



August 2012

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

**Wednesday 19 September 2012
Refreshments 6.30pm Talk 7pm**

Ritualised Ridges: The Topography of Male Initiation in Southern NSW

Tom Knight

The Aboriginal construction, use and to some degree rationale of Bora, Burbung or Bunan male initiation grounds is an established feature of many prominent pieces of ethnographic research undertaken in eastern Australia during the mid to late 1800s. The famous anthropological works of R.H. Mathews and A.W. Howitt for instance depended to a great degree upon the examination of male rites of passage in South-eastern Australia and the identification of their apparent similarities and differences over geographical distance and between Aboriginal culture groups. Detailed descriptions and plans of the associated ceremonial grounds often accompanied these records and today they comprise valuable evidence of how the ceremonial sites looked and to some degree their function. But the initiation grounds as artefacts themselves are now either greatly deteriorated, disappeared or thoroughly obscured by undergrowth and/or sediments. In this paper it will be shown that the constructed grounds attained much of their cosmological function through reproducing certain components of the mythological landscape, with physical positioning and movement of the participants along highly formalised routes being a technique for both creating liminality and imparting critical cosmological information. It will be suggested that the ritual meaning and conceptual function of the initiation rites were also transferred into the physical landscape and that certain natural features subsequently became corporeal representations of the ritual. Today many of these natural places are identifiable and can be effectively interpreted by archaeologists. Supporting evidence for this methodology will be drawn from two study areas in southern NSW: Mudjarn in the Tumut River valley and the Weddin Mountains near Grenfell.

Tom Knight, BA MLitt MA, is currently undertaking his doctorate in archaeology at the Australian National University in Canberra. He has worked as a consultant archaeologist in various places throughout much of Australia. His present research is focused on the prehistoric Aboriginal ritual use of the natural landscape in the montane zone of southern New South Wales.



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Centre for Archaeological Research

Lecture Series

Fri, 12 Oct

03:30pm

[Heritage Preservation and Indigeneity in Laos](#)

Dr Anna Karlstrom

Fri, 19 Oct

03:30am

Lecture Theatre 1,

Hedley Bull Centre

(130), Garran Road, ANU

[Increasing Complexity and the Political Economy Model: A Consideration of Iron Age Moated Sites in Thailand](#)

Dr Dougald O'Reilly, School of Archaeology and Anthropology, ANU

CAS/CAR Public Lecture-

Wednesday 17th October

6.30pm for refreshments,

7.00pm the lecture

The Maldives in an Indian Ocean network

Rani Litster

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.



August 2012

INTERESTING WEBSITES

2 Pyramids have been discovered using Google Earth
<http://www.smh.com.au/technology/sci-tech/google-unearth-were-two-pyramids-just-discovered-in-egypt-using-google-20120815-247hb.html>

Airborne laser sensors, LIDAR (Light Detection And Ranging), are used to discover Mayan city in Belize
<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20120827-the-laser-archaeologists>

Vanderbilt University is testing aerial archaeological mapping with an unmanned vehicle
<http://www.sciencenewsline.com/articles/2012080119350026.html>

Using more traditional archaeological methods; archaeologists hope to find the remains of Richard 111 parked beneath an English car park
<http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/international/2012-08-25/hunt-for-richard-iiis-remains-under-car-park/1005626>

At the site Sobibor extermination camp in Poland, archaeologists hope to reveal what the Nazis tried to hide
<http://io9.com/5938609/archaeological-dig-at-concentration-camp-reveals-what-the-nazis-tried-to-hide>

In Scotland, the earliest artistic U.K. representation of the human form has been found at
<http://www.culture24.org.uk/history%20%26%20heritage/archaeology/art398551>

16 severed hands have been found in Egyptian palace ruins
<http://www.couriermail.com.au/travel/news/archaeologists-discover-severed-hands-in-egyptian-palace-ruins/story-e6freqwo-1226448071242>

At Ilisu Dam, in Turkey, 2 theatre masks have been found dated from the Roman period around 200-300AD.
<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/theater-masks-found-in-ilisu-excavations.aspx?pageID=238&nID=28638&NewsCatID=375>

European Journal of Archaeology is Maney Publishing's Journal of the Month in September 2012. We are making 3 years' worth of online content (that's twelve issues) free to download until 15th October 2012, you can access the content on the Journal of the Month webpage:
<http://www.maney.co.uk/jotm/eja>.



CANBERRA
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Old News

August 2012



FRIENDS OF THE ANU CLASSICS
MUSEUM

HAPPY HOUR IN THE MUSEUM

Friday 21 September 2012

6 pm –7.30 pm

This year there will be two speakers giving short illustrated talks:

Christina Clarke will speak about the Roman saucepan and the Greek gold earrings. She graduated from the ANU in 2007 with a Bachelor of Arts specialising in Latin, Ancient Greek and Classics and a Bachelor of Arts (Visual) with Honours in Gold and Silversmithing. Christina has been undertaking a PhD on the manufacture of Minoan metal vessels and has worked as a practicing metal smith.

Ros Jackson, one of a growing group of Museum guides, will speak about one of the terracotta items in the Hellenistic case, the figurine of Eros.

