

Old News

Canberra Archaeological Society Newsletter
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 CANBERRA
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY
CAS Newsletter - Vol. 46

2005 Public Lecture Series

Wednesday 16 March 2005

7.30 pm, Manning Clark Theatre 6, ANU

ONE NIGHT IN MAY

Uncovering the real story behind the capture of an outpost in Vietnam.

A touching story about some young Australian servicemen and their experience on the night of 12-13 May 1968 when a regular Vietnamese force over-ran the Australian 'Fire Support Patrol Base Coral' in Vietnam, resulting in the death or wounding of several Australians.

Mal Booth uses personal accounts, photographs, and even a Howitzer cannon to piece together what happened when, and reveal how, the Vietnamese captured Fire Support Base Coral.

"I became interested in the events of this tragic night when I read an unusual personal account of this experience in one of the private records we hold in our archive. Then I read some published material based on correspondence and interviews from the 1980's. We also have a few photos of the young men involved as well as one of the Howitzers that was initially captured by the Vietnamese and then re-taken by Australian troops which now resides with in our collection. Recently, I prepared a short segment on these events for the History Channel and in order to get the story straight several of the survivors of this battle were tracked down. This resulted in one of the survivors visiting the Memorial in December 2004 which, in turn, led to further discussions with the family of one of the young men who was killed and a rather emotional visit to the Memorial in January 2005 by that family to find out how, when, where and why their family member died on that night. Recently I conducted an oral history interview for our collection with one of the officers responsible for the defence of that base. He revealed even more about why things went so pear-shaped on that awful night. It's a really interesting story about the behaviour of some very young men under a great deal of stress and faced with extreme personal danger and it is based on evidence in our collection and ongoing contact with participants prepared to tell us their story without any bitterness or boasting."

Mal Booth is the Head of the Research Centre at the Australian War Memorial. His focus has been to push ahead with the colour digitisation of records of war and for wider promotion of the Research Centre and its collections. He holds a Bachelor of Arts (NSW) and a Graduate Diploma in Economic History (ANU) and is a graduate of RMC Duntroon

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.

Field Work Opportunity in East Timor

Food Production and the Agricultural Transition in East Timor: a Palaeobotanical Approach

I am a PhD student at the Department of Archaeology and Natural History, RSPAS, ANU and have just joined CAS. I am working on a palaeobotanical approach to the food production process and the agricultural transition in East Timor, looking at the micro and macro botanics. I'll be doing my main fieldwork season in East Timor from mid June to mid September, excavating an overhang in Baguia, in the central mountain area, and a small cave in Baucau, near the coast. I will working mostly on my own, so any extra help is more than welcome! Unfortunately, I am not able to cover airfares to reach Dili. However, traveling in East Timor, accommodation, food and certainly a lot of fun are granted! Meanwhile, have a look at the world's newest nation at <http://www.turismotimorleste.com/> As well as taking part in an exciting



Maulora Uasa (Baguia)

dig, there should be plenty of time for you to do some sightseeing around East Timor as well! Contact me at the details below for more information.



Bui Ceri Uato Mane (Baucau)

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2005 Lecture Series

7.30pm in Manning Clark Theatre 6 (unless specified)

Date	Speaker	Title
16 March	Mal Booth	One Night In May: Uncovering the real story behind the capture of an outpost in Vietnam.
20 April	Mike Austin	Environmental catastrophes: new lessons from history?
18 May	Andrew Fairbairn	Çatalhöyük and Pýnarbaþý: Windows on the origins of agriculture in Turkey
15 June	Ralph Sutherland	TBA
20 July	Peter White	Axes and Ares: stone tools of the Duna and their implications
17 August	Kim Owens	Farmers, Fishers and Whalers: The settlement landscape of Lord Howe Island
21 September	Kath Szabo	The Ebb and flow of tradition in an island world: Shell beads in island Southeast Asia
19 October	Richard Hekimian	The Duntroon Dairy
16 November	Peter Dowling	Archaeology and the ANZACs

Call for contributions

We've had a few articles written by CAS members for Old News...have you got something archaeologically interesting to say? An anecdote? A joke?...contact the editor at the details below....seriously, this is your newsletter, and it can only be as interesting as you make it!

Ad Space

Got anything archaeological to advertise? If you know of, or are running fieldwork this year and you need volunteers, or you want to volunteer for work, then drop us a line, and we'll advertise it for you in Old News. Websites and archaeological events are also welcome!

2005 CAS COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

President	Sylvia Schaffarczyk	sylvia.schaffarczyk@anu.edu.au C/- School of Archaeology and Anthropology, ANU ACT 0200
Treasurer	Peter White	(02) 62589354 pkwhite@netspeed.com.au
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CAS E-mail	contact@cas.asn.au	
CAS Web page	www.cas.asn.au	

Caption Competition

Sometimes a dig can go on for a little bit too long. In the case of the recent C.A.S. dig at the Duntroon Dairy, this resulted in a series of silly photos. If you think you can make this even sillier by the addition of a funny caption, you could win a fantastic prize (probably a t-shirt with "Archaeologists do it in the dirt!" printed on it). Just send your captions to contact@cas.asn.au and keep an eye out for the next newsletter to find out the results. (this is a picture of your friendly newsletter editor - so be nice...after all, I'll be taking part in the judging!)



CANBERRA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Canberra Archaeological Society 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 Theatres at 7.30pm.

Membership Application 2005 – Canberra Archaeological Society

Name(s):

Address:

Phone:

Email (if you wish to receive society announcements):

Circle YES to receive your newsletter via email

Please circle 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.**