Mirani Lister and Daryl Wesley presented their completed research project on contact bead assemblages from the Wellington Range at the annual 2013 Australian Archaeology Association Conference, titled “The significance of contact beads in the Wellington Range, Arnhem Land”. The paper attracted media attention from ABC Science Online with an interview that resulted in the following online article “Bead currency used in Australia’s first export industry”. The news story has since been reported extensively in social media and has also appeared on the Archaeology Magazine online news website. Mirani and Daryl reported on the results of their research on 30 beads found at five Indigenous - archaeological sites in the Wellington Range near the Anurru Bay Macassan trepang processing site. Using multiple lines of evidence such as the history of trade in Island South East Asia, extensive searches of ethnographic resources, museum collections, investigating bead production history and identification, as well as the archaeological context of the beads found in the rockshelters; Mirani and Daryl demonstrated that beads were incorporated into Indigenous Arnhem Land society before Europeans colonised the Northern Territory. Beads continued to be important in the production of various items of Indigenous material culture through to the early-mid 20th Century.

Recent Awards

**Daryl Wesley wins the AAA Bruce Veitch Award for Excellence in Indigenous Engagement**

Daryl Wesley was awarded the 2013 Australian Archaeology Association Bruce Veitch Award for Excellence in Indigenous Engagement for his commitment to working collaboratively with Indigenous communities in northern Australia. The Award notably mentioned the work by Daryl during his time with the Department for the long negotiation process with Ronald Lamilami, Namundjuk Estate, to access and investigate the highly significant Djulirri Complex (seen in the First Footprints documentary) and Macassan Anuru Bay site, and also bringing together a wide community of specialists (including ANH) to engage with the traditional owners. The Award also recognised Daryl’s George Chaloupka Fellowship which involved assisting the Manilakarr Clan in assessing the fire damaged Urmanning (Red Lily Dreaming) rock art precinct that also included the participation of researchers from ANH.

An extract of the Award description is below and full details of the Award can be found at: [http://www.australianarchaeology.com/awards/the-bruce-veitch-award/](http://www.australianarchaeology.com/awards/the-bruce-veitch-award/)

**Tristen Jones wins George Chaloupka Fellowship**

ANH PhD candidate Tristen Jones has recently been awarded the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory’s George Chaloupka Fellowship. The Fellowship was awarded to Miss Jones in order to undertake a museum collections digitisation and repatriation project of Chaloupka photographic material held by the Museum to the Traditional Owners of the East Alligator Rivers area. Miss Jones was awarded the Fellowship in early November at the annual George Chaloupka Lecture held at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory. The prestigious award, worth $28,000, funded by the Museum’s Foundation and Energy Resources Australia, will enable Tristen to undertake research into the collections in the Museum and undertake fieldwork, which will supplement her doctoral research investigating rock art styles and antiquity in the East Alligator River region. The George Chaloupka Fellowship was developed in honour of Rock Art Historian, the late Emeritus Curator Dr. George Chaloupka OAM FAHA, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, with support from the Museum’s Foundation. The Fellowship aims to promote and support research and conservation of Aboriginal rock art located in Arnhem Land Plateau region in the Northern Territory of Australia.

The online articles can be found at:

- [http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2013/12/06/3905030.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2013/12/06/3905030.htm)
Population change in the Southern Kimberley Over 50,000 Years: A Re-evaluation of the Models

Presented by Prof. Sue O'Connor

Presented on behalf of authors Sue O'Connor, Jane Balme and Rachel Wood; this paper re-evaluated models for settlement in the Kimberley in the light of new data and radiocarbon dates from the cave and shelter sites Carpenter's Gap 1, 3 and Riwi. These new dates support first occupation of the region by ~47,000 calBP but fail to provide resolution of the issue of continuity of occupation during the Last Glacial Maximum. Results from Carpenter's Gap 3 are now in press in Australian Archaeology and should be published in 2014.

The poor cousin? New Dates from Earth Mounds in North Queensland

Presented by Dr. Sally Brockwell

Presented on behalf of authors Sally Brockwell, Billy Ó Foghlú, Jack Fenner, Janelle Stevenson, Ulrike Proske and Justin Shiner; this paper described archaeological work in the Weipa region in Cape York, over the past few years that revealed the existence of numerous earth mound sites found in association with large anadara shell mounds. Dating has shown that these mounds are a late Holocene phenomenon generally younger than their more famous shell cousins. They have been occupied mostly from 2000 years BP until the recent past and appear to represent a cultural response to changing environmental conditions on the floodplains of the Embley River. Today they are located on the edge of small freshwater floodplains adjacent to salt mudflats and mangroves. They are similar to earth mounds found in the Northern Territory which date to the same period.

Modelling Past Landscape Interactions in the Kimberley Using GIS

Presented by Josue Gomez

This paper drew on recent survey and excavation data to identify patterns of resource use in sites of early human occupation in the south Kimberley area. By availing of a landscape approach, it was possible to analyse the correlations between these patterns and environmental changes throughout the time of this occupation. A series of GIS analyses were applied as tools for modelling human-environment interactions in a model that incorporates a set of behavioural variables and relations in an attempt to recognise areas of high probability for human activity in the landscape. The data from all sites were incorporated into one spatial database from which patterns of landscape use could be recognised and modelled, to aid and add to the understanding of human-environment interactions beyond the single site scale.
Did the People of the Wellington Range Care About ENSO?

**Presented by Daryl Wesley**

In addition to the paper covered on Page 1, Daryl also presented a paper that detailed the excavations at Bald Rock, which have revealed an archaeological sequence spanning from the LGM through to the mid 20th Century. Though the site’s setting is consistent with other Arnhem Land sites in relation to size, depth, proximity to major river systems, etcetera; the evidence from Bald Rock does not reproduce the archaeological sequences typical of other sites. Uniform grinding and pounding technologies represented a period of 22,000 years, and sediment analysis indicates site deposition was largely anthropogenic. This paper highlighted that differences in the Bald Rock record need to be reconciled with the wider scheme of human occupation in the region and that further discussion is warranted about the validity of large scale regional models for Indigenous occupation across Arnhem Land.

Antler Projectile Weaponry and Negotiating Late Pleistocene Social Landscapes: A magdalenian Case Study

**Presented by Michelle Claire Langley**

This paper dealt with the projectile points (manufactured from antler, bone, ivory and horn) of Pleistocene hunter-gatherers and focused on the identification of maintenance and discard patterns for Middle to Late Magdalenian antler projectile points to provide insights into how this technology was used to negotiate Magdalenian social landscapes and discussed a re-interpretation of an intensively studied Magdalenian site, how the use of barbed weapons technology served in information exchange and how the distribution of rare marine materials had implications on social networks.

You’re That Guy! Reflections from Running SoutheastAsianArchaeology.com

**Presented by Noel Tan**

Noel’s presentation detailed his experiences of running the Southeast Asian Archaeology Newsblog, his self-hosted, Wordpress-based blog that posts news related to the archaeology of Southeast Asia to the wider world. In his talk he covered how the blog works, who his readers are, how he reaches out to them, and how his interactions translate over to the real world. The advantages of his work include fame and fortune and networking opportunities, and the disadvantages, which also include fame and fortune, distinguishing between multiple online identities and spending too much time online. His presentation offered a part-guide, part-cautionary tale for would-be archaeobloggers about setting up a larger online presence.

Noel’s photographs also received two honourable mentions for the AAA photo competition.

(Pictured right: A Buddhist stupa erected in one of the chambers of Padalin Cave 2 in Burma (Myanmar). The Padalin Caves are the only prehistoric sites in Myanmar that have been excavated, dating to the Upper Palaeolithic and contain numerous stone tools and rock art.
(Pictured left: Burmese youths enjoying a swim at the U Bein Bridge in Mandalay. The 1.2km bridge is the longest and oldest teak bridge in the world, spanning the Thaungthaman Lake and providing access to the ancient capital of Amarapura.)
Presenting on Thai Archaeology at the Buddhadasa Indapanno Centre, Bangkok

On the 1st November, Judith Cameron presented a paper on her latest research findings at a forum on Thai archaeology at the Buddhadasa Indapanno Centre in Bangkok. The two other barefoot speakers shown in the photograph were Brigitte Borell-Seidell (Germany) and Ian Glover (United Kingdom). The speakers examined the artefacts in the Centre’s Archives and were presented with replicas of the glass artefacts from Ban Don Ta Phet.

At the invitation of the SEALINKS Project, Judith Cameron then presented a paper on the introduction of cotton to Southeast Asia at the Proto-globalization Conference, Jesus College, Oxford University, November 7-11, 2013.

(Pictured: Ian Glover, Brigitte Borell-Seidell and Judith Cameron)

Recent Publications


A four day workshop was held at the Kioloa Coastal Campus in mid November that was designed to tackle some critical issues in Australian palaeoecology. The group, NAP1000 (Northern Australian Palaeoecology of the last 1000 years), consisted mostly of palaeoecological researchers who had worked in the northern Australian region. Foremost in our minds was the question of “What is causing the expansion of woody vegetation across northern Australia during the second half of the 20th century?” Current hypotheses include i) a release from an anthropogenic fire regime after the colonisation of indigenous populations, ii) increased rainfall and iii) increased CO2. Discussions ranged widely from the state of the environment prior to European settlement to shifting baselines and rates of environmental change over the last 1000 years. We were fortunate that we could bring some international expertise into the group through the contributions of Prof Mark Bush (Florida Institute of Technology), who has worked on similar issues in the Amazonian and Andean region. The workshop gave people time to collate and analyse pollen and charcoal data from sites across northern Australia (~30 pollen and charcoal sites) and we are working towards a publication of the outcomes in 2014. I would highly recommend utilising the facilities that ANU has at the coast as the site is such a great place to escape the city environment and focus in on a key issue without distraction. I would also like to acknowledge the generous funding support we received from the new Centre for Biodiversity Analysis at ANU.

(Pictured above: Visitors to Kioloa workshop [L-R]: Richard Corlett (), Donald Walker (past Head of Dept. Biogeography and Geomorphology at ANU), Mark Bush (Florida Institute of Technology); Below: Workshop Participants [L-R]: Geoff Hope (ANU), Mark Bush (Florida Institute of Technology), Matthew Prebble (ANU), Simon Haberle (ANU), Simon Connor (Monash University), Patrick Moss (University of Queensland), Cassandra Rowe (Monash University), Kristen Williams (CBIRO), Ulrike Proske (ANU), Janelle Stevenson (ANU), Peter Kerahaw (Monash University). Absent: Jon Luly (James Cook University)

**Congratulations**

**New Ph.D candidates:**
Everyone at A.N.H would like to warmly welcome our newest Ph.D candidates: Elena Piotto, Lotty Feakins and Norma Richardson.

**Promotions:**
Dr Sally Brockwell and Dr Hsiao-chun Hung have were both promoted to Level C in the last CAP promotion round. ANH warmly congratulated them on their well deserved success.

**Ph.D Submission:**
Congratulations to Juliette Harrington for the submission of her Ph.D. Juliette’s dissertation topic is “Holocene sea-level change across the Indo-Pacific: A new theory with implications for low-lying islands and coastal communities, ancient seafaring and maritime migration.”
Dr Brockwell and Prof. O’Connor have recently published the results of a 3 year ARC Linkage project with partner Organisation NSW DEC through ANU E Press. This Terra Australis is available online now at:


Additionally, Terra-Australis No. 37, 38, 39 and 40 will be coming out shortly.