If you can spare a gold coin to help with catering costs it would be much appreciated!

**History Week 2012 at Queanbeyan and District
Historical Museum Society Inc**

A new exhibition display with some of our lovely old sewing machines on the theme of *Threads: They wore what?*

Also look at our their Collection Management Facilities, view some of their wonderful new collection items and an art work in progress for the Crawford St Precinct.

www.queanbeyanmuseum.org.au

**The Donald Horne Institute for Cultural Heritage
Symposium**



***3D encounters : 3d imaging and digital technologies
in the museum space***

Mona Hess, University College London
**Mona will speak about her work at UCL's Petrie
Museum of Egyptian Archaeology**

Tuesday 11 September 2012

5.00pm (for a 5.15 start)

Drinks from 6.30 to 7.30.

**Location Donald Horne Institute for Cultural
Heritage**

**Room 5, Level C,
Building 7**

University of Canberra

Bruce ACT

RSVP dhi@canberra.edu.au



August 2012

Australia ICOMOS

Australia ICOMOS VIC World Heritage Forum

Date: Tuesday 16 October

Time: Forum 6-9pm, Tour of Trades Hall at 5pm

Venue: Bella Union Theatre at Trades Hall

Cost: \$ 20.00 (ICOMOS Members) \$ 25.00 (Non Members); pay at the door

RSVP: by Friday 5 October [via email to the Secretariat](#).

The ICOMOS theme for 2012 is World Heritage in celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention.

Input from each state into three key questions will be forwarded to the national symposium, to be held in Sydney this November.

For further information, download the [Australia ICOMOS VIC World Heritage Forum Invitation](#).

Mudgee Regional Tour – September to October 2012

Three day event – Labor Day Long Weekend – Saturday 29 September to Monday 1 October

Join the Twentieth century Heritage Society of NSW on another of our insightful annual expeditions to a regional town. Including guided heritage walks, lunches and a special “Heritage Dinner” with two guest speakers, architect Dr Roy Lumby on cinemas in country NSW and historian John Broadley on Mudgee’s 20th century heritage. Also enjoy access to private properties not normally open to the public.

Full details and costs are available by [clicking here](#).

IPPHA courses

Indigenous collections in Canberra’s National Institutions: a behind the scenes look at their value, curation and use.

From 17-21 September 2012 at the Australian National University and Canberra’s cultural institutions, a five day professional development short course providing an update of professional practice in the planning, development and use of Indigenous collections, benefiting from the experience of Australia’s national cultural institutions.

For more information, refer to the [Indigenous Collections Flyer](#).

Memory of the World twenty years on: assessing the material records and links in international practice.

On Friday 9 November a one day professional development update which explores our growing heritage of documents and records and the strong links to heritage places and intangible aspects of heritage – see attached flyer and expression of interest.

For more information, refer to the [Memory of the World Flyer](#) and [Memory of the World – Expression of Interest Flyer](#).



August 2012

FRIENDS OF GLENBURN



Photo: Max Lawrence, 2007

Glenburn homestead after the trees were removed. The lean on the slab hut is quite noticeable but it got much worse in the next couple of years.

The Friends of Glenburn have been operating for a few years and present focus is to help the ACT Parks and Conservation Service protect and conserve:

- .the Colverwell graves (from the 1830s and the oldest marked graves in the ACT);
- .the Collier homestead ruins and orchard (from the 1880s);
- .the Glenburn homestead (from the 1890s); and
- .the Coppin's homestead ruins (from the 1890s)."

For those people not familiar with the area, it involves very early settlers (1831) in the Queanbeyan area. It still contains relics of European settlement in the area like the pise and slab huts of Glenburn Homestead and a small graveyard that dates to 1837 where 5 members of the first settler family, Luke and Mary Colverwell, are buried. For those interested in more detail, Colin McAlister has done an excellent monograph on 12 historic sites in the Kowen area which is available on the Nation Parks Association of the ACT website at www.npaact.org.au/category.php?id=64.

Friends of Glenburn page on the NPA website at www.npaact.org.au/category.php?id=83

Following are snippets from their monthly newsletter.

The new rabbit-proofed post and rail fence at Glenburn homestead has been installed. It looks great.

A new similar post and rail fence has also been installed at the Colverwell graves.

9 members of The Canberra Bushwalking Club attended a work/walk day at Glenburn/Burbong and removed two very large clumps of blackberries from near the ruins of Collier's homestead ruins and the Collier's orchard.



Work on repairs to the pise walls at Glenburn homestead, stabilisation of Coppin's chimney and capping the walls at Collier's homestead ruins are on hold

because Work Health Safety issues remain to be solved.

Progress is underway on them, although progress is slow.

The interpretive signs prepared by the Parks Service were erected by the Friends at Glenburn homestead and Collier's homestead ruins and orchard.

They look great and visitors will be able to put the two sites in their historical context.

The next scheduled work party of the Friends of Glenburn is on Saturday 1 December. But I am intending to organise a special work party later in September or possibly October to finish the blackberry clearing at Collier's commenced by the members of The Canberra Bushwalking Club. All welcome.

For details, contact Col McAlister on 6288 4171 or cvmac@grapevine.com.au .