



SCAN

SANTA CRUZ ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWSLETTER



*October is Archaeology Month!
Please join us for these special events:*

Ralph and Lisa Shanks~October 15

As announced in the Summer issue of the SCAN, Ralph and Lisa Shanks will present a talk about California Native American basketry on October 15 at the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History located at 1305 East Cliff Drive in Santa Cruz. **Please note that the time has changed. The talk will begin at 7:00 p.m.** Admission is free. The Shanks will be bringing copies of their latest book to sign. In addition, there will be plenty of SCAS swag for sale—perfect holiday gifts for all your friends and family! As a special bonus, you can download the poster for this event that was on the cover of the Summer issue of SCAN from our website.

Central Coast Archaeology Night~October 27

Central Coast Archaeology Night will provide an opportunity to learn more about local prehistory, archaeology, and Native Californian lifeways. Come listen to a distinguished panel of experts discuss the archaeology in our back yard. And the best thing...it's free!

- Terry Jones, PhD (Cal Poly) will review the oldest sites in California and elsewhere in western North America and discuss alternative views concerning when and where people first arrived.
- Gary Breschini, PhD and Trudy Haversat (Archaeological Consulting) will use their forty years of archaeological research and extensive radiocarbon dating to discuss new interpretations of population movements and culture change in the Monterey area.
- Diane Gifford-Gonzales, PhD (U.C. Santa Cruz) will use evidence gathered through the study of animal bones to discuss late prehistoric lifeways of the people who occupied the Quiroste Site, near Ano Nuevo.
- Val Lopez (Amah Mutsun Tribal Spokesperson) will focus on the California Native perspective concerning local archaeology and prehistory and will discuss the relationship between archaeologists and the Native community.

This event will take place at Cabrillo College in the Horticulture Center (room 5005) from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Calendar

All General Meetings are held at Sesnon House Cabrillo College
6500 Soquel Drive, Aptos, California at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.
For more information as it becomes available, please visit our website:
www.santacruzarchsociety.org

Saturday, October 15 Special Lecture—"The Basketry of the Native Americans of the Monterey Bay Region" by anthropologists and California basketry experts Ralph and Lisa Shanks. Santa Cruz City Museum, 1305 East Cliff Drive in Santa Cruz, at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 20 General Meeting—Patrick Wilkinson presents "West Kenya Stone Tool Finds—Peace Corp Recollections." Wilkinson's stone tool finds during his tenure with the Peace Corp in West Kenya are now part of a collection on display and used in teaching at Stanford's Anthropological Sciences Department. Several of these artifacts will be on display during the presentation.

Thursday, October 27 Central Coast Archaeology Night—Presentation of local prehistory, archaeology, and Native Californian lifeways by a distinguished panel of experts. Cabrillo College, Horticulture Center Room 5005 from 6:30–8:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Thursday, November 17 General Meeting—Mary Gerbic is currently a M.A. candidate in Cultural Resource Management at Sonoma State University and a graduate of the Cabrillo College Archaeology Technology Program. In her lecture entitled "A Trail Through Time," Mary will present her thesis research on a landscape approach for locating and confirming the presence of a trail across the Mayacamas Mountains from Clear Lake to the Russian River in Mendocino County, California. Mary's research has placed the trail in its historical context, with its prehistoric origin appropriated by settlers then fading into obscurity.

Thursday, December 15, 2011 General Meeting—John Schlagheck is a recently-certified scientific scuba diver with an interest in underwater archaeology seeking to share insights into this provocative yet esoteric sub-field of archaeology. During his talk, "Underwater Archaeology: Closer Than You Think," John will discuss the history of the field, training and education options, and details of recent dives on the wreck of the HMS Solebay, an 18th century British warship sunk in 1782 off the coast of Nevis, West Indies. A 2009 graduate of the Cabrillo College Archaeological Technology Program, John also holds a BA in Geography from Western Michigan University and a MA in Applied Anthropology from San Jose State University.

More October Events

20th Anniversary Celebration of the Chinese American Historical Museum

On Sunday, October 16, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., students, staff, and faculty from the Stanford Archaeology Center will be participating in a public archaeology event at History Park in San Jose, California. The event will focus on the archaeology of San Jose's first Chinese community, the Market Street Chinatown, and will include mock excavations, screening stations, artifact identification stations, and artifact reconstruction stations.

The public archaeology program will be one element of a day-long celebration, organized by the Chinese Historical and Cultural Project, commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Chinese American Historical Museum. Alongside the public archaeology stations, there will be dance troupes, martial arts performances, singers, book signings, and other activities for all ages. The event is open to the public and admission and parking are free of charge.

For more information, please go to <http://chcp.org/FullPgCeleFlier3.pdf>. Directions are available at http://www.historysanjose.org/visiting_hsj/history_park/directions_maps_park.

The Friends of the Cowell Lime Works Historic District present: A Halloween Tour of the Cowell Lime Works

Back by popular demand: GHOSTS, GOLD & GREED—a Halloween walking tour of the historic district at UCSC. Join historian Frank Perry for stories of buried treasure, a duel, the intriguing Cowell family, and mysterious happenings! Saturday, Oct. 29, 10:30–noon. Meet at the Barn Theater parking lot. A \$3 donation is requested.

For more about the lime works and the Friends of the Cowell Lime Works Historic District, please go to <http://limeworks.ucsc.edu/>.

Volunteer Opportunity

Volunteers are invited to join Annamarie Leon Guerrero and other members of the Anthropological Studies Center (ASC) at Sonoma State University to participate in their big fall field project: a county line property archaeological survey in Lake and Colusa Counties.

Project description:

The County Line Property is a section of the larger Indian Valley/ Walker Ridge Recreation Area. It is located on both sides of the border between Lake and Colusa Counties and extends three-and-a-half miles along CA Route 20 west of the intersection with CA Route 16 and north two miles to Wilbur Hot Springs. This survey is for internal BLM recreation area planning and resource management purposes, and the survey will consist of 1,200 acres of discontinuous locations.

Schedule:

Field dates: The weekend spanning Thursday–Monday October 27th through October 31st.

If you are interested, please contact Kate Erickson, M.A., Staff Archaeologist at the ASC, at (707)664-2878 or kate.erickson@sonoma.edu, or Annamarie at annamarieguerrero@hotmail.com.

Construction Halted at the Knoll; Archaeologists Evaluate Area

By Corinne Speckert
August 18, 2011

Remains of a Native American adolescent and adult discovered earlier this month by a KB Home construction crew sparked outrage from people nearby and from afar, who believe KB's plan to construct 32 single-family homes on the nine-acre historic Ohlone village and burial site should be stopped.

The remains, discovered in the northern part of the site known as the Knoll, between Market Street and Isbel Drive in Santa Cruz, also spurred the creation of a group operating under the name Save the Knoll, which led a weekend march calling to "Stop the desecration, respect the Ohlone burial site and village at Branciforte Creek."

According to the group's website, the construction project was first approved as a smaller project in 2007 and grew after KB Home bought the property from the previous developer in 2010—ultimately being approved by the city for 32 homes, mostly two-stories with 1,200–2,500 square feet.

The city, along with KB Home, were informed about the area's historical significance prior to approving any construction and developed a plan, which required the hiring of archaeologists and a Native American monitor who would be determined as the most likely descendant of the remains, to supervise construction, according to Santa Cruz Vice Mayor Don Lane.

"The city did know long before any of this blew up that there was this issue, and that's why we put this program into place, and why we have the American Indian monitor on site," Lane said.

"It was a commitment ahead of time to have that person there, and that's because there was a plan, because it was anticipated that things would be found."

After the Native American remains were uncovered, a stop-work order was issued in compliance with California law, according to Save the Knoll's

website. The Native American Heritage Commission was notified shortly after the order and produced Ann Marie Sayers as the most likely descendant.

"I watch the archaeologists and make recommendations for sensitive areas," said Sayers, who has worked as a monitor for 25 years.

In explaining Sayer's role, the commission's website states that, "California's most likely descendants have a voice in determining the treatment and disposition of Native American human remains," and that Native American monitors are used to identify and evaluate lands that were previously used as villages, gathering areas and burial sites.

However, Sayers can only make recommendations regarding the fate of the area around Branciforte Creek, and the rest is left in the hands of KB Home.

"Right now, it's KB Home that owns the property, and they have the use permit," said Alex Khoury, assistant director of planning and community development. "We're spending time on the site dealing with archaeologists and the Native American representative. We're monitoring the area and keeping an eye on what's going on."

Ed Silveira of the Villa de Branciforte Preservation Society said there are four archaeologists working with Sayers to evaluate the area. One of the archaeologists was provided by the city, while the other three were provided by KB Home, and apparently they're not the first.

According to Save the Knoll's website, an initial archaeologist was hired during the beginning phases of the project but was fired after expressing concerns for the site.

"In July, archaeologist Sarah Brewer wrote a letter to the city of Santa Cruz expressing concerns about the adequacy of the mitigation measures and the damage being done to the site by construction activities," the website states. "She was subse-

Continued page 11

This just in:

Cabrillo College Field School 2012 is a Go!

By Annamarie Leon Guerrero

What better way to start Archaeology Month than to announce that Cabrillo College will be offering an archaeological field school during Summer 2012! The field school will be under the leadership of Dustin McKenzie, MA, Cabrillo College Archaeology and Anthropology Instructor. The location and dates will be announced soon.

Cabrillo College has been running a truly quality field school for decades, first under the unforgettable leadership of Rob Edwards and now under the dynamic guidance of Dustin McKenzie. While there are many field school options available for students interested in archaeology, the Cabrillo College field school presents an exceedingly wonderful experience due to the special combination of participants, including students, knowledgeable and experienced instructors, helpful crew chiefs, and inspiring guest lecturers, as well as the agency folks who help to facilitate the field school.

During field school, students learn that archaeology is not just about the history and culture of far off places, but about local, California places as well. While students learn to recognize and record archaeological and historical sites, the instructors encourage them to think criti-

cally about how these sites might contribute to a better understanding of California history, as well about how to preserve sites and respect the people who created them.

With their experience at the Cabrillo field school, many students have gone on to work in California archaeology. The basic skills they learned at Cabrillo field schools support and are often augmented by their work for local cultural resources management firms and/or by further studies at local universities such as UC Santa Cruz, UC Berkeley, San Jose State University or Sonoma State University. The contributions these students make to California archaeology can be traced back to their initial education at the Cabrillo College field school.

This is why it is so important for colleges, universities, archaeological firms and government agencies to support field schools. The students who attend archaeological field schools, such as the Cabrillo College field school, are the future of California archaeology. How do we know? Take a look at the statements presented by a few of the students in the 2008 and 2010 field schools, some of whom readers may recognize from previous issues of the SCAN. These statements illustrate how the Cabrillo College field school has positively influenced their education and careers in archaeology.



Kolin Taylor

Field school was such a great experience. It was seriously the most fun you can have with your pants on. Not only that, but it has been so helpful to me. I still have two quarters left at UCSC to get my undergrad done, but even so I worked for Albion Environmental this summer. I did survey work in Atascadero and without the stuff I learned in field school, that just wouldn't of been possible. I really don't know what else I can say, except that I recommend the Cabrillo Field School to anyone interested in archaeology.

Continued page 6

Kaely Trinity Romney

Immediately following my graduation from University of California, Santa Cruz, I attended the 2008 Cabrillo College field program. I can distinctly remember the first blisters I worked onto my soft theory-writing hands. The Cabrillo College field program allowed me the freedom and autonomy to actually “touch” archaeology, balanced with the guidance to learn from my experiences. The instructors at Cabrillo College assisted me through my first “ah-ha!” moments of realizing that *this* was archaeology. Finally I realized what Alfred Kidder was talking about, instead of pretending to know in all those term papers!

For over two and a half years, I have been working full time as a staff archaeologist at Far Western Anthropological Research Group in Davis, California. Every day, I use the lessons that I learned at Cabrillo College. I was taught how to perfect the basics like setting up a unit and hand-mapping a site area. However, we were trained to be more than dig bums; we were taught how to be conscientious archaeologists. We did not simply dig holes; we were taught how to interpret stratigraphy, criticize theory, and write cohesive site records. Cabrillo College gave me the confidence to follow my dream and gave me the tools to make it happen.



Christina Spellman

Two words come to mind when asked to give feedback on the Cabrillo College Field school and how essential the program is for potential archaeologists. The first word is local. For me, having an opportunity to survey, record and excavate the land I call home, gave me a nuanced perspective of Californian history, most importantly of the indigenous tribal groups who also share this home. Our field instructor, Dustin McKenzie, involved members of the local tribes as on-site monitors. I believe that their presence augmented our field experience not only in terms of understanding excavation procedures if indigenous remains/artifacts are unearthed, but also of learning about how Native Americans and archaeologists can collaborate on a project given that there is a standard of mutual respect.

And for the second, and often most important, word: affordable. The level of skills attained, amount of time in the field, and friends made (e.g. networks) is priceless. Offering this opportunity at a reasonable cost is a service to the Californian archaeological community.



Emily Zimmerman

Anyone pursuing a career in anthropology knows that if they want to get a job or go to graduate school, attending a field school is absolutely essential. The archaeology program at Cabrillo College offers an affordable summer field school that provided me with the skills that would prepare me for every aspect of archaeological fieldwork, and gave me a real sense of what a future in this field would be like. As an archaeologist currently doing field and lab work, I couldn't have asked for a better training experience. It helped me build connections with people who would be future colleagues and give job recommendations. When I graduated from UC Santa Cruz, I didn't even get a chance to take a vacation before I was hired at Albion Environmental and later Holman and Associates, both well respected CRM companies. Some of my field school friends got jobs before even earning their degree, simply because the program at Cabrillo is so well known and trusted to produce well-trained archaeologists with a strong work ethic. This program provides up-and-coming anthropologists with a crucial part of their education, and produces quality archaeologists to serve CRM companies all over California. I am thrilled that this program is able to continue through economic struggles. The opportunity to get a job straight out of college while continuing to build a career is rare for many of my fellow graduates and is made possible by programs like this.



Society business ~

Election results:

The votes were tallied during the September General Meeting. Kären Johansson was elected to continue in her position as Vice President. Cathy Phipps was elected to continue as our Treasurer. Judy Husted volunteered to be our pro-tem Secretary until the next election for this position, which will take place next September. Congratulations, all, and thank you!

Board meetings:

The SCAS board meets almost every month either on the Monday before the General Meeting or on the Monday of the previous week. The next board meeting will take place on November 14 at 6 p.m. at the Abbey, the coffee shop at the Vintage Faith Church in Santa Cruz. All members are welcome to attend. Contact one of the board members if you would like information about future meetings.

SCAS T-Shirts

Looking for the perfect shirt to wear to that special occasion, or to give to that special someone? What could be more special than a SCAS T-shirt? Find them for sale at Bookshop Santa Cruz!

This issue's theme: Australia

Aboriginals get new history

University of Copenhagen News, September 22, 2011

DNA research

In an exciting development, an international team of researchers have, for the first time, pieced together the human genome from an Aboriginal Australian. The results, now to be published in the international journal *Science*, re-interpret the prehistory of our species.

By sequencing the genome, the researchers demonstrate that Aboriginal Australians descend directly from an early human expansion into Asia that took place some 70,000 years ago, at least 24,000 years before the population movements that gave rise to present-day Europeans and Asians. The results imply that modern day Aboriginal Australians are in fact the direct descendants of the first people who arrived in Australia as early as 50,000 years ago.

The study derived from a lock of hair donated to a British anthropologist by an Aboriginal man from the Goldfields region of Western Australia in the early 20th century. One hundred years later, researchers have isolated DNA from this same hair, using it to explore the genetics of the first Australians and to provide insights into how humans first dispersed across the globe.

Separation

The genome, shown to have no genetic input from modern European Australians, reveals that the ancestors of the Aboriginal man separated from the ancestors of other human populations some 64-75,000 years ago. Aboriginal Australians therefore descend directly from the earliest modern explorers, people who migrated into Asia before finally reaching Australia about 50,000 years ago. In showing this, the study establishes Aboriginal Australians as the population with the longest association with the land on which they live today. This research is presented with the full endorsement of the Goldfields Land and Sea Council, the organization that represents the Aboriginal traditional owners for the region.

New model for migration

The history of Aboriginal Australians plays a key role in understanding the dispersal of the first hu-

mans to leave Africa. Archaeological evidence establishes modern human presence in Australia by about 50,000 years ago, but this study rewrites the story of their journey there.

Previously, the most widely accepted theory was that all modern humans derive from a single out-of-Africa migration wave into Europe, Asia, and Australia. In that model, the first Australians would have branched off from an Asian population, already separated from the ancestors of Europeans. However, this study shows that when ancestral Aboriginal Australians began their private journey, the ancestors of Asians and Europeans had not yet differentiated from each other. Once they did, some 24,000 years after the first Australians had begun their explorations, Asians and remnants of the ancestral Australians intermixed for a period of time.

The first humans were explorers

Professor Eske Willerslev from the University of Copenhagen, who headed the study, explains:

"Aboriginal Australians descend from the first human explorers. While the ancestors of Europeans and Asians were sitting somewhere in Africa or the Middle East, yet to explore their world further, the ancestors of Aboriginal Australians spread rapidly; the first modern humans traversing unknown territory in Asia and finally crossing the sea into Australia. It was a truly amazing journey that must have demanded exceptional survival skills and bravery."

The study has wide implications for understanding of how our human ancestors moved across the globe. So far the only ancient human genomes have been obtained from hair preserved under frozen conditions. The researchers have now shown that hair preserved in much less ideal conditions can be used for genome sequencing without risk of modern human contamination that is typical in ancient bones and teeth. Through analysis of museum collections, and in collaboration with descendent groups, researchers can now study the genetic history of many indigenous populations worldwide, even where groups have recently moved about or intermingled.

http://news.ku.dk/all_news/2011/2011.9/aboriginals-get-new-history/

First Fleet Was Late Aboriginal Rock Art Shows South Asian Ships Sailing for Australia in 1600s

By Ann Wuyts
Heritage Key, July 23, 2010

Australian researchers say they have discovered the oldest “contact rock art” in Australia, evidence of Southeast Asian ships sailing for—and reaching—Australia's shores as early as the mid-1600s. This undermines popular assumption that the continent was largely isolated and unvisited until the British First Fleet arrived “Down Under” in 1788.

