



## NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK

20-26 May 2012

[www.archaeologyweek.com](http://www.archaeologyweek.com)

### BACKGROUND

National Archaeology Week aims to increase public awareness of Australian archaeology and the work of Australian archaeologists at home and abroad. It also promotes the importance of protecting Australia's unique archaeological heritage.

A nationwide program of events and exhibitions is held in May each year, including public talks, walking tours and displays. Numerous activities have been organised for NSW and a selection are listed below.

For further information about NAW activities in NSW contact the State Coordinator, Deborah Lindsay: [dindsay@urbis.com.au](mailto:dindsay@urbis.com.au)

### Australian Museum Event: Sun 20 May 2012, 10am – 2pm

Join the archaeologists from Australian Museum Business Services (AMBS) and explore aspects of archaeological practice today with talks, demonstrations and displays. Watch a stone knapping demonstration and discover what archaeologists do with talks and demonstrations on archaeological practice that include recent excavations of Aboriginal sites in south west Sydney, and the historical archaeological excavation in Ultimo.

Venue: Australian Museum, 6 College St, Sydney, Search & Discover Gallery, Level 2

Cost: Free with museum entry

### A Surprising Find: Thomas Ball's Pottery: Mon 21 May 2012, 5:30 for 6pm

This talk investigates the pottery from waster pits associated with Thomas Ball's pottery (c1801-1823) in the Haymarket. This is the earliest Pottery site investigated so far in Australia. Thomas Ball was a Staffordshire-trained potter operating a Pottery in the Brickfields (now the Haymarket) and produced a range of locally-made wares, a mixture of utilitarian items and decorated tablewares, as well as smoking pipes and marbles. The tablewares imitated Staffordshire ceramics while others were decorated with unusual green and brown floral hand painted patterns. Aspects of the kiln and manufacturing process are discussed. Thomas Ball's ceramics are also discussed within the context of other pottery imported into the colony at that time.

Venue: Reception Rooms, History House, 133 Macquarie St, Sydney

Cost: \$10 RAHS members, \$12 non-members

For bookings, please contact (02) 9247 8001 or [admin@rahs.org.au](mailto:admin@rahs.org.au)

### The Archaeology of Ancient Greece: Tue 22 May 2012, 7pm

Let archaeologist Craig Barker introduce you to the role of theatrical performance in ancient Greek culture in this illustrated talk for National Archaeology Week.

Using the architectural remains of ancient theatres, such as the Theatre of Dionysos in Athens and the theatres at Epidauros and Ephesos, as well as the Australian excavations of a theatre at Paphos in Cyprus, he will examine the spaces used for performance. Then, using theatrical iconography in vase-painting and terracotta, he will describe the impact of theatrical performance on Greek life, particularly through its relationship with the god Dionysos.

Doors open at 6.30pm for cheese and wine. The lecture will begin promptly at 7.00pm.

Venue: Australian Museum, entry via William Street, Sydney

Cost: Australian Members \$20; Non-members \$30

For more information visit: <http://www.australianmuseum.net.au>

### Diving into Archaeology: Wed 23 May 2012, 5:30pm for 6pm start – 8:30pm

*Diving into Archaeology* will be an entertaining evening designed to help you 'dive into archaeology' and explore the remarkable world of shipwreck history. Director Heritage Branch Petula Samios will welcome you to an evening hosted by the Office of Environment & Heritage, featuring talks by:

- ~ **Joanne Edney**, avid diver and social researcher will talk about her research into why divers visit shipwrecks and the type of experiences wreck divers are seeking.
- ~ **Brad Duncan**, Heritage Branch Maritime Archaeologist will talk about the history, discovery and photographic survey of the ex HMAS *Australia*, our country's only battlecruiser and grandmother of the Australian Fleet.
- ~ **Kieran Hosty**, a Maritime Archaeologist and about his recent fieldwork in the Coral Sea and the discovery of the *Royal Charlotte* shipwreck.
- ~ **Tim Smith**, Heritage Branch Maritime Archaeologist will discuss recent fieldwork in the Wingecarribee River, searching for the remains of canoes made in the WWI Berrima Prisoner of War Internment Camp.

Venue: Office of Environment and Planning, 2 Marist Place, Parramatta

Cost: FREE; Drinks, nibbles and a shipwreck poster included; Bookings are essential. Please contact Stephen Pinnington on 02 9873 8550 or [stephen.pinnington@heritage.nsw.gov.au](mailto:stephen.pinnington@heritage.nsw.gov.au)

### Big Dig Archaeology Weekend: Fri 25 - Sun 27 May 2012

Following the success of The Big Dig Archaeology Weekend in 2011, Sydney Harbour YHA in collaboration with Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority is again running this exciting hands-on program in 2012.

The Big Dig Archaeology Weekend is a residential weekend experience, giving you the chance to learn more about archaeology through immersing yourself in a hands-on excavation of a section of The Big Dig, and cleaning and sorting the many artefacts you unearth.

The program costs \$300 per person in a multi-share room to \$520 per person in a private room with a harbour view. This includes:

- Accommodation at Sydney Harbour YHA, The Rocks, for two nights
- All meals
- Welcome dinner, orientation session and movie night
- Two days of on-site excavation work (over 12 hours)
- Visits to The Rocks Discovery Museum, Sydney Observatory and Susannah Place Museum.

This program is suitable for anyone 17 years and older and is a general interest course designed to appeal to anyone who is curious about archaeology, particularly Australian Historical Archaeology.

For more information visit: <http://www.thebigdig.com.au/visit/>

### **Bidjigal Reserve Walking Tour: Sat 26 May 2012, 2:00-4:00pm**

Celebrate National Archaeology week with a walk to explore the Aboriginal heritage of Bidjigal Reserve. This two hour walk sponsored by the Bidjigal Reserve Trust commences in Carlingford and will be led by archaeologist Tessa Corkill and Jennifer Farrer of Boronia Tours. We will visit two Aboriginal sites: a rockshelter excavated in the 1990s and found to contain many thousands of stone artefacts in deposits dating back at least 10,000 years (which makes it one of the oldest known occupation sites in Sydney); and an overhang with rock art on the wall. Along the way we will be able to see many plants used by Aboriginal people in their daily life and perhaps some yabbies in the creek. It isn't a long walk but there are some short rough and steep sections, so a certain level of fitness is required - note that there are no toilet facilities in the Reserve. Wear closed shoes and a hat and bring water, camera and snacks.

Cost: \$8 adults; \$4 children; \$20 family of 4. Bookings essential. Phone Jennifer at 9634 3163 or 0407 456 577 or email [jennifer@boroniatours.com](mailto:jennifer@boroniatours.com) to book and for meeting details.

For more information visit: <http://www.bidjigal.org.au/>

Some archaeologists specialise in studying DNA and blood and food remains found on tools, others study the bones of those who have died to find out about diet and diseases in the past. Archaeology provides great variety.

The archaeologist's equipment varies from a simple trowel to a complex electron scanning microscope, from a pencil to the latest satellite positioning system, from a delicate paint brush to a bulky backhoe.

Australian-trained archaeologists work mainly in Australia, but not always. Some of them work on projects in Honduras, New Mexico, Torres Strait and New Guinea, Jordan and Vietnam, just to name a few.

For some examples on where Australian archaeologists are working today, check out our 'Meet the Archaeologists' webpage on the NAW website.

### **Q. How do I find out more about archaeology?**

A. You can start with your local library or your school library which will have heaps of books on archaeology. Ask at your local museum about their archaeological collections. If you are more serious, there are loads of resources on the internet. Check out the [Links webpage](#) on the NAW website to get started.



Office of  
Environment  
& Heritage

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Q. What is archaeology?**

A. Archaeology is the study of the physical remains of people from the past. It is the piecing together of people's lives from the evidence they have left behind. It is not the study of dinosaurs (that's palaeontology)! Archaeology is about people.

#### **Q. What do archaeologists do?**

A. Australian archaeologists study places of Indigenous occupation, such as Lake Mungo; the historical remains of European and Asian settlement, such as Port Arthur; and maritime history, such as the shipwreck of Pandora.

Archaeologists use many techniques to collect as much information as possible. They survey and record sites or excavate them. They study historical records if they are available and talk to the local community. They spend many hours in the laboratory analysing the remains that they found.