



AURA Newsletter

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN ROCK ART RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (AURA) INC.

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AURA Inter-Congress Symposium 2009 17–18 October, Broken Hill, New South Wales

R. G. GUNN

As reported in *RAR* 25: 239, the 2009 AURA Inter-Congress Symposium, celebrating AURA's first quarter of a century, will be held in Broken Hill on the 17–18 October 2009.

Broken Hill

Broken Hill is located in far western NSW, in proximity to the rock art precincts of Mutawintji, Euriowie, Olary and, further west, the Flinders Ranges. The National Parks of Mungo, Kinchega and Sturt are all within three hours drive. Broken Hill itself is an historic town, which at one time led the world in silver, lead and zinc production and boasted 60 hotels, many of which still stand as accommodation houses.

Broken Hill is a major tourist centre with comprehensive facilities.

In October, during the Symposium, the temperature should be around the mid 20s during the day and 12 at night (Celsius) and humidity low (c. 40%). Rain can occur at any time of the year, but heavy road-closing storms are unlikely.

Barrier Social Democratic Club

The Barrier Social Democratic Club is in the main street of the town (Argent Street), one block west of the Post Office and opposite the National Parks office. The venue is well suited for the Symposium, which will consist of a single academic session in the Conference Room (max. seating capacity of 100). The conference room also has a bar and can be used for the Symposium dinner, as it is adjacent to the club's restaurant.

Academic sessions

As the Symposium is celebrating 25 years of AURA, authors are requested to consider what has happened over the past 25 years in relation to their present research.

Comparisons of field and theoretical developments from the early 1980s and now are encouraged.

A second, and timely, request is for papers on the impact of fire on rock art. Over the past 20 years many of us have had firsthand experiences of the impact of fire on rock art sites. Descriptions of the types of damage, causes, and recommendations are particularly invited so that an Australian-wide synopsis can be collated. The presentation of other studies of fire behaviour in relation to rock art sites is also encouraged.

Other than these, there will be no prescribed thematic preferences and any subject connected with rock art may be addressed.

For those unable to attend in October, a summary of their work can be posted to the convener at the address below for inclusion.

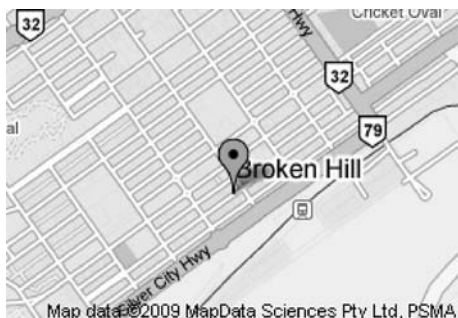
It is anticipated that all suitable papers will be included in a celebratory monograph.

Presenters will have the choice of using either a digital projector (preferably PowerPoint presentations) or a traditional slide projector. Whiteboard/blackboard and overhead projector will also be available. All presentations will be followed by questions and debates.

Current research posters

As well as the academic papers, we would like to get an overview of ALL rock art studies being undertaken in Australia in 2008–2009 (ongoing or proposed). A 'where, what, and with which Community' tally will be mapped out during the session. While papers would be preferred to describe completed research, posters or casual discussions of on-going research would also be of interest. It is envisaged that a summary of all work will be compiled for inclusion into the celebratory monograph.

Titles and abstracts for inclusion in the symposium program



To Sydney

To Melbourne

(50 to 100 words long) must be sent before 31 June 2009 to:
 R. G. ('ben') Gunn
 329 Mt Dryden Rd
 Lake Lonsdale, VIC 3381
 Australia
 E-mail: gunnb@activ8.net.au

Accommodation

There are numerous motels, accommodation houses, and B&B's within the city, and a caravan park on the highways at the western (Adelaide) and eastern (Sydney) edge of the town. (The third caravan park is not recommended).

Fieldtrips

Fieldtrips to Mutawintji, Sturts Meadows and Euriowie are being negotiated for Monday 19 October 2009. Other tours are planned for the Yunta-Olary region to the west (including such sites as Panaramitee) and are likely to range as far as the Flinders Ranges rock art region and extend for some days, depending on interest and, in some cases, access.

Registration

To register for the AURA Inter-Congress Symposium in Broken Hill, please use the registration form provided.

Registration fees are \$A130.00 for members of AURA, \$A60.00 for student and retiree members of AURA, and \$A180.00 for non-members. Membership with AURA can be obtained at the registration desk. Registration covers a conference satchel and contents; coffee, tea, orange juice, biscuits and cakes during session breaks; refreshing buffet luncheons; conference dinner on Sunday evening; and field trip participation and literature. It excludes Saturday dinner, transport and accommodation. The Registration Desk will be open on Saturday morning from 8 am. Academic sessions will run from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Please direct any queries to:

AURA
 P.O. Box 216
 Caulfield South, VIC 3162
 Australia,
 or to auraweb@hotmail.com

Please consult the conference web page at
<http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/home/congress/web/cairns.html>
 for any updates.

We look forward to seeing you in Broken Hill!

ARARA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
 21–25 May 2009, Bakersfield, CA, U.S.A.

ARARA 2009 in Bakersfield, California

The weekend of 22–25 May 2009 is the next scheduled American Rock Art Research Association conference in Bakersfield, California. Bakersfield was selected for the privilege of hosting this event because of its unique location, nestled between the California Coast Range, Transverse Range, and the Sierra Nevada Mountains, and its abundant collection of rock art and other archaeological treasures.

The Bakersfield team is working on securing field trips to such sites as Tomo Kahni State Park, Rocky Hill, Burham Canyon, Mutah Flat, Carrizo Plains, Vandenburg AFB, China Lake NWC and Little Lake, to name a few. Please check future editions of *La Pintura* and the ARARA web page (www.arara.org) for more information on the field trip schedule. We plan to offer field trips on both Friday and Monday in an effort to accommodate as many people as possible.

The Doubletree Hotel has been chosen as the host hotel for this meeting. ARARA has managed to secure rooms at an incredible price for such wonderful accommodations. The Doubletree Hotel is centrally located, situated between restaurant row on Rosedale Highway and the eclectic nightlife of the newly revived downtown area. While in Bakersfield, you may want to partake of local Basque Restaurants, Country Culture or outdoor activities. Bakersfield is but an hour away from class 5 river rafting in the Kern Canyon, there are miles of remote hiking just a short drive in any direction, just two hours away there are Pacific beaches and in a little under two hours you can reach the wine district of Paso Robles.

As you can see, Bakersfield could easily be your vacation destination for 2009. Please, mark your calendars for the weekend of 22–25 May 2009, and watch *La Pintura*, ARARA Online, and the ARARA web page for more information on this exciting conference.

Jack and Gale Sprague
 Local Conference Chairs, ARARA

Back issues

The entire set of the *AURA Newsletter*, 1983 to 2008, is available and can be purchased for \$A60.00, including postage to anywhere.

INTERNATIONAL IFRAO CONGRESS

Global Rock Art

National Park Serra da Capivara, Piauí, Brazil

29 June to 3 July 2009

THE SCHEDULED SESSIONS

Session	Co-ordinators
1 - The rock art from the southeast of Piauí State: graphics profiles, chronology and conservation	Anne-Marie Pessis, Esther Lopez
2 - The origins of the Nordeste Tradition of rock paintings: diffusion and diaspora	Gabriela Martin, Irma Asón Vidal
3 - Rock art of Amazonia	Edithe da Silva Pereira, Kay Tarble de Scaramelli
4 - Recent trends in world rock art research	Giriraj Kumar, Robert G. Bednarik
5 - Picturing change: a global approach to the study of contact rock art	Paul S.C. Taçon, Sally K. May, Ines Domingo Sanz
6 - The non-Cartesian axes of rock art research	Mario Consens, Robert G. Bednarik
7 - Permanency of the painted form ?	Hipólito Collado Giraldo, George Nash, Aron D. Mazel
8 - History of research in rock art: origin and debate	Guillermo Munoz, Ramon Viñas, Fernando Coimbra
9 - Documenting, recording and promoting rock art	Mila Simões de Abreu, Angelo Fossati
10 - Analytical rock art research	Judith Trujillo, Robert G. Bednarik
11 - Prehistoric art: signs, symbols, myth, ideology	Dario Seglie, Luiz Oosterbeek, Marcel Otte, Laurence Rémacle
12 - Aesthetics and rock art	Thomas Heyd, John Clegg
13 - Animals in rock art	Mila Simões de Abreu, Carol-Patterson
14 - Warriors in rock art: a global perspective	Mila Simões de Abreu, Angelo Fossati
15 - Interpreting rock art scenes	Mavis Greer, John Greer, Leslie Zubieta
16 - Women's business: not for women only	Mary Amanda Gorden, Peggy Grove
17 - Computer applications for rock imagery	Ludwig Jaffe, Andrea Arcá
18 - Conservation, protection and educational outgrowths of recording rock art	Jane Kolber, Cesar A. Quijada
19 - Rock art conservation in the national parks and other protected areas	Maria Conceição Soares Meneses Lage, Lorena Ferraro
20 - Valorisation and management of rock art sites	Mercedes Podestá, Matthias Strecker
21 - Quality and management of rock art sites	Maurizio Quagliuolo, Rossano Lopes Bastos, Luiz Oosterbeek, Cris Buco
22 - Rock art and museums	Dario Seglie, Robert G. Bednarik, Giorgio Dimitriadis
23 - The rock art transitions	Hipólito Collado Giraldo, Jose Julio García Arranz, George Nash
24 - Pictures as pictures: subject, depiction, movement, composition in world rock art	Christopher Chippindale, Cris Buco
25 - Global art	Jean Clottes, Niède Guidon
26 - Rock art and food producing societies. A systematic association	María Cruz Berrocal, Sidsel Millerstrom

For details see congress home-page at

<http://www.globalrockart2009.ab-arterupestre.org.br/index.html>

Interpretation in rock art studies

Written across the wall of a cave were found the following symbols:



It was considered a unique find and the writings were said to be at least three thousand years old!

The piece of stone was removed, brought to a museum, and archaeologists from around the world came to study the ancient symbols. They held a huge meeting after months of conferences to discuss the meaning of the markings.

The president of the society pointed to the first drawing and said: 'This is a woman. We can see these people held women in high esteem'.

'You can also tell they were intelligent, as the next symbol is a donkey, so they were smart enough to have animals help them till the soil'.

'The next drawing is a shovel, which means they had tools to help them'.

'Even further proof of their high intelligence is the fish which means that if a famine hit the earth and food didn't grow, they would seek food from the sea'.

'The last symbol appears to be the Star of David which means they were evidently Hebrews'.

The audience applauded enthusiastically.

Then a little old Jewish man stood up in the back of the room and said 'Idiots, Hebrew is read from right to left'!

'It says: "Holy mackerel, dig the ass on that chick" '.



David Koch



Sale of oil and gas leases scrapped in Utah

SALT LAKE CITY, February 2009 – Interior Secretary Ken Salazar says he is scrapping the lease of dozens of parcels of federal land for oil and gas drilling in Utah's redrock country. The area is rich in rock art and subject to a campaign to preserve it.

Salazar says the Bush administration rushed an auction in December 2008 of some of the country's most precious landscapes around national parks and the wild Green River. He has ordered the Bureau of Land Management, which is part of the Interior Department, not to cash checks from winning bidders for the parcels at issue in a lawsuit filed by environmental groups.

A federal judge last month put the sale of the seventy-seven parcels on hold. Now Salazar is saying he would not sell any of them — at least not until the Obama administration has a chance to take a second look.

Please visit the Save the Dampier Rock Art site at
<http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/home/dampier/web/index.html>
 and sign the Dampier Petition. Thank you!

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