

LECTURE CANCELLED

Unfortunately we are unable to bring you a lecture this month due to unforeseen circumstances cropping up at the last minute that have made it impossible for our scheduled speaker to appear.

There are several other interesting public events around Canberra this month that we encourage everyone to attend, such as the ANU College of Science hosting a talk by Dr Jane Goodall; the University House Dinner and Lecture with Prof. Ann McGrath giving a talk about academic and indigenous communities exchanging histories; and a symposium hosted by the Centre for Cross-Cultural Research and the NMA entitled *Discovering Cook's Collections* to complement the NMA's current exhibition of the same name.

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!

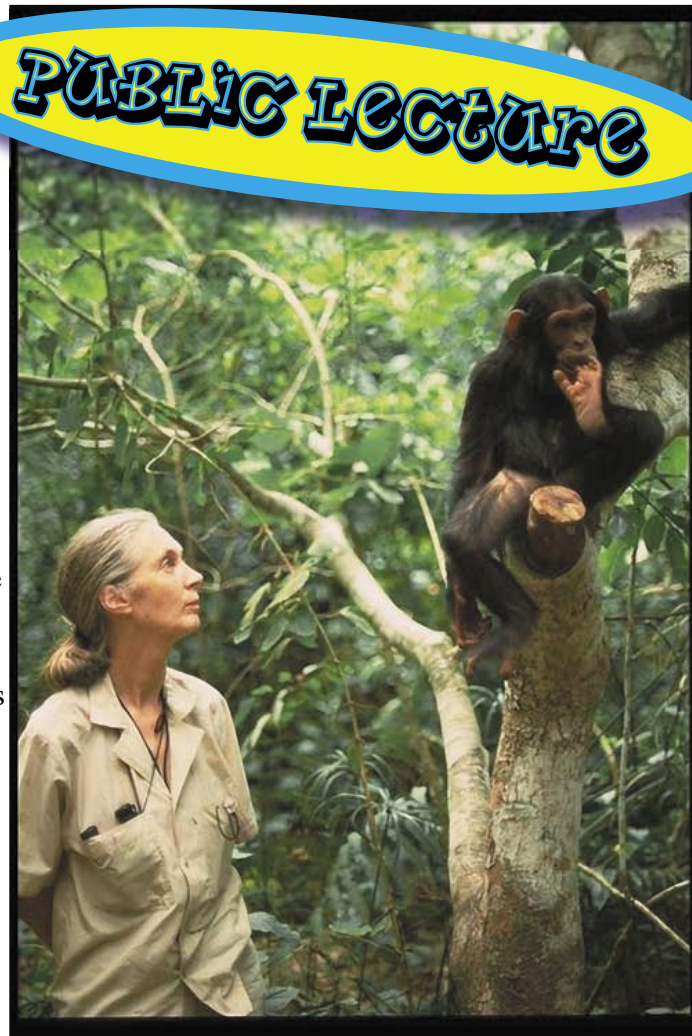
Dr Jane Goodall Reason for Hope

PUBLIC LECTURE

Dr Jane Goodall is known worldwide as a passionate environmental advocate. At the heart of her mission is a 46-year research and conservation project studying humanity's closest relative – the chimpanzee – at Gombe Stream in Tanzania.

In this talk, Dr Goodall will give an update on the Gombe Stream project, and discuss how it is helping those people who live adjacent to the park to be more sustainable. She will also discuss the work of the Jane Goodall Institute, including the 'Roots & Shoots' youth program which runs in 90 countries.

Dr Jane Goodall DBE, founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and UN Messenger of Peace, began her landmark study of chimpanzees under the mentorship of famed anthropologist Dr Louis Leakey in 1960. Her work at the Gombe Stream Chimpanzee Reserve became the foundation of future primatological research and redefined the relationship between humans and animals.



