

CANBERRA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY – AUSTRALASIAN SOCIETY FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

ANNUAL ARCHAEOLOGY SYMPOSIUM

SUBURBAN ARCHAEOLOGY

THEATRE, CANBERRA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

SATURDAY 17 APRIL 2021



Horse Park Precinct, Gungahlin, under heritage survey by Navin Officer Heritage Consultants, ACT Heritage's Aboriginal Liaison Officer, and traditional owners, 2018. Image: NOHC.

A half-day Archaeological Symposium on a theme related to the ACT and Region Heritage Festival – ‘reimagine’ - will be held on 17 April 2021. There will be 6 expert speakers giving 5 presentations, followed by a Q&A panel. It is a collaborative event between ASHA and the Canberra Archaeological Society. It is the third year of symposium presentation and its general purpose is to promote a greater public awareness and understanding of archaeology, including both Indigenous and historical archaeology.

This year the Symposium will be held in the Theatre of our other event partner, the Canberra Museum and Gallery. Under the ACT’s Covid social distancing restrictions attendee numbers will be strictly limited.

The Symposium theme will explore how archaeology assists in the ‘reimagining’ of Canberra’s past and heritage for its greater understanding and conservation. It will be an exciting event that will explore how Indigenous and historical archaeology assists in the ‘reimagining’ of the ACT’s heritage for its greater understanding and protection. Interesting talks will include a focus on the ACT Government’s archaeological investigative work for greenfields/suburban development including contextual research, field survey, on other suburban archaeology, including geoarchaeology, and will also, importantly and critically, include an Indigenous perspective.

PROGRAMME

10.30am Welcome, introduction and Welcome to Country (Wally Bell)
10.40am Wally Bell - Today’s Ngunawal Culture and Country: Archaeology from an Aboriginal Perspective.

11.00am Dr Ken Heffernan - Requirements and Role of the ACT Government’s Archaeological Investigative Work Prior to Suburban Development.

11.20am Morning Tea – own arrangements

11.40am Dr Michael Pearson OA – Reimagining Canberra as an urban sheep paddock – A pastoral past in an urban present.

12.00pm Nicola Hayes - An archaeological island: The ACT’s love of Heritage places surrounded by suburb and the implications for cultural heritage conservation.

12.20pm Dr Phil Hughes and Dr Marjorie Sullivan - A landscape approach to explaining land use in the past: an example from Hall.

12.40pm Q&A Panel – All speakers

1.00pm Finish

(Bookings (limited) via CMAG Events

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/canberra-museum-and-gallery-8318443333> or EVENTBRITE. Entry by gold coin donation.)

ABSTRACTS AND BIOS

Wally Bell (Ngunawal Traditional Custodian) - Today’s Ngunawal Culture and Country: Archaeology from an Aboriginal Perspective.

Wally Bell will speak on how as an Aboriginal man he keeps alive the Ngunawal cultural and spiritual elements when dealing with a very scientific approach to archaeology on his country.

I am a Ngunawal man and my clan group are the Yharr people from Yass. I am also a Traditional Custodian caring for country. I hold a Cert III in Conservation and Land Management. I actively participate in all aspects of Ngunawal Aboriginal cultural heritage management for the area that lies within my ancestral boundary and engage with the wider community on my culture through Cultural walks and talks to develop an informed awareness of Ngunawal culture and its practices.

I consult with Federal Government, State/Territory Government and Local Government Agencies regarding Ngunawal Aboriginal cultural heritage management.

I am a director of Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation and hold positions on the following organisations:

- Co-Ordinator - Mulanggang Traditional Aboriginal Landcare Group;
- Member - Namadgi Rock Art Working Group;
- Member Group - Representative Aboriginal Organisation (RAO) for ACT Government;
- Member - Landcare ACT;
- Chair - Ginninderry Aboriginal Advisory Group;
- Member - Dhawura Ngunnawal Committee;
- Member - Winanggaay Ngunnawal Language Group.

Dr Ken Heffernan - Requirements and Role of the ACT

Government’s Archaeological Investigative Work Prior to Suburban Development.

