



AAA2017 – Session Themes

Across Land and Sea: Perspectives on Prehistoric Cultural Adaptations in Island, Coastal and Highland Settings Across the New Guinea Region

Convenors:

Ben Shaw, The University of New South Wales

Judith Field, The University of New South Wales

Glenn Summerhayes, University of Otago

The island of New Guinea formed the northern extent of the Sahul supercontinent which was colonised by modern humans around 50kya, with neighbouring island regions settled shortly thereafter. New Guinea and Australia therefore have a prehistory that is closely intertwined since these two landmasses were joined for most of human prehistory. Yet, variation in climate and vegetation across the island, coastal and highland settings of the New Guinea region posed unique challenges for long term human settlement. In response to living in these challenging environments, innovative cultural systems developed which is reflected in the archaeological record. This session brings together papers which investigate various aspects of landscape use, technologies and social systems in Pleistocene and Holocene contexts to provide insight into the novel ways in which people adapted to different landscapes in the wider New Guinea region.

Archaeometric Approaches to Ceramic Analysis: Applications, Possibilities, and Limitations

Convenors:

Heather Graybehl, Monash University

Ashten Warfe, Monash University

The application of archaeometric studies to archaeological ceramics is a field of increasing significance in archaeology today, helping pottery specialists answer questions relating to raw material choice and manipulation, production techniques, and patterns of distribution and consumption. Ceramic petrography, along with chemical and microstructural analyses, such as x-ray fluorescence and scanning electron microscopy are among the current leading methods in ceramic analysis, providing the archaeologist with an encompassing set of tools to examine this common artefact type

This session is designed to highlight the spectrum of archaeometric techniques for ceramic analysis

to the Australasian context. While this area of study has remained relatively untapped in Australian archaeology, the broad distribution of Lapita pottery in our region suggests a need to develop local specialisation in the full range of ceramic analyses. The session will present a series of archaeometric studies that draw from diverse global contexts to demonstrate the possibilities for local applications. Attention will be given to the limitations of archaeometric techniques to highlight the real complexities of this field and areas for refinement. It is hoped that this session will facilitate opportunities for networking among Australian archaeologists dealing with ceramic remains.

Australian Indigenous Archaeologists' Present: Our Work, Our Heritage

Convenors:

Dave Johnston, Aboriginal Archaeologists Australia

Adam Magennis, Parks Victoria

Nathan Woolford, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Victoria

This session presents a range of papers presented by Indigenous archaeologists, cultural heritage officers, community members and researchers with community affiliations. The papers examine a number of emerging issues in Australian Indigenous archaeology and heritage relevant to our Indigenous communities.

Between the Desert and the Sea: Northwestern Archaeological Transitions from Deep Time to the Present

Convenors:

Alistair Paterson, The University of Western Australia

Jo McDonald, The University of Western Australia

Peter Veth, The University of Western Australia

Sam Harper, The University of Western Australia

North-western Australia provides the optimal frame to understand human transitions and connections over time. Current research is significantly re-envisaging the archaeology of human colonisation, Pleistocene lifeways, Holocene complexity and adaptability, and the veracities of the colonial world. Archaeological projects across the Kimberley and Pilbara encompass offshore and proximal islands, and the coastal zone through to desert interiors. Strong inter-disciplinary connections and knowledge sharing between researchers in Archaeology, other fields, and communities characterise many projects. As human transitions occurred in changing environments this session considers the evidence for humans uses of ecosystems, land and seascapes, ancient and current coastlines, and now submerged landmasses.

This session profiles indigenous archaeology, rock art, historical archaeology, and different scientific approaches around how the archaeological signature of hunter-gatherer-fisher peoples' connections to country can be seen to have transitioned through time.

Budj Bim Cultural Landscape: Gunditjmara Values and World Heritage

Convenor:

Anita Smith, La Trobe University

In this panel session members of Gunditjmara community and research partners will discuss the aims and progress in the development of a World Heritage nomination for the Budj Bim Cultural Landscape, south west Victoria.

CAA Australasia: Archaeology Through Multiple Lenses

Convenors:

Kelsey Lowe, University of Southern Queensland

Gail Higgenbottom, Australian National University

Aaron Fogel, Griffith University

Ian Johnson, University of Sydney

Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology (CAA) is a long-running international organisation aimed to bring archaeology, computer science, geoscience and other technical disciplines together to encourage cross-disciplinary communication. The conversation benefits practitioners, researchers and Indigenous groups alike, enabling twenty-first-century archaeology to be viewed through multiple lenses. Specific areas of interest in CAA include data acquisition and recording, modelling, data analysis and management, 3D data capture and reconstruction, image visualisation, geophysics and geographic information systems (GIS). When such techniques are used jointly with traditional archaeological methods, they provide a more detailed picture for investigating, understanding, managing archaeological sites and landscapes.

CAA Australasia, our supra-national Chapter, is working to promote this cross-disciplinary conversation in Australia and New Zealand through the organisation of workshops and conference sessions. This session invites papers to explore current developments and advances in computer and quantitative methods, particularly multi-disciplinary work which highlights the benefits of incorporating other sciences into the discipline and addresses possible trajectories of future work.

Connecting 'Islands of Data': Integrating Evidence of Early Humans in Southeast Asia

Convenors:

Mike Morley, University of Wollongong

Richard Fullagar, University of Wollongong

Susan Luong, University of Wollongong

Linda Prinsloo, University of Wollongong

Richard 'Bert' Roberts, University of Wollongong

The colonisation of Southeast Asia and Australia by archaic and modern humans during the Late Pleistocene (~120–14 ka; MIS5–2) remains a hot topic. Recent fossil discoveries and advances in palaeogenetics have highlighted the region as a melting pot of Pleistocene immigration, emigration and interbreeding. This chapter in the evolution of our species is proving—perhaps not surprisingly—to be an astonishingly complex story. However, the archaeology of early humans in Mainland and Island Southeast Asia includes disparate data sets, e.g. geomorphological, biological, chemical and artefactual. This session will present recent studies that have tried to bridge and connect these 'islands of data', to tease out the maximum amount of information from archaeological material and sedimentary sequences by deploying systematic and complementary analyses of sediments, stones and bones.

We particularly welcome papers that showcase novel archaeological science techniques and applications to understanding the drivers, mode and tempo of the peopling of this region.

Digital Provocations: 'Deep Digital Practice' in Australian and International Archaeology

Convenors:

Shawn Ross, Macquarie University

Adela Sobotkova, Macquarie University

Brian Ballsun-Stanton, Macquarie University

Robert Haupt, Macquarie University

Petra Janouchova, Macquarie University

Recent publications have argued that digital practice is transforming archaeology in new and fundamental ways - and imply that responsible archaeological research depends upon, or precludes, the use of certain technologies. Arguments have been made that archaeologists should record every excavation context volumetrically (e.g., using photogrammetry), that they abandon the use of common commercial software (e.g., Excel or ARCGIS) and conduct all analyses using open programming languages, or that they should publish all data and other 'digital research objects' openly. Conversely, others have argued that digital archaeology results in 'deskilling' (the loss of expertise in 'traditional' fieldwork activities like technical drawing or photography), or that use of technology to improve 'efficiency' should be rejected for a more reflective 'slow archaeology'. This session, organised by the Field Acquired Information Management Systems (FAIMS) Project, explores how technology is transforming archaeological research in Australia today. It asks what digital 'good practice' is in Australia, how prepared Australian archaeologists are to meet the challenges of the (next) digital transition, and how the Australian research community should engage with international developments. How is the digital revolution changing your research?

Encountering and Responding to the Archaeological Record: Affectual, Relational and Cultural Understandings in Contemporary Indigenous Settings that Challenge Metanarratives

Convenors:

Daniel James, Monash University

Liam Brady, Monash University

Annie Ross, The University of Queensland

Dee Gorrington, The University of Queensland

Leonie Coghill, The Queensland Museum

Anna Weisse, The University of Queensland

Postmodern approaches to archaeology and cultural heritage management identify the significance of multivocality in narrating the past. In Indigenous Australia, this includes both Western and Indigenous-based approaches to understanding people's connections to Country, place and objects - connections that transcend across time and space. Yet there is still resistance by some archaeologists and heritage practitioners to any interpretations of the past that are not based in rigorous scientific data informed by archaeological discovery. An often-overlooked dimension of archaeology in Indigenous contexts is the way people engage and interact with sites and cultural materials today. Over the last decade, ideas of affect and emotion have been growing rapidly as a framework to better understand aspects of human behaviour including the present-day relationships Indigenous people have to archaeological sites and the cultural materials they contain, and the ways in which those relationships construct and maintain contemporary identity.

In this session we highlight research that addresses the advantages and challenges that can result from the incorporation of Indigenous knowledge into the development of narratives of the material and intangible remains of the past. We encourage a multidisciplinary conversation involving archaeologists, anthropologists, linguists, Traditional Owners etc. to consider and explore the nature of the encounters, reactions, and responses people have to archaeological sites and cultural materials. By doing so we hope to improve our awareness of the agency and affect of archaeological features and better understand the social and cultural significance these sites hold for people today. This session will explore the intersection of knowledge that results from collaborative research that valorises a multivocal approach to understanding heritage, thereby providing opportunities for archaeologists and Aboriginal knowledge holders to work together to transcend the 'islands of knowledge' that may be created by isolating different knowledge voices.

Experimental Archaeology: A Global Perspective

Convenors:

Rhiannon Stammers, La Trobe University

Matthew Meredith-Williams, La Trobe University

Jillian Garvey, La Trobe University

Globally, Experimental Archaeology is an integral tool for supporting interpretation of the record - both theoretically and practically. Creating modern analogies are essential for forming baseline datasets against which to test hypotheses on formation. From understanding stone tool production sequences to the reconstruction of historic architecture, experimental archaeology has broad and far reaching application.

This session invites papers on all aspects of experimental archaeology without geographic restriction, including papers on scientific procedures, methodological and theoretical aspects.

Experiments and Cultural Practice: The World of Australian Experimental and Experiential Archaeology

Convenors:

Fiona Hook, University of Western Australia

Bec Parkes, Lantern Heritage

Alice Mora, La Trobe University

Darren Griffin, Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation

From the laboratory to the field, from intangible to tangible, from hypothesis to proof of concept, from traditions and evidence to shared knowledge: what is the role of experimental archaeology in Australia?

This session aims to showcase Australian experimental archaeology and Traditional practices, and provide a forum for discussing the scientific and cultural significance of experiments and experiences. Papers will also explore why experimental archaeology has not been widely practiced in Australia. It will present experimentations and practices of cultural revival concerning both tangible and intangible heritage, covering studies ranging from Aboriginal shell beads from the terminal Pleistocene, to the effects of trampling within sites, through to the taste of the beer that filled the bottles found within historical archaeological sites, as well as traditional performances and craftsmanship. Papers will also explore how Traditional Owners have embraced experimental

archaeology as an integral part of collaborative research projects with academics, developers, land managers and commercial archaeologists. These projects combine elements of experimental archaeology, intangible heritage recording and the revitalisation of cultural practices and connections.

This session will also include 'hands-on' participation.

Exploring Maritime and Riverine Mobility

Convenors:

Louise Hitchcock, The University of Melbourne

Ina Berg, The University of Manchester

This session wishes to investigate maritime and riverine mobility from prehistory to the modern day. We welcome papers on any aspect of the journey across the sea or along rivers, from the spiritual or material preparation of the journey, the departure, to the journey itself, and finally the arrival at the destination. Papers must have at their heart an investigation into social aspects of a group's or individual's engagement with the sea or river and make an attempt to theorise and problematize mobility and/or the sea/river environment. Theoretical approaches might, for example, include entanglements, actor-network theory, assemblage theory, seascapes, riverscapes, etc. A wide range of topics fit within this session. They might cover issues as diverse as gateway cities, trade routes, cultural material connections, professional or lay mobility, and cultural perceptions of the sea.

From the Desert to the Sea: The Role of Zooarchaeology in Understanding Human Behaviour and the Environment

Convenors:

Jillian Garvey, La Trobe University

Sofia Samper Carro, Australian National University

Rebecca Jones, Australian National University

Carly Monks, University of Western Australia

This session is part of a special zooarchaeology symposium aimed at exploring interactions between people and animals in Australian archaeology, and beyond. Following the general conference theme of Island to inland it is aimed at integrating research from different time periods, regions and research lines. We invite contributions on all aspects of vertebrate and invertebrate fauna including subsistence, seasonality, domestication, dietary, experimental, quantification, genetics and extinctions.

Highways of Culture: Linear Infrastructure and Cultural Heritage

Convenor:

Tanja Harding, Department of Transport and Main Roads

Robyn Jenkins, Department of Transport and Main Roads

Throughout Australia, linear infrastructure connects people to places from islands to inland. There is a wide range of linear infrastructure across the country connected to road, rail, power, mineral resources and communication. The cultural heritage values associated with this linear infrastructure

is immense and varied, and can play an active role in heritage identification, preservation and re-connection to country. It has long been suggested, and in many cases confirmed, that many of the countries road and rail alignments follow pre-existing Aboriginal pathways indicating that there are many layers of heritage associated with this forms of linear infrastructure. These heritage values incorporate not only Aboriginal heritage values, but also historic heritage values, and many combinations in between.

The purpose of this session is to discuss the cultural heritage connections which have been identified and associated with linear infrastructure, and how these can be incorporated into an understanding of the landscape and reconnecting people with histories that have been 'lost' through the process of continued development. In the case of Aboriginal heritage values, how can these sites be used to facilitate further connection to country.

History of Archaeology in South Asia

Convenors:

Bishnupriya Basak, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, India

Supriya Varma, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

The practice of archaeology in South Asia has been largely engaged in material culture studies, dominated by artefacts, settlements and monuments. Inquiries into the different trajectories of its development have received less attention. However, in recent years a small group of scholarship has grown, actively pursuing research in various aspects of emergence of the discipline and its role in the construction of the sub-continent's past. They have gone beyond a mere chronicling of different stages of its history to probe into the colonial project of documenting, preserving and conserving the past as part of imperial custodianship.

Others have made significant departures in understanding a different set of questions—how the aura of relics of art and archaeology gripped the colonial, national and vernacular imagination and the intricacies involved in 'the practices of the production of lost pasts'; how a 'scientific' archaeology in a post-independent context was defined and configured, situating this in the political and intellectual scenario of a nascent state. There have been a few enlightening studies on vernacular and indigenous initiatives, bringing into question the straight jacketing of labels like 'colonial', 'national', and 'vernacular.' Still there are other issues which need to be addressed to, and will be taken up.

In Search of Connections: The History of Ideas on Australia's Links with the Indo-Pacific Region (and Beyond)

Convenors:

Michelle Richards, Australian National University

Andrea Ballesteros Danel, Australian National University

Eve Haddow, Australian National University

Emilie Dotte-Sarout, Australian National University

The history of archaeology is marked by ideas of transcontinental and transoceanic connections, contacts, diffusion and migrations. In the 19th century, these had a particular impact in the regions of the world newly 'discovered' by Europeans. The period saw the establishment of colonial archaeologies as people questioned the 'prehistory of others', initially through an evolutionary

framework. Australia was subject to many connectivity and migration theories, ranging from submerged land bridges to surrounding islands, ancient migrations between the Indo-Pacific at large, and links to American or African continents. Archaeology with linguistics, ethnography, physical and cultural anthropology, art, and material culture studies were used to argue for past connections to more or less distant populations and cultures.

This session contextualises how such theories developed historically and changed over time in light of new scientific approaches and new evidence. We evaluate the development of ideas of ancient links to the surrounding island regions, and how these endured or vanished over time. Also, we consider the significant influence of inter-regional relations between scholars on Australian and Indo-Pacific archaeology

Incarcerating Aboriginal People: Community Perspectives and Internment Archaeology

Convenors:

Jade Pervan, BHP

Alistair Patterson, The University of Western Australia

During the nineteenth and twentieth centuries many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were removed from their homelands and interned in medical and government facilities. Within these systems of racially-based removal and incarceration, people were often interned for years and deprived of certain liberties and decision-making powers. These places and practices led to the dislocation of generations of people from their families, communities and country, and were part of a pattern of events and policies that served to interrupt people's ability to care for country and to undertake cultural practices and responsibilities. Although these practices were largely portrayed at the time as benevolent humanitarian interventions, instead they caused physical, social, emotional, cultural and spiritual loss to the individuals directly affected and their decedents. In addition, many sites and objects associated with these activities, particular burial areas and Aboriginal stories remain unrecorded and even hidden. Community members and researchers want preservation, protection and acknowledgement of these sites, associated cultural artefacts and stories. This session provides an opportunity to hear about these histories direct from researchers and community members, with a view to inform future policy and community-driven research.

Indigenous Engagement in Warfare and Conflict in Australia, Asia and the Pacific

Convenors:

Mirani Litster, Australian National University

Daryl Wesley, Flinders University

This session aims to explore the archaeological evidence for Indigenous engagement in conflict, including inter- and intra-group conflict, and also 'Total War' (World War I and II) in Australia, Asia and the Pacific. Archaeological examples can be elusive, with studies of conflict often thought to be associated with palaeopathology, whereas other lines of evidence provide alternative insights and perspectives. Such engagements with conflict can refer to both observation and participation, for example rock art images in the Northern Territory of naval ships and aircraft informs us on Indigenous perspectives of the events of World War II in the Australasian-Pacific region. Other engagements can result in material traces such as occupation sites, conflict sites, defensive features, and cultural landscapes - the study of which will result in an expanded understanding of the Indigenous experience of conflict.

Palaeoecology and Archaeology of Temperate and Tropical Australian Islands

Convenors:

Patrick Moss, The University of Queensland

Sean Ulm, James Cook University

Craig Sloss, Queensland University of Technology

Islands are unique environments that are significantly impacted by Quaternary sea-level and climate change. The popular notion of islands as inherently isolated, restricted and bounded units has considerably influenced the development of research within the biological and anthropological sciences over the centuries. The study of environmental and archaeological change on islands across Australia over the Late Quaternary may provide a unique picture of ecosystems and societies that have been disconnected and dramatically impacted by sea-level change. Islands often act as refugia for communities or species that have been lost from the mainland and their connectivity or lack of connection is a major issue. This session will provide insights into Late Quaternary environmental and cultural changes from a range of island environments across temperate and tropical Australia using a range of indicators. Issues to be explored include the development of unique island ecosystems; the extent to which the environmental constraints imposed by islands influenced the development of past societies and their management of limited resources in order to sustain complex societies over millennia; and the ways in which expanding human populations may have affected these apparently fragile environments.

Pilbara Paradise from the Holocene to the Pleistocene

Convenor:

Annabelle Davis, Rio Tinto

Archaeological surveys and excavations conducted for cultural resource management purposes in the Pilbara have presented the unique opportunity to better understand connections between the desert and the sea.

Recent archaeological work in the region has resulted in a number of unique discoveries that have resulted in new interpretations of the Pilbara archaeological record. This session invites papers that provide an insight into the Pilbara past with a particular emphasis on the influence of environmental and cultural factors on change and connections through time.

Results of Recent Excavations at Madjedbebe

Convenor:

Chris Clarkson, University of Queensland

This session will explore the archaeology, chronology and recent spectacular finds from Australia's oldest known site of Madjedbebe, located on Mirarr Country in the Kakadu region of western Arnhem Land. The session will explore the implications of recent research for understanding early Aboriginal societies, art and technology, the colonisation of Sahul, and long-term change and continuity.

Rock Art Science in Northern Australia

Convenors:

Helen Green, The University of Melbourne

Damien Finch, The University of Melbourne

Rock art science enables the investigation of a great variety of rock art aspects by a multitude of methods. This discipline has become particularly prevalent in the last decade as the increasing adaptations of technology have advanced an increasingly productive relationship between art and science. Continuing improvements across a spectrum of micro-analytical techniques have facilitated a detailed understanding of both the wider landscapes and the specific site geomorphologies hosting rock art. Comprehensive assessment of geochemical processes modifying rock surfaces upon which art is found, provide opportunities to assess radiogenic dating prospects on rock art associated materials. The development of detailed geochronological frameworks for rock art in areas such as Northern Australia, where there is a paucity of dating information, is based on quantitative application of these improved isotopic and dating methods. The improvements in in-situ pigment, mineralogical and geomicrobiological analyses also enhance our understanding of rock art and can be used to advise heritage and conservation schemes, as well as foster Indigenous engagement. Rock art science is an increasingly versatile field and its application to the world class heritage found in Northern Australia promises to continue to produce data sets of global importance.

Stable Isotopes in Archaeology: Understanding Environments, Subsistence and Landscape Connections

Convenors:

Amy Prendergast, The University of Melbourne

Georgia Roberts, Federation University

Isotope analyses in archaeology have forged new pathways for interpreting the past. From understanding ancient diets, migration, and trade to reconstructing patterns of climate and seasonality. The sheer range of materials preserved in archaeological sites that can be studied using stable isotopes (including shells, soils, otoliths, bones, teeth, pottery, metals, glass, and plants) as well as recent technological advances in instrumentation have led to important and innovative new ways to understand the archaeological record. These records range from the coasts to inland, and from molecular to regional scales. This session invites presentations on any application of stable isotope analysis to the Australasian archaeological record.

Technology, Subsistence and Land Use 42 Degrees South: The Archaeology of Late Quaternary Tasmania

Convenors:

Fleur King, La Trobe University

Emmy Frost, La Trobe University

When humans first entered Sahul they reached the southern-most latitudes by 40,000 years BP in the glaciated highlands of Tasmania. From wallaby and wombat hunters to coastal foragers, people have exploited Tasmania's diverse landscape through changing climate regimes from the late Pleistocene to the warmer Holocene period. At the end of the Last Glacial Maximum, rising sea levels flooded the Bassian Plain and formed the island of Tasmania and its archipelagos. Since the first

systematic excavations by Rhys Jones in the 1960s, followed by major discoveries of the 1980s and 1990s, archaeological research in Tasmania has revealed systematic land use, seasonal mobility and demographic variability in eastern and western bioregions. Economic specialisation in these regions is evident in the stone technology, available resources and subsistence practices. This session will discuss how people linked their activities across landscape and through time focusing on their social and economic interactions.

The Consulting Archaeology Session

Convenor:

Diana Neuweger, Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists Inc

The Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists Inc (AACAI) session for our members and other heritage consultants to provide papers that demonstrate new research, new findings and case studies related to the commercial heritage industry.

The Flora Connection: Archaeobotany and the Exploration of Human-Plant Relationships Across Time and Space

Convenors:

India Ella Dilkes-Hall, The University of Western Australia

Stephanie Florin, The University of Queensland

Tim Denham, Australian National University

Emilie Dotte, Australian National University

Developed botanical knowledge is argued to have been an important part of the colonising repertoire for all human migration movements, including the journey through Wallacea to Sahul. In the ethnographic present, in most parts of the world, plants make up a major component of human dietary and material resources, while also assuming essential sociocultural and ritual functions. In Australia plant foods and plant-based technologies, including string production and other fibre crafts, tools, weapons, watercraft, resin, shelter, and other artefacts made from plant materials form a central component to Aboriginal economic systems. The archaeobotanical record provides tangible evidence of human-plant relationships and offers important information on palaeoenvironment directly associated to past human occupations. Diverse environments encountered, from island to inland, present questions on reorganisation of subsistence strategies and innovation of technological adaptations. These questions can be successfully addressed by archaeobotanical enquiry on both micro- and macro-scales. This session invites papers that explore human-plant relationships across time and space, from colonisation by the First Australians of Sahul to the current role of archaeobotany in Australian archaeology.

The History of Rock Art Research on Australia and Beyond

Convenors:

Jamie Hampson, The University of Western Australia

Jo McDonald, The University of Western Australia

Jordan Ralph, Flinders University

Broad world histories of archaeology often overlook the systematic study of rock art. Some synopses devote two or three pages to rock art studies; others do not mention rock art at all.

Implicit theoretical biases within the discipline have led to the privileging of stratigraphic excavation and dateable sequences in describing the history of archaeology. Ironically echoing the famous notion that 'American archaeology is anthropology or it is nothing' (Willey & Phillips 1958: 2), the implication in these histories is that without stratigraphy, archaeology is nothing.

Rock art researchers have in fact successfully married data collection with theory for many years, and the last decade has seen increasing success in dating – and gaining chronological control over – rock art. Indeed, some researchers were pioneers in defining the intellectual concepts and frameworks that are still used in cognitive, heuristic, and problem-oriented research today – especially in Australia. We do not claim that there is a neat evolutionary tale running through the history of rock art research. In this session, however, we invite speakers to demonstrate how rock art research has built a new discourse that enriches approaches based primarily on lithic analysis and other conventional data sources, in Australia and elsewhere.

The Willandra Lakes and Models of Continental Colonisation

Convenors:

Elizabeth Foley, La Trobe University

Rebekah Kurpiel, La Trobe University

Nicola Stern, La Trobe University

The Willandra Lakes lie on the southeast edge of Australia's arid core, 500 km from the continent's southern coastline and yet for decades, have been renowned for their preservation of some of the earliest archaeological traces on the continent. The lunettes which bound the eastern margins of the lakes preserves a long record of changing hydrologic conditions that can be tied into regional and global shifts in climate, as well as a remarkable array of archaeological traces with the potential to provide insights into the changes in diet and foraging strategies, technologies and social networks that have taken place since the area was first settled, more than 45,000 years ago. Recent research provides a springboard for investigating how our burgeoning understanding of the history of human settlement in the Willandra Lakes region bears on current models for the colonisation of the continent.

Transforming our Understanding of Australia's Indigenous Heritage and Environmental Past

Convenors:

Sean Ulm, James Cook University

Richard 'Bert' Roberts, University of Wollongong

Amanda Lawson, University of Wollongong

The ARC Centre of Excellence for Australian Biodiversity and Heritage (CABAH) was launched in mid-2017 and will operate for the next 7 years. The Centre hosts an innovative, interdisciplinary program of research to track the natural and human history of Australia, Papua New Guinea and eastern Indonesia, and examine the processes responsible for these changes to inform our understanding of how Australia and our nearest northern neighbours can adapt to future environmental changes. The Centre creates a new and genuinely transdisciplinary research environment by linking, from the ground up, researchers from science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines with scholars from the humanities, arts and social sciences (HASS). In this session we outline our agenda to transform our understanding of Australia's Indigenous heritage and environmental past

and how we plan to connect a new generation of researchers with the range of skills needed to traverse the interface between STEM and HASS disciplines.

Up Goer Five Archaeology Edition: Communicating Archaeology using English's Ten Hundred Most Common Words

Convenors:

Michael Westaway, Griffith University

Julien Louys, Griffith University

Archaeology in Australia continues to suffer something of an identity crisis with the broader public often considering dinosaurs and pyramids as a core part of our research focus. A major challenge continues to be the effective dissemination and communication of research results to diverse audiences. The record that we study holds enormous potential to motivate change and encourage greater human understanding of the past. Certainly there are many important examples of how we can communicate archaeological findings more effectively to the public, the 2017 revival of National Archaeology Week is one example. We must, however, continue to find ways to communicate complex concepts, raise awareness of important heritage issues and explain research findings to non-specialists. This includes convincing funding bodies and those that write public policy as to the importance of archaeology. In this session all participants have agreed to describe their research using only the top 1,000 most common words in the English language. Known as the 'Up Goer Five Challenge', this session will be followed by a moderated discussion about the important role of language in the communication of archaeology.