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# STATE OF THE ART

## ACT NEWS

*Compiled by Richard Morrison*

### **Heritage Branch, Department of the Environment (Cwlth)**

*New Commonwealth Minister for Heritage*

Following the recent election, the Hon. Josh Frydenberg MP, Member for Kooyong, Victoria, was appointed on 19 July 2016 to replace Greg Hunt. There has also been a portfolio rearrangement so that his portfolio is now called Environment and Energy.

*Australian Heritage Council*

Professor Carmen Lawrence has recently departed the Australian Heritage Council (AHC) where she served as Chair for two terms from 2010-2016. The Hon. Dr David Kemp was appointed as the new Chair on 26 June 2016. Dr Kemp served in the Howard Government from 2001-2004 as Minister for the Environment. He has also held a number of other senior appointments related to heritage and the environment. He has a BA and Bachelor of Law from Melbourne University and a PhD from Yale.

*Parramatta Female Factory, NSW – National Heritage List Assessment*

The AHC is seeking to recognise the key role that benevolent and care institutions have had in Australia's history. The Parramatta Female Factory Precinct, including the Roman Catholic Orphan School and Parramatta Girls' Home, may be a nationally-significant example of the treatment of institutionalised women and children over a long period of Australian history. The AHC's initial assessment for the Parramatta Female Factory Precinct is that the precinct might have National Heritage values. The draft National Heritage values, draft selected history and draft boundary map are available via the link below:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/organisations/australian-heritage-council/national-heritage-assessments/parramatta-female-factory-precinct>

Written comments on the proposal are requested on the possible inclusion of all or part of the proposed area on the National Heritage List (NHL) by 5pm AEST Friday 23 September 2016 to:

Australian Heritage Council  
GPO Box 787  
Canberra ACT 2601  
Email: [heritage@environment.gov.au](mailto:heritage@environment.gov.au)

*New AHC Publication – Rock Art Thematic Study (May 2016)*

This recent major publication is likely to be of interest to ASHA members. The study was prepared for the AHC by Professor Jo McDonald and Lucia Clayton from the Centre for Rock Art Research and Management at the University of Western Australia.

The work provides an overview of the diversity and distribution of Aboriginal rock art in Australia. The study also proposes a ranked shortlist of rock art places for possible consideration for inclusion on the NHL in accordance with the NHL criteria. It was prepared as a desktop study making use of published and unpublished sources. There was only limited opportunity to make contact with Aboriginal parties or Corporations during the preparation of the study. Consultation is an integral element of the AHC assessment process should any of these places be nominated for inclusion in the NHL. The publication can be found at:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/ahc/publications/rock-art-thematic-study>

Information on other AHC Thematic Studies can be found at:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/organisations/australian-heritage-council/thematic-studies>

**ACT and Region Annual Heritage Partnership Symposium 2016**

Hosted by CAS, the National Trust of Australia (ACT), Canberra and District Historical Society, and Australia ICOMOS, a successful and well-attended Symposium was held on Saturday 23 July 2016 in the Commonwealth Solar Observatory, Mount Stromlo.

Further information, when available, can be found at <http://www.cas.asn.au/>

# OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTICES

## **Expressions of Interest for Editor(s) of Australasian Historical Archaeology**

The ASHA Executive seeks to appointment a new editor or editorial team for the Society's journal *Australasian Historical Archaeology* to replace the incumbents who will step down from the role at the end of 2016. The journal is the principal published forum for the historical archaeology of Australia and New Zealand, with the first volume published in 1983.

*Australasian Historical Archaeology* is published annually and distributed at the end of each year. Papers are double-blind peer-reviewed and the journal is supported by an Editorial Board of 17 distinguished scholars from around the world.

The journal is available in print and electronic formats to ASHA members and is available through several online archives including JSTOR, Informat, tDAR and ProQuest in participating institutions.

The journal editor(s) is responsible for:

- Managing the submission of journal articles
- Managing the review process
- Communication with authors
- Publication schedule
- Copy-editing and styling of the journal for delivery to the production designer
- Co-ordination of guest editors

The journal editor(s) should:

- Be committed to promoting the highest standards of scholarship
- Seek to develop engaging content for a diverse professional and general readership
- Have professional experience in historical archaeology and in scholarly publication

Editing *Australasian Historical Archaeology* is an exciting opportunity to help shape the future of historical archaeology in the Asia-Pacific region.

Send Expressions of Interest to:

[secretary@asha.org.au](mailto:secretary@asha.org.au) and [president@asha.org.au](mailto:president@asha.org.au)

## Obituary – John Mulvaney (1925 – 2016)

*Prepared by Iain Stuart*

John Mulvaney was born in 1925 in Yarram in south Gippsland. His father, an Irish emigrant, was a teacher and the family moved around country Victoria, to various schools with the aim of improving education for his children. However higher education was unaffordable, so John trained as a primary school teacher.

In 1943, when John was 18, he joined the RAAF and was sent to Canada for training as part of the Empire Training scheme. He was posted to England but arrived too late to see active service. During his time in England he toured the countryside, visiting various historical places which stimulated his interest in prehistoric archaeology. Demobilised in 1946, as an ex-serviceman he was able to pursue higher education funded by the Government. He enrolled at the University of Melbourne where he studied Roman History. He was therefore one of the group of students enrolled in the Melbourne School of History at the time when it was so influential in the researching and writing of Australian history.

At the University of Melbourne, John Mulvaney was supported by Professor Max Crawford, who appointed him a temporary tutor and he completed a Masters thesis 'State and Society in Britain at the time of Roman conquest' in 1951. Mulvaney's interest in archaeology developed through his undergraduate and thesis work and being an Australian, this inevitably led to consideration of what the archaeological record in Australia might tell about Aboriginal occupation.

To his credit, rather than just starting digging, John Mulvaney recognised that he needed appropriate archaeological training. Therefore he undertook an ANU post-graduate scholarship, which he used for undergraduate studies in prehistory at Cambridge University. There he was taught by Grahame Clark, from which developed his interest in seeing sites in a landscape, and Glenn Daniel, while he learned fieldwork and analysis from Charles McBurney.

Mulvaney returned to Melbourne in 1954 to lecture in history. This mostly involved teaching Greek and Roman history, but also included Pacific prehistory. Mulvaney was able to use his university base to undertake excavations at Fromm's Landing (1957-1959) and then at Glen Aire and at Kenniff Cave. The later excavations demonstrated a deep antiquity for Aboriginal occupation in Australia. In the 1960s he worked in the Northern Territory and in Indonesia.

John Mulvaney was appointed to ANU as a research fellow in 1965. He quickly became involved in the discoveries at Lake Mungo and at Green Gully near Keilor, as well as expanding his research interests to the Indonesian archipelago. Critically he published the *Prehistory of Australia* in 1969 and with Jack Golson edited the papers in *Aboriginal Man and Environment in Australia* (1971). As well his experience in Northern Australia influenced his graduate students, and led to doctoral theses by Jim Allen on Port Essington and Campbell McKnight on the Makassan trepang industry. This was pioneering work in the area of historical archaeology conceived and supported by Mulvaney.

In 1971 John Mulvaney was appointed as the Foundation Chair (i.e. Professor) in Prehistory in the Arts Faculty at the ANU and in the following year he introduced Prehistory 1 as an undergraduate subject. He served as Professor until retirement in 1985.

From the beginning Mulvaney maintained his documentary research practice, producing in 1967 *Cricket Walkabout: The Australian Aboriginal Cricketers on Tour 1867-8*. This was an unusual book for its time being a sporting history written by a trained historian and addressing issues such as racism. It is clear that Mulvaney exercised his historical skills in investigating the early Australian anthropologists, people such as Baldwin-Spencer, A.W. Howitt, Paddy Cahill and others.

Inevitably his seniority in the profession meant that he was called on to be more than a simple researcher. Mulvaney was an executive member of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies in 1964-80 and the chair from 1982-84. Mulvaney was a foundation member of the Australian Heritage Commission in 1976-82, and member of the Committee of Inquiry on Museums and National Collections 1974-75. In these roles John Mulvaney was active in campaigning for the protection of Indigenous and historical heritage such as the Franklin River dam in Tasmania and the protection of First Government House in Sydney. At a more general level, as a Commissioner of the Australian Heritage Commission he later recalled that he was “appalled at the destruction of European cultural properties” and as a result he became influential in ICOMOS in establishing professional standards. Professor Colin Groves has described him as someone “who was never in a bad mood”, however I have seen him quivering with rage at some of the destructive practices used on heritage sites.

It was these activities as a public intellectual that brought Mulvaney into contact with historical archaeology, both as a supporter for better heritage practices (including better archaeological techniques) and for the conservation of particular sites such as First Government House and Recherche Bay. His main legacy for Australian historical archaeology will of course be encouraging Jim Allen to work on Port Essington, a pioneering historical archaeological thesis. A careful review of his works, however, will be of much interest to historical archaeologists in his approach to sites, his ethno-historical research and his emphasis on good field techniques and swift publishing.