Canberra’s development began in a way that subordinated history, particularly Aboriginal history, to progress in the establishment of a capital. Some great opportunities were lost. By the 1960s, the sense of loss was being more widely felt, and heritage concepts grew in the 1970s and 1980s. It took time for traditional Aboriginal custodians to be rightfully recognised as essential to the process of impact assessment. Now, the role of archaeological assessment of development areas, and the great benefits it offers in culturally-enriching urban environments, are increasingly appreciated.

Dr Ken Heffernan is an archaeologist and former lecturer and researcher, archaeological consultant and government manager in a range of cultural heritage areas. These included historic and Indigenous heritage, world heritage, movable cultural heritage, heritage economics and legislation policy. He was a member of the ACT Heritage Council in 1992-1995 and Deputy Chairperson in 1995-1997 and 2018-2021. He is currently a volunteer curator of the Gillespie Collection at Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre, and the Chairperson of the ACT Heritage Council.

Dr Michael Pearson - Reimagining Canberra as an urban sheep paddock – A pastoral past in an urban present. The ACT before Canberra was a pastoral settlement with homesteads, woolsheds, fencing, ploughlands, tracks, fences, limekilns and all the other infrastructure of an operational grazing region. Survey can identify and assess these remains before urban development takes place, but the challenge is to conserve and reflect this heritage in an expanding urban environment. The presentation looks at the surveys carried out in the early 2000s, and how they were put into a Territory-wide context, and how the conservation of key places was attempted to be woven into the urban planning for northern Canberra so as to retain a memory of the rural past.

Dr Michael Pearson AO Michael has a PhD in prehistoric and historical archaeology from ANU, and has worked for over 40 years in the heritage field, with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, as head of the historical environment activities and Deputy Executive Director of the Australian Heritage Commission, and from 1993 as a consultant specialising in heritage research, management and planning. He is a former Chairman of the ACT Heritage Council, former Chairman of the Institute of Professional Practice in Heritage and the Arts at ANU, and is currently President of the ICOMOS International Polar Heritage Committee.

Nicola Hayes - An archaeological island: The ACT's love of Heritage places surrounded by suburb and the implications for cultural heritage conservation. Due to our garden city aesthetic the ACT has many examples of archaeological islands in the middle of suburbs. One example is Horse Park Precinct that will be surrounded by the suburbs of Moncrieff, Taylor, Bonner and Jacka. In 2018 Navin Officer Heritage Consultants worked with SQC Architecture on behalf of the Suburban Land Agency on a heritage asset review for the Horse Park Precinct. Horse Park is unique in that it has several layers of significance including natural, Aboriginal, and European. Finding a way to conserve and celebrate these values as well as conserving a site in a suburb is a challenge.

Nicola Hayes (BA, BSc, GradDipArts), Associate Director Navin Officer Heritage Consultants. Nicola draws on her 15-year experience as a heritage professional to lead the diverse team of specialists at NOHC. She has extensive experience in both Indigenous and historical heritage matters having worked across the public and private sector. Prior to joining the NOHC team in 2004 Nicola worked in the ACT Heritage Unit, the heritage regulator in the ACT. At NOHC, Nicola leads large field surveys and excavation programs, mentors young archaeologists, and sets strategic business goals for the organisation. She has successfully taken many projects to completion including developing and running 'Back to Country' programs for the return of Aboriginal objects back into the landscape.

Dr Hughes and Sullivan - A landscape approach to explaining land use in the past: an example from Hall. Archaeologists interested in past land use, and planners wishing to avoid disturbing archaeological sites both need to understand patterns of site distribution. An approach which makes sense from both indigenous and 'settler culture' perspectives is to identify patterns of site nature and location in their landscape settings, and to understand what the landscape was like at various times in the past, before European settlement and the often dramatic changes they brought about. Such an approach can be used anywhere but is most successful when there is a good understanding of landscape processes and a history of process change. The focus here is on Canberra valley landscapes.

Philip Hughes & Marjorie Sullivan, HEH Pty Ltd, Bingie NSW. Philip and Marjorie are actively involved in geoarchaeological and palaeoenvironmental research in arid and southeast Australia and, with colleagues from the ANU, in the Moravian karst in the Czech Republic.

This Symposium is supported by:



and is a partnership between:

