

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

7:30pm Wednesday 22nd September 2010

PLEASE NOTE THE DATE

‘Claims and counter claims.

A review of the scientific process of inquiry in the case of *Homo floresiensis*.’

The discovery of a new species of *Homo*, *Homo floresiensis*, was announced in October 2004. In the six years since then, no less than 25 papers have been published about what this little human evolutionary wonder represents. I will talk about the scientific (sometimes unscientific) process – what happened when – while providing an update on what we now know about the species, and suggesting why the ‘detractors’ of the new species are... er...wrong.

Dr Debbie Argue

Debbie is an ARC Postdoctoral Fellow in the School of Archaeology and Anthropology, ANU, who is researching *Homo floresiensis*, and, in particular, is seeking to identify the ancestors of this new species of *Homo* and to discover its place in the human evolutionary tree. Her team comprises Professor Colin Groves (ANU) and Professor William Jungers (Stony Brook University, New York). Her PhD, completed in 2009, focused on human evolution in Africa and Europe in the Early Pleistocene; her MA focused on human evolution in the Middle Pleistocene. Previously Debbie was an archaeologist specialising in Australian prehistory, particularly of the Australian Alps. Prior to undertaking her PhD, she was a Heritage Officer in local government, engaged in the identification and conservation of Aboriginal and historic heritage in the ACT. Debbie is a long-time member of CAS, and was the CAS committee Secretary for some years.

Up Coming Events, Conferences & Tours

Hong Kong to New South Wales – Chinese labourers in Australia in the 19th Century

11 Sep 10 (Sat), 2:45pm – 6:00pm

Coles Theatre, Powerhouse Museum Sydney

Chinese Australian Historical Society Inc in association with NSW History Week present a talk by Dr. Elizabeth Sinn, Honorary Associate Professor, University of Hong Kong titled 'Hong Kong to New South Wales – Chinese labourers in Australia in the 19th Century'

Admission Charges: \$15 (Bookings essential)

Bookings and Enquiries:

Anna Lee (0412 334 398) annalee@workready.com.au or Clifford To (0410 533 821)



THE SHIELD OF ACHILLES

Friday 17 September 8.00pm

Aegean Room

Hellenic Club of Canberra, Matilda Street, Woden.

ANU (Canberra) Friends of the Australian Archaeological Museum Institute at Athens
and the Friends of the ANU Classics Public Lecture

In Book 18 of the *Iliad*, Thetis asks the smith-god Hephaestus to make new armour for her son Achilles. A long digression ensues, describing the complex and wonderful designs – a microcosm of human life – that are worked on the shield.

Particularly striking is the miraculous lifelikeness that is attributed to the figures. This paper will introduce the Shield and its subject-matter, and then briefly consider three related questions:

- 1) Homer's visual sources for the idea of magical lifelikeness.
- 2) Literary imitators of Homer from Hesiod to Theocritus.
- 3) Modern attempts to reconstruct the appearance of the Shield.

Dr Christopher Allen did his PhD at the University of Sydney and has worked at the Collège de France in Paris and the National Art School in Sydney; he is currently Head of Art at Sydney Grammar

School and National Art Critic for *The Australian*. He studied Greek at the University of Sydney from 1993 to 1996, is the co-author of the modern edition of Dufresnoy's Neo-Latin poem *De arte graphica* (2005) and teaches a course in classical mythology for Continuing Education; he has given a number of papers and written essays, contributions to books or book reviews on classical subjects, and is an Honorary Associate of the Classics Department.



Classical talks at the Hellenic Club in the City

As part of our vigorous outreach program, members of the Classics and Ancient History program are presenting a series of early-evening talks at the Hellenic Club in the City (i.e. the Club's branch in Civic, not in Woden). These will take place at 6.00 or 6.30.

In summary, the talks are as follows:

Tuesday 28 September, 6.00pm: Dr Paul Burton, "Plato, Aristotle and the Wisdom of the Ancient Greeks"

Tuesday 26 October, 6.00pm: Professor Elizabeth Minchin, "Troy and the Wooden Horse – their place in Western cultural memory"

Tuesday 23 November, 6.00pm: Dr Jessica Dietrich, "Female Social Protest in Ancient Greece and Rome"

These talks are free, and the Club is a good venue for a drink or a meal afterwards. I hope we'll see lots of you there.



Challenges for archaeology in understanding cultural and natural landscapes:

Local, national and global perspectives;

9-13 December, 2010.

Just a reminder of the early bird registration

The Australian Archaeology Association's Annual Conference 2010.

The Australian National University will be hosting the conference at the Coach House Marina Resort, Bateman's Bay

An early bird registration is available to anyone who pays before October 1, and a considerable discount is also offered to AAA members.

Register for the conference at

<http://arts.anu.edu.au/AandA/archaeology/aaaconference/aaaregistration.asp>

AAA conference website (<http://www.australianarchaeologicalassociation.com.au/conference>)

Join AAA at (<http://www.australianarchaeologicalassociation.com.au/joinaaa>)



Australian Rural Fences

In 2009, with generous support of a NSW Heritage Grant, I compiled and published my 169 page "Illustrated glossary of Australian rural fence terms" available as a free 7.5 MB download from the Heritage Branch website (URL: http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/03_index.htm#G-) and scroll down to "Illustrated glossary").

I am currently preparing a second edition planned for completion in early 2011. This will be re-designed for easier use, and include additional terms and illustrations. Like the first edition, it will focus on RURAL fences; urban and suburban fences are specifically excluded for a range of reasons.

This is your opportunity to contribute to making the Glossary more comprehensive and accurate. I welcome any suggestions of corrections, additional examples of contemporary or modern illustrations or references, locations of examples etc. All suggestions will be acknowledged.

Please contact me off-list with your suggestions.

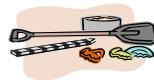
To get the widest possible coverage, I have posted this request on several groups. My apologies for subscribers who received cross-posts.

Dr John Pickard

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Just a reminder of our last two meetings for the year.

Next month on the 20th October Eric Martin will be giving a talk on the *William Colliers Grave Site at Kowen* and then our last meeting for the year on November 17th Mike Smith will be talking about '*How the desert got a past: A history of ideas*'. This meeting will also be our AGM which will be held prior to the talk and we are very keen to have more people nominate for the Committee. We can make sure you don't have too much to do but would really appreciate some fresh ideas. We will also have a few minor changes to the Constitution to propose, so please make sure the date is in your diary.

CAS report

Our intrepid editor has persuaded me to write a message as the wind bends the bushes and scatters the blossom. This strange weather has me wondering how the Indigenous people and the early settlers fared in bitter winds and days of rain. This year our efforts in dialogue with ACT Heritage and ACTPLA on the benefits of investigating historic ruins and sites with a view to interpreting their stories into the landscape of new suburban developments have been productive.

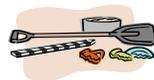
We are still waiting on advice from ACT Heritage on our proposal to investigate and conserve the ruins of 'The Valley' in Gungahlin and we were invited to submit a proposal for an excavation and analysis of the 12 Mile homestead site in north Weston to inform interpretation in the new suburbs of Coombe and Wright. Students from ANU and the University of Canberra may join us in the project if we are successful in gaining ACTPLA support.

I am preparing a submission on the Eastern Broadacre development and more generally to highlight the lack of comprehensive area or thematic cultural heritage surveys in the ACT. Initial desk top studies for new areas are therefore limited by the piecemeal nature of studies that may or may not have included archaeological surveys. (see Marilyn Folger's article in this issue).

I recently attended a symposium at the Donald Horne Institute at the UC with two excellent speakers, Sheridan Burke and Meredith Walker, sharing their experiences of worldwide trends in cultural heritage management. I was inspired and reinvigorated to hear them raise the issues with which we grapple: the sometimes opposing power of large corporations in setting the agenda for development and jeopardising the ability of heritage authorities to protect their patch and the challenge facing organisations like CAS and the National Trust to address succession planning by increasing our younger membership.

We will plan a symposium in 2011 on cultural heritage management in changing times with UC, ANU, the National Trust and ICOMOS, inviting other professional groups such as planners and architects and developers. Please let me know if you are interested in helping with this event, or can offer a venue or have contacts in other societies that might help us plan and promote the event.

Helen
CAS President



‘Quinbean’, ‘Honeysuckle’ and the Eastern Broadacre Planning Project

Recently the ACT Planning & Land Authority released a discussion paper and called for comments on plans for the eastern section of the ACT extending from Majura to Hume, including Symonston and the Jerrabomberra Valley.

(Details of the Eastern Broadacre Planning Project can be accessed at:

http://www.actpla.act.gov.au/topics/significant_projects/planning_studies/eastern_broadacre_planning_project)

The Eastern Broadacre Project is separate from the development that has already commenced at the new suburb of Beard, on the old Queanbeyan abattoir site.

The Heritage desk top study for the Eastern Broadacres discussion paper identified 333 “registered, recorded and known indigenous, historic, natural, geological and paleontological sites.” However, it noted that there are likely to be more and “further detailed studies will be required to document the heritage values”.