Between 2008 and 2010 Dr. Sally K. May from the Australian National University (ANU) and Professor Paul Taçon from Griffith University worked with local traditional owner Mr. Ronald Lamilami to document rock art sites in the Wellington Range area. At a rock shelter at Djulirri they identified nearly 1200 individual paintings and beeswax figures in multiple layers applied over the millennia.

“This site includes at least 20 layers of art,” said Dr. May. “And importantly, it has also yielded the oldest date yet recorded for contact rock art in Australia. A yellow painted prau (southeast Asian sailing vessel) is found underneath a large beeswax snake.”

Historians and archaeologists have speculated that visits to the northern parts of Australia from Southeast Asian ships have been happening for hundreds of years before European settlements.

Traders from Makassar (in what is now Indonesia) visited the coast of northern Australia dry and smoke the trepang—or sea cucumber—they caught, before taking their catch back to the Makassar and other South Asian markets, where it was highly valued. At the height of the ancient trepang trade, large fleets of Macassan ships would sail to Arnhem Land and stay for the

entire monsoon season. The trade lasted up to the end of the 19th century.

Dr. Stewart Fallon at ANU now radio-carbon dated the beeswax snake above the dug-out canoe to between 1624 and 1674 A.D., meaning that this is a minimum age for the sailing vessel painting. The rock art evidence dates the visits back as early as the 17th century.

In two years time, Professor Taçon's team recorded at least 81 images of ships in the Wellington Range. Among them dug-out canoes, 19th century British tall ships, a luxury cruise ship and a Second World War Destroyer. Some of the Aboriginal art in the area depicts more modern-day inventions such as a car, a biplane (painted over a kangaroo). Even the portraits of a missionary and a captain were identified by the team. SMH has a great slideshow of the images.

“Djulirri has more diverse contact period rock art than any other site in Australia,” said Professor Taçon. “Besides the oldest dated paintings of Southeast Asian ships, there are European tall ships and many other forms of watercraft, all of which can be placed in chronological sequence.”

The research is part of the “Picturing Change: 21st century perspectives on recent Australian rock art” project, which aims to highlight the importance of contact rock art as some of the only contemporary Indigenous accounts of cross-cultural encounters that took place across Australia through the last 500 years. It will be published in a forthcoming issue of the journal *Australian Archaeology*.

<http://heritage-key.com/blogs/ann/first-fleet-was-late-a-boriginal-rock-art-shows-southasian-ships-sailing-australia-1600s>

Aboriginal archaeology group created

By AAP with AG Staff

Australian Geographic, December 14, 2010

When Dave Johnston graduated from university in 1989, he was one of only a few indigenous Australians qualified to work as an archaeologist. Two decades later, the Queensland-born scientist has every reason to celebrate.

At a national conference last week, the first-ever Australian Indigenous Archaeologists' Association was launched at Batemans Bay on the NSW south coast. Where once only a single indigenous archaeologist worked to preserve the unique history of Aboriginal Australia, now more than 20 will make up the new association—with more expected to follow.

"Now that we have a structured organization, we hope to double and triple our numbers over the next few years," says Dave, a research fellow with the Canberra-based Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS).

Milestones

The association was officially launched on Friday by the AIATSIS chairman, Mick Dodson. Professor Dodson, a prominent Aboriginal leader and academic at the Australian National University's College of Law who was named Australian of the Year in 2009, called the initiative a "milestone."

The new organization would see a strong Aboriginal voice in the management of indigenous heritage, which includes ancient archaeological sites dating back tens of thousands of years. "The emphasis is that we're having Australia's heritage being taught by indigenous people, and having an indigenous perspective in archaeology," says Mick. "[It's] ensuring that we, as indigenous Australians, have our hands firmly on the wheel of our heritage."

One of the key aims of the association, Dave says, is to develop the field of indigenous archaeology at Australian academic institutions, and one day see a permanent staff member on the board of an archaeological department. "It's something that

the students will benefit from...learning about why these sites are important to our people, and hearing it first hand from the people whose heritage it is," he says.

Preserving ancient sites and recording the history of one of the world's oldest people also has benefits beyond the cultural or academic spheres, he adds.

Sharing history

In the many years Dave has spent working on indigenous archaeological sites around remote communities, elders had repeatedly expressed a desire to share their history with others as a way of developing sustainable tourism. "[Indigenous archaeological sites] are something we want to share with all Australians," he says. "I think overseas visitors and Australians would love to know more about Australian heritage, but they would also like to see it being spoken and taught by indigenous Australians."

"The commonwealth government and the international tourism market have been crying for sustainable and functional indigenous tourism ventures that the Australian tourism industry is lacking at the moment. Who better to do that than our own mob focusing on the heritage angle."

Dave stressed that while the association would not deal with issues of native title, the work of indigenous archaeologists would help to strengthen evidence that Australian Aborigines were the original occupiers of this land.

"The work that archaeologists do concerning the antiquity or uniqueness of these sites is also proving that Aboriginal people have been in this country a long time," he says. "Custodians of that country are delighted to know that their ancient heritage and association to that country is ratified by the dating, say, of these sites, [and] that it proves many thousands of years of occupation in those areas."

<http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/journal/aboriginal-archaeology-group-created>

Knoll, continued from page 4

quently fired from her position as an archaeological monitor at the site by Michael Brandman Associates, a consulting firm contracted by KB Home.”

Lane said the reason the Knoll wasn’t publicly identified earlier was because of state law requirements that were established to protect the area from public disturbances.

“One thing state law says is that this is supposed to all be confidential, not [because we want] to keep it from the public, but to protect the artifacts,” Lane said. “And now because it hasn’t been kept confidential, people are going on the site and dis-

turbing it. They think they’re going in there protecting it or something, when they could be disturbing it themselves.”

As for the Knoll, Khoury said earth-moving restrictions have been put in place, archaeologists have discussed doing more digging of the area, and the planning commission is working its way through it.

Once KB workers begin construction on the site, Lane said it’s his understanding that neither Sayers nor the archaeologists will be needed at that time.

<http://santacruz.patch.com/articles/construction-halted-at-the-knoll-archaeologists-evaluate-area>

And this update...

Santa Cruz, developer reach agreement on Ohlone site

By J.M. Brown

Santa Cruz Sentinel, September 19, 2011

SANTA CRUZ—Santa Cruz officials, a housing developer and Native American elders reached an agreement Monday that KB Home will not develop an archeologically sensitive site where Ohlone remains were discovered this summer.

“KB Home will offer an easement to protect the area from disturbance in perpetuity, with limited access provided only to those of Ohlone descent for ceremonial purposes,” a statement released by the city said. “The resolution honors the Ohlones’ wishes to preserve and protect their ancestral remains and artifacts.”

Vice Mayor Don Lane, who helped negotiate the resolution amid public demonstrations during the past several weeks, said, “I am pleased with the agreement the group came to and the process that led us here. Throughout the discussions, at times over difficult and sensitive matters, all parties displayed remarkable patience and commitment to finding common ground.”

The 32-unit housing site is at Isbel Drive and Market Street. It was not immediately clear how much property will be set aside for preservation.

http://www.mercurynews.com/central-coast/ci_18931239?IADID=Search-www.mercurynews.com-www.mercurynews.com

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Additional articles related to this issue's theme that were not included in the printed newsletter due to lack space:

Australia demands return of aboriginal skulls

By Joel Linde
The Local: Sweden's News in English
September 23, 2011

The Australian Embassy has requested the repatriation of the skulls and skeletons of seven indigenous Australians currently in the possession of the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm.

For about 50 years, the five skulls and two almost complete skeletons have been housed at the Osteoarchaeological Research Laboratory (OFL) at Stockholm University on behalf of the Karolinska Institute. They are now set to return home.

"We are prepared for these objects to be returned to their country of origin, and we've held them here in safe-keeping," said university lecturer Jan Storå.

According to a letter sent from the Australian Embassy to the department of education, a request

was made back in 2008 for archival provenance work to be carried out at the Karolinska Institute, to find any remains that could be traced to Australia.

"Australian government policy is to support the return of indigenous human remains to their communities of origin wherever possible," Embassy representative Paul Stephens explained in the letter.

Similar requests have been made in the past, and in 2008 The Local reported that 32 individual remains of indigenous Australians had been returned to Australia from a slew of Swedish museums and universities.

The Australian Kauma Nation Cultural Heritage Association is now deciding on an appropriate delegate to travel to Sweden and collect the several centuries old remains and bring them back.

<http://www.thelocal.se/36326/20110923/>

DNA confirms Aboriginal culture one of Earth's oldest

Australian Geographic, September 23, 2011

Aboriginal Australians are descendants of the first people to leave Africa up to 75,000 years ago, a genetic study has found, confirming they may have the oldest continuous culture on the planet.

Professor Eske Willerslev of the University of Copenhagen, who led the study, says Aboriginal Australians were the first modern humans to traverse unknown territory in Asia and Australia. "It was a truly amazing journey that must have demanded exceptional survival skills and bravery," he says.

A century-old lock of hair, given by a West Australian indigenous man to an anthropologist, has led to the discovery that ancestors of Aboriginal Australians reached Asia at least 24,000 years before another wave of migration that populated Europe and Asia.

Experts from the University of Western Australia (UWA) and Murdoch University were part of an international team that analyzed DNA from the hair, and found no hereditary material from European immigrants to Australia. This made the man's DNA a perfect candidate for looking at the history of Aboriginal migration.

Aboriginal Australians first to cross Asia

Studying his DNA, the researchers found that the ancestors of Australian Aboriginals had split from the first modern human populations to leave Africa, 64,000 to 75,000 years ago. Dr. Joe Dortch, a scientist at UWA, says the discovery turns on its head the existing theory that Aboriginals arrived here less than 50,000 years ago. The findings are detailed today in the journal *Science*.

"[The discovery] strongly supports the idea that Aborigines were [part of] an early and separate wave of human expansion out of Africa, before the subsequent wave that established Europeans and Asians," says Professor Alan Cooper, director of the Australian Centre for Ancient DNA at the University of Adelaide. "However, while this is a major step forward, the key unresolved question remains the unique story of Aboriginal history within Australia."

Oldest living population in the world

In another study, in the *American Journal of Human*

Genetics, researchers found that when these ancestors of Aboriginals crossed through Asia, they may have interbred with Siberian people known as the Denisovans.

For that study, DNA was extracted from a finger bone excavated in the freezing temperatures of Siberia to analyze the migration of people to tropical parts of Asia and Australia more than 40,000 years ago.

Examining DNA from the finger, researchers from the Harvard Medical School in the US and the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Germany concluded that the Denisovans—a primitive group of humans descended from Neanderthals—migrated from Siberia to tropical parts of Asia. They contributed DNA to Aborigines along with present-day New Guineans and an indigenous tribe in the Philippines known as Mamanwa.

Aboriginal people had Siberian ancestors

To make the link between the Denisovans and indigenous Australians, the study looked at two Aboriginal populations, one of which was from the Northern Territory. The researchers concluded that Denisovans interbred with modern humans in South-East Asia 44,000 years ago, before Australia separated from Papua New Guinea.

"This paper helped fill in some empty pieces in the evolutionary puzzle that began after early humans left Africa, and reinforces the view that humans have intermixed throughout history," say the scientists behind the research in a summary of the findings.

"The study also confirms controversial claims that the ancestors of all living Eurasians interbred with the Neanderthals, while past Asians/Oceanians also mated with the mysterious ancient humans from Denisova cave[s] in Siberia," comments Darren from UNSW. "This is clear and independent validation of DNA work on both these extinct humans [the Neanderthals and the Denisovans], confirming today's other big announcement about their deep connections to Australians and other indigenous people in our region."

<http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/journal/Aboriginal-Australians-the-oldest-culture-on-Earth.htm>

Aboriginal Australians descended from early migration of modern humans out of Africa, study says

Popular Archaeology, September 22, 2011

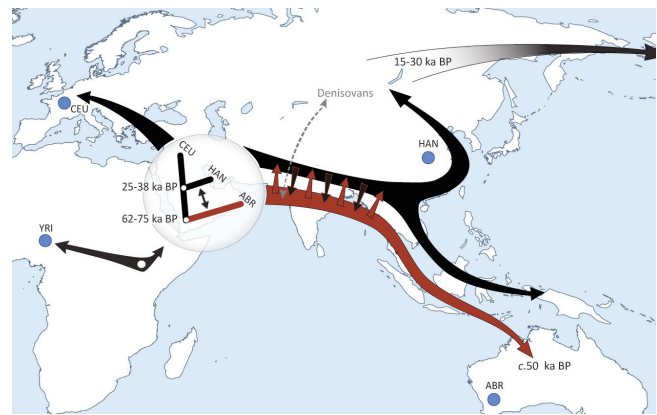
Little did he know that giving a team of scientists a lock of his hair would provide answers to some profound questions about the origins of humankind in his native Australia. But that is exactly what happened when scientists sequenced his genome and found that he was descended from a very ancient wave of modern humanity out of Africa and eventually into Australia some 62,000 - 75,000 years ago.

He is an Aboriginal Australian. The results of the genetic tests showed that modern humans migrated into Eastern Asia in more than one wave and that he, along with all of his fellow Aboriginal Australians, could claim direct heritage with a very early wave, perhaps even the first wave. This meant that his population constituted one of the oldest continuous populations outside of Africa.

The debate concerning how and when Eastern Asia was populated has been an ongoing one. Central to this has been the question regarding whether modern humans migrated into this part of the world in a single wave or in multiple waves. The origins of the Aboriginal Australians has been an integral part of the total debate.

Morten Rasmussen of the Natural History Museum of Denmark, Copenhagen, and his team of colleagues compared the Aboriginal genome sequence with no less than 79 other genome sequences from Africa, Asia and Europe, including genomes from three Han Chinese individuals*. The results suggest that modern humans actually did migrate in more than one event or wave into East Asia, supporting the multiple event theory, and that the Aboriginal genome represented a very early or ancient migratory event, possibly as long ago as between 62,000 and 75,000 years ago, with their ancestors eventually arriving in Australia at around 50,000 B.P. The suggested African exodus corresponds to a time when

many scientists postulate that the first modern humans ventured out of Africa to populate Eurasia. It also suggests that the Aboriginal Australians were the earliest modern humans to occupy Australia. Moreover, their study indicated that most Asians today descend from an original population that migrated into East Asia around 24,000 to 50,000 years ago.



The map above presents a reconstruction of early spread of modern humans outside Africa. The tree shows the divergence of the Aboriginal Australian (ABR) relative to the CEPH European (CEU) and the Han Chinese (HAN) with gene flow between aboriginal Australasians and Asian ancestors. Purple arrow shows early spread of the ancestors of Aboriginal Australians into eastern Asia ~62,000 to 75,000 years B.P. (ka BP), exchanging genes with Denisovans, and reaching Australia ~50,000 years B.P. Black arrow shows spread of East Asians ~25,000 to 38,000 years B.P. and admixing with remnants of the early dispersal (red arrow) some time before the split between Asians and Native American ancestors ~15,000 to 30,000 years B.P. YRI, Yoruba. [Image courtesy of Science/AAAS]

<http://popular-archaeology.com/issue/september-2011/article/aboriginal-australians-descended-from-early-migration-of-modern-humans-out-of-africa-study-says>

Study to create the first archive of human evolution at Mungo

By Charlotte King
July 14, 2011

A foundational project is currently underway at Lake Mungo and those lakes that abound it to document the history of human settlement, past environmental change and landscape evolution that has occurred in this area. This immense undertaking comes after a long hiatus of research being conducted here and hopes to provide the first systematic archive of its archaeological traces.

Documenting the history of human settlement seems like an epic task in any part of the world; in the stark beauty of the Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area, it involves tracing back no less than 45,000 years.



Upon arriving to the now dry lake bed which lies at the heart of Mungo National Park, it is not hard to appreciate the ancient nature of this part of the world—it is one of the oldest places outside of Africa to have been occupied by modern humans.

The site of the world's oldest known cremation and ritual ochre burial, as well as the longest trail of ancient human footprints, surprisingly little is known about the people who lived here.

Enter La Trobe University's paleolithic archaeologist, Dr. Nicola Stern, whose Mungo Archaeology Project hopes to redress this shortfall in our collective knowledge. "There's an untold story at Mungo; Mungo is famous because of Mungo Lady,

Mungo Man; a trail of fossil footprints," says Dr. Stern.

"We know surprisingly little about how people actually lived in this landscape over 45,000 years—and that's really what I'm trying to document by looking at the archaeological traces in the Mungo lunette."

The Mungo lunettes are half-moon shaped sand dunes built from ancient layers of the earth's surface and form the "Walls of China"—a major drawcard for visitors to the World Heritage site that is Mungo National Park.

Containing rich deposits of information, the lunettes have preserved hundreds of rare, snapshot images of Australia's earliest history and provide a unique record of the ways in which the first settlers may have adapted to the changes to their climate over time.

They form the basis for Dr. Stern's foundational research into this narrative of human evolution.

"It's the foundation—there's a lot that we could do if we had already had this information," she says.

It is not only the scientific community who have longed for this work to be done; elders from the region's Aboriginal tribal groups are also supportive of the project and are working in collaboration with Dr. Stern's team to monitor it.

"Finding out what's there, and then monitoring what's happening to what's there, is something that the elders tell me they have wanted for a very long period of time."

With such an endeavor, Dr. Stern has a loyal team of around twenty others working with her and says there will be more to come on board in the future.

"Over time we will be training people and hope that they will pick this up and carry it on into the future—but there is a certain knowledge and expertise that is required to figure out how to tackle a record on this scale."

<http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2011/07/13/3268249.htm>

In search of ancient galleries

By Penny Langfield

The Australian, June 18, 2011

You will not find Australia's oldest art on a stroll through a museum or art gallery.

It is on the walls of caves, rock faces and boulders at more than 100,000 sites featuring indigenous rock art.

Some of the art is estimated to be tens of thousands of years old.

Paul Tacon, who holds the chair of rock art research at Griffith University in Queensland, says the works allow Aboriginal culture to be viewed in its purest form. There are paintings and engravings of extinct animals and signs of past cultural practices.

"In many areas there are depictions of people using objects made of perishable materials such as wooden artifacts, spears and boomerangs as well as wearing elaborate headdresses and all sorts of body adornments," he says. "The only way we can get insights into the wide range of material cultures and some of the ceremonies that people practiced, the activities that they engaged in hundreds and thousands of years ago, is through the art."

Tacon has been studying rock art in Australia and Southeast Asia for about 30 years. Early this year he established the Place Evolution and Rock Art Heritage Unit at Griffith to bolster rock art research and preservation, part of the university's plan to focus on emerging research areas. He says interest in rock art in Australia has been increasing since the 1980s, but is still not widespread.

"It's more been confined to some academics and, of course, Aboriginal community members," he says. "There's still a lot of ignorance in the general population as to what we have and how important and special it is."

Some of his major discoveries include depictions of the origins of the Rainbow Serpent and early illustrations of battles.

As part of this research focus, Griffith University is recruiting a research fellow in rock art. The successful candidate will support ongoing projects, help document recent discoveries and launch new initiatives. Tacon also wants the new research fellow to help raise funds to buy a three-dimensional laser

scanner that can replicate rock art. The position will include field work with indigenous communities throughout the country.

Most of Tacon's research has been in the Northern Territory, northwest Queensland and the Blue Mountains in NSW. He cites Wollemi National Park in the Blue Mountains as an area with valuable rock art that has been difficult to unearth.

"Looking at the map and seeing the nature of the geology and talking to Aboriginal elders, I thought there must be something there, but some archaeologists and park rangers said it's too rugged and rough," he recalls. "It's wild country, but we've found over 200 sites, which is spectacular. There's probably a lot more out there."

Tacon says Australia's collection of rock art is extraordinary.

"Australia has some of the most outstanding and incredible rock art in the entire world. Australia also has more sites than any other country in the world and we've also got some of the oldest."

He suggests some art could be up to 45,000 years old.

Australia is also home to some of the world's most recent rock art, with Aboriginal communities still occasionally creating art and reinvigorating older illustrations.

"This is an incredible, long-lasting tradition that's being used to this very day."

Tacon says the art is integral to understanding past indigenous cultures and environmental changes such as rising sea levels and flora and fauna changes, including drawings of the Tasmanian tiger, or thylacine.

"They painted a wide range of animals and plants around them. There are lots of depictions of extinct animals, especially the thylacine. We find that in the engraved art of the Pilbara."

These portrayals extend to more recent species, too.

"There are also paintings, drawings of animals that have become extinct quite recently. At Wollemi National Park, for instance, there are drawings of wallabies that have not been seen in the area for 100 years."

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/careers/in-search-of-ancient-galleries/story-fn7174s-1226076704793>

Scientists document painted portals to a vanished past

By Victoria Laurie

The Australian, May 12, 2010

Last year, archaeologist Mike Morwood and rock art specialist June Ross took the ride of their lifetime across the northwest Kimberley. They hired a helicopter and flew across largely trackless territory, their pilot landing periodically in spots where he felt he could get his helicopter down safely and where they believed a good rock art site might lie.

Their journey took them from Bigge Island, one of the Kimberley's largest offshore landmasses, east to inland pastoral stations, and north as far as the rugged Drysdale River National Park, the Kimberley's largest park that lacks an airstrip, ranger station or even a single road.

The pair's aerial reconnoitre recorded 27 locations in which they documented a total of 54 rock art sites. "It was an absolute revelation," Ross recalls. "What struck us was how many rock art sites there are, and we developed a great admiration for the artists who made them."

Across the Kimberley, hundreds of thousands of paintings lie in rock overhangs and caves, often behind curtains of tropical vines. Dappled light plays over the surface of hauntingly beautiful images that have made the region famous: Gwion Gwion or Bradshaw paintings depicting slender dancing figures in mulberry colored ochre or younger images of Wandjina spirits, wide-eyed and startlingly white despite the passage of years.

But who were these prodigious artists, when did they come and what other traces did they leave of their presence? Such questions are among the most crucial in Australian archeology, according to Morwood and Ross. Like Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory, they say, the Kimberley may hold vital clues to understanding the origins of the first Australians.

"In fact, given the proximity of island southeast Asia and the relatively short water crossing required at times of lowered sea level, the Kimberley was a likely beach-head for the initial peopling of Australia," Morwood says.

In a bid to give substance to such speculation, Morwood, Ross and a team of multidisciplinary scientists will spend next month in the Kimberley, in the first of three expeditions to be conducted in successive years. It marks a new era in archeological exploration in the region, where previous work on only a few sites dates back nearly 20 years.

Morwood's hope is that intensive study of selected sites will build up a picture of human occupancy and the sequence of rock painting styles, which "may prove one of the longest and most complex anywhere in the world."

He says the area has a long history of human occupation, dating back 43,000 years or more. "There are caves and open sites around swamps, graves, dreaming tracks, rain forests, so who knows what rich areas there are."

Morwood has a track record for unearthing contentious finds. His previous work on excavations in rural Indonesia led to the discovery of the Flores hobbit or *Homo floresiensis*, the near-complete skeleton of a previously unknown species of human.

Ross is an expert in the rock art of central Australia, research that has required her to drive for hours across sand dunes to reach desert sites; she once punctured eight tires on one stretch alone.

Both scientists say the logistics of working in the Kimberley will be as challenging as anything they've experienced. Individuals can reach the expedition area only by helicopter and they must camp in tiny tents among heat-radiating rock escarpments.

In three years, the team will excavate sites around the Lawley River, Mitchell Plateau and lower Mitchell River. This year's sites lie a short helicopter trip from the picturesque Mitchell Falls, a location known to tourists traveling the Gibb River Road in the dry season. Many of them take a detour into Mitchell River National Park to see its waterfalls and rock art sites.

The geology of the Kimberley is a factor that acts in the researchers' favor. In many parts of Australia, friable rock surfaces cause art to erode or flake from the surface and disappear, Ross explains. "But in the Kimberley, the paint remains in the rock as a stain. And the rock surfaces are dense quartzite and sand-

stone, which are hard, very resistant to weathering and break down very, very slowly.”

