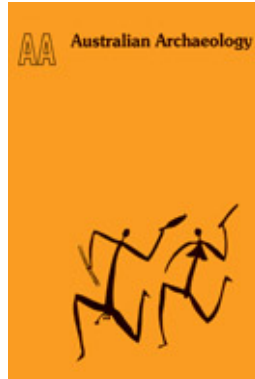


Australian Archaeology



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vertical logs will be undertaken in September. The well will also be excavated, the weather and the condition of the sides permitting.

Environmental Impact Surveys

A survey for Nabalco in an area of Melville Bay was made in December 1974 by E. Crosby.

L. Haglund is currently investigating sites in the McArthur River area for Mount Isa Mines.

The C.S.I.R.O.'s research area Kapalga has already yielded some interesting surface material and it is hoped that detailed site reports will become available.

Eleanor Crosby,
Curator of Archaeology &
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DARWIN

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ACTIVITIES OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA CONCERNING THE CONFLUENCE SITE OF THE DRY CREEK AND THE MARIBYRNONG RIVER IN 1974/75

Excavations had to be terminated because, though permission for further exploration was sought, this was not granted by the Victorian Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Office.

A grant from the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies however made it possible to begin with the ordering of the large archaeological material and of the relevant field notes which had accumulated since collection of material began in 1952. Excavation by the Archaeological Society at this site began in 1966. The excavations made it possible to produce a comprehensive stratigraphy of the confluence area.

The large amount of archaeological material collected and excavated falls into three main categories which require different approaches for analysis.

- A. Material collected from the present beds of Dry Creek and Maribyrnong River.
- B. Material collected from the alluvial accumulations of the river terraces.

C. Excavation of *in situ* human occupation levels on flood-plain terraces.

Since 1954 I have called attention to the presence of human occupation at the site, predating the Upper Pleistocene. In the intervening years, and as a result of excavation, the available material has accumulated to such an extent, that by now a final assessment can be made, which must decide the issue.

It was decided to begin ordering and analysing the material from the oldest stratigraphic level, an archaic river bed (Bain's Quarry), which appears discordantly cut at a higher level in the Keilor Lava Plain than the Arundel Terrace.

Progressing from the oldest to the younger levels offers additional criteria for the definition of human origin of the material selected from the torrent gravels:

- a. The emergence of new forms in younger levels, which are not present at all in the older ones.
- b. The detection of typologic and technologic evolution of the same artefactual types, again with the proviso that younger forms, e.g. the technologically or typologically more developed specimens, emerge exclusively in the younger levels.
- c. The association with a certain, much lower percentage of archaic types from older levels if the stratigraphic situation makes a derivation by erosion possible.
- d. The association of human artefacts with a large matrix of broken and/or rolled torrent gravel. The matrix must show the same or similar characteristics of breaking through-out, as mechanical forces remain the same, whereas human artefacts must display, against this constant background, progressive change amenable to an analysis of their logical structuring.

Having so far assembled three complexes, which all predate the stratigraphic level of the beginning of the Younger Palaeolithic industries in the area (base of D Clay) I believe that the above criteria are met.

In addition to the above, the large number of the specimens available makes argumentation valid through the use of statistics (measurements and their consistency, e.g. standardisation), form and function, technologic features, etc. The final results will be put before an anticipated Conference at Melbourne University, November 1975 and will be the subject of a documented Report to the Institute of Aboriginal Studies in December 1975.

The collection is set up at the Keilor Municipal Museum, and is fully available for study, by anybody interested. Each specimen has a field number and a museum access number. The field number secures identification with the field notes. Every specimen has an

individual file card, which contains measurements, identification numbers, relevant field notes, reference to field photographs if any, and an outline drawing. A Museum access number list gives cross reference to the field number. The file card system has been assembled according to the established type complexes ("industries") which are the same as the storage in display vitrines, chest of drawers and storage racks.

Dr Alexander Gallus

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CANBERRA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY - 1974-5

Increasing governmental awareness of the need for conservation of not only the environment but of the country's heritage, and the almost unbelievable speed at which Canberra's suburbs are sprawling across former grazing lands, have combined to give the Canberra Archaeological Society (CAS) its first fieldwork for a couple of years. Prompted by the march of red and grey brick bungalows which devour several hectares of rolling grazing country each week or two, the Department of the Capital Territory, through its Conservation and Agriculture Branch, has commissioned the CAS to do a site survey in the Gungahlin area where a new satellite city has been pegged out. An area of about 75 square kilometres, it is contained between the Barton and Federal Highways, running north and east of the Canberra City centre, and extends from the edges of creeping suburbia to the northernmost border of the Australian Capital Territory.

Under the direction of Mr P. Bellwood, Society member and lecturer in the Australian National University's Department of Prehistory and Anthropology, members have in the first day of the survey, located nine scatters of artifacts, but not necessarily any distinct sites. A pattern has not yet emerged, but with an expected 40 Society members and volunteers, broken into groups of five, surveying the area in the next two full days of fieldwork, a picture of the archaeological value of the area must emerge for the final report to the government before Christmas.

Ironically, a few of the CAS members helping with the fieldwork are public servants who have been involved in the planning of Gungahlin which will, within a decade, be the hunting grounds of milk bar cowboys. Public servants form a high percentage of the membership of the Society - as would be expected in the public service capital - but students and professional prehistorians,