


# Old News

September 2009



Canberra Archaeological Society/Centre for Archaeological Research  
2009 Public Lecture  
Manning Clark Theatre 6  
7:30pm Wednesday 19 August

## Clash of the Titans- Science and Archaeology

Wendy Lees

With the rise in the acceptance of archaeological science beyond dating, it seems like a good time to take a look at what has been happening since archaeology and science started working together. Archaeological science offers the means of adding quantitative analysis to a traditional qualitative field, but not without some stumbling and mistakes. To fully appreciate the evolution of this relationship, I will give a quick introductory review of some past collaborations and then a closer look at the philosophical differences and similarities between archaeology and science.

And finally a look at what can be done with a sneak peek of results from my thesis.

*Wendy is our treasurer and a master's student with the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology working on a thesis on the application of isotopic analysis to Pacific migration. She works in the Research School of Earth Sciences. Wendy's BA is in anthropology and history from Wichita State University. She has done projects in a number of anthropology/archaeology areas including lithic analysis and forensics. She moved towards archaeological science out of a need to have more definitive answers and because she felt there was a gap between the sciences and the interpretations that archaeology was applying.*

**All welcome. Entry is by gold coin donation at the door.**

**Please join us afterwards for light supper to meet the speaker and continue the discussion.**



**Welcome to our new member:**

*Marlene Collier*

**Forthcoming lectures, all in Manning Clark Theatre 6 unless otherwise advised.**

Date	Speaker	Topic
October 21	Prof Graham Connah	People of the Lake: Reconstructing human history in Africa
November 18 AGM	Tony Barham	Tsunamis in WA

## **Fenced and Forgotten**

### **2nd ACT Historical Archaeology Workshop**

Will be held on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October, **Lecture room, Level C, Building 7- University of Canberra.**

A summary report of the first workshop is available on the CAS website, [www.cas.asn.au](http://www.cas.asn.au).

Please alert your friends and networks to the date of the next workshop and persuade them to offer a presentation on their favourite site. See the attached flyer.

Sally Brockwell, ARC Research Associate and new member of CAS, has sent a link to the Department of Archaeology and Natural History, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, which has information about research etc: Archaeology and Natural History, ANU:  
<http://rspas.anu.edu.au/anh/>

A YOUNG scientist who helped refine a technique for dating in archaeology has been awarded a Women in Science fellowship.

The University of Wollongong's Zenobia Jacobs - who has used the technique, known as optically stimulated luminescence, to study ancient cave people of South Africa and Australia's giant marsupials - is one of three winners of the 2009 L'Oreal Australia Women in Science fellowships.

Full story at

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,,25980947-12332,00.html>

**Britain's first works of art really rock**



The discovery of cave art at Creswell Crags in 2003 caused a sensation, revolutionising archaeologists' views on the spread of early man. The figures include a stag, a bison and an ibis carved in bas-relief, a panel either of women, or of birds stretching their beaks towards the sun, and a series of triangular figures, generally interpreted as fertility symbols.

It has been described as a Palaeolithic condominium, with all the mod cons that were required 13,500 years ago – running water, abundant food, shelter, warmth, and, to cap it all, an artist in residence.

Full story at

<http://www.independent.co.uk/travel/uk/britains-first-works-of-art-really-rock-1772708.html#mainColumn>

## Conferences and Events

Dear Friend, you are very cordially invited to attend a recital by the *a capella* group, Monteverdi Allstars, directed by Michael Stenning of Canberra. We shall start punctually at 2pm and the program lasts about an hour. I hope you can join us to celebrate Spring in blooming Yass and look forward to seeing you then.

Dr Aedeon Cremin, PO Box 330 Yass 2582, tel: 0408956979

### *Bushrangers, Villains & Larrikins*

**SATURDAY 5th SEPTEMBER 11-4**

**Queanbeyan Museum - 10 Farrer Place**

**\* parking next door or behind the Printing Museum**

Admission free - Refreshments will be served

Join us for an entertaining and lively day at the Queanbeyan Museum. Explore the fascinating history and folk lore of bushranging through history, poetry, music and film

*A new display looking at the history of bushranging in the Queanbeyan area will be launched as part of the event by Queanbeyan Mayor Tim Overall*

*Find out about the restoration of the 1906 Ned Kelly film from Curators from the National Film and Sound Archive - was this Australia's or the world's first Feature Film?*

The fabulous Australian folk duo Jason and Chloe Roweth will perform a themed musical concert - *The Game is Getting Lively* - featuring some well known and notorious historical figures such as Ben Hall. No subject in Australia's short history has created more ballads than the bushrangers of the gold rush days.... in particular the exploits of Ben Hall, Frank Gardiner, Johnny Gilbert and co. By arranging these fantastic traditional ballads chronologically and filling in a few gaps in the story with yarns and poems, Jason and Chloe tell the history - admittedly with a bias towards the sympathisers!



