

**CANBERRA ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY – AUSTRALASIAN SOCIETY
FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY**

**ARCHAEOLOGY SYMPOSIUM: ARCHAEOLOGY
CONNECTIONS**

PENINSULA ROOM, NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA

27 APRIL 2024



**The ANU and UPNG students with the Panaeati
community during the 2022 PNG fieldschool. Image
Ben Shaw.**

THEME

The Symposium theme this year is 'Archaeology connections'.

Recognising connections, associations and relationships is a fundamental skill required of archaeologists, whether between physical elements of material culture (adjacent or distant), or behavioural evidence, within or across sites. Importantly, also, making connections with communities – local and/or traditional - is a requirement of modern, ethical archaeology. This very broad theme also encompasses the recognition of connections with audiences through art and archaeology, and associations between artefacts and related activities over time and space.

PROGRAMME

9.30-9.40 A brief introduction explaining what the day is about, sponsors and housekeeping.

9.40-9.50 Paul House: Welcome to Country

9.50-10.10 Dr Ben Shaw: Exploring past, present, and future connections in archaeology through community collaboration

10.10-10.30 Drs Anna Wong and Steve Brown: Stories from your Backyard: Public Archaeology, Museums and Connecting Audiences

10.30-11.00 Morning Tea (self-provided in cafe)

11.00-11.20 Dr Ursula Frederick: The role of contemporary creative practice in re-imagining archaeology

11.20-11.40 Gary Vines: Water connections - investigating the systems for delivering and removing water in society

11.40-12.10 Q&A Panel of speakers

12.10- 12.30 Thank you's and Close

BOOKINGS: National Museum of Australia What's On Calendar at <https://www.nma.gov.au> or [Archaeology Connections Symposium 2024 - Canberra Archaeological Society](#)

Admission free - gold coin donation gratefully accepted.

ABSTRACTS and BIOS

Paul House: Welcome to Country

Paul Girrawah House has multiple First Nation ancestries from the South-East Canberra region, including the Ngambri-Ngurnal (Walgalu), Pajong (Gundungurra), Wallaballoo (Ngunnawal) and Erambie/Brungle (Wiradyuri) family groups. Paul acknowledges his diverse First Nation history, he particularly identifies as a descendant of *Onyong* aka *Jindoomang* from Weereewaa (Lake George) and *Henry 'Black Harry' Williams* from Namadgi who were both multilingual, essentially Walgalu-Ngunnawal-Wiradjuri speaking warriors and Ngunnawal-Wallaballoo man *William Lane* aka *'Billy the Bull' - Murrjinille*. Paul was born at the old Canberra hospital in the centre of his ancestral country and strongly acknowledges his First Nation matriarch ancestors, in particular his mother Dr Aunty Matilda House-Williams and grandmother, Ms Pearl Simpson-Wedge. Paul completed a Bachelor of Community Management from Macquarie University, and Graduate Certificate in Wiradjuri Language, Culture and Heritage and Management from CSU. Paul provided the Welcome to Country for the 47th Opening of Federal Parliament in 2022. Paul is Board Director, Ngambri Local Aboriginal Land Council, Member Indigenous Reference Group, and National Museum of Australia. Paul works on country with the ANU, First Nations Portfolio as a Senior Community Engagement Officer.

Dr Ben Shaw: Exploring past, present, and future connections in archaeology through community collaboration

Ben Shaw is an archaeologist and Senior Lecturer in the School of Culture, History and Language at the Australian National University. His research is geographically focused on Papua New Guinea where he has undertaken extensive field research over the last 16 years across many island, coastal and highland regions. He also recently established community-based fieldschools in PNG and the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria. Ben's research spans the full length of human history from first peopling to historical contexts, particularly the interplay between past climates, environments, and human behaviours. You can view videos of Ben's fieldwork in Papua New Guinea on YouTube at ArchaeoBen10.

When seeking to understand past peoples, connections are important. Collaborative partnerships with descendant

communities are crucial to understanding how people connected with the world around them, which may differ to how a non-indigenous or non-local archaeologist may see the world based on their own experiences and cultural upbringing. This is particularly important as cultural objects do not inherently tell a story about the people who made and used them, interpretation is required. This talk highlights the relevance of the human past for our future and explores how working with traditional landowners and communities has shaped my archaeological practice that includes collaborative, community-involved research projects and fieldschools in Papua New Guinea and Australia.

