

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

SYMPOSIUM

**CONTEMPORARY ARCHAEOLOGY: HOW
ARCHAEOLOGY IS PRACTISED TODAY**

**VISIONS THEATRE, NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
AUSTRALIA**

4 MAY 2019



Dr Michael Pearson AO, historical archaeologist, excavating at an 1820s sealer's shelter, Livingston Island, South Shetlands, 2014. Photo: Ricardo Laser (Brazil)

PROGRAMME

10.30am Welcome and Introduction

10.40am Dr Michael Pearson OA – Australian archaeology in Antarctica

11.00am Emeritus Professor Richard Wright AM – The forensic archaeology of war crimes

11.20am Morning Tea – own arrangements

11.40am Dr Alice Gorman (via Skype) – Shadows on the Moon: the forgotten Apollo 11 heritage

12.00pm Dave Johnston – Gollion Farm Aboriginal Ochre Quarry, Sutton NSW: Embracing locals' shared history of place (includes video)

12.20pm Dr Iain Johnston - Repatriation of Indigenous material culture

12.40pm Q&A Panel – All speakers

1.00pm Finish

ABSTRACTS and BIOS

Dr Michael Pearson AO: Australian archaeology in Antarctica

The talk looks at the work of Australian archaeologists in Antarctica and the sub-Antarctic islands, and the prospect for future work in this field. To date the archaeology in the Australian islands and Antarctic territory has focussed on Mawson's Huts, some aspects of the mainland stations, and the sealing and penguin industries of Macquarie And Heard Islands. The nexus between archaeology and conservation has been the driver at the built heritage sites, but the research potential of the marine mammal exploitation sites has not yet been fully explored. The author will also outline the research work going on in the South Shetland Islands where he has been working for the past 15 years.

Michael Pearson AO, has a PhD in prehistoric and historical archaeology from ANU, and has worked for 40 years in the heritage field, with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, as head of the historical environment activities and Deputy Executive Director of the Australian Heritage Commission, and from 1993 as a consultant specialising in heritage research, management and planning. He is a former Chairman of the ACT Heritage Council, former Chairman of the Institute of Professional Practice in Heritage and the Arts at ANU, and is currently President of the ICOMOS International Polar Heritage Committee. Michael has been involved in a wide range of heritage related fields, including World Heritage assessment and management in Australia, Japan and China, and archaeological research on 1820s sealing sites in Antarctica, where he has been on 10 expeditions.

Emeritus Professor Richard Wright AM: The forensic archaeology of war crimes

Richard Wright will discuss the use of archaeological skills in investigating war crimes. These skills relate to finding graves, understanding stratification, recovering tiny bits of forensic evidence, and 3D surveying and representation. He will illustrate their use in excavations of the Holocaust in the Ukraine, and the Srebrenica massacre of 1995 in Bosnia.

Richard Wright is Emeritus Professor of Anthropology at University of Sydney. His interest in forensic archaeology developed in 1990-1991, when the Australian government employed him to investigate mass graves in Ukraine originating from the Holocaust of World War II. From 1997-2000 he was Chief Archaeologist for the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY). In that role, he led an international team of archaeologists and anthropologists. He has given expert testimony at several war crimes trials in The Hague. In 2009 he was Senior Forensic Adviser to Oxford Archaeology during their exhumation and identification of 250 soldiers from World War I mass graves at Fromelles, in NE France.

Dr Alice Gorman: Shadows on the Moon: the forgotten Apollo 11 heritage

When the Apollo 11 mission departed from Tranquility Base on the Moon in July 1969, they left behind the landing module, a flag, television camera, a range of experiments, and discarded material from their 22 hours on the surface. This material created the first archaeological site on another world. They also left behind new types of shadow, cast by the artefacts across the lunar regolith and incised into it where the astronauts' boots pressed into the dust.

Lunar conspiracy theorists look to the odd nature of lunar shadows in the many photographs of the Apollo 11 mission to prove that humans never went to the Moon. Scientists look at the qualities of the shadows to draw conclusions about lunar topography and geomorphology. In this talk, I explore the Apollo shadows as symbols and signs by which we know the Moon.

Dr Alice Gorman is an internationally recognised leader in the field of space archaeology. Her research focuses on the archaeology and heritage of space exploration, including space junk, planetary landing sites, off-earth mining, rocket launch pads and antennas. She is a Senior Lecturer at Flinders University and a Director on the Board of the Space Industry Association of Australia. In 2017 she won the Bragg UNSW Press Prize for Science Writing. Her book *Dr Space Junk vs the Universe*, NewSouth Publishing, was released in April 2019. She tweets as @drspacejunk and blogs at Space Age Archaeology.

Dave Johnston: Gollion Farm Aboriginal Ochre Quarry, Sutton NSW: Embracing locals' shared history of place

Dave Johnston will present and discuss a short video.

Dave Johnston, consultant archaeologist from Aboriginal Archaeologists Australia Pty Ltd, established in 1990, is also Founding Chair of the Australian Indigenous Archaeologists Association (from 2010 to the present). He has worked as an archaeologist in the eastern states of Australia since 1990. In that time he has completed over 2,000 archaeological and Indigenous heritage projects. For most of his work he has been appointed by numerous Indigenous community's as their preferred archaeologist.

His work experience has ranged from mining to urban development projects. His particular skills are in finding mutually beneficial solutions and outcomes for clients and the local Aboriginal community/s, particularly in regard to larger projects where Indigenous heritage issues require complex consultations.

Dr Iain Johnston: Repatriation of Indigenous material culture

Dr Johnston will discuss his Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) 'Return of Cultural Heritage' project.

The 250th anniversary of Captain Cook's first voyage to the east coast of Australia and it marks the start of a process of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage being removed overseas. The anniversary also is seen as a focus for increased effort to secure return of items of Indigenous cultural heritage to Australia. AIATSIS is leading a project to intensify the effort to return material held overseas to its original custodians and owners.

Returning material to Country for purposes of cultural revitalisation is a key aspiration of Indigenous communities. This programme will form a part of a larger narrative and support the cultural resurgence of Australia's First Nations' peoples. The programme will strengthen the signal both to the nation and globally that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture is respected, celebrated and valued.

Dr Iain Johnston is a Senior Researcher at AIATSIS employed on the Return of Cultural Heritage Project at AIATSIS. He is a community archaeologist and anthropologist and has worked for the past nine years with Aboriginal people in Kakadu National Park and western Arnhem Land on collaborative projects relating to rock art, walking routes, returning materials and oral histories. He has also worked on archaeological surveys and excavations in the ACT, NT and NSW.

Iain's current research focuses include: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander understandings and connections to rock art, material culture and iconography; the rock art of western Arnhem Land and the unique information embedded in scenes of activity; and oral histories and narratives from the Alligator Rivers region.

This symposium was supported by



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