

April 2008

Old News

The Canberra Archaeological Society Newsletter

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2008 Public Lecture Series

*Copland Theatre**

7:30pm Wednesday 16 April

Bananas: not just a funny fruit

Dr Jean Kennedy

Archaeology & Natural History
Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies
Australian National University

** Note change of venue*

Bananas have been in the news again. In a recent Canberra Times science column, Roger Beckmann declared them about to be extinguished by their inability to have sex. New Scientist had earlier warned of their imminent worldwide extinction by unstoppable diseases, causing panic among commercial growers.

From New Guinea to the West Africa, archaeologists are finding them beyond their accepted range, at unexpectedly early dates.

The familiar (and threatened) banana of commerce is just one variety among many. An illustrated synthesis of archaeological, botanical, economic, ethnographic, genetic and historical information about bananas puts these and other bits of banana news in perspective.

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.



Biographical Note

Jean Kennedy grew up in New Zealand. She studied anthropology and archaeology at the Universities of Otago and Hawaii (PhD 1977), specialising in the Pacific and Southeast Asia. She has taught and held research positions at the Universities of Otago and Hawaii, the Australian National University and the University of Papua New Guinea. She is currently a Visiting Fellow in the Department of Archaeology and Natural History, RSPAS, ANU

In recent research on aspects of tree crops in tropical subsistence systems, centered on Papua New Guinea, she has returned to a long-standing interest in ethnobotany. She greatly misses the magnificent diversity of bananas available in Papua New Guinea and nowhere else.

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For further committee information, news, events and interesting archaeological links, visit our website: <http://www.cas.asn.au/>



2008 Activities List

Date	Venue	Speaker / Event	Topic
Wednesday April 16	Copland Theatre	Jean Kennedy	Bananas: not just a funny fruit
Friday 16 May	Coombs tea room	CAS and CAR	National Archaeology Week - Trivia Night
Wednesday May 21	Manning Clarke Theatre 6	Peter Hiscock	National Archaeology Week - Hollywood and archaeology
Friday 23 May	Coombs Theatre	Films with CAR and ANUFG	TBA
Weekend 14 - 15 June	Kioloa and the coast	Peter White	Stay at Kioloa and visit various sites of heritage interest
Wednesday June 18	Manning Clarke Theatre 6	Ian Gilligan	Clothing in Aboriginal Australia
Wednesday July 16	Manning Clarke Theatre 6	Eric Martin, Chair of National Trust (ACT) Council	TBA
Wednesday August 20	Manning Clarke Theatre 6	Jess Weir	Murray River Country: an ecological dialogue with traditional owners
Wednesday September 17	Manning Clarke Theatre 6	Colin Groves	The Flores Hobbit
Wednesday October 15	Manning Clarke Theatre 6	TBA	
Wednesday November 19	Manning Clarke Theatre 6	Tony Barham	Tsunami impacts on WA coastal archaeology



In the (old) News ...

Aerial scanning reveals details of ancient sites

New technologies seem to make almost everyone's job easier, and archaeology is no exception. One of the newest and most exciting tools in the archaeologist's kit is aerial laser scanning, sometimes referred to as Light Detection and Ranging, or LiDAR. It works a bit like radar, but instead of using radio waves, it uses infrared laser pulses. The echoes can 'see' through trees and shrubs, revealing the precise contours of the ground surface.

In Ohio, archaeologists William Romain and Jarrod Burks, with the support of Ohio State University's Newark Earthworks Center, are using LiDAR to study the remnants of the Newark Earthworks. In two reports published online, they describe the earthworks and their topographic situation in unprecedented detail, permitting insights into how the earthworks and natural features combined to create a sacred landscape. Also, Romain and Burks sought and discovered remnants of the so-called "Great Hopewell Road," which consisted of parallel walls of earth extending from Newark's Octagon Earthworks an undetermined distance to the southwest. LiDAR data revealed the walls had been built by removing earth from the road's surface and piling it up on either side. They conclude their paper with the observation that "although much of the Native American past has been built over and lost, much remains to be discovered." You can read the papers by Romain and Burks at www.ohioarchaeology.org/joomla/ .

