

# Old News

March 2011

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

7:30pm Wednesday 16 March 2011



Capturing Contact: Stories from recent Australian rock art  
by  
Dr Sally May

For the last 4 years a team of researchers has been working on an ARC-funded project to document Indigenous Australian rock art produced after 'contact' with overseas groups. In doing so we aim to highlight that such sites provide some of the only contemporary Indigenous accounts of cross-cultural encounters that took place across Australia throughout the last 500 years. Our research has focused on four case study areas: the Wollemi National Park (NSW), the Pilbara region (WA), west/northwest Arnhem Land (NT), and Central Australia (west of Alice Springs, NT). In this talk I will be discussing some Australia-wide trends in the contact rock art of Australia and presenting case studies of sites from northwest Arnhem Land.

*Dr. Sally K. May is a lecturer in the School of Archaeology and Anthropology.*

*Sally is also convenor of the Cultural & Environmental Heritage graduate program and the Rock Art Research Centre at the ANU.*

Following are the dates for CAS/CAR public lectures for 2011

Third Wednesday every month

April 20

May 18

June 15

July 20

August 17

September 21

October 19

November 16

Please note these dates in your diary

If there is a change in these dates for any reason they will be highlighted on our website

[www.cas.asn.au](http://www.cas.asn.au)



Australia's Open Garden Scheme Fair to be held at **Bellevalle**

Open: April 2 and 3 (sorry I missed this out last issue)

10am-4pm. \$8.00, (no charge for children under 18)

Over the weekend you'll also be able to visit the ballroom where botanical artists will be exhibiting and selling their work.

Address: 191 Black Range Rd, Yass

Directions: From Canberra take Barton Hwy, veer left onto Hume Hwy; exit onto Yass Valley Way towards Service Centre; continue through roundabout towards Yass & take first right into Black Range Rd.



ACT Region Heritage Festival

Saturday April – Sunday April 24

Check their website for all events

[www.events.act.gov.au](http://www.events.act.gov.au)

Join the CAS team at the Duntroon Dairy on Sunday 17 April.



NATIONAL ARCHEOLOGY WEEK

Sunday 15 to Sunday 22 May

[www.archaeologyweek.com](http://www.archaeologyweek.com)



Who would like to exchange the Canberra winter for a Mediterranean Summer?

Two field projects that sound very interesting.

1. Excavation of the Roman Baths at Carsulae

June 12 – July 23, 2011

This is the sixth season of excavations of the Roman Baths at the ancient city of Carsulae. The Roman city, founded along the Via Flaminia in the late third century BCE, is located near the town of San Gemini. The area has been associated with healing waters since pre-Roman times. Field school includes: archaeological excavation, various methods of excavation documentation and handling and processing of artifacts.

**Contact:** Jane Whitehead, excavation director and professor at Valdosta State University, [jwhitehe@valdosta.edu](mailto:jwhitehe@valdosta.edu)

**Further information:** [http://www.valdosta.edu/~jwhitehe/Carsulaeweb/Carsulae\\_home.htm](http://www.valdosta.edu/~jwhitehe/Carsulaeweb/Carsulae_home.htm)

2. Conservation of Archaeological Ceramics – Classes and Workshops

May 23 – June 18, 2011

The course aims to give basic knowledge and hands on experience in the field archaeological ceramics conservation. Through classroom and workshop sessions the participants will be introduced to the following skills: categorizing, organizing and storage of sherds; materials and morphological analysis of diagnostic pottery; graphic and digital documentation of diagnostic pottery; cleaning, reassembly and integration of lacunae of pottery. Some of the work in the workshop will be done using recently excavated materials from the Baths of the ancient Roman town of Carsulae.

**Contact:** Max Cardillo, San Gemini Preservation Studies, [mcardillo@sgsmail.org](mailto:mcardillo@sgsmail.org)

**Further information:** [www.sangeministudies.org](http://www.sangeministudies.org)

**Syllabi:** <http://sangeministudies.info/programs/list-of-programs/s1-3> and

<http://sangeministudies.info/programs/list-of-programs/s1-4>



This was received via OzArch, what do you think??. The ensuing posts confirmed that many more people read and value the discussions than actually post messages

“In the last couple of months OzArch has passed 2000 posts on 856 topics and has over 500 members (currently 548). However, fewer than a dozen members have been responsible for nearly half the messages. This suggests either the list is only of value to a small group of highly communicable members, or that archaeology in Australia does not have a high degree of interaction outside of set groups (i.e. conversations are kept within the confines of individual corporate, government or academic entities), or that OzArch is not a particularly important medium for communication. Unfortunately they don't have any measure of other

communication systems between archaeologists, such as private emails, conversations around the water cooler, coffee machine, etc.; although comparison with the ratio of numbers of people attending and presenting at archaeology conferences (compared with the ratio of lurking to active OzArch members) suggests that there is a relatively low level of participation in OzArch.

A couple of their initiatives to make OzArch more valuable have been to encourage archaeology blogging and get some useful data posted linked sites - such as the Victorian radiometric dates index.

Therefore they would welcome any suggestions for improving the usefulness and use of use of OzArch in the new year.

A graph of usage over the last 2 years can be found at:

[http://1.bp.blogspot.com/\\_GY2AMVMkopU/TRfKvYQKkhI/AAAAAAAAADk/OVFER9\\_E6tg/s1600/ozarch%2Bgraph.png](http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_GY2AMVMkopU/TRfKvYQKkhI/AAAAAAAAADk/OVFER9_E6tg/s1600/ozarch%2Bgraph.png)



## CAS Contacts

Many thanks to Amy Roberts, Editor/Secretary of the Anthropological Society of South Australia for sending their members a link to CAS after I sent her some information on CAS; I have been a member since I lived in SA.

Amy says that 'ASSA intends to join the electronic age this year too and members will be pleased to know that plans are on the way for our own website!' ASSA was established in June 1926 and among its founding members was South Australian anthropologist, Norman Tindale. To commemorate his work the Society presents an annual lecture on a topic relating to Australian Aboriginal anthropology, archaeology or history. I also maintain communications with the Friends of the South Australian Museum who run a full program of activities and guide visitors around the Museum.

Recently I sent copies of the CAS constitution to colleagues in Bendigo and Melbourne as they are planning to set up similar societies. It will be great to be part of a wider network of Australian archaeological associations. Our amended constitution is now available on our website.

And CAS might be accepted as an affiliate group in the Federation of Australian Historical Societies after making approaches for several years.

Helen



## Oh the embarrassment of it all!

The following appeared as a correction to an article in the *Journal of Archaeological Science*

### Erratum to “Investigation of chemical changes in bone material from South African fossil hominid deposits” [*J. Archaeol. Sci.* 37 (2010) 107e115]

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#### ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

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Johannesburg, South Africa

Unfortunately I was not informed that this paper was submitted, and was not shown galley proofs, so could not correct the following before publication:

1. Fossil fragments analysed in this study were bovid remains, not specimens of *Australopithecus africanus*.
2. The fossil fragments do not come from “the cave in the Cradle of Humankind” as stated in the paper but from two sites, namely Gladysvale and Coopers, located in this area.
3. The fossils are not 2.2 Ma in age, but come from deposits that range from the Iron Age to 1.5 Ma.

DOI of original article: 10.1016/j.jas.2009.09.020.

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*Journal of Archaeological Science* journal homepage: <http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jas>

0305-4403/\$



## Good News for two historic sites well known to CAS

In the 2010-2011 ACT Budget an allocation was given towards conservation works on several heritage-listed properties. Two places well-known to many CAS members, the Ginninderra Blacksmith Shop in Nicholls, and *The Valley* ruin, Gungahlin were among those to receive well-needed conservation works.

### The Ginninderra Blacksmith Shop



The Ginninderra Blacksmith Shop was built in c. 1860 and operated as a free standing commercial blacksmithing enterprise until the last blacksmith, Henry 'Harry' Curran retired in the 1940s. Since then the place has been largely abandoned and periodically used as a storage place when the surrounding lands were rented under short-term agistment agreements. The building is fenced and under lock and key with no public access.

By 2000 the building was in a poor state and had developed a lean, which threatened to end in the collapse of the structure. Conservation work was done to stabilise the building but more needs to be done, particularly on the walls. The bellows which remain largely intact have suffered severely from rain and wind.

The Ginninderra Blacksmith Shop is largely unknown to the public even though it is located on the perimeter of the south-bound lane of the Barton Highway. Apart from infrequent planned public visits by the National Trust and its occasional use as a teaching place by Donald Horne Institute (University of Canberra) conservation students, the building remains unused.

### *The Valley* Ruin (Gribbles' Homestead)



Thomas and Catherine Gribble settled in Gungahlin in the 1860s and built a small slab hut. Once settled, their family began to increase and required more living space. They extended their home by building a pisé section next to the slab cottage between 1874 and 1878 and then a stone section in 1887. Other ancillary farm structures were constructed to the west of the homestead. An orchard was planted in the north of the homestead paddock.

*The Valley* was described in 'For Lease' advertisement (*Queanbeyan Age* 1912) as a homestead of five rooms, built of stone, dining room and all necessary outbuildings'. A description by the Canberra and District Historical Society in 1976 stated that the house had consisted of four bedrooms, a sitting room, a timber enclosed verandah at the rear used as a sewing room, a loft above and a verandah along the front. The pisé structure was a living room and contained a large fireplace with a log arch across the front and a brick oven beside the chimney.

After the Gribbles left the area in 1912, *The Valley* was lived in continuously until 1964 as a rental property. It suffered a fire in the early 1970s and the roofing was removed for sale. The exposed walls began to degrade with exposure to the weather. Stone was salvaged from the site and incorporated in the erection of the Pioneer Memorial garden at St Ninians Church, Lynham.

The ruin is now enclosed by a security fence and overgrown with periwinkle vines. The pisé walls are slowly crumbling and one section has fallen in the last few months.

### Conservation

The first step along the conservation path for both of these important historic places is a review and update of the conservation policies which were written some years ago. The purpose of the conservation policies is to provide a guide to the on-going protective care of the structural fabric, their items of significance and their future role in education and interpretation of their historical significance. It is hoped that in the near future that programs will be put in place to facilitate public involvement and to allow more people to visit the two places and appreciate their role in the early rural history of the Australian Capital Territory.



A new quarterly newsletter is being published through Archaeology and Natural History at the Australian National University.

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# New Books

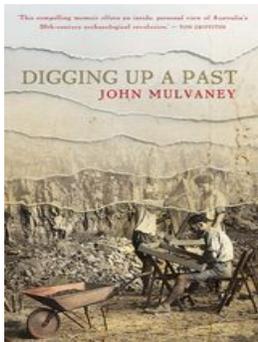


Watch out for **John Mulvaney's** latest publications (his last-or so he says). (A review will be in the next edition of Old News.)

## Digging up the Past<sup>®</sup>

UNSW Press

Below is an extract from the publishers:



....‘Historian, archaeologist, conservationist, leading public intellectual and the ‘Father of Australian archaeology’, John Mulvaney is renowned for uncovering the depth of Australian human prehistory, dating the antiquity of Aboriginal occupation to previously unthought-of tens of thousands of years. This insightful and illuminating memoir traces Mulvaney’s life from childhood in rural Victoria and his academic training, to his revelatory excavations in central Queensland and his securing some of Australia’s first World Heritage listings, all the while providing personal details of his struggles to have his work recognised, and telling stories of the inspirational people he met. Mulvaney’s discoveries

have irreversibly changed Australian history and identity, opening up our national imagination to a deep past, rich in cultural heritage. Here, Mulvaney turns to his own life, digging up the layers of his past and cataloguing the artefacts with the historical rigour and storyteller’s humanity that have defined his remarkable professional life.

Born in 1925, John Mulvaney was the first university-trained archaeologist to make Australia his subject, and he has been justly described as the ‘Father of Australian archaeology’. His MA research into Roman Britain at the University of Melbourne was a turning point for Australian prehistory scholarship: it convinced Mulvaney that Australia must also have a significant archaeological record. After retraining in archaeology at Cambridge, John famously went on to establish the antiquity of Aboriginal occupation of Australia. An excavation at Kenniff Cave (1960–64) overthrew previous understanding and pushed back the date many thousands of years into the Ice Age. His excavation at Lake Mungo with Jim Bowler in 1973 uncovered a hearth dated to at least 32 000 years ago. From this point onwards his interests became more public, as he served on the Inquiry into Museums, became an executive member of the Australian Institute for Aboriginal Studies, served on the Australian Heritage Commission and was the chief Australian delegate to the inaugural UNESCO meeting in Paris, held to determine the criteria for World Heritage listing. He was instrumental in nominating the Willandra Lakes to the World Heritage list. Since then, John has been a leading light in bridging the gap between the public and academia, actively campaigning on public issues, not the least the struggle to save the Franklin River and its Aboriginal heritage. He has continued to write, co-author and edit books in his retirement....



### Morris 1898: 'Austral English'

A dictionary of Australasian words phrases and usages with those Aboriginal-Australian and Maori words which have become incorporated in the language and the commoner scientific words that have had their origin in Australasia.

Macmillan and Co, London.

A valuable resource for trying to understand 19th century Oz and NZ descriptions of various activities and items.

This book is accurately described by the title. Another gem from Internet Archive.

<http://www.archive.org/details/australenglishdi00morruoft>



CAS would like to thank all of our members who renewed their membership and also for their support. If you have not renewed yet, don't despair, there is still time!

We would also like to welcome the following new members;

Andrew Ball; Shelby Barlow; Melissa Beileitev; Gillian Bellas; Emma Biggs; Izumi Braddick; Alex Broughton; Ashleigh Brown; Dioní Camacho; George & Sylvia Carter; Emma Church; Virginia Dasneves; Tanya Evofeev; Jai Kai Foo; Brendon Forde; Dora Gave; Gabrielle Gillmer; Thorin Greene; Michael Harwood; Chloe Henny-Jones; John Hogbin; Aioden Johnson; Keryn Kefous; Graeme Kingston; Brian Li; Nadalia Macdonald; Hagen Marsh-Brown; George martin; Othman Mazlen; Dianne Morris; Jacquelyn Morris; Maureen O'Connor; Kelly O'Farrell; Rose O'Sullivan; Kimberly Pearsall; Shaylene Priest; Ilario Priori; Terrence Quinn; Lesley Radcliff; Stacie Rayner; Rebecca Richards; Maria Schmid; Katherine Seikel; Rosie Strange; Noel Tan; Sebastian Trew; Leonie Turner; Eddie Vestjens; Jessica Viney; Lauren Watkins; Daryl Wesley; Irene Zhen.

