



June 2012

ACT and Region Annual Australian Heritage Partnership Symposium 2012

Valuing Heritage: Advocating community attachment in planning

Date: Saturday 28th July 2012; time: 8.30 to 4.30.

Venue: Sir Roland Wilson Building Theatre, Bldg 120, ANU campus.

Cost: \$80 full, \$60 members of the host organizations, \$35 concession & full-time students

Hosted by Australia ICOMOS, Canberra and District Historical Society, Canberra Archaeological Society, Donald Horne Institute for Cultural Heritage University of Canberra, Institute of Professional Practice in Heritage and the Arts ANU, and National Trust of Australia (ACT)

Themes:

- Social attachment to places - community values and memories
- Archaeology, it's not just buried in the ground – layers of time in landscapes and buildings
- 21st Century Heritage Values: are they different?

Call for Papers

Presentations are invited from heritage professionals, planners, Local Government, descendants of families with historical places under threat and anyone with an interest in the celebration of heritage places in the ACT and region. The anticipated time for each presentation is 20 minutes.

Due date for summaries: Thursday 17th May 2012

Please send your ideas to sally.brockwell@anu.edu.au or phone on (02) 6125 2217 for information.



June 2012

CONTENTS

1	ACT and Region Annual Australian Heritage Partnership Symposium 2012
2	CAR ANU Lecture Notification
3.....	Special invitation to CAS members
3.....	Friends of the Classics Museum and Tour Invitation
3.....	interesting Web sites
4 & 5.....	Greetings from Weipa
5 & 6.....	Out in the field in Palau
7&8.....	Eulogy Alan Thorne
8.....	New Books
9.....	Valcamonica Petroglyphs_ World Heritage Tour.

Centre for Archaeological Research

Lecture Series

The final Centre for Archaeological Research talk of the semester. **Michael Pearson** will be giving a paper titled “**Japan’s industrial revolution—1850-1910: Archaeology, history and cultural meaning**” this Friday, 1 June at 3.30pm in Lecture Theatre 1, Hedley Bull.

ANU CHANNEL ON YOUTUBE

Watch online

The greatest unsolved mysteries of the universe: Giant black holes

Dr Paul Francis sheds some light on the mysteries of giant black holes in the third episode of this web series.

Shifting the shape of Australian history

Associate Professor Grace Karskens examines how a true understanding of the convict period could have possibly changed the shape of Australian history.

CAS/CAR Public Lecture-

There will be no talk this month but we have the Symposium in July

The next public lecture will be on Wednesday 15th August .

6.30pm refreshments, 7.00pm the lecture

Our speaker will be

Dr Phil Boot

Why study of the archaeology of the sacred is more important than study of the archaeology of the economy

Follow CAS on Facebook!

(<http://on.fb.me/xqYIVS>) Talks, social events, meetings, all activities related to CAS will now be advertised on the Facebook page in addition to the actual CAS website (cas.asn.au). Make sure to "like" it to stay in touch with the society and don't miss anything happening.

Please log in.



CANBERRA
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Old News

June 2012

CAS MEMBERS INVITATION

We would like to meet some of our members and let our members meet each other, so come along and join us for a pizza meal.

CAS will pay for the pizzas but you will be responsible for your own drinks and any orders on the side.

Place : Debarcle

Address: 30 Lonsdale Street Braddon

Day : Tuesday 12 June

Time : 6 pm

RSVP : **Tuesday 5 June** by return email to dipetaia@bigpond.com

Don't forget CAS will provide the pizzas.

THE FRIENDS OF THE ANU CLASSICS MUSEUM

lecture by Associate **Professor Anne Mackay**
from Classics Department, University of Auckland
8 pm Thursday 7 June, 2012

Copland Lecture Theatre, ANU Campus

**'Floating ideas upon a wine-dark sea, or
why I like to look at broken pots'**



This image of Exekias' best-loved painting, Dionysos in his magic boat, is from her recent monograph study of the artist.

Supper in the Museum will follow.

**CAS Members
Guided Tour of the Classics Museum
Friday 8th June
5pm to 6.30pm**



INTERESTING WEBSITES

Cardiff Uni claims evidence of Stone Age 'inequality'
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-18235130>

Archaeologists find rare trove of 3,000-year-old jewellery near the ancient city of Megiddo
http://www.arddaily.org/index.asp?int_sec=11&int_new=55618

Easter Island Heads have bodies.
<http://www.eisp.org/category/about/letters/>

Old Parliament House celebrates its 85th birthday this month and have put on their blog an excerpt from their very first oral history interview, recorded by Max Bourke in 1995. The interview is with Fred Johnson, who was 88 at the time. He worked on the building site in the mid-1920s. An 8 minute audio excerpt is accompanied by some text and an old photo of Fred, c1927, in the Speaker's Chair of the Parliament.

Feel free to listen to the excerpt and please make a comment. <http://moadoph.gov.au/blog/from-the-oral-history-collection-fred-johnson/>

There's no registration and you don't have to use your full name or real name.

The Friends of the Classics Museum website now has details of the 2012 program

<http://culturalinquiry.anu.edu.au/classics-museum/friends>



CANBERRA
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Old News

June 2012

GREETINGS FROM WEIPA

As some of you will know I have begun PhD research at ANU, with Sally Brockwell and some others working on an ARC grant partnered by Rio Tinto Alcan (RTA). The project involves archaeological and palaeo-ecological research in the area of the RTA mining lease at Weipa. My part is to work with the Traditional Owners to see if RTA can expand or improve its cultural heritage management practices beyond compliance with the agreements and perhaps meet some of the wishes or expectations of the Traditional Owners.

RTA assists the Traditional Owners to be involved in cultural heritage surveys prior to any disturbance and they can stipulate significant areas to be conserved untouched for cultural and heritage reasons. Some scarred trees are removed for safe keeping, to be returned to country when the land is rehabilitated, as it all will be.

I have been in Weipa scoping my project – trying to find out any directions the Traditional Owners would like it to go before I finalise my research design. RTA, or Rio as they are called locally, are putting me up in a donga in the Single Persons Quarters and I just rock up to the dining room for meals. I have met many of the local workers who fly in and out, so hear a bit about the other cultures of Weipa. The boys and families seem to head out camping and fishing on weekends – I guess there isn't much else to do.

On the first weekend I was here I attended a smoking ceremony to open the house of a lady who passed away a year ago, Thanakupi or Gloria, who was involved in furthering the rights of her people, teaching kids bush lore at holiday camps and

working with Rio staff and others to record her culture. A truly remarkable woman. We then went to her country, north over the Mission River bridge to her country at Bouchat, where a ceremony was performed to 'cut' her name so it could be said



again, instead of calling her 'tapich' or she who must not be named.

*Smoking ceremony
at a house in Weipa*

A senior man cut into a bush pole three times while calling her names and we all clapped three times for each name.

Then we all had lunch and some children sang some songs in the local Alngith language.

I have also been out several times with Beatrice, the Wathayn Traditional Owner, whose country is to the east on the Weipa Peninsula. The archaeological investigations are taking place on Wathayn land so they are the main focus of my project.

I also went through the RTA induction training so I can drive around without an escort. It was very interesting, heavy rules to keep everyone safe at work and the machinery turning. Probably wisely they did not give me a red padlock with which I could shut off any powered machinery that I thought might be unsafe. I also met some chaps who are involved in environmental surveys south of Weipa, in the next area to be cleared. They are particularly looking for new species of freshwater crabs which were identified in the original surveys.



June 2012

Greetings from Weipa cont.

I have been busy making notes and freezing solid in the air conditioned Cape York Collection in the local library and the heritage collection in the Community Relations building. I sit here wearing the only cardigan on the Cape to the intense amusement of the locals; being a southerner I should be used to the cold.

The people are all very friendly and interested in what this elderly student is up to. I walk down to the wharf each night to try to shake off the extra kilos that come with abundant food, including incredible steamed puds that I can't resist. There I chat to the fisher folk, who often have little to show for their patience but for the last few days have been pulling in large golden trevally. There is always a cool breeze on the shore and sometimes a light shower to cool us off. I also met a young lass who hadn't spoken to another woman for a month since she joined a prawn trawler at Cairns.



*Thanakupi's
country,
Bouchat.*

Helen Cooke

Apology:

Lyall Gillespie's name was misspelled as 'Lyle' in the article on the Blacksmiths Shop.

Our apologies.

OUT IN THE FIELD IN PALAU

During March and April, CAS Vice-President Ella Ussher travelled to the islands of Palau in Micronesia for five weeks of fieldwork with Dr. Geoff Clark and CAS member Dr. Christian Reepmeyer. The fieldwork was funded by an ARC grant, and aimed to investigate the abandonment of the famous limestone Rock Islands. This was the first stage of a three year multidisciplinary project that will involve a number of collaborators from both here at the ANU and abroad, using a range of different archaeological and palaeoecological techniques.