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!



Flinders University Field Schools

Archaeological Field Methods

Location: The Coorong, South Australia. **Dates:** 16th-26th April

ARCH 8305 in South Australia will be held at Long Point, in the Coorong region of South Australia. Working with archaeologists and community members of the Dapung Talkinjeri Aboriginal Corporation (through the Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority), students will variously carry out field surveys, site recording, site excavation and analysis of recovered materials from coastally located middens and historic period dairy-related infrastructure.

[Hhttp://ehlt.flinders.edu.au/archaeology/fieldwork/field_schools/field_methods_1/index.php](http://ehlt.flinders.edu.au/archaeology/fieldwork/field_schools/field_methods_1/index.php)

Indigenous Archaeology in Australia Field School

Location: Middle Park Station, northwest Queensland. **Dates:** 25 June - 6 July and 10-22 July

This topic builds upon students' existing knowledge of recording Indigenous sites, places and landscapes, including aspects of site survey, mapping, significance assessment, conservation issues and photography, and in 2008 will include an excavation component involving a Pleistocene aged rockshelter site. The topic will be run in cooperation with Indigenous representatives from the host community, in this case the Woolgar Valley Aboriginal Corporation. Indigenous participation will ensure that students are exposed to Indigenous methodologies as well as conventional Western approaches. Seminars will be presented during the field school exploring Indigenous culture, heritage management and archaeology.

[Hhttp://ehlt.flinders.edu.au/archaeology/fieldwork/field_schools/indigenous/](http://ehlt.flinders.edu.au/archaeology/fieldwork/field_schools/indigenous/)

For more information follow the links or contact: Hlynley.wallis@flinders.edu.au

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 Hcontact@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!



Australian Archaeological Association Conference

3-6 December 2008

Noosa, Queensland

We are now pleased to invite proposals for themed sessions for the upcoming AAA Conference. Sessions are invited on current issues and research in Australian archaeology, as well as sessions of interest and relevance to Australian archaeologists more generally. This may include overseas work being undertaken by Australia-based archaeologists.

It is proposed that sessions will comprise a number of 15-20 minute papers depending on the volume of proposals received.

A website has now been created providing information about the 2008 AAA conference and can be found at the following address:

[Http://www.socialscience.uq.edu.au/index.html?page=74856](http://www.socialscience.uq.edu.au/index.html?page=74856)

Links provide information relating to session proposals, the preliminary program, accommodation, transport and contacts. We will be updating the website regularly, and an online registration and accommodation facility is planned for the near future.

Please contact Patrick Faulkner at Hp.faulkner@uq.edu.au with any comments about the site.

If you wish to propose a session for the conference, please submit the following information:

- a session abstract of 150-200 words
- the name and topic of two prospective papers for the proposed session
- name, affiliation, contact email and phone number of all session organisers

The above details should be emailed to Geraldine Mate at Hgeraldine.mate@qm.qld.gov.au or may be posted to Chris Clarkson or Patrick Faulkner, School of Social Science, University of Queensland, Brisbane QLD 4072.

Following review of the session proposals, a call for papers will be issued. All session proposals must be submitted before **19 May 2008**.



Volunteer Opportunities in the UK

CAM ARC, the Cambridgeshire County Council archaeology field unit, is pleased to announce new volunteer opportunities in our archaeology lab for overseas students visiting the United Kingdom.

Students from North America, Australasia and other regions outside the UK can gain practical hands-on international experience working in a busy British commercial archaeology firm based just outside the beautiful historic city of Cambridge. We work on sites from a broad range of periods, from prehistoric through to 19th-century, via Roman and Medieval, and students will work on the processing of artefacts and/or soil samples from many different sites and periods (please note that the precise nature of the available work will vary depending on the nature of the sites being excavated).

Volunteer places are available throughout the year. All necessary training will be provided. Student volunteers are asked to work with us for a minimum of one week. There is no fee associated with volunteering at CAM ARC, but we regret that we cannot provide food or lodging; these must be organised separately. Our office is easily accessible by public transport from Cambridge city center, which itself enjoys excellent transport links to the rest of Britain (London is less than one hour from Cambridge by train).

Volunteers will work under the supervision of Dr. Alasdair Brooks. Dr. Brooks is a historical archaeology material culture specialist with 20 years experience working in and supervising archaeology labs in the United Kingdom, the United States, and Australia, in commercial, museum, and academic contexts. He is the author of *An Archaeological Guide to British Ceramics in Australia, 1788-1901*, and currently also serves as the Newsletter Editor of the Society for Historical Archaeology.

For more details on the archaeology lab volunteer program at CAM ARC, please contact Dr. Brooks at:

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Europe's Oldest Human Remains

A small piece of jawbone unearthed in a cave in Spain is believed to be the oldest European human ancestor yet found. The researchers said the fossil found last year at Atapuerca in northern Spain is up to 1.3 million years old. That would be 500,000 years older than other remains of *Homo antecessor*, also found in Atapuerca, but at a different site. The researchers believe the new find is of the same species, though it also bears similarities to the much older Dmanisi fossils from the Soviet republic of Georgia.



Though he believes the dating on the sample is robust, Chris Stringer, a leading researcher in human origins at the Natural History Museum in London and not involved in the project, expressed some caution about conclusions made about the classification of the sample.

For Daniel Woolls' full article see:

<http://dsc.discovery.com/news/2008/03/26/human-ancestor-europe-02.html>

Visual Cultures and Colonialism: Indigeneity in Local and Transnational Imagery.

2-3 May 2008

Koorie Heritage Trust, 295 King St, Melbourne

A growing body of postcolonial research has established the importance of visual imagery in creating and popularizing ideas about race and cultural difference. Visual representations of Indigenous peoples circulated from local to transnational contexts, participating in colonial networks of global exchange and defining relations of power.

One strand of analysis has revealed the complicity of Western scopic regimes with imperialism, tracing the ways that visual cultures express the colonizers' expansionist gaze. Another seeks to emphasise the role of Indigenous peoples within this relationship, identifying culturally distinct visual traditions and the reformulation of new media such as photography and museum exhibitions. Descendant re-valuation of the colonial archive is inverting colonial exhibitory practices and spectacle, producing new meanings through re-contextualisation of these images. This conference aims to bring together research and thinking on visual cultures and indigeneity that attends to local specificity as well as the global circuits of visual discourse, illuminating both colonial process and attempts at decolonisation. Registration is now open for this conference and a draft program and abstracts are now available at: <http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/cais/H>.

Archaeometry

Published by Blackwell Publishing for University of Oxford

Celebrating 50 years of Archaeometry!

To celebrate its 50th anniversary, we are pleased to announce the first virtual issue of *Archaeometry*. This virtual issue pulls together a collection of influential papers published in the journal over the past 50 years as chosen by the editors.

[Click here](#) to read the virtual issue.

The virtual issue will be freely available for 30 days! See below for a sample of the articles on offer.

[Spectrographic analysis of Mycenaean and Minoan pottery](#)

Catling et al

[Proton magnetometer surveying on some British hill-forts](#)

Aitken & Tite

[The Application of gas chromatography for tracing oil in ancient amphorae](#)

Condamin et al

[An investigation of the origin of colour of the Lycurgus Cup by analytical transmission electron microscopy](#)

Barber & Freestone

[Lead isotope characteristics of the Cyprus copper ore deposits applied to provenance studies of copper oxide ingots](#)

Stos-Gale, Z.A., Maliotis, G., Gale, N.H. and Annetts, N.

