

Australian Archaeology



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PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY

Members may be interested in a brief indication of developments in prehistoric archaeology in Australia since January 1971. The list, and the bibliography which follows, may not be fully comprehensive; I apologise for any omissions or errors, which will be corrected in later issues. Some current work and recent discoveries have not been listed as published reports are as yet unavailable.

However, it is hoped that the list as it stands may be of some value as a guide to current literature and research. Its size reflects the increasing tempo of prehistoric studies in Australia, while the entries themselves give clues to changing approaches and evidence. We now have further documentation of the Aboriginal culture of the Pleistocene and its human populations, while in research greater concern is given to ecological questions, to past environments, and the adaptation of human culture to these. The main concerns of Australian prehistory of the 'sixties in establishing the antiquity of human occupation on the continent, and the chronology and sequence of certain artefact assemblages, are now yielding place to a greater emphasis on man-land relationships in the past, and on relevant ethnographic studies where these are possible.

Increasing interest in the protection and conservation of sites amongst professional workers, the general public, and governmental bodies, has ensured that these now have stronger legislative protection than in 1971 in most states of the Commonwealth. Another reflection of the same concern was the formation in Perth in August 1973 of an Australian Conservation Association, to promote not only the care of all cultural material but also knowledge of conservation needs and techniques in the field as well as in the laboratory. During 1973 work began on a longterm project under the auspices of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies to record and protect sites of traditional significance and importance to the Aboriginal people. The programme aims to have workers active in all parts of Australia, cooperating closely with Aboriginal communities.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS OR COMPLETED JANUARY 1971 - JANUARY 1974:

- H. Allen Department of Anthropology, Auckland University, New Zealand. Completed doctoral research on the Willandra Lakes area of western New South Wales, with its important Pleistocene sites, the best known of these being at Lake Mungo.
- Mr G.N. Bailey Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge University, England. Investigations carried out in 1972 of midden deposits on the North Coast of New South Wales and in the Weipa district, Queensland, as part of a doctoral research programme.
- Mr J. Beaton Department of Prehistory, Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University, Canberra. Reconnaissance of some of the islands of the Great Barrier Reef, Queensland in 1973.
- Miss Helen Brayshaw Department of History, James Cook University of North Queensland, Townsville. A field survey of the Burdekin-Herbert River districts of North Queensland.
- Miss Sandra Bowdler Department of Prehistory, Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University, Canberra. Field survey and excavation of sites on the Hunter group of islands in Bass Strait, 1973.
- Mrs L. Haglund-Calley Department of Anthropology, University of Queensland, Brisbane. Reconnaissance of sites in south-eastern Queensland. 1972-1973.
- Mr J. Clegg Department of Anthropology, University of Sydney, Sydney. Studies of Australian rock art.
- Mr G.E. Connah Department of Classics and Ancient History, University of New England, Armidale, N.S.W. Excavation of midden sites on the Lower Macleay River, 1972-1973.

- Mr F. Dickson University of New South Wales, Kensington, New South Wales. Experiments in stone technology; excavation and survey work at Kurnell, near Sydney.
- Mr C.E. Dortch The Western Australian Museum, Perth. Reconnaissance and salvage excavations in the Ord River area; excavation of Pleistocene deposits in the Devil's Lair Cave, south western W.A. (with Dr D Merrilees).
- Dr Josephine Flood Field survey and excavation in the southern Highlands (including excavation of Pleistocene deposits in Clogg's Cave near Buchan, Victoria) as part of a programme of doctoral research.
- Dr A. Gallus 2 Patterson Street, Nunawading, Victoria. Continued excavation work on Pleistocene deposits at Keilor, Victoria.
- Professor R. Gould University of Hawaii, Honolulu. Ethnographic and archaeological studies in the Western Desert regions.
- Mrs Sylvia Hallam Department of Anthropology. University of Western Australia, Perth. Excavation and field survey in the Perth district.
- Mr P. Hughes School of Geography, University of New South Wales, Kensington, N.S.W. Studies of the depositional characteristics of prehistoric occupation sites; the use of silcrete in Aboriginal technologies.
- Associate Professor Isabel McBryde Department of Classics and Ancient History, University of New England, Armidale. Studies of the petrology of axes and use of quarry sites (with Dr R.A. Binns), field survey and excavation in northern New South Wales including excavations at Moore Creek and Graman, salvage work at Evans Head and Moree.
- Mrs Lesley Maynard National Parks and Wildlife Service, Sydney. Studies of Australian rock art.

- Miss Betty Meehan Department of Prehistory and Anthropology, School of General Studies, Australian National University, Canberra. Ethnographic work with the Gidjingali of the Blyth River, Arnhem Land. This project (carried out with Dr Jones) aimed at recording the economic life of an Aboriginal group recently returned to their traditional life; the researchers observed the life of the group throughout a whole year.
- Mr R.J. Lampert Department of Prehistory, Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University, Canberra. Reconnaissance and excavation on the south coast of New South Wales continued; excavation on Kangaroo Island, South Australia, in 1971 and 1973, revealed deposits of Pleistocene date.
- Mr R. Luebbers Department of Prehistory, Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University, Canberra. Study of subsistence and settlement patterns in the coastal regions of eastern South Australia. Swamp deposits have revealed wooden and stone artefacts of Pleistocene date.
- Mr. D.R. Moore Australian Museum, Sydney. Excavation in the Hunter Valley, N.S.W. 1972; reconnaissance and excavation on Cape York and adjacent islands 1973.
- Mr H. Morphy Department of Prehistory and Anthropology, School of General Studies, Australian National University, Canberra. Studies of continuity and change in bark paintings during the last century.
- Professor D.J. Mulvaney Department of Prehistory and Anthropology, School of General Studies, Australian National University, Canberra. Direction of investigations (with the Department of Biogeography and Geomorphology) at Lake Mungo, western New South Wales, 1973.
- Dr J. O'Connell Department of Prehistory, Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University, Canberra. Research into the ecology of arid-zone hunter-gatherers in Central Australia, with field investigations at Yuendumu, Docker River, and Macdonald Downs.

- Mr G. Pretty South Australian Museum, Adelaide.
Completed excavation of the extensive
burial ground at Roonka (Murray Valley)
and associated occupation deposits.
- Mr M. Quinnell Queensland Museum, Brisbane. Study of
rock art of the Carnarvon Ranges, south-
western Queensland.
- Dr Andree Rosenfeld Department of Prehistory and Anthropology,
School of General Studies, Australian
National University, Canberra. Preliminary
study of rock art sites in the Laura district
of Cape York, 1973.
- Mr W. Shawcross Department of Prehistory and Anthropology,
School of General Studies, Australian
National University, Canberra. Reconnaissance
in north-western Queensland 1973.
- Reverend Dr E.
Stockton Saint Patrick's College, Manly, N.S.W.
Field survey and excavation in the Blue
Mountains district, N.S.W. revealing some
Pleistocene occupation sites.
- Mr A.G. Thorne Department of Prehistory, Research School of
Pacific Studies, Australian National
University, Canberra. Continued excavation
of Kow Swamp (Victoria) site with its
important skeletal finds; osteological studies
of the material from Kow Swamp and Lake Mungo.
- Mr R.S.V. Wright Department of Anthropology, University of
Sydney, Sydney. Excavation work at Kow Swamp,
Victoria, with A.G. Thorne, and excavation of
a rock shelter site at Mount Hope in the same
region.
- Dr R. Vanderwal Tasmanian Museum, Hobart. Reconnaissance
work on the islands of Torres Straits in
1973.

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Western Australia During the Pleistocene
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