

Futures Forum: Challenging Ideas for Local Archaeology: a brief report

David Frankel (La Trobe University)

This year Susan Lawrence, Anita Smith, Nikki Stern, Jillian Garvey and I convened a more focussed conversation in conjunction with our normal Colloquium. This 'Futures Forum' took the form of a series of moderated panel discussions involving a diverse group of people, each introduced by short papers by invited participants. Within the overall themes of the nature of local Aboriginal archaeology and what we want to learn about the past, we set out four overlapping areas of interest: 'Scales of Space and Time'; 'Economy, Technology and Society'; 'Change and Continuity'; and 'Layered Landscapes'. In this brief presentation I will summarise key points raised and discussed during the day, opening up significant questions for further debate.

Economy, technology and society

Jillian Garvey

Re-thinking our approach to investigating human subsistence economy and behaviour in late Quaternary Victoria

Jillian Marsh

Recognise and Understand the Gendered Lives of Adnyamathanha through the footprint of Resources and Technologies

Moderator

Susan Lawrence

Discussants

Alex Parmington, Ian Travers

Questions we might ask

- *What do we want to know about the past ?*
Varied aims of archaeology
Specific events and local places
Broader patterns and changes
Processes and explanations
- *Why do we want to know about the past ?*
Varied uses of archaeology and heritage material
- *What can we know about the past ?*
Understanding the nature of the archaeological record



Change and continuity

Caroline Bird

Joining dots: discontinuities, continuity and change

Amy Roberts

A consideration of Aboriginal transitions within the Murray River corridor: from the Pleistocene to the present

Moderator

David Frankel

Discussants

Shaun Canning, Diana Smith

Scales of time and space

David Thomas

Old dates, new dates, no dates: reflections on radiocarbon age determinations in Victoria

Nicola Stern

Time, scale and acuity in the interpretation of past activity traces and cultural landscapes

Moderator

Richard Cosgrove

Discussants

Ilya Berelov, John Tunn, Michelle Negus-Cleary

Layered landscapes

Meg Goulding

It's complicated: an uneasy marriage between post settlement archaeological investigation and the Aboriginal archaeology substratum in Melbourne's CBD

Susan Lawrence

Archaeology's window on environmental change: past, present and future

Moderator

Anita Smith

Discussants

Jamin Moon, Paul Roser, Chris Johnson