In 1977, Dr Goodall established the Jane Goodall Institute, which supports the Gombe work and other research, education, conservation and development programs. She travels an average 300 days per year, speaking about the threats facing chimpanzees, other environmental crises, and her reasons for hope that humankind will solve the problems it has imposed on the earth. She has won multiple awards for her work including the Medal of Tanzania, the National Geographic Society's Hubbard Medal, and the Legion of Honour.

Speaker/Host: Dr Jane Goodall DBE
Venue: Coombs Lecture Theatre, Fellows Road, ANU
Date: Wednesday, 19 July 2006
Time: 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Website: www.janegoodall.org
Enquiries: Anna Osterberg on 6125 7676



Joke O' the Week

Q. WHY DID THE ARCHAEOLOGIST EXCAVATE THE BOG?

A. FOR PEATS SAKE!

University House Dinner and Lecture: 'Academics & Northern Territory Indigenous Communi- ties Exchanging Histories'

Pre-dinner drinks will be served in the Common Room between 6:00pm and 6:30pm, followed by a 3-course meal in the Hall. Guest can enjoy the after-dinner presentation by Professor McGrath, 'A Frontier Conversation: Academics and Northern Territory Indigenous Communities Exchanging Histories – The Making of a Film' with their tea and coffee.

Members - \$25.00 Non-members - \$32.00

Bookings essential.

Guest Speaker: Professor Ann McGrath, Australian
Centre for Indigenous History

Venue: University House

Date: Wednesday, 26 July 2006

Time: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Website: www.anu.edu.au/unihouse

Enquiries: Ms. Lyn North on 6125 5270



Ad Space

Do you have anything archaeological to advertise? If you know of, or are running field-work 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!

TIMELINE

(Paramount Pictures 2003)

Archaeological Film Review:

Timeline is based around the premise that a group of archaeology students must travel back in time to 14th century France in order to rescue their professor (Billy Connelly). While the Professor has gone to visit the dig's professor in 1357. They discover that the sponsor has been investigating time travel, and has sent the professor back into the middle of a war being fought between the French and the English. The intrepid students must then "travel into the past to save the future" (and their professor!).



Archaeologists have been represented in Hollywood films in a very high frequency, as heroes, anti-heroes and incidental characters. The main stereotypes found in popular representations of archaeologists are of the old, absentminded translator or the young treasure-seeking adventurer, and the closely related view of archaeologists being either practical types or academic types. In 1949, A.V. Kidder acknowledged two popular views of archaeologists- the hairy-chinned and the hairy-chested archaeologist. The hairy-chinned archaeologist he described as:

Usually the father of a beautiful girl in jodhpurs. He is old. He is benevolently absentminded. His only weapon is a magnifying glass, with which he scrutinizes inscriptions in forgotten languages.
(cited in: Ascher 1960)

In contrast, the hairy-chested archaeologist is:

A strong-jawed young man in a tropical helmet, pistol on hip, hacking his way through the jungle in search of lost cities and buried treasure. His boots, always highly polished, reach to his knees, presumably for protection against black mambas and other sorts of deadly serpents. The only concession he makes to the difficulties and dangers of his calling is to have his shirt enough unbuttoned to reveal the manliness of his bosom.

(cited in: Ascher 1960)

The old, bearded, dedicated archaeological professor is seen in Timeline (2003) as the director of the field school, while the 'hairy-chested' archaeologist is not depicted so explicitly. There is, however, a theme throughout the film of the students becoming more practical, resourceful and adventurous.



Carbon dating has never been so easy!

Archaeologists are also popularly depicted as belonging to one of two schools- the theoretical or academic archaeologist and the practical or field-work based archaeologist (Bahn 1989). The 'practical' archaeologist is seen in movies where the characters, although not running off on adventures, are seen as strong, competent individuals who are perfectly capable of doing hard work on a site. The archaeologists in Timeline are examples of these fieldwork based archaeologist, who do not seek adventure but

are thrust into it.

Female archaeologists are not represented quite as often as males in films, although they do appear. In most of these films, including *Timeline*, the female archaeologist is depicted as young and pretty, and although she may be knowledgeable and even practical she is also a treasure to be sought after.