Drs Anna Wong and Steve Brown: Stories from your Backyard: Public Archaeology, Museums and Connecting Audiences

Dr Steve Brown is the collector behind [Backyard Archaeology](#), a current exhibition at the Canberra Museum + Gallery (16 March - 1 September 2024). Backyard Archaeology tells the story of thousands of small objects that Steve collected from around an ordinary suburban house and garden. Some of the objects were collected during house renovations, others while gardening, and many from archaeological digs. In his day job, Steve is a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Canberra's Centre for Creative & Cultural Research on the ARC-funded [Everyday Heritage](#) project. Steve is a special adviser with [GML Heritage](#).

Dr Anna Wong is the Director of ACT Galleries, Museums and Heritage (Cultural Facilities Corporation), which includes the Canberra Museum and Gallery (CMAG), Lanyon Homestead, Mugga Mugga Cottage and Calthorpes House – collections and heritage places that showcase Canberra's visual arts, social and cultural history. From her multi-faceted career as archaeologist, historian, curator and heritage manager, Anna is passionate about storytelling through objects, people and places. She is currently researching how heritage and the arts supports community well-being.

What is the value of archaeology after we've finished excavating? How can we connect archaeological research with local stories and communities. Canberra Museum and Gallery recently opened two exhibitions based around the research and stories from local archaeological projects – *Backyard Archaeology: Finding Things and Telling Stories* and *Dunroon: Works with all Your Might*.

Backyard Archaeology, curated by Dr Steve Brown, presents thousands of artefacts, that Steve assembled from his former home in Sydney - an ordinary suburban house and garden. Steve's collection of everyday bits and pieces is the starting point from which to tell stories about the history of his home, built in 1912-1913, and the suburban block on which it was constructed. The *Dunroon* exhibition presents the history of the former Dunroon Estate in Canberra through everyday objects, memorabilia and also artefacts from excavations of the Dunroon Dairy. Over 700 artefacts were located, included a four-posted bed that was thrown into the well.

These exhibitions of everyday objects connect us with stories about individuals and families, their connection with place and the importance of archaeological research in interpreting local histories.

Dr Ursula Frederick: Imagining Archaeology: The role of contemporary creative practice in re-imagining archaeology

Dr Ursula K Frederick is an artist and archaeologist and works as a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Creative and Cultural Research at the University of Canberra. Ursula has a long-term interest in mark-making and inscription practices

and particularly the role that they play in place-making activities. Ursula's research work explores materialities of the everyday, commemoration, and temporality and openly celebrates experimentation. From 2017-2020 she undertook a major Australian Research Council research project exploring the role of creative practice in visualising archaeology.

In this presentation I will take a look at how archaeology has been imaged within the public imagination and by practitioners within the discipline. In particular I focus on tracing a relationship between art and archaeology, historically, and the potential for future mutual inspiration. In addition to exploring how artists have been influenced by archaeological methods and materials I consider how artists may also enliven heritage. In doing so I will draw upon examples of my own art practice in Australia, as well as artwork carried on the global stage.

Gary Vines: Water connections - investigating the systems for delivering and removing water in society

Gary Vines is an industrial archaeologist by preference, but by necessity works as a consultant heritage advisor and archaeologist with Biosis Pty Ltd in Melbourne. He has worked in government, private Industry and the community sector. Since the 1980s his research has included redundant factories, quarries, irrigation systems, flour mills, bridges, dry stone walls, noxious trades, and other more obscure historic place types. He has also worked in the area of Aboriginal heritage, oral history, museum collections, heritage interpretation and conservation. He is a past member of the Victorian National Trust Conservation Advisory Committee and Industrial History Committee and the Heritage Victorian Archaeological Advisory Committee. He is currently undertaking a late career PhD at Latrobe University Archaeology Department on early water powered flour mills in Victoria.

Among the needs for human life, water is the most essential. In much of the world we might be able to survive indefinitely without clothing or shelter, for several weeks without food, but only for a few days without water. From the dependence on naturally occurring water for the location of hunter-gatherer camp sites, to the desirability of water views, water has determined settlement patterns, travel and utilisation of the land. Providing artificial water supplies was critical to the development of early agriculture, sedentism, towns and cities, while the removal of liquid waste made those towns liveable. This talk will look at the connections between water supply, human habitation and how archaeological investigations are connected through the landscape, artifactual evidence, knowledge sharing, and synthesis of ideas.

This symposium is supported by:

