

2006 Public Lecture Series Manning Clarke Centre Theatre 6 7:30pm Wednesday February 15

BIRDS ON THE RIM AND HEADS INSIDE THE 2005 SEASON AT THE TEOUMA LAPITA BURIAL SITE, VANUATU

Prof. Matthew Spriggs
School of Archaeology and Anthropology

The second season at the Teouma burial site in 2005 exposed just over 100 square metres of the site and many more burials, with a total now of 35 individuals. Again all were headless, but one head was found inside a Lapita pot, capped by a highly-decorated flat-bottomed dish with face designs. Another pot with sculpted birds on the rim, represents a classic jar burial, providing a direct link with SE Asian burial practices and the earliest example of jar burial in the Pacific. The bewildering range of Lapita burial positions and treatments was further expanded this year. Teouma has also doubled (and then some) the number of completely reconstructible Lapita pots known anywhere. The site thus continues to stun and amaze us all and we are looking forward to resuming excavation for a third and final season in mid-June this year.



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

Please join us afterwards for light supper and a chat - find out how 'down to earth' archaeologists really are.

Call for contributions

We have had a few articles written by CAS members for Old News...have you got something archaeologically interesting to say? An anecdote? A joke!?...contact us at contact@cas.asn.au and send in your contributions. This is your newsletter and it can only be as interesting as you make it!

Welcome to CAS, 2006

Welcome to the Canberra Archaeological Society all new and returning members!

We had a great year in 2005, with a number of interesting field trips and a great selection of speakers. An increased presence at the Australian National University allowed us to double our membership numbers from 2004.

Our members had the chance to go on organised field trips in the local area throughout the year. Lad Neiman organized some fantastic trips. His day trip around the local Canberra area gave members the chance to find out about some historic and aboriginal sites many locals have never visited, and his weekend at the South Coast visiting prehistoric sites was a great success. Towards the end of the year Bob Legge organised a day trip to Joadja, an abandoned coal mining community that was originally surveyed by CAS. There were also some great opportunities offered for interested members to take part in some fieldwork.

As always, our speakers for the year all gave excellent talks on an interesting and diverse range of topics. The public lecture series covered topics from 20th century war to Aboriginal sites around Canberra, the CAS dig at the Duntroon Dairy to settlement at Lord Howe Island, we even had one of the archaeologists that discovered the Flores 'hobbit' give a lecture on their finds.

We hope that 2006 will be as interesting and successful as 2005 was! We plan to continue to run the popular fieldtrips through the year, so if anyone has any great ideas for locations to visit or would like to volunteer to organise a trip just let us know. At this stage we do not have a finalised list of speakers for the year, but lectures will continue to be on the third Wednesday of the month for those who like to plan ahead!

Richard Hekimian and Kristie Martin
(newsletter editor and publicity officer)

Ad Space

Do you have anything archaeological to advertise? If you know of, or are running fieldwork this year and you need volunteers, or you want to volunteer yourself, then contact us at contact@cas.asn.au and we can advertise it for you in Old News or on the mailing list. Websites and archaeology-related events are also welcome!

CANBERRA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY 2006 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

The Canberra Archaeological Society (CAS) was formed in 1963 to cater for the needs of all people interested in archaeology. The society holds monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of each month (Feb to Nov). Meetings are held in Lecture Theatre 6 of the Manning Clark Centre at 7.30pm.

NAMES(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

Family \$40

Single \$30

Concession \$20

Please return membership form with payment to:

The Treasurer, Canberra Archaeological Society
LPO Box A86
Australian National University
Canberra ACT 2601

Cheques should be made payable to: CANBERRA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY INC.

The monthly newsletter, *Old News*, is sent out by email by default. Please indicate if you would prefer to have it mailed, or you can access it via our webpage: www.cas.asn.au

2006 Memberships

Just a reminder that membership renewals are now due. If you haven't yet joined for 2006 you can renew by filling out the membership form in this newsletter and either posting it with your payment or bringing it the meeting on Wednesday. If you joined in the last few months of 2005 your membership includes 2006 and you do not need to renew for this year. If you aren't sure whether you need to renew or not email us at contact@cas.asn.au and we'll let you know.

Joke O' the Week

Q. How many archaeologists does it take to change a light bulb?

A. Are you kidding?! Why would we let them do that?! The broken bulb is a national treasure, pointing to our rich, rich history and culture. No, we would rather build a shrine there, and charge admission to see the 'ancient luminosity device'...hmmm, maybe we could even sell little figurines...



Digmonkey is always on the lookout for any information about excavations you may be on or have just visited. Send in your story and pictures to: contact@cas.asn.au



The field school in action

Kiandra Field School

This years ANU field school looked at the Gold Commissioner's quarters and other official buildings that burnt down back in the 1860's. Ironically, it was only discovered again in 2003 when bushfires cleared the area of vegetation that made the site visible again.



A rock-lined path discovered after the 2003 bushfires

The site has proved to be very complex and the excavation is likely to continue next year as well. One of the finds that really stands out is a collection of brass uniform buttons and hooks that show where the commissioner's coat had been hanging up when the place burnt down.



The rock-lined path during excavation

HANDY HINTS

The best way to learn about archaeology is from...surprise, surprise, archaeologists! So there is nothing better than to join up to the Australian Archaeological Association's mailing list, AusArch. Jump on to the net and go to www.australianarchaeology.com and check out the resources page for info on how to join up. While you're at it, why not check out our website: www.cas.asn.au