

Old News

March 2010

Canberra Archaeological Society/Centre for Archaeological
Research Public Lecture
Manning Clark Theatre 6

7:30pm Wednesday 17th March

Dr Sandy Blair

*From Macassan trading routes to remote stock routes:
conserving the heritage of cultural routes and journeys.*

Drawing on Sandy's experience on the international ICOMOS committee on cultural routes, this talk will explore current issues in identifying and presenting cultural routes as a key part of Australia's heritage.

Sandy will draw on research projects at the ANU on the long-standing Macassan trading contact with Indigenous people of northern Australia and also the Canning Stock Route of Western Australia.

She will use these examples to suggest some of the issues and opportunities that arise in conserving Australia's major cultural routes, including possible adventures for modern-day travellers.

Dr Sandy Blair is a historian and heritage consultant who runs her own business. She works in cultural heritage conservation, management and interpretation in Australia and internationally. Sandy especially enjoys working with local and indigenous communities researching and recording the histories and traditions associated with local heritage places, landscapes and cultural routes. She is a member of the international ICOMOS ISC on cultural routes, a member of the Burra Charter working group and was formerly President of Australia ICOMOS. Sandy is currently Program Coordinator at the Institute for Professional Practice in Heritage and the Arts at the Australian National University and the newly - established Rock Art Research Centre.

2010 MEMBERSHIPS ARE NOW DUE

See Note at End of Newsletter

Up Coming Events, Conferences & Tours

Saturday 20th March

Acton Walk

Join us for a stroll around the West Basin, Lake Burley Griffin, as we walk and talk through Canberra's early historic landscape with Dr Peter Dowling, Vice President of CAS.

The walk will start 10:00am, Meet at *Urban Food Store and Café* (corner of Marcus Clarke Street & Edinburgh Avenue, Acton). The tour ends at 11:00am at National Museum, Acton Peninsula. It is then a 20 min. leisurely walk back to starting point.

Join us for a pre-walk breakfast at 9:00am (breakfast at own expense)

Bookings: essential by email info@actonwalkways.com, or phone Kirsty Guster on 0437 301 390.

Website: www.actonwalkways.com

Thursday 23rd March - 8 pm

Friends of the ANU Classics Museum

24th AGM

Haydon-Allen Theatre (The Tank)

Guest Speaker Dr Andrew Jamieson, Spencer/Pappas Trust Curator, Ian Potter Museum of Art, University of Melbourne, *In the Footsteps of T.E. Lawrence.*

Before qualifying for service with Military Intelligence in Cairo T.E. Lawrence

('of Arabia') prepared for a career as an archaeologist at Oxford. Lawrence was one of three Englishmen involved in the British Museum sponsored excavations at Carchemish, near the Syrian-Turkish border. The British expedition, led by Leonard Woolley, who replaced D.G. Hogarth in 1912, uncovered an important Hittite city before work was halted by the First World War. In June 2009 the University of Melbourne commenced a new archaeological project in the Upper Euphrates Valley which was launched this month. Dr Andrew Jamieson will report on recent discoveries within the context of earlier findings of this historically important region.

Saturday, 17 April 10.30am – 3pm

Elm Grove Open Day

This recently heritage listed rural property in northern Canberra will be opened up for the day by the owner, Paul Carmody. As well as an example of an archaeological excavation there will be storytelling, the Monaro Bush Dancers, sheep shearing demonstration, a garden tour by ABC TV presenter Mark Carmody, Sing Australia Choir, Devonshire tea and a sausage sizzle. Also included during the day will be drives up to Oak Hill on the border of the Territory for a magnificent view of Canberra

Please contact Helen or Peter if you can help with the fake dig. We will be going out to dig a big hole when we arrange a time with Mr Carmody and would love some strong people to help with the spades. Also we need donations of suitable 'artefacts' eg broken crockery and other household items such as single earrings, broken costume jewellery, cleaned bones, and any other items that can be salted into the hole. You won't get them back but some child will get their bag of 'treasure'.

And we will welcome helpers on the day – no experience necessary – to help kids and others to dig their bit and bag their finds.

Saturday, 24 April - 11am-3.30pm.

Geology & Archaeology & History at London Bridge

This is a joint event between the National Trust (ACT) and the Canberra Archaeological Society

The tour will be conducted by members qualified in geology, history and archaeology.

Members of the NT and CAS: \$20. Non-members: \$25.

Bookings essential: 6230 0533 or the Old Parliament House Shop on 6273 4744

As this place can be a bit tricky to find, we will meet at the turn off to Googong Dam from the Old Cooma Road. There is space there to pull off the road; and a representative from the National Trust Robert Abell will be waiting to meet you.

