

CANBERRA ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY – AUSTRALASIAN SOCIETY
FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

ARCHAEOLOGY SYMPOSIUM

BURIED STORIES: HIDDEN, UNRECOGNISED,
FORGOTTEN, UNKNOWN OR UNTOLD

PENINSULA ROOM, NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
AUSTRALIA

22 APRIL 2023



Timber sampling and excavation work on *Lord Sandwich* ex HMB *Endeavour*, Newport, Rhode Island. James Hunter, ANMM, 2020

PROGRAMME

9.30-9.40 A brief introduction explaining what the day is about, sponsors and housekeeping.

9.40-9.50 Paul House: Welcome to Country

9.50-10.10 Andrew Bernie: Case study: The case of the identification and re-burial of two World War One Australian soldiers, previously recorded as missing.

10.10-10.30 Duncan Wright: Sharing stories about a Torres Strait culture hero.

10.30-11.00 Morning Tea (self-provided in cafe)

11.00-11.20 Richard Morrison: Identifying and returning Hōhepa Te Umuroa, Māori convict and political prisoner, from Maria Island, Tasmania, to his homeland.

11.20-11.40 Kieran Hosty: Endeavour Found....Identifying an iconic shipwreck using a 'preponderance of evidence' approach.

11.40-12.10 Q&A Panel of speakers

12.10- 12.30 Thank you's and Close

Bookings: National Museum of Australia What's On Calendar at <https://www.nma.gov.au>

ABSTRACTS and BIOS

Paul House: Welcome to Country

Paul Girrawah House has multiple First Nation ancestries from the South-East Canberra region, including the Ngambri-Ngurmali (Walgalu), Pajong (Gundungurra), Wallaballooa (Ngunnawal) and Erambie/Brungle (Wiradjuri) family groups. Paul acknowledges his diverse First Nation history, he particularly identifies as a descendant of *Onyong* aka *Jindoomang* from Weereewaa (Lake George) and *Henry 'Black Harry' Williams* from Namadgi who were both multilingual, essentially Walgalu-Ngunnawal-Wiradjuri speaking warriors and Ngunnawal-Wallaballooa man *William Lane* aka '*Billy the Bull*'- Murrjinille. Paul was born at the old Canberra hospital in the centre of his ancestral country and strongly acknowledges his First Nation matriarch ancestors, in particular his mother Dr Aunty Matilda House-Williams and grandmother, Ms Pearl Simpson-Wedge. Paul completed a Bachelor of Community Management from Macquarie University, and Graduate Certificate in Wiradjuri Language, Culture and Heritage and Management from CSU. Paul provided the Welcome to Country for the 47th Opening of Federal Parliament in 2022. Paul is Board Director, Ngambri Local Aboriginal Land Council, Member Indigenous Reference Group, National Museum of Australia and Australian Government Voice Referendum Engagement Group. Paul works on country with the ANU, First Nations Portfolio as a Senior Community Engagement Officer.

Andrew Bernie: Case study: The case of the identification and re-burial of two World War One Australian soldiers, previously recorded as missing.

Andrew is the manager of Unrecovered War Casualties – Army, the Australian Army's unit responsible for finding, recovering and identifying Australian servicemen and women who remain unaccounted for – missing or presumed deceased – from past conflicts. He has been in the team for nearly 15 years and the manager for seven. The team's role encompasses archaeological interests in almost all of the Australian Army's key battle sites from WW1-WW2 to Korea.

Andrew will discuss the importance of the work, the role of archaeologists and how the stories of the past still impact on families to this day. The exploration of this case allows for a profiling of the role of this little known but important unit, Unrecovered War Casualties – Army. In 2015, the remains of two then-unknown Australian soldiers were discovered. In 2018, following forensic examinations and extensive investigations by the Army team, the soldiers were formally identified and were re-buried in the presence of their families with full military honours. The paper relates the stories of the soldiers, including their recovery and identification, and how the respective families contributed to the successful resolution of these cases.

Duncan Wright: Sharing stories about a Torres Strait culture hero.

Duncan is Associate Professor within the School of Archaeology and Anthropology, Australian National University. A community archaeologist, Dr Wright has spent the past 20 years collaborating with First Nations (and for the most part Torres Strait Islander) communities who seek present-day cultural and economic benefits that can be supported by archaeology. Beyond, traditional outputs (which include over fifty published papers, books and edited books) Dr Wright has assisted communities working towards

Native Title Sea Claims and cultural tourism initiatives. Current projects include research with Goemulaig and Dauareb, tracing the wandering pathways of reforming ancestors. An additional project with Dharug and Gamilaraay, focuses on bush fire hit heritage in the Blue Mountains.

In 2016, communities from across Torres Strait came together on Mer to share stories about Waiet. An important reforming ancestor Waiets' journey spans southern Papua New Guinea also Western, Central and Eastern Torres Strait. Within each community Waiet brought new mortuary and initiation rituals that, in some contexts, continue into the present. This event was unusual for a number of reasons not least because an archaeologist of European heritage was invited to present a part of this story – excavation results from important places along this trackway. In this paper I present some of these results, also observe the role played by these stories in contemporary discussions about cultural identity, ownership and inter-community cohesion.

Richard Morrison: Identifying and returning Hōhepa Te Umuroa, Māori convict and political prisoner, from Maria Island, Tasmania, to his homeland

Richard has worked as heritage adviser and historical archaeologist, including on Australian national, state/territory and local heritage policy and advice, and heritage conservation management. This has been as a private consultant, as a public servant and advisor, for over four decades. Both before retiring, and since, he has contributed to several national and international, professional, heritage organisations. He has been a Member of ASHA and the Australian Archaeological Association since 1974, was on the founding National Executive of the Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists from 1979, and a Member of Australia ICOMOS since 1981. In 2015 he was appointed to be an Expert Examiner under the Commonwealth's *Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act 1986*.

In 1988 Richard was engaged to exhume the remains of Māori sub-chief Hōhepa Te Umuroa from a Maria Island cemetery where he had been buried in 1847. This project was funded by the NZ Justice Department to 'right an ancient wrong'. He had been tried illegally by Governor Grey and transported as a convict with four compatriots to Van Diemen's Land, the year before, for 'rebellious against the British'. In this exercise Richard was assisted by the then current Elders of Te Umuroa's tribe (from the Whanganui area on the North Island). The exhumation was undertaken pre-DNA identification - achieved on the basis of skeletal evidence. Hōhepa Te Umuroa was returned to his home village of Jerusalem several days after the recovery. This was to be one of the earliest repatriations of Māori remains, and possibly the first, archaeologically facilitated, repatriations of tūpuna/ancestors to that country, directly, in collaboration with, and to, his whānau/family.

Kieran Hosty: Endeavour Found....Identifying an iconic shipwreck using a 'preponderance of evidence' approach.

Kieran is Manager of Maritime Archaeological Program at the Australian National Maritime Museum and former curator/manager of Hyde Park Barracks Museum and Commonwealth Shipwrecks Officer in Victoria. He has worked in the field of maritime archaeology and historic site conservation and interpretation for more than thirty years and has been actively involved in a number of highly successful and innovative projects including the excavations of *HMS Pandora* (1791) and *Sydney Cove* (1797). As well as the

battle to save HMAS Perth (I) in Banten Bay, Indonesia, and the search for and discovery of *Lord Sandwich* ex HMB *Endeavour* (1778) in Newport, Rhode Island.

His Majesty's Bark *Endeavour* is a highly significant vessel in world maritime history and one that elicits mixed opinions. For some, the Pacific voyage led by James Cook from 1768–71 embodies the spirit of Europe's Age of Enlightenment, while for others it symbolises the onset of colonisation and the subjugation of First Nations peoples. Less well understood is *Endeavour's* afterlife as a British troop transport and prison ship caught up in the American War of Independence. It was in this capacity – and renamed *Lord Sandwich* – that the vessel was deliberately sunk in Newport Harbor, Rhode Island, in 1778.

In 2022 after 22 years of extensive joint research with its partners the Rhode Island Marine Archaeology Project and the Silentworld Foundation, the Australian National Maritime Museum controversially announced that the site of *Endeavour* had been finally identified using a preponderance of evidence approach. In this presentation Kieran Hosty details the historical and archaeological research behind this approach, provides the evidence leading to this announcement and discusses what the future might hold for the remains of Cook's *Endeavour*.

This symposium is supported by:

