



Dr Duncan Wright, School of Archaeology and Anthropology at ANU, displays some of the findings from the archaeological dig at Springbank Island which included a number of stone artefacts and a small glass bottle-stopper.



Springbank dig finds Indigenous artefacts

An archaeological dig on Springbank Island in Lake Burley Griffin has found a larger than expected number of artefacts left behind by Aboriginal communities.

Wally Bell of the local region's Ngunawal people attended the dig and said he was not surprised that the findings suggested Aboriginal activity.

"My people have occupied this area for at least 21,000 years, and Black Mountain was one of the most active areas, so there's bound to be a lot of discarded tools and objects left behind," Mr Bell said.

The dig was run by Australian National University (ANU) in partnership with the Canberra Archaeological Society. According to project leader Dr Duncan Wright, from the ANU School of Archaeology and Anthropology, the results showed that

Indigenous people were still active in the area after the first European settlers arrived.

"It's exciting. We've got a good number of stone artefacts, with stone collected from many sources around Canberra," he said.

Dr Wright said the team had also unearthed evidence of one of the first European homesteads in the Canberra region dating back to 1832.

"We found the handle of a door, either from the homestead or an outhouse," he said. "We've got roofing nails from the 19th Century, as well as some ceramics and glass from this period."

"We also found a metal button, presumably from someone who occupied the homestead."

An artefact of great interest to the team was a small glass bottle-stopper with writing around its rim that should enable identification.

Dawn Service attracts record attendance

Attendance for the Anzac Day Dawn Service at the Australian War Memorial exceeded expectations with an estimated crowd of 120,000 on Saturday 25 April.

In the lead up to the Dawn Service, Dr Brendan Nelson, Director of the Australian War Memorial, said they expected 50,000 visitors for the event but figures indicate an increase of more than 80,000 on last year.

The National Ceremony and veterans' march at the Memorial also attracted strong numbers with more than 31,000 people in attendance.

"Today (25 April) is the biggest Anzac Day commemoration we have ever experienced at the Australian War Memorial. I am proud that so many people have chosen to commemorate the Centenary anniversary of the landing on Gallipoli, which left such a significant legacy for our

country," Dr Nelson said.

"Despite this focus on the Centenary of the Gallipoli landing, it's important to also remember the commitment and sacrifices of all our servicemen and servicewomen in conflicts since the First World War, and those who continue to serve today."



The combined attendance for visitors to the Dawn Service and National Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial on Anzac Day was 151,000 – an increase of 88,500 on last year. The Dawn Service was especially well attended with an increase of more than 80,000 on last year.