[Isolation and Isotopic analysis of individual amino-acids from archaeological bone collagen: a new method using Rp-hplc](#)

O'Connell & Hedges



ARCHAEOMETRY

[Published on behalf of the University of Oxford](#)

Edited by:

Mark Pollard, Ernst Pernicka, James Burton and Marco Martini

**Impact Factor:
1.290 in 2006!**

Archaeometry is an international research journal covering the application of the physical and biological sciences to archaeology and the history of art. The topics covered include dating methods, artifact studies, mathematical methods, remote sensing techniques, conservation science, environmental reconstruction, biological anthropology and archaeological theory.

The journal is published on behalf of the Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art, Oxford University, in association with Gesellschaft für Naturwissenschaftliche Archäologie, Archaeometrie, the Society for Archaeological Sciences (SAS), and Associazione Italiana di Archeometria.

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Joke O' the Week

Petros the Archaeologist

After having dug to a depth of 10 meters last year, Italian scientists found traces of copper wire dating back 100 years and came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 100 years ago.

Not to be outdone by the Italians, in the weeks that followed, Turkish scientists dug to a depth of 20 meters. Shortly thereafter, headlines in Turkish newspapers read: "Turkish archaeologists have found traces of 200-year old copper wire, and have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network one hundred years earlier than the Italians."

One week later, "The Kathimerni", a Greek newspaper, reported the following: "After digging as deep as 30-meters in fields near Athens, Petros Petropoulos, a self-taught archaeologist, reported that he found absolutely nothing. Petros has therefore concluded that 300-years ago, Greeks were already using wireless."

Yassou, Petros!

"intern_arch" email list

This list is for archaeologists and others interested in issues of internment, and was created in anticipation of the Internment Archaeology session being held at the upcoming World Archaeological Congress: [Hhttp://www.ucd.ie/wac-6/programme/86.html](http://www.ucd.ie/wac-6/programme/86.html)

If you have submitted a paper to this session, then I particularly urge you to join the list.

However, the list is open to everyone, and if you work or have interest in this field do join. Also, the list will certainly continue on after WAC 6, and hopefully the membership will grow after the conference.

The goals are familiar: To stimulate discussion and collaboration, to raise awareness of relevant projects and publications, and for sharing links and sources. To read more, and to join the list, follow this link [Hhttps://mailman.stanford.edu/mailman/listinfo/intern_arch](https://mailman.stanford.edu/mailman/listinfo/intern_arch)



AIMA/ASHA/AAMH Annual Archaeology Conference

24-28 September 2008
Adelaide, South Australia

The theme for this year's conference has been borrowed from the 1960s movement "History from Below." That movement saw historians shift their focus from topics such as great men, big wars and political elites to subjects that previously had been neglected like women, children, urban and rural poor, immigrants and ethnic minorities. "History from Below" was also about engaging public interest in local histories and encouraging the public to take control of their own personal and community histories.

We are currently accepting proposals for sessions for the 2008 "Archaeology from Below" conference. "Archaeology from Below" brings to light our professional efforts in involving and working with the public to understand their own archaeology and history. Sessions are invited to address the relationship between archaeology and the public. Topics may include: how we define the "public"; the means by which we have involved and engaged individuals and communities in our research; how we may have become involved in their research; how effective our efforts have been in working with the public; and what impacts working with the public have on our profession and heritage.

You may submit your session proposals by 30 April 2008 on the conference website:
[Hhttp://ehlt.flinders.edu.au/conferences/archaeology/index.html](http://ehlt.flinders.edu.au/conferences/archaeology/index.html)

Please note that registration for the conference is currently not available online. Please check the website in the future for updates and registration.

Graduate Student seeking casual work in archaeology. For more information, please contact Sue Fraser, School Administrator - School of Archaeology & Anthropology, ANU on 02 61253309.

ANU College of Science magazine "ScienceWise" reports on ARC Linkage Mungo Project

How wombats are getting their teeth into the climate change debate

The climate history of Willandra Lakes

See the article online: [Hhttp://sciencewise.anu.edu.au/articles/wombats](http://sciencewise.anu.edu.au/articles/wombats)



Ned Kelly's burial site found



Scientists in Australia believe they have found the grave of 19th Century outlaw and national icon Ned Kelly. His remains are thought to be among those of executed prisoners found on the site of an abandoned prison in the southern city of Melbourne.

Kelly was a bank robber who was hanged in 1880 for murdering three policemen. After evading arrest for several years, he used home-made armour in a final shoot-out with police; his exploits have been the subject of several films. He was hanged for his crimes in 1880 and buried in a mass grave at the old Melbourne Gaol, but the whereabouts of his body has remained a mystery. His remains, and those of others, were thought to have been reburied half a century later at Pentridge prison in Melbourne.

Archaeologists say they have now found the remains of 32 bodies in coffins in various states of decomposition. The bodies will now be subject to forensic tests. "We believe we have conclusively found the burial site, but that is very different from finding the remains," Jeremy Smith, senior archaeologist with Heritage Victoria, told Reuters. "If the remains exist, then we will have found them."

For the full story see: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/7285907.stm>

Sixth World Archaeological Congress

29 June – 4 July

University College Dublin, Ireland

For registration and further information please visit [Hhttp://www.ucd.ie/wac-6/H](http://www.ucd.ie/wac-6/H).

A new on-line archaeological magazine was launched recently by the team at Past Horizons.

It has 32 pages with news of excavations and finds from around the world.
The address is [Hwww.pasthorizons.com/magazineH](http://www.pasthorizons.com/magazineH).



Storage Symposium: Preservation and Access to Archaeological Materials

6-8 June 2008

Lenart Auditorium, UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History

Storage: Preservation and Access to Archaeological Materials will investigate the issues surrounding the creation of stable, accessible storage of portable finds from archaeological excavations. Collection repositories exist in state, county, national, and university facilities for the deposit of archaeological finds, and it is increasingly the case that materials excavated abroad are retained by the host country, with the expedition bearing the financial responsibility for storage. Achieving safe and accessible storage solutions with limited resources continues to remain challenging. The symposium will explore the range of activities, including negotiation, collaboration, proper housing and documentation required to secure preservation and access to burial materials.

The Cotsen Institute, which hosts both graduate archaeology and conservation training, is uniquely equipped to organize this symposium, which deals with an issue of critical importance for the preservation and study of excavated materials. Continued access to finds is required in order for archaeologists, anthropologists, conservators and myriad other specialists, to complete preservation, research and publication activities. The management of finds presently relies largely on digital methods, and the development of virtual collections is a direction that is aiding researchers and conservators, and is increasing access by the general public through schools, universities, libraries and museums. This symposium will bring together directors of excavations and of centralized storage repositories for archaeological collections, archaeological conservators who have achieved innovative and accessible storage methods, and archaeologists who have developed digital management systems for portable finds. The challenges and successes of 3-D scanning and modeling as tools for outreach, research and conservation will be described by an interdisciplinary group of speakers. International speakers will join Cotsen Institute Archaeology and Conservation faculty and students as participants in the program.

For schedule and abstracts see:

[Hhttp://ioa.ucla.edu/conservation/Storage_Symposium.pdf](http://ioa.ucla.edu/conservation/Storage_Symposium.pdf)

For travel details see:

[Hhttp://www.ioa.ucla.edu/conservation/storagesymposium.php](http://www.ioa.ucla.edu/conservation/storagesymposium.php)

Registration deadline is **April 15th, 2008**. To register contact Sonali Gupta at Hsonaligupta5@yahoo.comH with name, title, affiliation, and interest in attending Villa reception; use "Storage Symposium" as subject of e-mail. There are about 60 tickets left to a reception and visit on June 6th to the Getty Villa, a museum and educational center housing Greek, Roman, and Etruscan materials. The program is supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, however views, findings, or recommendations expressed do not reflect those of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The UCLA Fowler Museum and The Getty Conservation Institute provided additional support.