The first season involved exploratory subsurface test-pitting on a number of Rock Islands, as well as high resolution analysis of archaeological sediments involving flotation and wet sieving, and finally mapping visible archaeological features. Stonework villages dominate the surviving archaeological record in Palau, and relate to the permanent settlement of the islands by 1000 BP? The limestone cast was quarried for stone to build large walls and platforms for various defensive, domestic and ritual purposes. These architectural features litter the slopes and beach flats hidden within the dense island vegetation.

Ella was in charge of carrying out the high resolution test-pitting within the confines of these stonework villages at two different sites, Ulong and Mariar, within the southern Rock Islands. Dr Clark had already carried out some excavations at Ulong in the past, and knew that the stratigraphy showed an early possibly seasonal occupation of the island that possibly began around 2700 BP, and later more



June 2012

Out in the field in Palau cont.

permanent settlement at around 1000 BP. It was this later end of the sequence that was most relevant to the current investigation of island abandonment, and so a 100x50 cm test pit was excavated in 5cm spits (levels) to around 100cm deep. In contrast, the deposit related to the permanent occupation of Mariar was much shallower, reaching a basal depth of only 50cm. This occupation could be clearly seen as dark brown humic, silty sand above the sand of the beach flat. The excavated material was first processed using flotation to collect the light fraction such as seeds and charcoal. The sediments were then wet-sieved using a 3mm sieve to remove the soil but retain any shell, bone, pottery, larger charcoal fragments, and lithic material. After drying in the sun, the heavy residue was sorted into these material types and bagged for analysis back in the labs at the ANU. Soil samples were also taken from each level for starch grain extraction and analysis. It is these various organic materials that will be sorted and analysed by Ella to gain information about past vegetation within and surrounding the village, and resource use related to fuel for fires and agricultural practices on the islands.

Finally, another 100x200cm test-pit was excavated at Ulong to further investigate the relationship between the early and later progressively intensified settlement on the island. The material from this test-pit was sieved through a 6mm sieve to collect charcoal, shell and artefacts.



After several days excavating in 10cm spits, the back-curving rim of a pot was revealed at around 200cm in depth. This pot turned out to be almost intact, with only the base broken, and around 45cm in diameter and 60cm tall. Another smaller pot was then found to the side of this first pot, and was similarly only broken at the base. They appeared to have been set into the sterile beach sand, possibly to function as an early well system that caught the aquifer as it rose above the tidal water. Tests confirmed the presence of fresh water, which would have been an essential variable enabling survival within the Rock Islands. These pots are now at the ANU for reconstruction and then will be analysed for residues, construction technology and dating before returning to Palau next year.



CANBERRA
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Old News

June 2012

ALAN THORNE

1 March 1939 – 21 MAY 2012



MATTHEW SPRIGGS, EULOGY AT FUNERAL OF ALAN THORNE, 28 MAY 2012

I would like to thank Peter Brown and Peter Hiscock for email discussion which contributed greatly to the thoughts penned here, and to Colin Pardoe for literally-last minute proof-reading of my manuscript text during the Funeral Service itself.

In thinking on Alan's intellectual career, three words sprang to mind: DETERMINATION, PERSEVERANCE AND WIT. Alan was certainly someone who got tougher as the situation worsened. Promulgating an important but much-attacked theory on the evolution of modern humans – US – when criticism of his ideas mounted, Alan simply became more determined to pursue his cause.

He and his American colleague Milford Wolpoff in a seminal journal article in 1981 provided a model of human origins that could be tested, and it became one of the most contested issues in palaeo-anthropology for several decades. It continues to be tested and debated today, 30 years on. Few theories last that long in the field.

Earlier in his career his contribution was in putting the Pleistocene skeletal record of Australia in a World context, creating interest beyond academia among

Indigenous Australians proud to have been the first modern sailors, probably on rafts, as they journeyed to reach their Australian home. He was also one of the first Western scientists to be invited to conduct research in the People's Republic of China, and this resulted in a long period of productive collaboration – particularly with Professor Wu Xinzhi. This collaboration and the sensitive way Alan approached it, helped open up the Chinese Academy of Sciences to Western scholars more broadly; this was to the benefit of other Australian scientists such as Professor Peter Brown of UNE, one of Alan's PhD students. In an email to me, Peter noted his appreciation of the opportunities, support and stimulation that Alan provided for a young scholar. These thoughts were echoed by Professor Peter Hiscock of the ANU, who told how helpful Alan was to him as a young student, editing one of Peter's papers to make it readable. In fact Alan didn't even ask him if he could do it. He just did it because it needed to be done.

As scientists we should aspire to be proved wrong because, as some sage once said, science advances through error. In the end all of our grand ideas will be proved wrong. If we aspire to be at least half-right we are usually aiming too high. But as well as scientists we are also human. We have a tendency to hold on to our grand ideas too long, because they are OUR grand ideas and we cherish them. Many thought Alan was one of those fallible, human scientists who hold on to their grand idea too long: in this case the multiregional theory of human evolution, opposed to the now more popular counter-theory of Out-of-Africa. The development of modern genetic techniques seemed to favour Out-of-Africa through the 1990s, and Alan and his colleagues looked to be a



CANBERRA
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Old News

June 2012

ALAN THORNE 1 March 1939 - 21 MAY 2012 cont

dwindling and lonely band. Was he someone who just hung on to their pet theory too long, as many believed?

Well, no. Alan showed two of his major intellectual traits here: determination and perseverance. He could not explain to himself how, if we are all essentially Modern Africans, that anatomical features found in each region of the World earlier in Pre-Modern hominids could be seen to continue on in the Modern humans of those regions. He worried this question like a dog with a bone for years. AND, in the last few years evidence from advances in recovering Ancient DNA from skeletons has suggested that there was some admixture between the earlier hominids of Europe, the Neanderthals, and incoming Modern Humans from Africa, contributing to the genetic make-up of modern Europeans. Just last year the discovery and analysis of the Ancient DNA of the Denisovans in Asia showed that some of their genes have passed on to modern New Guineans and Indigenous Australians.

So the 'pure' version of Out-of-Africa turns out to have been not ALL right, and Alan and Milford Wolpoff's Multiregional evolution view appears 30 years on to be not ALL wrong; and half-right 30 years on is very good indeed.

When I was a PhD student at the ANU in the late 1970s and found some skeletal remains in Vanuatu I, of course, took them to Alan for inspection and opinion. His report was succinct, ending with something along the lines: "The skeleton is clearly male; if female, I would hate to meet her mother". There is always a place for ready wit in science, and Alan had that too in spades.

Matthew Spriggs

NEW BOOKS



On the Back of Two Sheep : Claire Lewis

The following is from Claire's introduction:

"The Webb name has been synonymous with Uriarra since the mid-1860s when Joseph and William, sons of George Solomon and Sarah Webb, selected their first portions of land on the Urayarra Run. Their brother George Graham had followed them by 1870, while their sister Eliza resided at the Uriarra homestead after her marriage to John McDonald in 1851. The Webb family has been living and working the land in that district continuously to this day. However, the family's connections to Tidbinbilla are less known, although George Solomon and his family were the first Europeans to settle there. They had spent some twenty-eight years living on the Tidbinbilly Run before to moving to the Urayarra Run

My aim was not to give an overall picture of the local history of the Canberra region as this has already been covered extensively in other publications. Any history I have included is directly related to the Webb family from George Solomon Webb's beginnings in Oxfordshire to his family's settlement on the Urayarra Run. As a result, this book includes some history of the Uriarra district covering facets of Uriarra which affected the Webb family as they set about their daily life, such as schooling, social life, communications and the crossing over the Murrumbidgee . "

Enquiries: phone 02 6248 0302 or email

crclaw@grapevine.net.au



June 2012

World Heritage Tour.

Valcamonica Petroglyphs

Sept 15-Oct 14 2012

Group Leader Dr Peter Dowling

Valcamonica, a World Heritage place, situated in the Lombardy plain of Italy, has one of the world's greatest collections of prehistoric petroglyphs – carved in the rock over a period of 8,000 years and depicting themes connected with agriculture, navigation, war and magic.

The World Heritage statement of significance describes the artwork as:

Valcamonica's rock art, which consists of over 140,000 engravings on about 2,400 rocks distributed on both sides of



an entire valley, constitutes an exceptional example of this kind of manifestation of human thought.

The number, duration and variety of the engravings, representing for example navigation, dance, war and ploughing and their relationship with contemporary archaeological sites, contribute to the exceptional value of this assemblage. Furthermore, the apparent continuation of the practice of engraving for a period of more than 8,000 years, from the Epipaleolithic until the Roman and Mediaeval periods, and in some cases until modern times, links this extraordinary expression of human creativity to present day communities.

Do you want to know more about this art and culture? Then come with us on our **World Heritage Tour of Italy**, leaving in September this year.

We will be visiting over a dozen world Heritage sites on mainland Italy and Sicily.

The tour is sponsored by the ACT National Trust and organized through Travelscene Canberra City. We will travel the country and go back in time to these early people of Sicily as well as visiting the civilizations on the mainland which have influenced and formed the modern cultures of Italy and the world today.

**Contact the ACT National Trust on: (02) 6230 0533
Monday – Friday info@nationaltrustact.org.au**