival of British Archaeology, which runs from 16th - 31st July 2011.

Archaeologists taking part in the project will document their day through photographs, videos and written blog posts. These will then be collected on this website, which will provide a glimpse into a day in the life of people working in archaeology, from archaeological excavations to laboratories, universities, community archaeology groups, education services, museums and offices.



Can we expect some letters to the editor on the following website???

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-1374060/Gay-caveman-5-000-year-old-male-skeleton-outed-way-buried.html?ito=feeds-newsxml>