*Queanbeyan Bush Poets and the Archival Sound Choir will entertain with poems and songs about a range of bushrangers, villains & larrikins*

*Enquiries; Kerrie Ruth 02 6297 2730 - [www.queanbeyanmuseum.org.au](http://www.queanbeyanmuseum.org.au) - [qbnmuseum@yahoo.com.au](mailto:qbnmuseum@yahoo.com.au) (Queanbeyan Museum is Supported by Queanbeyan City Council)*

*In conjunction with History Week 2009*

*The Classics and Ancient History Program at the ANU is launching both the Classics Endowment, which has been established to support students and staff in Classics at the ANU into the future, and its new specialist degree (a first in Australia), the Bachelor of Classical Studies, at an event to be held in the Hall at University House on Friday evening 11 September at 6.00pm for 6.30. Our speaker at the Launch will be Mr David Malouf, author of Ransom, the novel that has recently been attracting so much favourable attention from critics. His talk is titled 'The Classics Today'.*

*[RSVP\\_endowment@anu.edu.au](mailto:RSVP_endowment@anu.edu.au) by 4 September 2009*

#### **GPS Workshops *with the* CAP Geospatial Information Unit**

A number of GPS workshops will be offered by the CAP Geospatial Information Unit.

A three-hour practical workshop will be offered (9.30-12.30) on Wednesday 9th September and repeated 1.30-4.30 on the same day. The course will introduce users to the fundamentals of collecting locational field data using a handheld GPS, and will demonstrate how data can be downloaded and mapped in Google Earth. Places in the workshops are limited due to the number of GPS units and computer stations available and registration is on a 'first come, first served' basis.

For further details and to register for the workshop, please contact:

*Paul Brugman: 0424154197 [paul.brugman@anu.edu.au](mailto:paul.brugman@anu.edu.au)*



## Book worms

The "**Illustrated glossary of Australian rural fence terms**" is now available for free download at the web site of the Heritage Branch, NSW Department of Planning:

[http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/03\\_index.htm](http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/03_index.htm) Click on "Publications G-I", and scroll down until you find it under "I"

The glossary is 170 pages, and is arranged alphabetically, with definitions, quotes from primary and secondary sources, illustrations (both contemporary and modern images), and a rather exhaustive list of references.

The glossary will be useful to anyone conducting heritage work in rural NSW, and to those interested in the history of rural fences in Oz.

I have distributed CDs of earlier versions (notably at the ASHA conference in Adelaide last year). Please destroy any earlier copies to avoid confusion.

If anyone has any corrections / comments / additions etc. please email me with the details.

Cheers, John Pickard [john.pickard@bigpond.com](mailto:john.pickard@bigpond.com)

## Archaeological Settlement Patterns and Mobility Strategies

*Lower Adelaide River, Northern Australia*

by Sally Brockwell

This monograph investigates settlement patterns and mobility strategies on the lower Adelaide River, northern Australia, in the late Holocene period. As earth mounds are the dominant site type in the study area and have a chronology spanning at least 4000 years, they provide an excellent opportunity for research into Aboriginal adaptive strategies in an environment that changed dramatically over the mid to late Holocene period.

Earth mounds have been reported from a number of locations in northern Australia, but until now have not been studied intensively. Several themes raised by the literature in relation to earth mounds in both northern and southern Australia will be addressed, including location, morphology, chronology, origins and the role that earth mounds play in wider settlement systems.

The earth mounds are located next to the vast floodplains of the Adelaide River, one of the major tropical rivers draining the flat coastal plains of the north. The floodplains of the northern rivers underwent dynamic



environmental change from extensive mangrove swamps in the mid Holocene, through a variable estuarine and freshwater mosaic environment c. 3000 years ago, to the freshwater floodplains that are extant today.

Geomorphological research into floodplain evolution in northern Australia has provided a framework within which the archaeology can be interpreted. I will argue that the earth mounds represent base camps and that occupation of the floodplain margins has been the major settlement strategy in the region from at least 4000 years ago until the recent past. However, within that time the occupants of the earth mounds have adapted their foraging patterns and altered their mobility strategies according to floodplain conditions.

BAR S1987, 2009; ISBN: 9781407304618 , Price: £ 38.00

This *British Archaeological Reports* volume may now be purchased directly through Hadrian Books at the following web-address: <http://www.hadrianbooks.co.uk/>

**The following article may be of interest:**

Wilson, M A, *et al* 'Dating fired-clay ceramics using long-term power law rehydroxylation kinetics' in Proceedings of the Royal Society

Downloadable at: <http://rspa.royalsocietypublishing.org/site/misc/RSPA20090117.pdf>