Terra Australis 36: Transcending the Culture-Nature Divide in Cultural Heritage: Views from the Asia-Pacific Region

This year Ella Ussher avoided hibernating over winter and instead hit the trails around the ACT and NSW to compete in endurance horse riding. The sport involves strategic conditioning of horses, usually Arabians, to travel fast over long distances of up to 160km in a single day. Ella leased a Part-Arab called Perry for the year, and had to start from scratch to get him fit and ready for an 80km ride. She started by taking him in a number of official training rides of 40km at Bumbaldry, Woodstock, and Bumbaldry again in NSW, and then a 50km ride at Brookvale in the Brindabellas. To complete the ride, the horse has to pass a final vet check where they test the heart-rate, hydration levels and physical condition of the horse. Perry passed all of these with flying colours, proving how fit he was getting and ready for the next level- an 80km full endurance ride. An 80km distance is ridden over two loops, with a vet check in between, and so the horse and rider has a compulsory hour long break before they can head out on course again. The sport is very tactical and the riders have to really understand their horse and their needs to get through to the finish line safely. Ella chose a relatively easy undulating course for Perry’s first 80km ride, which was held at The Rock in NSW, and completed in 7hrs 5 mins to get her first belt buckle as a prize. Another CHL staff member, Maxine MacArthur, helped Ella out in camp, getting feeds and gear ready for when she came back after each leg of the ride. She could not have done it without her. Perry is now just being lightly ridden while Ella buries herself back in starch analysis to get her thesis completed- the next challenge!
Research in Archaeology and Natural History at the ANU School of Culture, History and Language aims to understand prehistoric human societies, the environments in which they developed and the environmental consequences of human presence. Departmental research ranges from southeast Asia and the Pacific, through the tropical forests of New Guinea and the savannas of Australia, to the islands of Oceania.

Field research in ANH is supported by well-equipped laboratories that were fully updated and refurbished during 2009. Our laboratories support research into prehistoric textiles, archaeobotanical remains, rock art, prehistoric environments, zoological material and ceramics. ANH houses the largest pollen reference collection in Australia, as well as plant, bone, shell and ceramic collections. We also have access to world-class ANU facilities for archaeological dating, stable isotope analysis, and electron microscopy.

Upcoming Conference: IPPA Cambodia

Noel Tan will be running the session “Rock Art: A Record of Human Interactions with the Landscape” at next year’s IPPA in Cambodia. It will be a strong session, with 12 speakers from around the world presenting the latest rock art research from Asia and the Pacific region. ANH will be well represented - with contributions from Noel, Sue O’Connor, Daryl Wesley and Tristen Evans.

The session abstract is as follows:

The human endeavour to mark the landscape with paintings and carvings is as ubiquitous as it is poorly understood. Rock art exists all over Asia and Pacific, spanning from the prehistoric past to the recent present. At its core, rock art is a record of human interactions with the landscape. What can we deduce from such interactions? Iconographic information embedded on rock art can tell us about the environment and world in which they were created; studies of the rock art material can reveal the methods of production and consumption; and understanding the distribution of rock art sites can shed light on the migration of populations and ideas. This session invites papers on the rock art of Asia and the Pacific that can enhance our understanding of rock art in the region. We welcome descriptions of newly-discovered sites, technical studies pertaining to the analysis of rock art and its recording and theoretical approaches to understanding rock art. Especially welcome are papers about sites that have not been reported outside of their home country.

Noel’s own contribution to the session is entitled:

“The Rock Art of Pak Ou Caves, Luang Prabang Province, Lao PDR”

Located at the confluence of the Ou and Khong rivers, the Pak Ou caves are a popular tourist destination from Luang Prabang city an hour away. Colloquially known as the ‘Cave of a Thousand Buddhas’, after the thousands of Buddha images left in the main cavern by devotees, the cave is an important religious site and is thought to be one of the earliest Buddhist sites in Laos. Rock art is found in the upper cave chamber as well as on the cliff face overlooking the river and appear to come from different time periods. Images found in the cave appear to be more recent and may be associated with the Buddhist activity at the site, including an image of a steamship in green pigment. The rock art on the cliff face is more fascinating, as they occur well above the water level and there is no terrestrial access to the rock art today. These red cliff paintings appear more typical of the prehistoric rock art found in Southeast Asia. These paintings represent evidence of human interaction with this location over a long period of time.