



November 2012

Canberra Archaeological Society AGM & Public Lecture

Manning Clark Theatre 6
Wednesday 21 November 2012
Refreshments 6.30pm Talk 7pm

The intriguing James Ainslie Dr Rowan Henderson

We all know that James Ainslie, driving a mob of sheep owned by Robert Campbell, arrived at the Molonglo River in 1825 and set up a grazing station later to be known as Duntroon. But what happened in Ainslie's life after that?

Dr Henderson has made a study of Ainslie's life both in the Canberra region and later when he returned to the UK. She has found that a very unhappy Ainslie committed suicide in 1844 in a grim Scottish castle and prison. Prior to his death a doctor examining Ainslie's sanity reported, "[I have] examined Ainslie's head and find he has sustained several injuries upon his skull and no doubt the brain must also have suffered ... it is very probable that a small quantity of liquor may have the effect of throwing him into a state of derangement.'

What led up to this unfortunate end to a man who has a suburb, street and a mountain named after him in the national capital is the subject of this talk.

Dr Rowan Henderson is currently Curator of Social History at the Canberra Museum and Art Gallery. She began working as an Assistant Curator in Cultures and Histories at the Queensland Museum. From here she moved to National Library of Australia in Canberra, then to the Australian War Memorial as an Assistant Curator in Published and Digitised Collections in 2005. She worked at the National Museum of Australia where she moved from Assistant Curator to Curator. During this period of 2005-2007 Rowan completed her studies in Museums and Collection.



November 2012

CONTENTS

- 1-..... *Our Speaker this month Dr Rowan Henderson*
- 2-..... *CAR/CAS Notice Board*
- 3-..... *AGM Notice*
- 4-..... *The History and Heritage Values of Causeway Hall*
..... *New Students Archaeological Association @ the ANU*
- 5-..... *Interesting Websites*
- 6-..... *Visiting Northern Sumatra*
- 7-..... *Neanderthal genes*
- 8-..... *The Friends of the ANU Classics Museum final event for 2012*

Centre for Archaeological Research Lecture Series

Friday, 9 November
3:30 - 5:00 PM
Manning Clark Centre Theatre 5 [*Note Special Location*]

The ancient Indian Ocean and the Sealinks Project: Exploring connections between Southeast Asia and Africa

Dr Nicole Boivin of the University of Oxford

Please note that Prof. Peter Hiscock's talk has been re-scheduled for 16 November; more information on his lecture will be provided soon.

CAS/CAR Public Lecture-

This will be our last lecture for the year 2012. Our next public lecture will be on

Wednesday 27th February Vanuatu revisited Prof Matthew Spriggs

6.30pm for refreshments, 7.00pm the lecture.

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.



November 2012

CAS wish to advise that prior to the lecture will be our AGM

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

**Wednesday November 21
7.00pm
Manning Clark Theatre 6, ANU**

**THE SOCIETY'S FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED IN SEPTEMBER
AND SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR **2013** 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 at 6.30 so please join us



November 2012



National Trust (ACT)
Members & Friends Evening

Wednesday 21 November 2012

5.30pm – 7.30pm

The History and Heritage Values of Causeway Hall

Causeway Hall,
Spinifex St, Kingston

Come and hear from three terrific speakers about the history and heritage values of the Hall and about the people who built it, used it and lived around it in its early days.

Our speakers will be

Jenny Horsfield who will talk about why and how The Causeway was established, about the building of Causeway Hall and about some early events there;

Bishop Pat Power who will speak of his personal experience of the people and social life of The Causeway as a newly ordained priest whose first parish covered The Causeway; and well-known Canberran

Kevin Gill who will recall childhood memories of the Hall and of life for himself and his family in The Causeway.

Cost: \$10.00 Drinks and nibbles included.

Please RSVP by 19 November: call 02 6230 0533
or email

info@nationaltrustact.org.au

ANU Students Society

New Students Archaeological Association @ the ANU

Dear Readers,

if I could have but a moment of your time, it's with great enthusiasm mixed with a dash of cautious optimism that I inform you of the creation of a Students Archaeological Association.

Let us introduce ourselves; we are a collection of Students at the Australian National University who have a collective interest in uncovering and preserving the past. It was decided that a prestigious university such as the ANU was lacking in an equally prestigious Archaeology students society, as such, a few of us got together and decided to create one.

What we are aiming to do is increase student attendance to Archaeological themed lectures by creating a bridge between the lecturers, societies and students. We are hoping we can organize and facilitate increased student involvement and participation not only in CAS but the AAA as well.

Future events included meetings with guest lectures, organized field trips and Q & A sessions about job prospects.

Most importantly we hope to create a resource base of volunteer students available to any lecturers or societies that can offer credited experience or education on the subject of Archaeology.

We are just getting started but are looking forward to a long relationship with CAS.