There is never any suggestion in these films that the dig might not happen or the artefact might not be taken. The right to study or remove is taken for granted, no consultation with the beliefs of the locals or consideration given to the option of not undertaking an excavation. This is true both for the treasure-hunter archaeologists seen in movies such as the *Indiana Jones* or *Allan Quartermain* series, and for those seeking knowledge, as in *Timeline*. The archaeology students are seen using standard archaeological tools such as trowels and brushes to carefully clean already spotless stone steps.

While the radiocarbon results seem fairly standard, they are produced in a matter of hours, on site, using a sample of ink. These results are produced by the archaeological team's resident physicist, whose presence is never explained- presumably a physicist is a standard archaeological team member. The dating seems fairly superfluous, as the archaeologists have already accepted that there is no other possible way for their directors lens and writing to get into the sealed room, taking it on faith that they are the first in there for six hundred years, that there is no non-human way, such as rats, for an object to be moved into the room, and that no archaeologist would dream of contaminating a dig by playing a prank.



Timeline is a very silly movie, which can be a lot of fun as long as you are prepared to turn your brain off and enjoy the ride. It does not deviate far from Hollywood's standard depictions of archaeologists, with the characters being the holders of special knowledge that allows them to protect both the world and those they care about from the dangers that are inherent in the past.

Kristie Martin

Billy Connolly as an oddly familiar-looking archaeology professor

C A S 2 0 0 6 C o m m i t t e e C o n t a c t D e t a i l s			
President	Helen Cooke	0408 443 243 or 6121 4606 (wk)	helen.cooke@oipc.gov.au
Vice President	Emma Bonthorne	0402 649 123	cleoemma@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Peter White	6258 9354	pkwhite@netspeed.com.au
Secretary	Adrian Henham	0413 193 493	ado1000@hotmail.com
Committee Member	Cameron Atkinson	0439 760 566	CameronAtkinson@gmail.com
Committee Member/ Publicity	Kristie Martin	6236 9343 0403 632 443	kristie_martin@ekit.com
Newsletter Editor	Richard Hekimian	0417 417 139	paservank@hotmail.com
Enquiries	contact@cas.asn.au		
Home Page	www.cas.asn.au		

History and the Aboriginal Present

Many of the current and urgent debates in Aboriginal affairs – domestic violence, ‘new paternalism’, drug abuse, disorder in remote settlement, ‘circle sentencing’, community initiatives to combat criminal behavior – can be re-assessed and made meaningful with a long view of federal and state administrations in the past two centuries.

In this seminar three Indigenous scholars from the National Centre for Indigenous Studies (NCIS) at ANU provide their own answers to the question: What can a knowledge of Aboriginal history bring to discussions of Aboriginal society today?

Three speakers will share their historical knowledge on three contemporary issues. They are:

Ms Aileen Blackburn
Indigenous women prisoners

Dr Kaye Price
History and the Education curriculum

Mr Rob McNamee
Customary law and the court room

Prof Peter Read, prominent historian and Deputy Director of NCIS, will chair and provide an introductory discussion to the papers.

Venue: School of Humanities, Conference Room, AD Hope Building 14, first floor

Date: Tuesday, 18 July 2006 Time: 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Enquiries: Doug Craig on 6125 2712

Discovering Cook's Collections

The symposium will explore the significance of ethnographic collections made during Captain James Cook's 18th Century voyages in the Pacific. Many of these remarkable objects will be on display at the National Museum of Australia in an exhibition from late June to September this year.

These objects from the University of Gottingen's Cook-Forster collection provide insights into the worlds of both European and Pacific peoples during the second-half of the eighteenth century. The history of the collections themselves since the late 18th Century, their importance to the descendants of their makers as well as to anthropology, art and museology will also be explored.

Program can be found on the website

Speaker/Host: Centre for Cross-Cultural Research & National Museum of Australia

Venue: Visions Theatre, National Museum of Australia

Date: Friday, 28 July 2006 Time: 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM

Enquiries: Karen Westmacott on 6125 2263