### **Sources**

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MULVANEY, D.J. 1989 ‘D.J. Mulvaney’ in G. Daniel and C. Chippindale (eds) 1989 *The Pastmasters: Eleven Modern Pioneers of Archaeology*, Thames and Hudson, London.

MULVANEY, D.J. 1990 *Prehistory and Heritage: The writings of John Mulvaney*, Department of Prehistory R.S.Pac.S., ANU, Canberra.

Rhys Jones Medal for Outstanding Contribution to Australian Archaeology 2004 Emeritus Professor John Mulvaney AO CMG (1925- )  
[http://www.australianarchaeologicalassociation.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/john\\_mulvaney.jpg](http://www.australianarchaeologicalassociation.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/john_mulvaney.jpg)

## **Extent Heritage at WAC-8 Kyoto, Japan**

*Prepared by Anita Yousif*

The Eighth World Archaeological Congress (WAC) was held at Doshisha University in Kyoto, Japan between 28 August and 2 September 2016. A number of Australian archaeologists and heritage practitioners attended the Congress and presented papers on various topics, which were grouped into 15 themes. Extent Heritage was represented by two historical archaeologists: Dr Matthew Kelly and Anita Yousif.

Matthew's presentation titled 'Conflict Landscapes, Indigenous Landscapes and Commemorative Landscapes: A PNG Perspective', was included in the 'World War II in the Pacific Theatre: Multicultural Archaeologies of Conflict' session. His paper explored intersections of conflict and indigenous and commemorative landscapes in World War II Papua New Guinea. Matt's recent archaeological work in PNG has provided further information on the indigenous history and continuing presence of locals in areas of WWII conflict in PNG. His research contributes to the story of the local lives running parallel to the Allied and Japanese actions in the WWII conflict, and extends to the present day where Indigenous people form part of the post-war commemoration of wartime events and manage WWII sites for their values; both to them and to the nations whose soldiers who died there.

Anita's presentation contributed to the session on 'Archaeology and Sustainable Heritage Management under Pressure in the Developed Economies: from Mitigation to Valorisation'. Titled 'Revealing the Past while Building for the Future', the talk focused on opportunities for investigation, conservation and interpretation of important, rare or representative archaeological remains provided by modern development projects. The presentation also addressed issues associated with the preservation of cultural values of a place, management of archaeological relics and the role of community engagement. The talk was illustrated with three case studies from recent works across the Sydney metropolitan area.

WAC-9 will be held in Prague, Czech Republic in 2020.



## Computational Photography and Reflectance Transformation Imaging

*Prepared by Iain Stuart*

In late June 2016, I along with six others, took a course in Reflectance Transformation Imaging offered through the Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material with support from the Gordon Darling Foundation and from the ADFAS Patricia Robertson Scholarship Fund. The course was held in Melbourne, Australia at the Grimwade Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation, University of Melbourne. The course was presented by Carla Schroer and Mark Mudge of Cultural Heritage Imaging (CHI). CHI is a not for profit foundation which aims to drive the development and adoption of practical digital imaging and preservation solutions for all people passionate about saving heritage (not just heritage professionals). CHI's mission is not to carry out this documentation as a consultancy but to train others to do it for themselves. Mark has a background in sculpting, photography and computer graphics, while Carla has a background in computing. Supporting the CHI team were those who took the course: three materials conservators, two professional scientific photographers and two historical archaeologists. As it was a small course we could all pitch in with our own skills and experience and willingness to share, which added so much value to the experience.

The key to understanding the CHI approach is the concept of computational photography, that is: "the computational extraction of relevant information from a sequence of digital photographs which is integrated into new digital representations to yield data not found in the original, individual photographs". The main body of the course taught one method for creating such digital representations - Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI). Before discussing RTI, it is important to consider the need to collect images in an appropriate way suitable to the technique involved. For RTI this involved creating images with digital cameras with automatic functions (such as sharpening and white balance) firmly turned off or set to zero. Images are taken in camera RAW format (a propriety format) and then saved as DNG file format. The DNG format is Adobe's proprietary format but is an open source image standard that was created to store image data in a generic, compatible format. It might be best thought of as the equivalent of the PDF format. It combines both the original RAW image and metadata. Images in whatever format you like can be created from the DNG file and these can be balanced, cropped, rotated etc. CHI, however, are keen to stress that in scientific photography this process needs to be documented so that the process is repeatable by others and so that we can be clear about what the results are (they could, for example, be an artefact of the process and not really in the original image). For this documentation process they are developing the Digital Laboratory Notebook which will help record this information electronically.

RTI is a computational photographic method that captures a subject's surface shape and colour. It uses a fixed camera and in the Dome method uses fixed light projected from different known positions. In the Highlight method the dome is dispensed with and projected from a knowable direction (derived from reflections of spheres in the image). The process produces a series of images of the same subject with varying highlights and shadows enabling the computer to generate an image of the object re-lit from any direction as well as the mathematical enhancement of the subject's surface shape and colour attributes. The result is an image of an

object that reveals information not readily visible to the naked eye or a simple photographic image.

RTI is a research tool for the study of objects. Examples of research shown ranged from simple understanding of what the object was, how it was put together or altered, and what materials were used. Questions about the conservation status of an object can also be examined: is it corroding, exfoliating, has glass disease and so on. Some images of stone tools were shown from a research project looking at the better documentation of use wear and reduction strategies. Pam Forbes and Greg Jackson gave a paper on RTI techniques used at the Quarantine Station in Sydney at the 2015 ASHA Conference in Geelong (see also <http://sydney.edu.au/arts/research/quarantine/stories/innovations.shtml>). They showed examples of their work which covered inscriptions on sandstone objects as well as coins. These would be typical applications for historical archaeology. I also thought of Griffiths' pioneering study on use-wear on historical ceramics, as RTI would be an ideal method for pursuing this sort of work, as it would enable marks to be more visible and generate a data set that would allow systematic investigation of marks and of course be available for other researchers to test the results.

We were thrown into the collecting of photographic data using the Highlight method right at the start. It was great to get hands-on experience with the technique. Taking the photos from set locations while keeping the camera absolutely still and moving the light source (a flash) to set positions required a certain degree of manual dexterity, one that was personally challenging. Initially we were shooting in the horizontal plane and later in the week we shot in the vertical plane which required rethinking of the light locations. Having experienced scientific photographers from the museum context really helped in setting things up and in explaining camera procedure and took some pressure off Mark. I learned so much from simply seeing their workflow and in having someone who I could quietly ask basic camera questions which I should have known but had forgotten.

Moving on from RTI, Carla and Mark presented on Photogrammetry for half a day. Again the emphasis was on the correct image capture procedure which included having properly calibrated scales in the images and taking images with the correct two-thirds overlap at the top and bottom as well as the sides. Careful planning of each capture is required. Many of these points are not readily apparent in the archaeological literature on photogrammetry so even the potted version was immensely beneficial.

At a personal level the course was really inspiring and educational. I came away with a real feel for computational photography methods and the rigour that is required in applying them. Carla and Mark were great educators, knowledgeable and open, as were my fellow participants, Bronwyn, Claire, Craig, Marisa, Nic and Predag, who made the course really enjoyable by each sharing their skills and expertise. More about Cultural Heritage Imaging (CHI) can be found on their website, which also has a forum: <http://culturalheritageimaging.org>.

## **AAA 2016 Conference Registration**

AAA 2016 is hosted by Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council in Terrigal, NSW from 6-8 December 2016 and will consist of 3 full days of papers, presentations, meetings and social events.

Conference Theme - INTERWOVEN: Indigenous and Western knowledge in archaeology and heritage

Indigenous knowledge is increasingly being incorporated into archaeological heritage management practice and research. In this conference we review and examine both theoretical and practical interconnections between Indigenous and Western approaches to archaeological research and practice. The aim is to demonstrate the range of Indigenous and Western co-operation and evaluate successes and challenges. Directions for future collaborations will be welcome.

Registration for the conference is currently open. Discounted early-bird registration will end **30 September**.

The 2016 conference will offer a limited number of subsidies to Indigenous and Student delegates. The scheme aims to encourage greater levels of Indigenous and Student participation in the Conference. Note that non-Indigenous delegates are also eligible to apply on behalf of Indigenous delegates. Applications for the subsidy scheme are open now (application form can be downloaded from AAA website) and the deadline is **30 September**.

Key information including the Program, Keynote Speaker, Accommodation, Venue, Social Events, Photo Competition, Meetings and Travel Advice are also all available on the AAA website.

Please visit the website to register and find out more about the conference,  
<https://www.australianarchaeologicalassociation.com.au/conference/aaa2016-conference/>

# SOCIETY CONTACTS

## 2015–2016 COMMITTEE

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## FORTHCOMING NEWSLETTERS

The ASHA Newsletter is produced quarterly with the assistance of the State Reps. In order to facilitate efficient newsletter production, all contributions should be forwarded to your State Rep (refer to table above for email addresses) by the below dates:

**December issue: 15 November**

This is your newsletter and your contributions are vital. Please check deadlines diligently. Your efficiency will be greatly appreciated. I look forward to your forthcoming news of events.

**Aleisha Buckler**  
General Editor  
ASHA Newsletter

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