Aaron Melville

President : Students Archaeological Association

studentsarchaeologyanu@gmail.com

Phone number : 0405292198

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/174881682636801/>



November 2012

INTERESTING WEBSITES

Torres Strait Islanders reclaim their ancestral bones

Representatives of the Torres Strait islanders collected bones of their ancestors from the Natural History Museum in London.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-15822232>

Revealed: Early Bronze Age carvings suggest Stonehenge was a huge prehistoric art gallery

A detailed laser-scan survey of the entire monument has discovered 72 previously unknown Early Bronze Age carvings chipped into five of the giant stones.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/archaeology/revealed-early-bronze-age-carvings-suggest-stonehenge-was-a-huge-prehistoric-art-gallery-8202812.html>

Anglo-Saxon hall found in Kent is 'tip of the iceberg'

Reading University archaeologists have excavated a rare 7th to 9th century hall at Lyminge, Kent,

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/environment/archaeology/9646078/Anglo-Saxon-hall-found-in-Kent-is-tip-of-the-iceberg.html>

Ancient Bronze Age fortress found in Spain

Spanish archaeologists have discovered an impressive structure with 4,200 year old outer walls and six mid shaped towers.

<http://news.discovery.com:80/history/ancient-fort-spain-121002.html>

Europe's oldest prehistoric town site found in Bulgaria

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/europe-oldest-prehistoric-town-site-found-in-bulgaria/article4789399/>

Discovery of tomb of Mayan civilization founder

Archaeologists have found the grave of an ancient king, who is believed to have laid the foundation of the Mayan civilization.

http://www.wnd.com/2012/10/tomb-of-king-who-founded-mayan-civilization-discovered/?cat_orig=diversions

Archaeologists find likely queen tomb in Guatemala

Lady K'abel, considered the military governor of an ancient Maya city during the seventh century.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2012/10/04/archaeologists-tomb-guatemala/1614159/>

Bali's largest 14th Century Hindu temple discovered

Construction workers were digging a new drainage basin near a Hindu learning center on Jalan Trengguli, the structure's similarity to ancient temples found in East Java, it likely dates back to the 14th Century.

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-10-25/news/34730043_1_hindu-temple-gianyar-bali



November 2012

Visiting Northern Sumatra

Why Northern Sumatra?

Reason 1. Historical Significance.

Four and a half hours by shared taxi van from Medan Airport is Lake Toba, a 100 km by 30 km freshwater lake formed by a volcanic explosion about 74,000 years ago - referred to as the Toba Event or the Young Toba Tuff ('Young' as it is the last of a series of explosions at the site in the past 1 million years.) The Toba Event may have been the largest explosive eruption in the last few million years. The Wikipedia entry on Lake Toba summarises how the lake was formed, and has a map of where it is in Sumatra http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_toba.

Ash from the explosion moved west, with 1-3 metres falling on India, Pakistan, and the Gulf region. Stephen Oppenheimer ('Out of Eden') argues that the Toba Event provides a valuable date mark to assist in answering when modern man left Africa - the theory I think is: find the layer of ash, and if there is evidence of modern man underneath, then my understanding is, however, that work on this issue in both Malaysia and India is struggling to reach a conclusion.

Still, Lake Toba, and in particular the island in its centre, Samosir, is a lovely place to visit, with comfortable, friendly 'homestay' accommodation at establishments such as Samosir Cottages, Carolina's, and Toledo.

Before going to the North Sumatra region, it is probably worth re-reading Peter Bellwood's Pre-

History of the Indo-Malaysian Archipelago. He mentions a number of archaeological sites around Medan and Lake Toba. I myself have not visited any actual digs, but the tourist trail takes you to some interesting historical places. Bellwood refers to evidence of forest clearing in the Toba area possibly from 4,500 BC, with a major phase in the first millennium BC (Pre History, revised edition, P233). While the current inhabitants, the Bataks, are probably more recent, an example of a small Batak kingdom called Rumah Bolon is easily visited if travelling from the hill town of Berastagi toward Lake Toba. There are also two megalith sites on Samosir Island, only 20 minutes by push bike from the accommodation/tourist area of Tuk Tuk.

Reason 2. In addition to the laid back delights of Lake Toba, tourist activities include viewing orang utans in the jungle at Bukit Lawang (3 hours from Medan), washing Sumatran elephants at Tangkahan (4 hours from Medan and an easy sulphurous volcano climb just out of the hill town of Berastagi (two hours from Medan).

Reason 3. Easy to get to, good Asian food, and cheap. AirAsia from Sydney or another option is ex Sydney to Singapore, and a local airline to Medan. Be aware that accommodation is often basic, with the en suite facilities sometimes offering cold water only, but at least with European, not squat, toilets.

John Hogbin

Ed: John is a member of CAS and is happy to answer questions from those who are interested in hearing more of his travels, so catch him at the next CAS meeting or contact through me.

View John's clips at the following website.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=brbqpwRCr8E&list=UUeRKhy5QIO1dFDi39O0wKZw&index=3&feature=plcp>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6UJH3AQQEOo&list=UUeRKhy5QIO1dFDi39O0wKZw&index=4&feature=plcp>



November 2012

Neanderthal genes – perhaps more widespread than we imagine??

Modern humans are the only surviving members of the genus *Homo*. That is a surety. But like all such statements it may just not be entirely true. If we consider the modern human genome (*Homo sapiens sapiens*) as being the only surviving member of the genus *Homo* then we may have to rethink that statement. Well, a little bit at least. What about Neanderthal genes! Analysis of Neanderthal genes and skeletal morphology has revealed that these now extinct lineages once interbred with *H. sapiens*. Genetic analysis has further suggested that Neanderthal DNA is present in the modern human Eurasian genomes at around one to four per cent. Although, as it is speculated, sexual contact between Neanderthals and ancient humans rarely produced offspring, there were enough live births which survived to reproduce and pass on their inherited genes. This Neanderthal admixture is present today.



image Nikola Solic/Reuters/Corbis

The Neanderthal genome revealed that people outside Africa (Europe and Asia where both species are known to have co-existed) share more genetic mutations with Neanderthals than Africans do. One possible explanation is that modern humans interbred with Neanderthals

mostly after the modern lineage began appearing outside Africa at least 100,000 years ago.

Another, more complex scenario is that an African group ancestral to both Neanderthals and certain modern human populations genetically split from other Africans beginning about 230,000 years ago. This group then stayed genetically distinct until it eventually left Africa. To shed light on why Neanderthals appear most closely related to people outside Africa, a study has been done on North Africans by paleogeneticists at the Institute of Evolutionary Biology at Barcelona, Spain. North African humans, it has been suggested were the sources of the out-of-Africa migrations that ultimately spread humans around the globe.

The researchers focused on 780,000 genetic variants in 125 people representing seven different North African locations. They found North Africans had dramatically more genetic variants linked with Neanderthals than sub-Saharan Africans did. The level of genetic variants that North Africans share with Neanderthals is on par with that seen in modern humans.

The research also found this Neanderthal genetic signal or admixture was higher in North African populations whose ancestors had relatively little recent interbreeding with modern Near Eastern or European peoples. The only modern populations without the Neanderthal admixture are the sub-Saharan groups.



November 2012

Neanderthal genes – perhaps more widespread than we imagine?? (cont)

The researchers say their findings do not suggest that Neanderthals entered Africa and made intimate contact with ancient North Africans. Rather what they are suggesting is that the contact took place outside Africa, likely in the Near East, and that there was a back migration into Africa of some groups that peopled North

Africa, likely replacing or assimilating some ancestral populations. This research can be taken a step further to suggest that North African groups were not the source of the out-of-Africa migrations. Rather, other groups, perhaps out of East Africa, might have led this diaspora. Neanderthals have always been an enigma to science and even with modern hi-tech research tools and techniques they still remain so.



The Friends of the ANU Classics Museum

The Friends of the ANU Classics Museum invite you to a talk by

Alastair Blanshard
Senior Lecturer in Classics, University of Sydney

5 pm, Saturday 17 November, 2012
Copland Lecture Theatre, ANU Campus

The Invention of Classical Greece:

Early travellers and their experiences in Greece
The talk discusses the problems confronting early travellers to Greece, how they overcame them, and the impact of discoveries such as the Venus de Milo and the Parthenon (Elgin) marbles.

A graduate of the University of Cambridge, Alastair has held positions at Oxford University, the Centre for Hellenic Studies in Washington, and the University of Reading. He is currently researching the first generation of modern travellers to Greece.

Supper in the Museum will follow, where our items of merchandise will be on sale, all proceeds help us acquire further items for the Museum.

A number of members of Canberra Archaeological Society have discovered that the ANU Classics Museum is one of Canberra's cultural jewels: since the inception of a guiding programme a couple of years ago its treasures have been enjoyed by many Canberrans. What people may not know is that the Museum is open to the public from 9 – 6 pm, Monday to Friday, and anyone is welcome to come and browse the exhibits. The objects are beautifully displayed, and there are clear descriptive panels, lots of maps, and illustrated labels for all the objects. If you have interstate visitors, or would like an outing with a few friends, you are welcome to book a guided tour. Or you may prefer to come to the public tour held each month, usually the second Monday of the month, between 12.30 and 1.30 pm. Booking is essential.

The Museum is located in the A D Hope Building. Paid parking is generally available nearby on campus, but if not City West carpark is not far. People with limited mobility can be dropped off almost at the door. If you would like to book, or just to know more:

contact by emailing both

Jill Greenwell - jgreenwell@ozemail.com.au and
Susan Chessell - susan.chessell@gmail.com
or **phoning** Jill: 62533531 or Susan: 62732153



CANBERRA
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Old News



THE PRESIDENT AND THE COMMITTEE
WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL



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

