

Canberra Archaeological Society/Centre for Archaeological Research
Public Lecture
Manning Clark Theatre 6
7:30pm Wednesday 18th August 2010

There's more to the Willandra than Mungo: what Mulurulu has to say

Tegan Kelly

Ever heard of Lake Mungo? I'd be surprised if you haven't. How about Lake Mulurulu? No? Well why not? The Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area contains a rich and detailed palaeoenvironmental and archaeological record of arid and semi-arid Pleistocene Australia. The Willandra includes at least 13 lakes, five of which are reasonably large and well known to those who have worked in or studied the area. One of these, Lake Mungo, has been made famous, primarily due to the discovery of Mungo Man, Australia's oldest dated aboriginal remains. Though some research has been conducted across most of the large lakes in the Willandra, Lake Mungo has been the main focus of investigations in the region. Lake Mulurulu, the northern-most lake in the WHA, contains a similarly abundant record, which has remained largely unstudied. My PhD aims to remedy this deficiency through a robust and thorough palaeoenvironmental study of the Lake Mulurulu lunette, combining geoarchaeology, stratigraphy, sedimentology, geochronology and isotope geochemistry techniques. This talk will outline the field work I conducted and explain the scientific techniques utilised in this study. I will present some of my preliminary results and compare my interpretations of the Lake Mulurulu record with the existing evidence from Lake Mungo.

Biography:

Tegan Kelly is a PhD student in the Earth Environment Group at the Research School of Earth Sciences. Originally hailing from sunny Tasmania, Tegan completed a Bachelor of Science with a double major in Earth Science and Zoology at the University of Tasmania. Her interest in geoarchaeology and archaeometry drew her to ANU for her honours year, where she did a strontium isotope study on a French Neandertal site. She followed this with a PhD incorporating a wider range of archaeometric techniques. She is now in the late stages of wrapping up lab-work and working on a thesis.

Up Coming Events, Conferences & Tours

AIMA Conference 2010:

Perceptions and Misconceptions of Maritime Heritage: accuracy and impact in the public domain.

16 - 19 September 2010

Melbourne Conference & Exhibition Centre, South Wharf, Melbourne

Jack Loney Award Presentation & Public Lecture The fifth Jack Loney Award will be presented on Friday 17 September followed by the annual AIMA Public Lecture to be given by Phillip Robertson, Senior Inspector of Maritime Archaeology, Historic Scotland. The lecture will be followed by drinks courtesy of the Heritage Council of Victoria. Please RSVP when you register to ensure we have sufficient seating and catering. <https://www.conferenceonline.com>

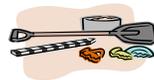


ASHA Conference 2010

30 September to 2 October

Brisbane.

The 2010 Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology Conference will be held over three days from 30 September to 2 October in Brisbane at the Mercure Hotel located on North Quay in the CBD. A welcome evening will be held on Wednesday 29 September on the HMAS Diamantina at the Queensland Maritime Museum, South Bank. The conference dinner will be held at the Marque Hotel, CBD on Saturday 2 October. A choice of post-conference tours is planned for Sunday October 3. For more details visit the conference website at <http://socialscience.uq.edu.au/asha-2010>



The challenges of World Heritage in the Pacific:

Chief Roi Mata's Domain, Vanuatu Study tour

20 - 24 September 2010

The ANU's Institute for Professional Practice in Heritage and the Arts (IPPHA) invites you to participate in a what will be an engaging and memorable study tour to one of our region's newest World Heritage properties - Chief Roi Mata's Domain in Vanuatu. Chief Roi Mata's Domain is a cultural landscape including ancient Melanesian villages, caves, rock art, tropical islands, protected coral reefs and some of the most famous archaeological sites in the Pacific. It is one of the locations where Indigenous oral

history has been demonstrated to have been passed on with remarkable accuracy from generation to generation for over 400 years.

On this study tour, you will be immersed in Melanesian heritage and local life. You will also gain a unique insight into how the idea for this World Heritage Site emerged, took hold and has developed with strong local community ownership. Over five days, you will have an opportunity to experience at first hand issues and approaches to cultural heritage, cultural tourism and sustainable development in one of Australia's near Pacific neighbours.

Participants will have the opportunity to develop an understanding of aspects of Vanuatu's natural and cultural environment through a VIP guided tour through the Vanuatu Cultural Centre and other tour activities on the main island of Efate. You will be introduced to the cultural landscape of the World Heritage site through the Roi Mata Cultural Tour, developed by the local community as part of the project. You will also spend a day with members of the local community – harvesting food from their gardens, visiting the local primary school, and learning about a recently - established kastom revitalisation project.

The total cost of this tour is AUD 2500 (excluding international airfares). This price includes all accommodation (in Port Vila for two nights and at Mangaliliu Village for two nights), meals and travel within Vanuatu. The tour will be limited to 10 participants. You will be provided with a reading pack when you sign up for the tour.

Contacts

For itinerary and all other questions: Email: sandy.blair@anu.edu.au

For costs, payment and travel planning:

Martine Chaytow, Active Travel, Telephone: 6249 6122 Email: martine@activetravel.com.au



Picturing New South Wales: Photographs by Kerry and Co

Date: Sat 29 May 2010 to Tue 15 Mar 2011

At Macleay Museum, Gosper Lane, University of Sydney, 2006

Exhibition of Charles Kerry photographs from the turn of last century and some associated talks: Charles Kerry ran one of the largest commercial studios in Sydney from 1884 to 1917. His photographers travelled throughout NSW creating a stock of images, picturing the developing towns and scenic locations and capturing a vision of settlement, progress and a seemingly civilised landscape. Picturing New South Wales reveals the Kerry studio's vision through a selection from the Macleay Museum's original Kerry glass negatives and historic photographic equipment.

http://sydney.edu.au/museums/pdfs_docs/macleay_postcards_events_prf02.pdf

The Margaret Mead Film Festival

Tuesday 5 October, 2010

This is the longest running film festival in the United States. It is run by the American Museum of Natural History in New York and it is now coming to Sydney. The festival screens films that increase our understanding of the complexity and diversity of the people and cultures that populate our planet. Each year selected festival highlights travel throughout the US and around the world - including for the first time, to Australia - proudly hosted by the Australian Museum. <http://australianmuseum.net.au/whatson>



13th Conference on Australasian Vertebrate Evolution Palaeontology and Systematics

Wednesday 27th April 2011 – Saturday 30th April 2011

Perth Cultural Centre

Jointly Hosted by Curtin University, Western Australian Museum, Murdoch University and University of Western Australia

You are invited to attend the 13th CAVEPS, a biennial meeting of vertebrate palaeontologists from Australia and around the world.

CAVEPS is a multidisciplinary conference that covers morphology, phylogeny, taphonomy, taxonomy, palaeoecology and palaeoenvironment with respect to vertebrate evolution and we encourage attendance from a wide range of disciplines. In addition to the general sessions within the four days we plan a number of symposia including:

1. Tomography and palaeontology. New techniques in the investigation of old fossils
2. Extinction events throughout the history of Australia
3. Ancient DNA, molecules and isotopes. Rare preservation in the fossil record.
4. Vertebrate Functional morphology
5. Preparatory and museum techniques.
6. Whale symposium

The conference will be held in the heart of the Perth Cultural Centre in the well-equipped State Library Lecture Theatre, which is adjacent to the Western Australian Museum. The venue is within the CBD and has therefore has the advantage of having a huge variety of restaurants, bars and entertainment options right on your doorstep. There will be a welcome function and conference dinner. Post conference field trips will include the famous Margaret River wine area in the south as well as mammal sites and for the early vertebrate workers a tour including the Ningaloo Reef is proposed as well as Devonian reefs and Cretaceous sites.

Please register your interest by returning the following details to k.trinajstic@curtin.edu.au:

3rd HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKSHOP 3RD JULY

The Ruins of History

The third historical archaeological workshop held in July was another success with a broad range of presentations coming from professionals and members of the public. This time we had one presentation by an undergraduate student, Celia Cramer, from the Donald Horne Institute. We look forward to having more students stepping up to the podium next year. CAS would like to thank all our sponsors and in particular Dr Tracy Ireland and her hard working students who made sure the day ran smoothly and comfortably with plenty of food and refreshments.

Ploughlands in the ACT - Obscure but cute.

Michael Pearson

This presentation derives from a study undertaken for the Heritage Unit in 2002. Ploughlands are areas of land cultivated with ploughs for planting of crops and are relics of a pre-mechanical pastoral past. Of the surviving ploughlands, most have poor integrity, in that their ridge and furrows have been eroded almost flat over time, or they have been physically disturbed (but not destroyed) by development or subsequent mechanical ploughing or harrowing. The most significant ploughlands are those associated with other components of rural cultural landscapes, to which they contribute to create a richer whole. The best are:

- Old Orroral ploughland and homestead site
- Glenburn group, Kowen
- Booroomba (Blythburn group)
- Well Station #2 ploughland
- Orroral Homestead ploughland
- Mulligans Flat #1 ploughland

The Act may have a good surviving collection because of the peculiar history of land resumption by the Commonwealth which discouraged cropping at the start of the tractor era, and may be uniquely placed to conserve some of these examples in a near-urban area.

The Revival of Rock Valley, Tidbinbilla

Juliet Ramsay

Rock Valley, Tidbinbilla is a relict cultural landscape now transmitting to the public a story of its pioneering farming origins. This presentation traces the settlement history of the Rock Valley, individuals associated with the place and their achievements, the fate of the property when acquired for a national park and utilised for a park depot, its bushfire survival story, and the remarkable rebirth of a garden with a mind of its own.