While geology helps, a hostile climate acts against them. In most parts of the world, cave floors are covered with telltale debris, including layers of paint and charcoal from eons of human activity.

“But out of the 54 sites we’ve seen, few have any significant deposits at all,” Ross says. “Think of the [ferocity of] cyclonic wet season rain, when a lot of the shelters would have been scoured out by floods. A huge amount of material is simply washed away.”

To overcome this, the team will adopt a multidisciplinary approach. Kira Westaway from Macquarie University will use cutting-edge rock art dating techniques. Using pollen samples, Australian National University scientist Simon Haberle will determine the vegetation that grew near the caves and the influence of climatic changes on its growth. Geographer Murray Scown will map ancient river systems, pinpointing permanent water sources that may have led humans to make their home there.

Ross says: “We have to attack the problem with every possible tool. It’s the direction that we have to go in archeology in Australia because we’ve got very few clues.

“We’ve had tantalizing pieces of evidence in the last 20 years in archeological digs—from ground ochre to a smear of pigment on a rock—that indicate that the first Australians had the ability to produce art.”

But the lack of accurate dating of much of the art remains an obstacle to understanding. Grahame Walsh, who died in 2007, made comprehensive surveys of rock art in the region and published books in 1994 and 2000. In them, Walsh aired contentious and speculative views that the art was created by a pre-Aboriginal civilization, not the antecedents of today’s indigenous people.

In the mid-1990s, Walsh accompanied Morwood and Ross to the northwest Kimberley to attempt the first scientific dating of rock art. At one site, they huddled around a fire waiting until it was pitch dark. “We’d then go out in the middle of the night and

take samples from the rock art surface using a torch covered with a red filter,” Ross says. “We were scraping a lump of mud from a wasp’s nest off the wall, and taking rock grains from the bottom of it to analyze. It was all quite dramatic. The actual samples cannot be exposed to light because what we were measuring was the last time they had been exposed to light.”

Luminescence dating by the University of Wollongong’s Richard Roberts indicated the art was at least 17,000 years old.

This time, to avoid damaging the art, researchers will use a portable X-ray machine to measure the surfaces in situ.

Morwood and Ross will work alongside traditional owners from the Kandiwal community at Mitchell Falls. “We never forget that we are researching a living culture, albeit a changing one,” Ross says.

Community members are keen to co-operate because they are concerned about the effect of growing tourist numbers and the threat of mining in the bauxite-rich Mitchell Plateau, Morwood adds. “If there is development coming, it’s worth showing the art’s significance now and not as an emergency response.”

An \$800,000 Australian Research Council grant will fund the surveys, which are also supported by the Kimberley Rock Art Foundation, a philanthropic group headed by Maria Myers, Walsh’s former patron.

Room has been made for three PhD students to join the team and the positions have been advertised.

Morwood thinks their research may turn up some of the earliest evidence for human presence in Australia, dating back 50,000 years. Ross is more cautious: “I don’t want to predict what we’ll find. . . But I think the Kimberley will be hugely important in answering significant questions [in] Australian archeology.”

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/higher-education/scientists-document-painted-portals-to-a-vanished-past/story-e6frgcjx-1225865192468>

Find gives human face to Australia's convict past

University of Manchester, August 16, 2011

A series of archaeological finds in Tasmania have shown how colonial guards secretly eased the brutal treatment of women prisoners in 1850s Australia, rewriting our understanding of life inside Britain's colonial prisons Down Under.

University of Manchester archaeologist Dr. Eleanor Casella says the find of textile manufacturing paraphernalia in a Tasmanian prison nursery proves women prisoners were allowed informal contact with their babies—a contravention of official British policy for the management of imperial convicts.

Dr. Casella had spotted three intact lead bale seals while excavating the nursery of the Ross Female Factory, a heritage-listed prison which confined British criminal women and their children exiled to Van Diemen's Land—now Tasmania.

They were put to use making convict uniforms out of cotton and woollens imported from the textile factories of north-west England.

The lead seals—which prevent theft from the bolts of cloth during export down to the penal colonies—were found alongside fragments of buttons, sewing pins and thimbles.

Dr. Casella has been excavating at the Ross Factory site for over 15 years. She said: “Strict official regulations kept criminal mothers separated from their children. It was a dark period for many thousands of people.

“But the bale seals and other textile-related fragments we found suggest the Ross Factory Superintendent ignored formal orders and allowed women to complete their required work assignments in the company of their children.

“That was a very direct and never documented subversion of the formal British penal regulations that governed this penal colony.

“So though it was a dark and brutal period, these artifacts attribute a human side to the colonialists.”

The Superintendent at the time was Dr. Edward

Swarbeck Hall, a minor figure in Australian colonial history. As Swarbeck was known within Tasmania as a “thorough disciplinarian”, historians will now need to modify their appraisal of him.

Officially, the women were not allowed to see their babies within the Ross Factory nursery other than for breast feeding.

At the age of three, the “convict babies” were transferred to the Queen's Orphan School in Hobart Town, approximately 70 miles away from Ross.

However, evidence is also emerging that the prisoners appealed to the Governor who quietly allowed them to find work close to their children once they had left prison.

Dr. Casella said: “We have no way of knowing if these acts of kindness happened across Britain's penal colonies—but I suspect they did.

“There were colonial prisons across the British empire: in Australia alone, 12,000 women were exiled to Tasmania between 1803 and 1854, and an additional 12,000 had previously been sent to New South Wales from 1788 to 1840.

“It's one thing to concoct draconian rules 8,000 miles away in London—but to make a society function properly, the local hierarchy had much to gain from letting people get on with their lives.”

One of the lead seals was impressed with the stamp of the Royal Army Ordnance Corp—the branch of Her Majesty's Army charged with provisioning the Imperial prisons throughout the Australian penal colonies.

They are about an inch in diameter and were used as a security seal which was pressed into the cloth to show if it had been tampered with.

The seals, currently in Manchester, have been conserved and cleaned at the Museum of London, and will be returned to the Queen Victoria Museum in Tasmania to join permanent exhibitions.

<http://www.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/news/display/?id=7318>