

Australian Archaeology



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In September and October Public Lectures were given on Melanesian anthropology and prehistory and Polynesian ethnohistory by Graeme Pretty, Jim Specht, and Wayne Orchiston, respectively, in conjunction with an ethnographic exhibition on traditional Melanesian warfare displayed in the University Gallery (see Orchiston 1975). Then, almost two months later, John Mulvaney followed with a most successful Public Lecture. This took place during a Conference on Victorian Prehistory (see 'Recent Developments in Victorian Prehistory', elsewhere in this *Newsletter*), organised jointly by the Geology and History Departments and the Office for Continuing Education.

Other Developments

Two new University-level Adult Education courses on 'An Introduction to Prehistoric Archaeology' and 'The Prehistory of Polynesia' were offered by History Department staff during the year, and proved popular. Meanwhile, within the University, close contacts were maintained with personnel in the Departments of Economic History, Geology and Zoology (and the Geography Department at Monash) where Australian prehistory is also taught, and exchange lectures were arranged with Geology and Geography. Closer ties were also forged between the History Department and the Archaeological Society of Victoria.

D. Wayne Orchiston

Reference

Orchiston, D. Wayne 1975 *Warfare in Melanesia. The Leonhard Adam Ethnological Collection Part Two.* Melbourne, University of Melbourne.

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A NEW ARCHAEOLOGY-ETHNOHISTORY RESEARCH JOURNAL FOR THE PACIFIC AREA

The Artefact, formerly the newsletter of the Archaeological Society of Victoria, is now a professional research journal specialising in the ethnohistory and archaeology (prehistoric, historic, and ethno-) of the Pacific region.

The new journal is published quarterly (not twice-yearly, as previously stated) and each number should average around 50-60 pages. Contents include a News and Notes section, research and review papers, and book reviews. The 1976 annual subscription is \$A5.00 if posted to an Australian address, and \$US10.00 for overseas subscribers (or \$A7.00 if submitted in Australian currency). All subscriptions should be directed to the Honorary Secretary of the Society:

Mr D.H. Ferguson
34 Peterleigh Grove
Essendon
Victoria 3040
Australia.

The four 1976 issues of the journal will include the following papers:

- Anderson, J.R. and Joyce, E.B. 'Quaternary geology and environments at the Dry Creek archaeological sites near Keilor'.
- Coutts, P., Witter, D., McIlwraith, M. and Frank, R. 'The Mound People of Western Victoria - a preliminary statement'.
- Gallus, A. 'The Middle and Early Upper Pleistocene stone industries at the Dry Creek archaeological sites near Keilor'.
- Gill, E.D. 'The Aborigines and coastal processes in Western Victoria, Australia'.
- Glenie, R. 'Historical background and geology of the Lancefield megafaunal site'.
- Horrocks, L.C. 'A study in inter-cultural conflict: the Du Fresne Massacre at the Bay of Islands, New Zealand, 1772'.
- Horton, D. 'Analysis of fauna from Lancefield'.
- Jurisich, M. 'Analysis of human skeletal remains from recent excavations in Victoria'.
- Ladd, P. 'The past vegetation around the Lancefield bone bed site'.
- Lourandos, H. 'Aboriginal settlement and land use in Southwestern Victoria'.
- Macumber, P. 'Late Pleistocene hominid sites in Northern Victoria'.
- Orchiston, D.W. 'Morphological and chronological characteristics of prehistoric South Island New Zealand harpoons'.

All papers except those by Horrocks, Jurisich, and Orchiston derive from the Conference on 'Aboriginal Man and Environment in Southeastern Australia: Recent Developments in Victorian Prehistory' held at the University of Melbourne in November 1975.

Editorial enquiries and offers of papers are welcomed, particularly from Melanesian, Polynesian, and South East Asian scholars, and should be addressed to:

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ABORIGINAL ADZE STONE HOARDS FOUND ON THE ARCOONA
PLATEAU NEAR WOOMERA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Introduction

In October 1970, the Woomera Natural History Society held a field excursion to the Lake Hanson area. The purpose of this paper is to provide details of a hoard or cache of Aboriginal adze stones found by the writer on that occasion. This paper will also describe two smaller finds of hoarded adze stones, made in other parts of the region in recent years.

Part 'A' - North East Lake Hanson

Description of the Site

Lake Hanson is a salt lake situated about 220 km north-west of Port Augusta. This lake is located at the western end of the Arcoona Plateaux, an elevated salt bush and gibber plain dissected in places by lowlands of sand, scrub and salt lakes. The region has been described in detail by R.K. Johns, 1967:21-2.

Permanent surface water is virtually non-existent although after good seasons waterholes and fresh water lakes may hold water for several years. In some creeks, soak water possibilities are good and this find of adze stones was made near one such spot.

Running into the north-east section of Lake Hanson is a creek consisting of two arms. The confluence of the two arms occurs just above a rocky bar and it is at this point that soak water is likely. One arm of the creek rises on the plateau to the east whilst the other arm drains a valley cutting back into the plateau to the north.