This presentation shows how a small interesting capsule of Canberra's mountain heritage is captured in the extant cultural landscape. Included, is an outline of a feasible management program that can enhance the heritage story and work within the greater management area of the nature reserve.

The Captains Flat Weigh Station. A ghost of heritage past.

Elizabeth Estbergs

This paper will discuss the impact of the demolition of the structure in the context of the mining heritage of Captains Flat. The Weigh Station, also known as the ore concentrate loader was part of the mining operations in the Captains Flat area

In 2006 a cultural survey of mining at Captains Flat was done which identified the weigh station and loading ramp as an important element in the cultural landscape. The site was not placed on any heritage list.

Captains Flat Community Association (CFCA) campaigned to save the building with a media campaign and representation to local and state politicians. It was destroyed by NSW Rail Corp in 2010 because it was assessed as being unsafe even though remedial work was being done on the structure by another NSW government body. A motion to Palerang Council was put to examine why it was knocked down and how to prevent further places of potential heritage significance from being knocked down.

CFCA are continuing their campaign to protect rest of site not destroyed and get answers about the process leading to the destruction. A tale of how a small community can become very annoyed by the loss of a part of their local heritage without being consulted.

Robertson Cottage – Oaks Estate

Karen Williams

Robertson Cottage, 9 Hazel Street Oaks Estate, has been on the heritage waiting list since 1993. The condition of the cottage has deteriorated significantly through unnecessary neglect and vandalism since it was left unoccupied following the death of the occupant, Les Robertson. Robertson Cottage is the last remaining Canberra construction workers' 'humpy' in the ACT. The cottage, built c.1911, and the Robertson family link the early 19th century history of Canberra and Queanbeyan to the construction era of the federal capital. The cottage precinct includes the Queanbeyan Railway station, The Oaks and the earliest road and river crossings between Canberra, Duntroon and Queanbeyan, all situated at the junction of the Molonglo and Queanbeyan Rivers and all being within approximately 100-200 meters of each other.

The cottage, on the verge of ruin, has recently and unexpectedly jumped from the bottom of the funding list to the top. This presentation will discuss issues that arise from that sudden elevation in priority in relation to establishing recognition and protection of its supporting precinct and ideas for ongoing funding and future maintenance.

Conservation of objects from the Joint Operations Command, Defence site excavation

Celia Cramer

The objective of this presentation was: What happens to the artefacts after they are excavated by archaeologists? Artefacts from archaeological excavations at Hennessy's Hut complex, the Hibernian Hotel site and several Aboriginal sites were used by students from the Donald Horne Institute, University of Canberra to practice investigation, examination and conservation techniques. The project provided an opportunity to add to the archaeological record. The students found that:

- Dirt is good – residues on and inside of objects can contribute to an understanding of the objects.
- Water washing of artefacts can destroy evidence
- Close and long visual and microscopic examination of objects revealed interesting facts. For example, worn and not macroscopically recognizable inscriptions on objects.
- Questions were asked: where did this object come from, how did it get to where it was eventually found, what were the details of disposal.
- Use ware analysis revealed more information on the history and use of the artefact.

One of the main points that came out of the examination of these artefacts was that to understand them better they should be related back to the archaeological excavation. The conservator can make better identification of objects and the context of which they were owned with a better understanding of the site from which they came. The presentation was enhanced by displaying the artefacts for the audience and a discussion around each.

Belconnen Naval Transmitting Station – A history to be ruined or saved?

Peter Dowling

Belconnen Naval Transmitting Station was opened in 1939 to serve as the main communications facility for the Royal Australian Naval fleet. The Receiving Station for the facility was located at HMAS Harman. Bells as it was affectionately known throughout the Navy was part of a world-wide naval network radio establishments providing communications for the Australian, British & other Commonwealth nations & allies. It played a major role in the defence history of Australia and was listed on the Register for the National Estate and Commonwealth Register. It was decommissioned in 2005 and the Department of Defence is in the process of selling the buildings and land. Its future is yet to be determined. In 2006, despite a strong campaign by the National Trust and Engineers Australia (ACT), the main transmitting masts were felled and sold for scrap metal despite being listed as integral elements of the heritage fabric. Since then the process towards eventual disposal by the Department of Defence has continued with uncertainty about the conservation and retention of the transmitters and buildings.

The History of Ruins – hoping to involve people/government in site conservation and interpretation.

