

Canberra Archaeological Society, Inc

President's Report, 2013

On behalf of CAS I'd like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land we are meeting on today, the Ngunnawal, Ngunawal, Ngambri and Ngarigu people and to pay our respects to their elders, past and present.

Well, here we are, survivors of Canberra's Centenary. Not that one hundred years means a lot to us archaeologists. The hype emphasised the difficulty of convincing the ACT Government that Canberra has a vibrant and very interesting history prior to Federation. But CAS has continued to try to promote the region's history and in particular, the conservation of material cultural evidence of the past.

As expected, this year we have enjoyed interesting speakers with amazing topics and generosity in fielding questions. The diversity – from meeting our remote ancestors, unpicking aspects of Vanuatu archaeology, the horses of Ankor, adventures in Gungahlin, delving into Grannie's drawers, exploring the ANU Classics Museum, deciphering inscriptions at the North Head Quarantine Station, rock art in South East Asia to the Chinese fishing industry in Australia. Our grateful thanks to all our speakers.

The aims of the Society include: to initiate and organise archaeological research and to encourage archaeological undertakings. The Committee is committed to encouraging students to begin and continue studies in archaeology, particularly in topics with local relevance. This year we furthered this outreach through several avenues.

1 Pre-meeting socialising

To entice more students to the CAS/CAR lectures we begin earlier at 6.30pm outside the lecture theatre and provide nourishment to tide them over between a hard day of lectures and a night of study. It takes a while for new ideas to catch on, but I was chuffed to be able to introduce our keen student members to Emeritus Professors Mulvaney and Golson. We appreciate the support of our life members and the encouragement it gives to students to meet these pillars of Australian archaeology.

2 Fieldwork excursions to local archaeological sites:

We visited artefact grinding grooves and culturally modified trees in Tuggeranong, grooves on Percival Hill and historic sites near Mulligans Flat in Gungahlin. A good sprinkling of ANU students came along to learn about local heritage and gain some experience in recording techniques. Next year we plan to continue this fieldwork and offer more tuition in archaeological methods.

3 The Canberra Archaeological Society Education Trust

After some years in gestation and with the assistance of John Bundock's legal expertise, we have established this Trust to enable an annual award for a student to undertake post-graduate studies in archaeology or closely related fields, in topics with relevance to the Australian Capital Territory and region. Applications will be sought next year and do take note that donations to the Trust are tax deductible.

4 Students Archaeological Society at ANU

This year we have enjoyed collaborating with these keen archaeology students and we thank them for letting us put meeting notices on their Facebook site and to Aaron and Dani for pinning paper meeting notices on the board in Arch & Anth.

5 Promotion

We're on Facebook as you would all know! Tris and I put meeting and event notices up. Our thanks again to Russell Kightley for updating our website and providing us with daily stats: we get steady interest through a range of Visits and some useful contacts through readers.

Heritage events:

- As part of the ACT Heritage Festival in April we once again enjoyed the hospitality of life members and Crinigan's descendants Marilyn and Louis Folger at an Open Day on the stone hut site in Gungahlin. The weather was beautiful this year and we were pleased to meet descendants who travelled considerable distances to meet us and each other.
- National Archaeology Week in May. This year we were delighted to team up with the Friends of the National Museum of Australia for a very popular afternoon conversation with Dr Mike Smith, the desert archaeologist. Thanks to Mike for sharing his experiences and dreams with us.
- ACT and Region Annual Australian Heritage Partnership Symposium 2013, 'A Centenary of Celebrating heritage'. We put that in the title to get into the Centenary calendar, we thought, but we were left out. However we attracted a fine audience who engaged in stimulating discussion with our outstanding speakers and cluey panel. Many thanks to the members of the Students Archaeological Society at ANU for their expert assistance with catering. Now that they know the drum, they will take the opportunity to come into more sessions next year.
- And what a night it was - the CAS 50th Anniversary Dinner - great venue and food and many faces from the past. We thank Jack and Clare Golson, Helmut Loofs Wissowa, Jo Flood, Sue Feary, Rob May and many others for sharing their memories of CAS. As the Society deserves a recorded history, we are asking those with tales to tell about their experiences in CAS to write them up to be included as chapters in a volume or two.

Finally my thanks to our 2013 Committee members who have kept CAS rolling smoothly this year: Vice Presidents Daryl Wesley and Bob Legge; Secretary Sally Brockwell; Treasurer Dianne Dowling and members John Bundock, Peter Dowling, Dani Harris and Tristen Jones. Farewell to Daryl, Dani and Tristen (all the best with the family addition, Tris).

And thanks to you members, who come along and support our events – we do it for you. If you have any ideas for outreach, improvement, expansion or just fun, please come and talk to us, email or phone.

We at CAS wish you a safe and happy Christmas and New Year, Helen Cooke