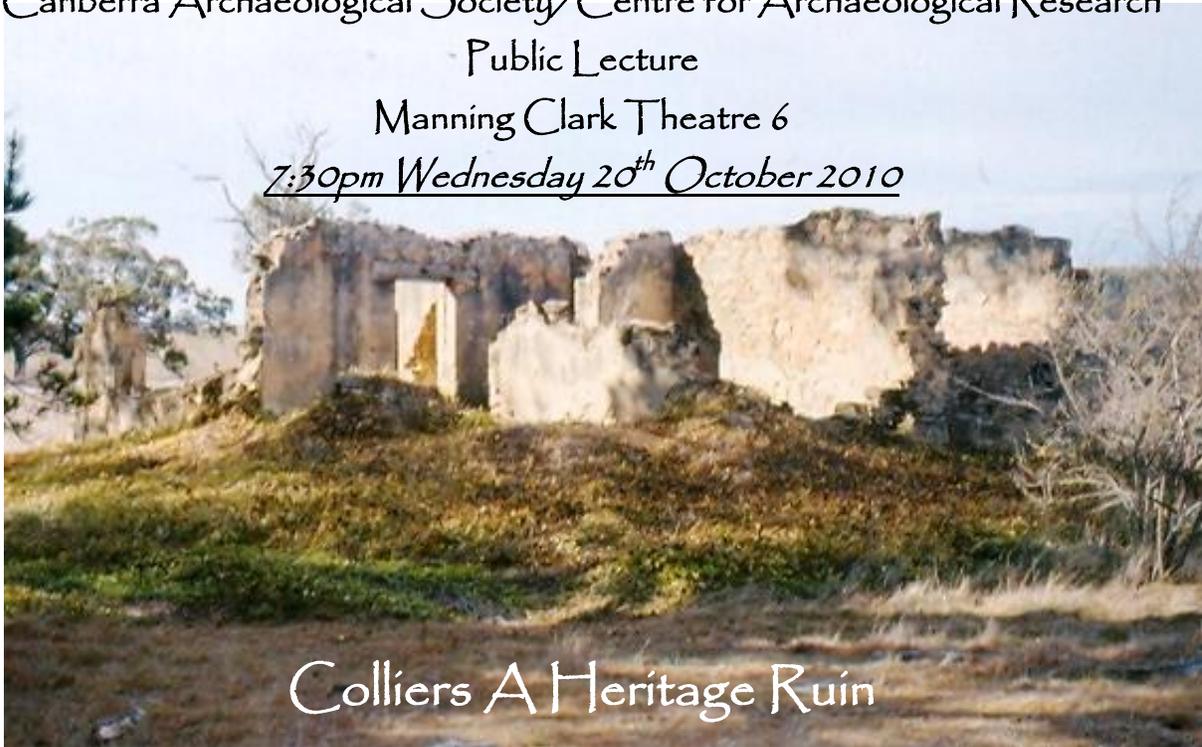


Canberra Archaeological Society/Centre for Archaeological Research
Public Lecture
Manning Clark Theatre 6
7:30pm Wednesday 20th October 2010



Eric Martin AM, MBE, B Arch (Hons), FRAIA

Eric is the principal and Managing Director of Eric Martin and Associates Architects, a Fellow of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects and President of the ACT National Trust. He has more than 35 years experience as a professional in the private and public sectors specialising in cultural heritage and conservation. Eric has also developed a national and international reputation for his work in the areas of access and heritage.

Colliers Cottage is one of a complex of buildings and sites which represent the rural settlement of the Kowen area began by 1831. Kowen, in the latter half of the nineteenth century was a small but thriving rural community. The surviving buildings were constructed during the settlement period up to the 1890s after which the Kowen area was largely used as grazing properties and leases with permanent few residents. William Colliers Cottage was classified by the ACT National Trust and is listed on the ACT Heritage Register. A conservation and management plan was produced by Eric Martin and Associates for the National Trust and the ACT Heritage Council in 2009 but little work in implementing the conservation recommendations has begun.

This presentation will provide background information to this little known place and outline the conservation issues relating to the ruin.

Canberra Archaeological Society's AGM

November 17

7.30 pm

THE SOCIETY'S FINANCIAL YEAR ENDS THIS MONTH AND
SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2011 ARE DUE. PLEASE TAKE THE
OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION AT THE AGM.

All positions on the Committee shall be declared vacant and nominations are invited for election to the following positions:

President, Vice President (2), Secretary, Treasurer and Committee (up to 4).

Members are reminded that persons must be financial members of the Society before they may nominate for the Committee. All nominations must be signed by the nominee and be endorsed by at least two financial members of the Society.

Nominations must be received at least three days before the AGM. In the event that no written nominations are received, then nominations may be sought from the floor of the meeting.

We have included a committee nomination form and proxy voting form with the newsletter

During the AGM there will be a short discussion re minor changes to our constitution plus general housekeeping and after the formal part of the evening relax and enjoy a presentation by our guest speaker.

Mike Smith

How the Desert Got a Past : A History of Ideas

Please come and join us

Up Coming Events, Conferences & Tours

Friends of the ANU Classics Museum

A Vitruvian Dialogue

Chief architect of the NPG, Graeme Dix and ANU Vitruvian scholar Zoja Bojic

3:30 pm Saturday October 23

Liangis Theatre,

National Portrait Gallery

The design of the National Portrait Gallery is inspired by the Vitruvian notion that the proportion of a building should correspond to that of a person. This is particularly relevant to a building for portraiture and for the scale of works in the collection. The building's siting in the landscape and relationship to its neighbours, its external form, the internal spaces and the individual components and details are all based on the golden section, a unique proportional relationship that describes a part's proportion to the whole – creating a harmonious relationship between the visitor, space,, material, light and art.

Graeme Dix is a director of Johnson Pilton Walker, a Sydney based architectural practice. He was joint author of the winning competition entry for the National Portrait Gallery project in 2005, and was Project Director for the work, which was completed in late 2008. Despite a contemporary outlook, JPW's work, including the National Portrait Gallery, is based on Vitruvian principles of proportion, module and order. The practice considers these fundamental concepts as relevant today as they were in the first century BC or in the Renaissance, some 1500 years later.

Zoja Bojic is an Australian scholar with a PhD in Art History and Curatorship from the ANU, 2005. Since January 2009, she has been a Visiting Fellow and in 2010 a Lecturer in Art History at ANU. Her recent book on Vitruvius includes a translation of Vitruvius' text *De Architectura* (I-X) from Latin into Serbian and was published by the prestigious publishing house Zavod za udzbenike, Belgrade. In 2010, the book was awarded the ULUPUDS (Art History Section) annual award for 2009.

The discussion will be followed by a tour of the building with Graeme Dix and at 5 pm with drinks and savouries overlooking the National Gallery Sculpture Garden. In the event of inclement weather these will be served in the Classics Museum, A D Hope Building, ANU

\$10 pp Friends (\$15 guests) Please book and pay in advance by making a cheque to Dr Paul Burton and sending it to him at

The School of Cultural Inquiry

A.D. Hope Building (Building 14)

The Australian National University

ACT 0200

Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Coordinating Committee Forum 2010

“The Upper Murrumbidgee – Helping it Work”

Friday October 29th

8.30am-4.30pm

“The Common Room”

University House, ANU

Interested in how the Upper Murrumbidgee catchment is managed?

Ever thought what the catchment actually means to you and what values it embodies?

High profile speakers at the UMCCC Forum on Friday October 29th have been asked to address this

What does the catchment do well?

What would you like to see it do better or differently?

What needs to change for this to happen?

For more information or to register your interest : joperkins@grapevine.com.au or 0424 208 003



Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology (ASHA) Conference

I have just returned from attending this conference in Brisbane, but don't be too envious, it was cool and rainy for most of my stay. Professor Graeme Connah gave interesting comments on the first 40 years of ASHA along with other reminiscing members. I was pleased that we already have the CAS history project in hand for our 50th anniversary in 2013.

Tracy Ireland also spoke on conserving archaeological sites *in situ*; we are working with Tracy and the Donald Horne Institute at the University of Canberra in planning a symposium on archaeological heritage in the changing world in 2011. This will be an expansion on our historic archaeology workshops and include some industry groups. By the way, we are always grateful for offers to help with any of these projects.

The presentations were very interesting and provided some interesting interpretations of historic sites in Australia and New Zealand. The use of 3D imaging certainly provides opportunities in expanding the range of people taking an interest in the past.

As CAS has been vocal in seeking investigation and interpretation of local historic sites I volunteered for a sub committee to consider advocacy for archaeology, so will keep you posted on its progress.

Helen Cooke

The long awaited “Code of Practice” for investigation of Aboriginal objects in NSW has been issued on the DECCW website at the following link:

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/licences/archinvestigations.htm>

Also at this link are details of AACAI and other submissions on the draft Code. Importantly, a major change from the draft version is the insertion of a requirement for investigations under the code to be carried out by appropriately qualified archaeologists (or equivalently skilled people) defined under Section 1.6 of the Code. Though some may not realise this, the draft code made no requirement for any level of qualification for people carrying out test excavations without requiring a permit.

There is also some more info on the new system including some fact sheets at:

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/legislation/NPWamendmentAct2010.htm#RegOct>

What is yet to be published (though if anyone has sourced it please let us know), is the finalised regulations underpinning the Aboriginal heritage amendments to the Act.

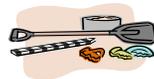
Also yet to go is AHIMS online searches and a few other aspects of the system, all due to commence 1 October 2010.

We would anticipate a further update once all these things have been launched to inform members.

Paul Irish

Consultant Archaeologist

AACAI Committee Member - NSW/ACT Chapter



CAS/CAR lectures – the place to be!

If you missed our last lecture on ‘Claims and counter claims: A review of the scientific process of inquiry in the case of Homo floresiensis’ by Debbie Argue you missed a most interesting evening with robust debate of the subject and the process of scientific enquiry. It was good to see such a full lecture theatre and to be able to provide a friendly base for debate.

While on the subject of human evolution I am reminded of a certain professor who told us as students that the entire collection of hominid skeletal material could be held in a few smallish boxes. Since that time the quantity has increased somewhat but as he said, people are so excited about human ancestry that they use a little evidence for much more theorising than one would do in the lineage of pigs and horses for instance, where larger numbers of representative fossils are required to support views.

We look forward to meeting members at our last two lectures for 2010. Please introduce yourselves to the committee so we can put faces to names.

The First Americans

Who were the first humans to enter the Americas? When did they arrive? What happened to them after arrival? These questions are at the core of American prehistory and have long been researched and often fiercely debated by archaeologists.

One major model of human occupation argues that the Clovis People were the first to populate northern America some 11,500 years ago.



The Clovis People have been identified archaeologically by a particular stone artefact technology first identified near Clovis in New Mexico and later found throughout much of northern America.

Clovis points indicative of the Clovis Culture.

Another model of human arrival and occupation in the Americas argues for an earlier arrival which archaeologists have identified as a pre-Clovis culture.

Clovis points indicative of the Clovis Culture.

One recent examination of early radio-carbon dates of Clovis sites has challenged the Clovis model of occupation. The study examined early excavations in the 1960s when radio-carbon dating technology was not what it is today and has revised many of the dating sequences. The new dating indicates

that the Clovis culture was not as long as has been previously thought. The tests placed the Clovis time-frame between 11,050 and 10,800 radiocarbon years before present indicating that the culture was no more than 200-400 calendar years long.

So what happened to the Clovis People? One new and rather controversial theory has it that an ancient comet impact caused their demise. The comet theory first emerged in 2007 when a team of scientists announced evidence of a large extraterrestrial impact that occurred about 12,900 years ago. The impact was said to have caused a sudden cooling of the North American climate, killing off mammoths and other megafauna. It could also explain the apparent disappearance of the Clovis people, whose characteristic spear points vanish from the archaeological record shortly after the supposed impact.

But this model has been challenged on the basis that there is nothing in the archaeological record to suggest an abrupt collapse of the Clovis populations which could be accounted for by an extraterrestrial impact.

The debates still continue. Read more:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/02/070222155645.htm>

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/09/100929171815.htm>



Larapinta Trail

One of our members recently walked sections of the Larapinta Trail in the Northern Territory's West Macdonnell National Park. The Park covers 39,300 sq km to the west of Alice Springs. The Larapinta Trail runs for 223 km along the spine of the West MacDonnell Ranges from the historic Alice Springs Telegraph Station to the summit of Mt Sonder, the Territory's highest peak. The Trail is divided into 12 sections, each a 1-2 day walk, and takes in some of the key features of the Ranges including Simpsons Gap, Ellery Creek Big Hole, Ormiston Gorge and Glen Helen. The Trail also links with other walking tracks, including the Ochre Pits Aboriginal site.

