



Canberra Archaeological Society Inc
Monthly Newsletter

Old News

August 2011

Canberra Archaeological Society/Centre for Archaeological Research
Public Lecture

Wednesday August 17,
7.30pm
Manning Clark Theatre 6, ANU

The Archaeology of the Australian Capital Territory: A Strategic Region for Understanding Cultural and Natural Landscapes in South Eastern Australia over the Last 20,000 Years

Peter Dowling and Sally Brockwell

This project proposes to investigate the archaeology of the ACT from Pleistocene to Contact within its palaeo-environmental context. The ACT's border is a modern political construction, however, forming as it does the watershed of several rivers and creeks, and possessing a varied geography of mountains, plains, rivers and wetlands, the ACT forms a natural microcosm of a much larger geographic region. As such, the ACT can offer a unique insight into the human and environmental history of south eastern Australia over the past 20,000 years. It is strategically positioned to test models of Pleistocene settlement, and subsequent trajectories of cultural change and interaction. The project will employ a multi-disciplinary approach with collaborations between archaeologists, bio-anthropologists, historians, palaeoecologists and local Aboriginal communities. A key first step in the project is a survey and inventory of the grey literature held in the ACT Heritage Library, consisting mainly of reports of consultancies undertaken prior to development, compiled since self-government in 1988. This preliminary investigation will enable our team to determine what landscapes have been surveyed, what sites have been found, and the gaps in knowledge that remain, and will allow the development of a focussed field work strategy.

Both Peter and Sally are CAS Committee Members

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Two Invitations from the Friends of Glenburn

1. A guided visit to the Glenburn/Burbong historic sites

On Sunday 25 September, 2011 the National Parks Association of the ACT will be hosting an easy guided walk through the Glenburn/Burbong historic sites.

We will view the recently completed stabilisation of the slab and pisé huts of Glenburn homestead, the rabbit proofing of the security fence at Glenburn homestead and the linseed oil treated post and rail fence at the Colverwell graves - work that was recently carried out by Friends of Glenburn.

Other sites covered by the Molonglo Catchment Group’s heritage grant application will also be visited. The conservation tasks proposed will be described at each site. At Collier’s homestead orchard, the very large pear tree should be smothered in white blossom. This tree is possibly the oldest pear tree in the ACT

All welcome.

Meet at Canberra Railway Station, Kingston at 9.00am for car pooling at a shared cost of \$18 a car (cost per passenger is $\$18 \div$ number of people in the car including the driver).

For details contact Colin McAlister Phone: 6288 4171

Email: cvmac@grapevine.com.au.

2. Request to receive the occasional progress report

The Friends of Glenburn intend to update interested people from time to time on the grant application and other developments.

If you would like to receive it please send your details to Graham Scully: scullymob@southernphone.com.au



Arnhem Land elders have reburied the bones of their ancestors,

writes Lindsay Murdoch.

Aboriginal elders in Arnhem Land say the "spirits" of dozens of their ancestors whose skeletal remains were stolen from burial grounds more than 60 years ago can now rest after being reburied in a traditional ceremony "These people are now naked, healthy and free and can go back into the ground where they belong, back into their land and we can say goodbye," the elder Jacob Nayinggul said after overseeing the massaging of the bones in red ochre yesterday as he talked to them in his clan language.

Later, standing at a mass grave, Mr Nayinggul said it was "no bloody good for anyone" that the bones were stolen by scientific researchers in 1948. "We should live together, black and white with no mucking around, no stealing," he said.

Sydney Morning Herald 19 July 2011.



Australian flagship *HMAS Australia*

The NSW Heritage Branch has just released an Information sheet on a recent survey of the former Australian flagship *HMAS Australia*. After deterring German aggression in the Pacific and a lengthy period serving in the North Sea in WWI, the battle-cruiser returned to Australia. It was eventually sunk off the Sydney coast in 1924 as part of naval armament reductions associated with the Washington Treaty.

The wreck site was discovered in 1990 by Fugro Seafloor Survey Pty Ltd during a seafloor survey of a telecommunications route. In 2007, at the request of the Heritage Branch, the Royal Australian Navy arranged for the visiting deep sea submersible ROV Curv 21 to undertake the first photographic recording of the site.

The information sheet gives a brief overview of the survey results and positive identification of the shipwreck as *HMAS Australia*.

A report on the survey and significance of shipwreck will soon be released on the Maritime Heritage Online Web site at <http://maritime.heritage.nsw.gov.au/public/welcome.cfm>



Survey on taphonomy in Australian archaeology

I am one of Pat Faulkners' honours students at the University of Queensland. As part of my honours I am conducting an online questionnaire/survey on taphonomy in Australian archaeology. My honours topic is the consideration of taphonomy in Australian archaeology. I am critically reviewing the published literature to formulate suggestions for possible further research. The survey is aimed at gathering the current perspectives of archaeologists on the education, research and inclusion of taphonomy into publications.

The link for the survey is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FJLNTQJ>

I would appreciate as many people as possible clicking on the link and doing the survey to assist me with my honours project - The survey only takes about 15 minutes, it is 22 multiple choice and short answer questions.

This study adheres to the guidelines of the ethical review process of the University of Queensland, under the School of Social Science Ethical Review Panel (SSERP) clearance number [H10/2011].

Eva Rankmore: eva.rankmore@uqconnect.edu.au



Take the Plunge-Protect Australia's Heritage

Sent on behalf of AIMA and our maritime archaeology members and colleagues.

Get behind this movement guys! Print the letter and send it in to PM Gillard urging her to ratify the UNESCO Convention for the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage. Please pass the site along to any who may be interested!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Take-the-PlungeProtect-Australias-Heritage/106503246113620>

You don't need to be a part of facebook to view the page and download the letter. Simply click on 'wall' in the bar on the left and the letter is posted there. Otherwise download in here: <http://docs.com/DHXO>.



ACT Symposium - 23 July 2011 *Heritage and Planning – Partners in Development?*

The inaugural ACT Symposium 2011 was held on Saturday 23 July. The Canberra Archaeological Society (CAS) and the National Trust of Australia (ACT) collaborated in organising this event and achieving the aim to attract speakers on topics including heritage and planning in new areas, archaeological techniques, conservation projects and priorities, and the significance of local heritage places. In particular, discussion was invited on what works well, what hasn't been a success and what has fallen through the cracks. The day was a great success with 75 attending and some lively discussion. Our colleagues from Sydney were very impressed with the event and hope we will have more in the series. Sincere thanks go to Dianne Dowling and Belinda Bentley who worked hard all day providing hospitality to support the intense program.

The program can be seen on the CAS website at: <http://www.cas.asn.au/Documents/ACT-2011-symposium-programme.pdf>. The presentations will be available on the National Trust (ACT) website soon. Although there were some heart rending examples of lost and threatened heritage, there were also examples of good practice. Speakers shared stories of good and bad planning examples from around Australia and the Pacific. Only when heritage is given equal weight with density, good transport and environmental considerations will they be equal partners.

We were reminded that many people who feel ownership of our national Capital and are concerned for its heritage don't live in our city. Can planning meet new needs? Unfortunately planning is not based on one common philosophy but a wide variety of opinions. We don't need grandiose visions, but there are too many under-achieving plans that plan for just what is there now rather than what might happen in the future. Access and movement create issues where transport engineers want to make traffic flows quicker in contrast with planners who want people to enjoy the spaces.

In particular 'Greenfields' cultural heritage surveys need to be robust and early in the planning process, with agreement between the planning authorities, clear systems and guidelines and a common approach. These should include a role for all community parties, not just the Registered Aboriginal Organisations. Studies over decades have identified gaps in heritage identification although fine grained cultural heritage studies have been completed and hundreds of Indigenous sites assessed as highly significant and retained.

There is a need for a strategic plan to consider which all heritage places, including archaeological sites, should be conserved or interpreted to provide an understanding of the past so that people and visitors may be able to appreciate the history of the ACT. Consistency should also be applied to permitted techniques to allow excavation with heavy equipment to test a wider paradigm of the extent and pattern of Indigenous occupation and use of an area.

Indigenous people's views on the heritage and significance of places relate to a lived landscape, a set of relationships with overlapping landscapes. The heritage professional must convey the aspects of culture that Indigenous people value themselves, rather than the opinions of the recorders. The Indigenous landscape

shows intergenerational equity and sustainable use, such as traditional men's and women's tracks through the landscape, the creek where they fish, the hearth where fish are cooked and hunting grounds.

Speakers shared examples of good and bad planning from around Australia and the Pacific. The question: 'Is it possible to achieve heritage and planning aims at the same time?' drew presentations of several examples, including Sydney's iconic area of The Rocks. The Sydney Harbour Authority receives income from leases in tall development in areas of less significance which they invest in conservation and interpretation of the historic area.

Several good examples of a 'brownfields' sites with previous functions, are the former Prince Henry hospital site and Kanahooka, the site of the 1895 Dapto smelter in Sydney. Archaeological studies preceded final planning and contributed to retention of the structure of the site and relationships like roads and landscapes, using the footprint and form of the earlier use of the site in the residential development.

The high level of skills and passion contributed by archaeologists, historians, landscape designers and other professionals into cultural heritage surveys, heritage reports and master plans shone clearly in the excellent presentations. Sadly once these professionals deliver their reports to the client, the outcomes usually are out of their hands. Hopefully the next symposiums will attract more planners to see how the professional research and the community views can enhance their developments. The best results are achieved where designers and developers can work together and robust plan to start with, inclusion of people.

The Friends of Glenburn homestead have conserved a range of structures and the graves of two little Colverwell girls who drowned 1837, now resting in the oldest marked immigrant graves in the ACT. The McInnes Shearing shed built in the 1860s is still used for shearing small flocks and needs a benefactor to help fund surveys, conservation and management plans to conserve the shearing shed complex.

The Blandforia 5 Heritage Precinct is hard to find on the ACT heritage website so perhaps not all those planning structural changes to houses are aware of the heritage significance of this area of the suburb of Griffith. Here and in other suburban heritage areas, real estate sale notices and development applications should note that properties are within a heritage precinct. Audits should be required to check compliance and why the heritage system is not protecting listed places.

A snapshot of how our neighbours in the NSW Shires employ Heritage Advisers showed mixed results, depending on the will of the Council. As the original owners move on from established heritage areas, there is a new wave of occupants who have chosen to live in a heritage area and are keen to keep its values.

Next steps

Concerns have been raised by CAS and the National Trust (ACT) on the retention of cultural sites of significance in the new Molonglo development stages. The linear park designs appear to be very focussed on natural habitat values. Both organisations will continue to monitor the situation and support retention and interpretation of the history of the area.

The National Trust will consider the recommendations in the report on the ACT Heritage Act, and respond to the resident groups' assertions that there is a lot of development pressure in the residential precincts of ACT, such as Corroboree Park, Reid, and Blandfordia 5. The committee will draft a plan of actions,

including heritage audits, for a collaborative project with the Heritage Unit which will include input from residents groups.

One way to unite all the causes and efforts of the heritage groups would be to nominate Canberra for World Heritage listing, especially as the centenary is imminent. This would also give politicians and others a focus for conversation on many levels. Inclusion on the National Heritage List is the first step, and this is currently under consideration and due for a decision within 12 months.



Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology (ASHA) Conference 2011, Dunedin NZ

The 2011 ASHA Conference will be held from Thursday 17th to Saturday 19th November at the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand.

Keynote Speaker: Charles Orser, Curator of Historical Archaeology, New York State Museum; Distinguished Emeritus Professor, Illinois State University.

There will be a pre-conference fieldtrip during the day on Wednesday 16th November, and a Welcome Reception that evening. A post-conference fieldtrip will take place on Sunday 20th November.

Call for Papers/Posters

The organising committee invites proposals for papers and posters on any aspects of the historical archaeology of Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific, or on topics of interest and relevance to historical archaeologists working in these regions.

Papers will be 15 to 20 minutes in length, depending upon the number of paper proposals received. Please provide a title and abstract of no more than 250 words, along with your name, affiliation and contact details to the programme co-ordinator by **31st August 2011**.

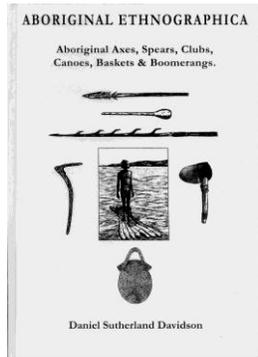
Posters should be no larger than A0 size (1189 x 841 mm) and may be in either portrait or landscape orientation. Those offering posters will be expected to be present to discuss and answer questions on their research during a poster session within the conference. Please provide a title and abstract of no more than 200 words, along with your name, affiliation and contact details to the programme co-ordinator by **31st August 2011**.

Programme co-ordinator: Ian Smith – ian.smith@otago.ac.nz, ph 64-3-4798752





New Books



Aboriginal Ethnographica:

Australian Aboriginal Axes, Spears, Clubs, Canoes, Baskets and Boomerangs. Petroglyphs, [Rock art], [[Interlocking] Key Designs, Waningas, Churingas, Fire, Footwear & Death.

ISBN 978-0-85905-491-1,

By Daniel Sutherland Davidson.

With an Appreciation of D.S. Davidson by Kim Akerman.

This magnificent volume of 489 x A4 pages contains the majority of Davidson's Australian ethnographic papers from 1933 to 1953.

The sub-title presents the range of material included, all profusely illustrated.

Kim Akerman, Ken Macintyre, Mark Chambers, and the publisher have long been enamoured by the work and dedication of Davidson and this is the second volume of his works produced by Hesperian. The finale will be available shortly.

The general ignorance about Davidson's work, (and also of many other researchers), is a crime on the level of book burning. Only a handful of interested persons appear to have had access to these papers since they were originally published.

Davidson's works, together with Roth's *The Queensland Aborigines* and minor books such as *Winjan's People*, give readers a great insight into the lost cultures that made up the tribes of Australia. These re-issues may serve to revitalise interest among all Australians and show that there was more to Aboriginal craftsmanship than being feedstock for 'art galleries'.

Interested readers are invited to examine the list of over 60 titles of Aboriginal interest on the Hesperian Press website and to click for notification of new Hesperian Press titles as soon as they are published.

(2011R), A4, 489pp, illustrated, 1500 grams, \$120.00* Postage \$12 by Express bag.

NB. This is a very small print run. Costs are exacerbated by a breakdown in the book binding industry in WA. It now costs more to case bind a book than to print it.



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