‘Quinbean’

Unfortunately the paper did not even mention the significant site ‘Quinbean’. In 2013 when Canberra is celebrating its 100th anniversary the town of Queanbeyan will be celebrating its 175th. Timothy Beard, a former convict, established his settlement on the banks of the Molonglo River (almost opposite today’s Harman Naval Station) in the 1820s and the nearby town subsequently became Queanbeyan.

Beard who did not actually live there himself became a wealthy man in his time. He had arrived in Sydney in 1805, was pardoned in 1817, an innkeeper at Cowpastures for years, a cattle grazer and a landowner in the Monaro. (Errol Lea-Scarlett (*Queanbeyan* 1968.)



Site of Tim Beard's Quinbeyan (Queanbeyan) Station 1820, taken from South side of Molonglo River.
Photo donated by Duntroon Archives

Photo of site from PB Sheedy and EA Percy
“Moneroo to Monaro: History of Monaro Street
Queanbeyan 1830s to 1995 – caption: Site of Tim
Beard’s Quinbeyan (Queanbeyan) Station 1820,
taken from South side of Molonglo River. Photo
donated by Duntroon Archives.

As far back as 1975 the Queanbeyan & District Historical Society tried to have the site commemorated. The Eastern Broadacre Planning project would be an ideal opportunity for the ACT Government and the Queanbeyan Council to undertake a joint project in recognizing and interpreting the site for the 2013 celebrations.

'Honeysuckle'

In 1991 CAS undertook a survey of 'Honeysuckle'. Located on the former Duntroon Reserve, on the northern side of the Molonglo River, this was the home of Gilbert and Mary McInnes who had arrived from Argyll in 1839. They were typical of the Scottish shepherds and farmers who worked on the Campbell's Duntroon Estate.

An ACT Heritage Committee plaque was installed on site at a family reunion in 1992. It reads:

'As an early part of Campbell's Duntroon Estate this was the site of Gilbert and Mary McInnes split slab/bark roof home in 1844. Later this area was selected as post WW1 Soldier Settlement Blocks.'



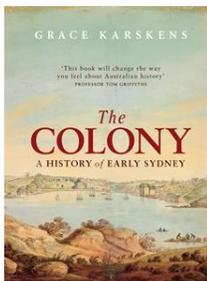
CAS surveying Honeysuckle, Winter 1991



BOOK REVIEW

The Colony: A History of Early Sydney

A groundbreaking history of the colony of Sydney in its early years, from the sparkling harbour to the Cumberland Plain, from convicts to the city's political elite, from the impact of its geology to its economy.



Description

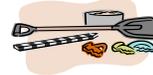
The Colony is the story of the marvellously contrary, endlessly energetic early years of Sydney. It is an intimate account of the transformation of a campsite in a beautiful cove to the town that later became Australia's largest and best-known city.

From the sparkling beaches to the foothills of the Blue Mountains, Grace Karskens skilfully reveals how landscape shaped the lives of the original Aboriginal inhabitants and newcomers alike. She traces the ways in which relationships between the colonial authorities and ordinary men and women broke with old patterns, and the ways that settler and Aboriginal histories became entwined. She uncovers the ties between the burgeoning township and its rural hinterland expanding along the river systems of the Cumberland Plain.

Enthusiastically received on first publication, this is a landmark account of the birthplace of modern Australia, and a fascinating and richly textured narrative of people and place.

About Grace Karskens

Grace Karskens teaches Australian History at the University of New South Wales and is the author of *The Rocks: Life in Early Sydney*



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.



Websites

Publications from Heritage NSW.

Heritage NSW offers a range of publications on archaeology, history and conservation, most free of charge in pdf format. You may download and copy a publication for a non-profit purpose, provided you copy all of it, and you do not make any changes or additions. Publications and articles may be quoted with appropriate attribution to the Heritage Branch. http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/03_index.htm



Archaeology for Kids

No matter how old we may be there is a little bit of our childhood in all of us. So give this website a look over and while no one is looking over your shoulder try some of the games. <http://archaeology.mrdonn.org/games.html>



Or if want to be a bit more serious (but not too much more serious) try this site. You can be a Viking, build a ship, loot a monastery and claim a grand prize. Or, plunge into murder and mysticism in the hunt for a missing archaeologist in the Sakkara region of Egypt.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/interactive/games/>

After you have spent a wasted (but happy) hour or so on archaeological games try this web page which will give you an overview of the major archaeological sites throughout the world. A clickable world map will get you to the area you wish to see. But what is interesting is the sites that have not made it on to the listing.

See how many you can come up with. <http://www.mnsu.edu/emuseum/archaeology/sites/>