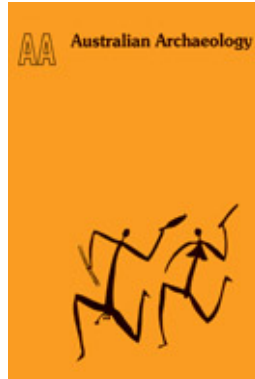


Australian Archaeology



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FIELDWORK IN VICTORIA

In January this year, Richard Wright and Robert Glenney conducted excavations at Lancefield to try and determine whether the extinct marsupial fauna found in the lake deposits were associated with man. I understand that a great deal of faunal material was recovered, and analysis is now nearing completion by David Horton, the Osteologist from the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies. Richard Wright is in the process of assessing the excavated lithic material. Harry Lourandos, from Sydney University, is continuing his work in the Western District of Victoria, with excavation of two rock shelters in that area.

During the past few months, the Relics Office has undertaken a joint project with the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies in the Grampians area. The object of the exercise is to make very detailed recordings of the rock art in one of the major rock shelters, and to complement this recording work with archaeological investigations. The detailed recording of the paintings will not only provide a first-class record of the extant paintings, but will also assist in monitoring the deterioration of the rock art with time. On the archaeological side, it is hoped that some determination of the age of the rock art there will be forthcoming. The results to date, indicate that the site was occupied by people with a backed blade technology.

P. Coutts

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RESEARCH BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY, THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

- (a) Mr D. Moore is preparing for publication the Brierley diaries, which contain much ethnographic material.
- (b) Dr L. Sutherland, Curator of Minerals at the Museum, is analysing, for trace elements, pumice from the FCS Lapita site at Talasea, New Britain, to examine the possibility that the volcanic ash sealing the site originated from the eruption of Mt Witori on Cape Hoskins at c.2600 b.p.
- (c) Mr D. Anson, Dept. Anthropology, University of Sydney, is proceeding with analyses of Lapita pottery from Watom Island, including Meyer's material as well as my own (Meyer's material from Germany).

J. Specht