



Canberra Archaeological Society Inc  
Monthly Newsletter

## Old News

November 2011

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CAS wish to advise that the following meeting will be our AGM

We wish to invite all our members to be present to elect  
Committee Members and Office Bearers.

Wednesday November 23

7.30pm

Manning Clark Theatre 6, ANU

THE SOCIETY'S FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED IN SEPTEMBER AND  
SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2012 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

Drinks and nibbles after so please join us

The AGM will be followed with a presentation by

## Professor Graham Connah

### Changes in Archaeology 1948 – 2011

Having reached my late 70s, I think that I can be forgiven some reflections on the discipline of archaeology over the years that I have been involved with it. I will review my own research, teaching and writing during that time to illustrate in part how substantially overall archaeological practice has changed, as both methodology and theory have become increasingly sophisticated. There has been an ever-widening awareness of what constitutes archaeological evidence and of how it can be interpreted and understood. This has led to increasing professionalization and to a proliferation of specializations within the profession. At the same time the quantity and range of published material in both journals and monographs has exploded and diversified into a myriad of subject areas in a way that was hardly dreamed of sixty years ago. In spite of this increasingly particularistic and often esoteric material, however, some archaeologists have identified a growing need to generalize for a wider audience. They have felt a responsibility to draw on the expanding data to help explain to people worldwide how humanity got itself into the mess that it is now in. We have out-of-control world population growth, which will reach 7 billion this year, more than double its size in 1960. It is destroying both environments and other species, perpetuating extreme poverty in many countries, destabilizing governments, causing increasingly frequent inter-ethnic conflict, triggering chaotic migrations, and threatening even the climates in which we live. If we are to have any control of our future we must better understand our past and it is archaeologists, along with researchers in disciplines such as palaeoclimatology, palaeoanthropology, DNA studies, linguistics, and documentary history who have the best chance of achieving this.

Graham Connah is an Emeritus Professor of the University of New England and a Visiting Fellow in the School of Archaeology and Anthropology at the Australian National University. He has conducted archaeological field research in Britain, Nigeria, Egypt, Uganda and Australia. Amongst his books are three research monographs on aspects of African archaeology but best-known is *African Civilizations*, published by Cambridge University Press (Second Edition 2001). In 2004 he published an introduction to the archaeology of Africa with Routledge, entitled *Forgotten Africa*, which has since been translated into German (2006), French (2008), Italian (2009) and will shortly be published in Portuguese. He was also one of the pioneers of Australian historical archaeology, in 1983 founding the journal now called *Australasian Historical Archaeology*, in 1988 publishing *'Of the hut I builded': The archaeology of Australia's history* (Cambridge University Press), and in 2007 publishing *The same under a different sky? A country estate in nineteenth-century New South Wales* (British Archaeological Reports). His most recent book is *Writing about Archaeology* (2010) published by Cambridge University Press.

## Duntroon Dairy



Duntroon Dairy Open Day, April 2011

### *Do you have any special connections to the Duntroon Dairy?*

Archaeologists (and CAS) have had a strong role in the past in arguing for the dairy to be conserved and interpreted to the public. I am researching contemporary attachments to the dairy as part of a project to update the Conservation Management Plan for the ACT Government.

I've attached a survey that will take about 10 minutes to fill out, if you are able to participate. Or alternatively fill in the online survey by following the link below. The information will be used in an assessment of social significance to be included in the CMP. It will also inform management of this important heritage site, which is currently thought to be the ACT's earliest European building, into the future.

The CMP is being undertaken in association with Eric Martin and Associates.

I will provide feedback about the survey results in a future issue of Old News.

Survey link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2H72SKQ>

Dr Sandy Blair

Heritage Management Consultant



## ATHENS: HERITAGE AND MODERNITY

From January 5th to 15th, 2012

This 11 day visit of Athens focuses on the preservation and conservation issues facing the city. The program involves a series of lectures and visits lead by Athenian architects, historians, conservators and planners who have been grappling with the problem of preserving monuments and culture in the midst of a bustling modern city.

Subjects covered will include:

- History and evolution of the city
- Art and culture of the city over time
- Conservation of the major archaeological monuments
- The modern city and the archaeological areas
- Modern urban development and architecture

This program is specialized and is intended for students or professionals engaged in History, Archaeology, Architecture Art History, Architecture, Urban Planning, Anthropology, Conservation and Historic Preservation. It is not intended for the general public. People with no background in these fields, or familiarity with Greek culture and history, are unsuitable applicants for this program.

You can get further information on this program at <http://sangeministudies.org> under the Athens link. **The deadline for applications is November 15, 2011.**

You can print this from our website at the following link: [Athens flyer](#).



### A mummy named 'M1' and the antiquity of prostate cancer.

Some 2250 years ago in Egypt a man aged in his fifties found walking painful. He was struggling with a long, painful, progressive illness. A dull pain, at first, throbbed constantly in his lower back then, spread to other parts of his body, making most movements a misery. When he finally succumbed to the mysterious ailment his family paid for him to be mummified so that he could be reborn and relish the pleasures of the afterworld. His name is unknown to us today but archaeologists have given him the mundane tag of 'M1'.

Now an international research team has diagnosed what ailed poor M1. He was suffering from advanced prostate cancer. M1 is the oldest known case of prostate cancer in Egypt and the second oldest case of this

disease in the world. (The earliest diagnosis of prostate cancer comes from a 2700-year-old skeleton of a Scythian king in Russia.) The diagnosis of M1 now suggests that earlier investigators may have underestimated the prevalence of cancer in ancient populations. M1's case was diagnosed using high-resolution computerized tomography (CT) scanners capable of finding tumours measuring just 1 to 2 millimetres in diameter. Such precision in CT scans have only become available to paleopathology since 2005.

Earlier researchers have therefore probably missed a lot without access to this precision,

In advanced aggressive cases of the disease, prostate cancer cells can metastasize, or spread, entering the bloodstream and invade the bones. This is what had happened to M1.

After conducting the high resolution scans the researchers detected many small, round, dense tumours in M1's pelvis and lumbar spine, as well as in his upper arm and leg bones. These are the areas most commonly affected by metastatic prostate cancer.

Recorded cases of cancer in ancient populations are rare. Indeed, one study published in 1998 in the *Journal of Paleopathology* calculated that just 176 cases of skeletal malignancies had been reported among tens of thousands of ancient humans examined.

The low number of cases prompted a theory that cancer only began flourishing in the modern industrial age, when carcinogens became more widespread in food and in the environment and when people began living longer, giving tumours more time to grow and proliferate.

But it now appears that ancient populations were no strangers to carcinogens. Soot from wood-burning chimneys and fireplaces, for example, contains substances known to cause cancer in humans. And the bitumen that ancient boat builders heated to seal and waterproof ships has been linked to lung cancer as well as tumours in the respiratory and digestive tracts. Cancer was probably more common to the ancients than was previously realised. So, as M1 shuffled along, his face showing the pain that coursed throughout his legs and lower body, he would not have realised that his sufferings were one day, 2250 years later, to be the subject of scientific research. M1 has shown that this disease, as common as it is today, has plagued humanity for thousands of years.



A high-resolution CT scan of the lumbar region of M1 shows the small round lesions characteristic of advanced prostate cancer (Instituto dos Museus e da Conservação, Lisbon)

## The Big Dig Archaeology Education Centre



The Governor-General Quentin Bryce visits The Big Dig Archaeology Education Centre at the official opening of the Sydney Harbour YHA in September 2009

Members may recall a presentation to CAS in May last year on the *in situ* conservation and interpretation of 'The Big Dig Site' at the new Sydney Harbour YHA and its Archaeology Education Centre at The Rocks and may be interested to know that the development has since received numerous awards, including Best Public Archaeology Initiative (Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology), Heritage Planning Award (Planning Institute of Australia, NSW), Highly Commended for Heritage Development (National Trust, NSW), Highly Commended, Heritage & Adaptive Reuse (Property Council of Australia), not to mention Most Comfortable Hostel in the World (Hostelling International Awards)! Development and heritage conservation need not be incompatible.



As this is our last edition of *Old News* for the year 2010, we would like to thank everyone for the interesting articles submitted for publication during the year.

Please keep them flowing as the magazine is our main source of communication with you.

*Old News* is sent to our members monthly and then back issues are available via our website.

We are always looking for articles and websites of interest, photos and also book reviews.

We would also we would like to thank our speakers during the year for their interesting talks for our monthly meetings.

If you would like to give a talk next year please contact either Helen Cooke or Peter Dowling



THE COMMITTEE  
WOULD LIKE TO  
WISH ALL



A MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND A  
HEALTHY SAFE AND PROSPEROUS  
NEW YEAR.