Helen Cooke

The Canberra Archaeological Society (CAS) has been active in advising the ACT Government on the conservation of several historic sites in the ACT. Places which CAS has been involved in are:

The Valley – Gribbles homestead c. 1860s, located in Gungahlin. A CMP has been done but not implemented. The site remains fenced and the stone, brick and pisé walls are deteriorating due to weathering. There was considerable interest in conserving it by the Bergman Primary School in the early 2000s but interest and support has lapsed. CAS applied to review the CMP and recommend management policies on the Valley but was unsuccessful in a grant application. There is, however, some positive future for the site as the ACT Government has allocated funds to the conservation and CAS has submitted a programme of work.

12 Mile Homestead site in the Molonglo Valley – Richard Moore's lease. Area is to be developed for a new town in the north of the ACT. CAS wrote to the Chief Minister to offer assistance and advice and to make comment on a heritage investigation – but was not at first successful. However, CAS was asked to attend an on-site meeting at 12 Mile with Heritage Unit and ACT Planning and Land Authority staff to discuss future protection and conservation requirements. CAS may have option to do an excavation on site before development. Ceramics, potter and iron artefacts have been identified at the site.

Crinigans Stone Cottage ruin is a conservation success story. The site was excavated by CAS in 1992 and 1994. Crinigan family members were instrumental and active in the retention of the ruin and its preservation and conservation. The fence which enclosed the site has been removed and a bobcat used to clear the area. The stone footings of the walls were reconstructed to a low height to show the plan of the building. Collected artefacts from Crinigans have been catalogued and nominated to the ACT Heritage Register. The artefacts collected from Crinigans are in the possession of family relatives. But this raises the question – what about the artefacts collected from other sites? Where can they be housed and examined?

Horse Park Homestead, Gungahlin, and grounds contained historic, built elements, natural significance in the wetlands area (Latham's Snipe) and evidence of Aboriginal occupation pre colonization and after contact (glass artefacts). CAS was prominent in the eventual recognition of the Indigenous, historic and natural heritage values of the site and the retention of a major area of the former grazing property.



Websites

The Ngandong fossils

In the early 1930s, 14 *Homo erectus* fossils and 25,000 vertebrate remains were unearthed near the muddy Solo River at Ngandong in Java, Indonesia, by a research team from the Netherlands. Some 80 years later, this remains one of the world's largest caches of this early human. It could also be evidence of the species' swansong. A team has now returned to Ngandong, armed with the original Dutch survey documents, to answer some long-standing questions about the age of the fossils and the ancient sediment that they were buried in.

<http://www.nature.com/news/2010/100728/full/news.2010.377.html>



Remember Ötzi?



Ötzi is the name given to the 5,000 year old body which was found nineteen years ago in the Italian Alps. Now he is back in the news again. Using the latest technologies, scientists in Europe have reached a new milestone in their study. For the first time since his discovery scientists now have access to the complete mitochondrial genetic profile of this world-famous mummy. What conclusions about today's genetic diseases and other prevalent illnesses such as diabetes or cancer can be drawn from the examination of Ötzi's genetic make-up, and his predisposition to various types of ailments? What benefits can be derived from these findings for our own study of genetic medicine?

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/07/100727065647.htm>

The Dead Sea Scrolls

The Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered more than 60 years ago in seaside caves near an ancient settlement called Qumran. The conventional wisdom is that a breakaway Jewish sect called the Essenes—thought to have occupied Qumran during the first centuries B.C. and A.D.—wrote all the parchment and papyrus scrolls. The recent decoding of a cryptic cup, the excavation of ancient [Jerusalem](#) tunnels, and other archaeological detective work may help solve one of the great biblical mysteries: Who wrote the Dead Sea Scrolls?

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2010/07/100727-who-wrote-dead-sea-scrolls-bible-science-tv/>



The Fryer Library at the University of Queensland has now completed an index of the Caroline Tennant-Kelly materials found last December. You can find the guide at:

<http://library.uq.edu.au/search~S7?/akelly+caroline/akelly+caroline/1%2C2%2C3%2CB/frameset&FF=akelly+caroline+1907+1989&1%2C%2C2>

Advertisement for Archaeological Geophysical Surveys <http://huntergeophysics.eb2a.com>

Hunter Geophysics is a Melbourne-based business providing archaeological geophysical surveys throughout Australia. Originally developed for detecting the presence of buried minerals, archaeologists have adapted geophysical techniques over the last few decades, allowing the rapid and low-cost detection and mapping of buried archaeology. Hunter Geophysics provides geophysical and other forms of archaeological prospection, such as earthwork analysis and oblique near-infrared photography. By assessing the potential for archaeology, our services can speed up excavations and make cultural management plans more effective protectors of Australia's heritage.



URGENT PLEA

Do you have an item of interest for us to publish in Old News?

Do you have a comment on a conference you have previously attended or notification of one that would be of interest to our members and to be published?

Do you have book review?

Do you know of an event that would be of interest

We would love to hear from you.....please