The Canberra Archaeological Society will have sausages sizzling waiting for you arrive at the car park for London Bridge.

The walk will start at 12.30, heading to London Bridge Homestead which the Rangers will have open for inspection, then the London Bridge Arch/Tunnel where Robert and Helen Cooke will provide some background information. We should be at the Arch by about 2.30 pm and from there it is about a 20 minute walk back to the car park.

However for those who would like to walk further, Robert will lead you on the Dhurrawarri Buranya Walk which takes about an hour and provides views of the Reservoir.

This sausage sizzle will be supplied and cooked by CAS - please contact Helen or Peter if you can help cook on the electric BBQ on site or butter bread and hand out snags.

Conference 22 - 25 April.

Outback and Beyond

Australia ICOMOS Broken Hill, NSW

"Broken Hill has a special place in the imagination of Australians. It has been the setting for movies and novels and the home of distinctive Australian art movements, all in a unique nineteenth century city", Conference Convenor, Ray Tonkin said.

"Why would such a significant city find itself on the edge of the desert? How does it sustain itself?

Why is it so special?"

Australia ICOMOS has invited the Hon Peter Garrett, Minister for the Environment Heritage and the Arts to open the conference.

<http://www.aicomos.com/2010-outback-and-beyond/>

NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK IS BETWEEN MAY 16 -22

Once again the week to showcase archaeology to the public is nearly upon us. We have a great talk scheduled from our member Trish Saunders on the presentation of archaeology at The Rocks.

Kat is planning another trivia night – so please send ideas, donations of prizes and offers of assistance to Helen and Peter – who will pass these on to Kat when she arrives back in Oz.

Any other ideas of events, particularly offers of liaisons with other historic, heritage or teaching institutions or groups will be welcomed.

And of course, if you can help with any promotion or on the day, please let us know.

Check out the website: <http://www.archaeologyweek.com>

Saturday 22nd May

Visit to archaeological sites at Gungahlin:

The Ginninderra Blacksmith's Shop and 'The Valley' homestead.

Peter Dowling will tell us about the history, results of excavations and conservation saga of the Blacksmith's shop, with some good news this year due to interest from our Chief Minister. Helen Cooke will then tell us the history of 'The Valley' homestead, the past residents and the plans for conservation.

Meet at the Ginninderra Blacksmiths Shop, Barton Highway, Nichols at 2pm. Take the unsealed entrance towards the Golf Club maintenance depot (south of Gold Creek Road) on the left hand side heading towards the city

We arrive at 'The Valley' about 3pm and we can then all repair to the George Harcourt around 4pm for a beverage and discussion of what roles CAS can play in conserving and presenting these historic places – or the footy scores or any other topic that strikes us.

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Archaeogenetics

Archaeogenetics, a term first used by the eminent archaeologist, Professor Colin Renfrew, some ten years ago, refers to the application of molecular genetics to the study of the human past. It involves the analysis of DNA recovered from archaeological remains (ancient DNA) and the analysis of DNA from modern human populations in order to study their past and origins. Here are two studies applying the techniques of archaeogenetics which have been recently published.

Prehistoric settlement of Australia

Almost seven hundred individual samples of Aboriginal Australian and Melanesian mitochondria DNA (passed from a female to her offspring) and a genetic variation on the Y chromosome (passed from male to male) have been compared with similar world-wide samples. The Australian samples confirm a lineage which is associated with the exodus of modern humans from Africa approximately 50-70,000 years ago. The analysis bore no evidence for any archaic maternal or paternal lineages in the Australians which weakens the suggestion of a continuation with *Homo erectus* populations in Asia despite some of the robust fossil evidence which has been found in Australia. The comparisons further showed that Aboriginal Australians are most closely related to New Guinea/Melanesia indicating that colonisation occurred at the same time, approximately 50,000 years ago, followed by a considerable period of isolation after the initial arrival. The study also detected a minor secondary flow into Australia which could have taken place around 8,000 years ago before the land bridge between Australia and New Guinea was inundated. This then may indicate that certain significant developments in later Australian prehistory such as the emergence of a backed-blade lithic industry and the dichotomy of languages (Pama-Nyungan and non-Pama-Nyungan) differences were from an external origin.

(Hudjashov, G. et al., 2007, 'Revealing the Prehistoric Settlement of Australia by Y Chromosome and mtDNA Analysis', *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science USA*, 104 (21):8726-30).

The Parentage of Tutankhamun



King Tutankhamun has been in the news again (in fact he is hardly ever out of the media); this time it's his genome that is being examined and his parentage that is being discussed. A genetic analysis conducted between September 2007 and October 2009, examined King Tut's genes along with another 10 mummies (1410-1324 BCE) thought to be closely related to the boy king. A further 11 mummies of which five were known royals were used as a control group. Using the

Y chromosome a pedigree of Tutankhamun's lineage was produced. Yuya and Thuya were recognized as his great-grandparents, Pharaoh Amenhotep III and the mummy known only as the 'Elder Lady' were found to be his grandparents. But it's King Tut's parents who are the most interesting.

The mummies known as KV55, most likely the Pharaoh Akhenaton, and his sister known as the 'Younger Lady' (or KV35YL) have been identified as his genetic parents. This then confirms what has been suspected by many Egyptologists that Tutankhamun was born from an incestuous relationship. Incestuous relationships were not uncommon among Egypt's royalty – a King who is considered a god could marry his sister like the gods, Isis and Osiris. While this was suspected of Akhenaton and his son Tutankhamun it is now confirmed by archaeogenetics. The parentage of Tutankhamun may then explain the some of the medical problems the young king suffered.

But perhaps more on that in another edition.

(Hawass, Z. et al, 'Ancestry and Pathology in King Tutankhamun's Family', *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 303 (7):638-647)

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A Call for Contributors

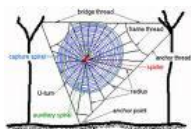


Please help us keep Old News interesting and informative. While we have a very keen team researching, editing and producing this newsletter we would like it to have a broader perspective with more articles by a range of authors contributing articles on the archaeology, history and heritage of the ACT and region or a general debate on themes and practices in archaeology.

Do you have something to say or would you like to contribute an article? If so, then we would like to hear from you with your articles up to 600 words with one or two images.

Please send them to us with the text in MS Word format and images (with captions and credits) in separate .jpg format. Contact us at: dipetaia@bigpond.com

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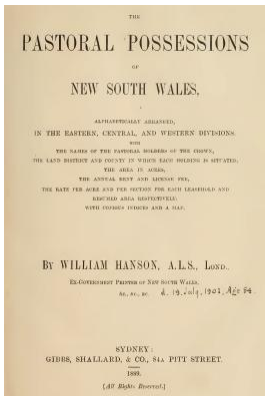
Some Interesting Websites & Books



The writing on the cave wall

This is a bit sensationalist and has received some funny comments on (Ozarch) ozarch@googlegroups.com French caves are known for their prehistoric rock art. But also marked on the walls around the paintings are 26 symbols that have appeared again and again at French sites across 25,000 years of prehistory. Early signs suggest that many of these symbols crop up in other parts of the world too, leading some to wonder if symbolic communication arose with early humans.

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg20527481.200-the-writing-on-the-cave-wall.html?DCMP=NLC-nletter&nsref=mg20527481.200>



Hanson's 1889 "Pastoral possessions of NSW" is available as a freebie 35 MB download from Internet Archive

(<http://www.archive.org/details/pastoralpossessi00hans>)

Published in 1889, this valuable book gives listings of pastoral landholders in New South Wales at the time, together with information on the property or properties they owned or leased. While it has been an invaluable resource for historic research the book has been difficult to access in libraries because it is usually in the "rare books" section or on microform format. It has been digitally reproduced on CD format and now at last, it is downloadable free of charge in a pdf format.

Divided into three sections; the Eastern division, the Central division and the Western division, all containing information on the areas of land owned. Each pastoral holding includes the land district and county in which each pastoral holding is situated, the area in acres, the annual rent and licence fee and the rate per acre and per section for each leasehold and resumed area respectively together with the names of the registered pastoral holders of the crown. The information is detailed and includes the date of notification in the government gazette.

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How a hobbit is rewriting the history of the human race

The discovery of the bones of tiny people on an Indonesian island six years ago stunned scientists. Now, further research suggests that the little people, not Homo erectus, were the first to leave Africa and colonise other parts of the world, report by Robin McKie,

Full story at

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2010/feb/21/hobbit-rewriting-history-human-race>

2010 MEMBERSHIPS ARE NOW DUE

The easiest way to renew is to catch our new treasurer, Dianne, at a meeting, or you can download the membership form from our website and post in your cheque.

Have you thought of a gift membership for that friend or rellie who has everything?

Only members will receive the current Old News.

The next meeting details will be available on our website (see footer) and through CAR and selected notice boards.

Archived Old News will still be available on the web.

Help us Keep the Society Viable