Euro Ridge near the eastern end of the Trail. Alice Springs

('Mparntwe' in Central Arrente) can be seen from this ridge. 700 - 800m years ago, the area was a shallow sea. 300 - 350m years ago, a cataclysmic event occurred between two geological provinces - the northern granites and metamorphics and the southern sandstone and folded quartzite zones - resulting in massive uplift, faulting and folding, apparent in this photo. The geology here is sedimentary.

Further west, quartzite is common and quartzite artefacts were noted on the trail.



The Ochre Pits site is located 110km west of Alice Springs and is accessed via a side track from the Larapinta Trail and by road. The site is actually an outcrop of ochre exposed in the bank of a sandy creek. The ochre occurs in a range of colours and has been used by many generations of Central Arrente people. This was a men's site and the ochre was widely traded. Women could not access the site, but were provided with ochre for their needs.

The Red Hill ochre site in Canberra is mentioned in signage at the site. An ochre outcrop has recently been conserved in the new Gungahlin suburb of Crace.

Ochre plays an important role in Aboriginal culture and is used for a range of purposes, including pigment for painting rock surfaces, wooden artefacts and human bodies, for medicinal purposes eg. when mixed with grease and applied as an ointment or to relieve congestion when mixed with eucalyptus leaves, and as a magical charm when mixed with water and blown from the mouth. It has been found in a number of Aboriginal burials including Mungo 111 dated to around 30,000 years ago.



Archaeology Tools

We have had a request from Sue Carter, who is graduating at the end of this semester, and is setting up an archaeological tool and equipment internet business for Australia.

She would like to ask our members on the type of equipment they would like to see available in Australia and that she could stock.

The parent company is ArchTools UK and their webpage is www.archtools.co.uk and what they stock she is able to carry here in Australia. She is trying to keep ArchTools and ArchSoc separate at the moment so as not to step on anyone's toes and would appreciate any feedback you and your members could give her.

Contact Sue by email info@fortifiedengland.com



Advertisement for Archaeological Geophysical Surveys:

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.

To read an article on infrared photography, go to www.huntergeophysics.com and enter "infrared" into the search bar at the top-left corner of the site. Choose the first of the search results to read the article.

www.huntergeophysics.com Email david.hunter@huntergeophysics.com



BOOK REVIEW



Have you read any good books that you think our members would be interested in?
Send us the titles and/or a review

Websites



Federation of Australian Historical Societies Inc

Website: <http://www.history.org.au/>

Consider joining the online Australian Historical Societies Support Group



Australopithecus sediba

The skeleton of a young boy who died in a cave 2 million years ago could unlock the secrets of how humanity came to be.

The find in South Africa of the 130cm specimen, which could walk upright on its two legs like humans and swing in trees with particularly long arms and strong curved fingers, together with an adult believed to be his mother, is being hailed by scientists as one of the most extraordinary discoveries in evolutionary science

<http://www.google.com.au/search?hl=en&source=hp&biw=&bih=&q=australopithecus+sediba&btnG=Google+Search>



Egyptian relics found in antique shop

- ABC News (Australian Broadcasting Corporation)

Amelia Peabody would love this one!

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/09/16/3013084.htm>



Neanderthals had feelings too!

The much maligned and misunderstood Neanderthals were really sensitive beings

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/10/101005085505.htm>

Pioneering new research by archaeologists at the University of York suggests that Neanderthals belied their primitive reputation and had a deep seated sense of compassion



Tut-ankh-amun's grandfather

King Tut (or his family) are always in the news. A statue of his grandfather has recently been found in Egypt.

[http://news.discovery.com/archaeology/statue-of-king-tuts-grandfather-unearthed-in-](http://news.discovery.com/archaeology/statue-of-king-tuts-grandfather-unearthed-in-luxor.html)

[luxor.html](http://news.discovery.com/archaeology/statue-of-king-tuts-grandfather-unearthed-in-luxor.html)

