



AURA Newsletter

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

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22/1

Cairns 2005 AURA Inter-Congress Symposium

The conference 'Oxalate films on rocks and works of art' previously announced has been cancelled by Professor Alan Watchman, but the associated AURA Inter-Congress Symposium 2005 will proceed as reported previously. It will be held on **Wednesday, 31 August and Thursday, 1 September 2005**, at the Cairns Colonial Club Resort. The event will be followed by fieldtrips to local rock art sites.

Cairns is located in Far North Queensland, in close proximity to the Great Barrier Reef, wet tropical rainforests and the magnificent Aboriginal rock art precincts of Laura and Chillagoe as well as other concentrations. At the time of the AURA symposium the weather should be perfect: warm sunny days (26–28°C), cool evenings (18–20°C), fresh breezes and low humidity (65%). The Cairns Colonial Club Resort is located within a few minutes of both Cairns International Airport and the city centre of Cairns (see map, next page). The venue is superbly suited for the Symposium, which will consist of a single academic session in the Lockhart Room (max. capacity 380 participants), using also the Conference Centre Foyer and the Lockhart Veranda (for buffet refreshments).



*The "Deighton Lady", Cape York Peninsula.
Photograph by Percy Trezise.*

Academic sessions

There will now be no prescribed thematic preferences, **any subject connected with rock art may be addressed**. Presentation titles and abstracts (50 to 100 words long) are invited and should be sent to the Editor for inclusion in the symposium program. Presenters will have the choice of using either AURA's digital projector (preferably Power Point presentations) or a traditional slide projector. Whiteboard/ blackboard and overhead projector will also be available. All presentations will be followed by questions and debates.

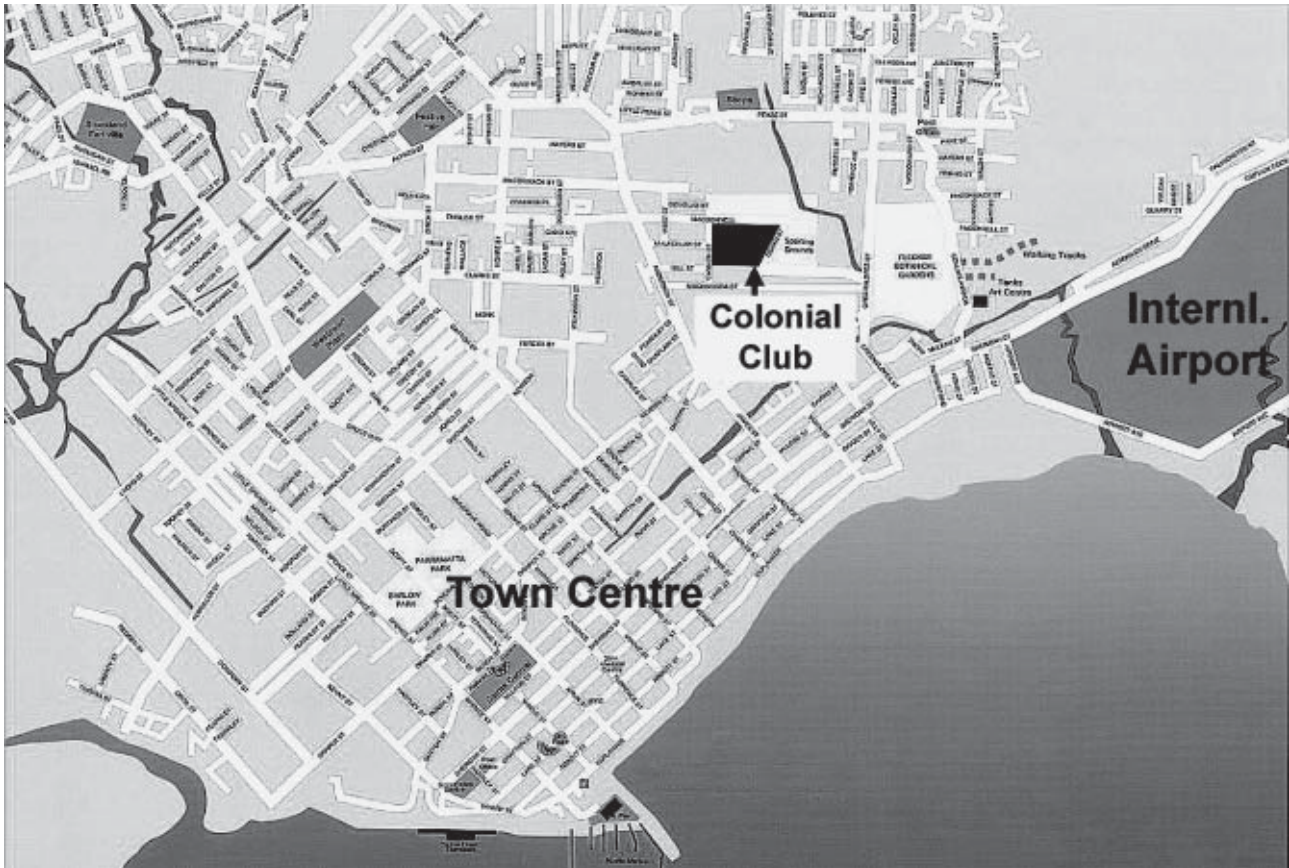
Please send presentation titles and abstracts before 31 July 2005 to:

Robert G. Bednarik
AURA
P.O. Box 216
Caulfield South, VIC 3162

Australia
E-mail: auraweb@hotmail.com

Accommodation

AURA has reserved thirty Standard Rooms at the Cairns Colonial Club Resort, at a rate reduced by more than 30%. These units contain one double and one single bed, and the normal rate of \$A162.00 has been reduced to \$A112.00 for symposium participants. This offer needs to be taken up before 31 July. All accommodation bookings should be by the Accommodation Booking Form (available at the conference site, <http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/home/congress/web/cairns.html>). A copy of it is issued with this *AURA Newsletter*. Luxury units are available at the venue, and elsewhere in Cairns there are numerous hotels in all price ranges, as well as backpackers' accommodation, motels and



Inner suburbs of Cairns, north Queensland.

bed and breakfast establishments. Cairns is a major international tourist centre with comprehensive facilities.

Fieldtrips

Fieldtrips of one to three days are intended to some of the many rock art concentrations in north Queensland. Details of these will be provided in the May 2005 issue of *RAR*.

Registration

To register for the AURA Inter-Congress Symposium in Cairns, please use the registration form provided (enclosed with this issue of *AURA Newsletter*, and also available at <http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/home/congress/web/cairns.html>).

Registration fees are \$A90.00 for members of AURA, \$A60.00 for student and retiree members of AURA, and \$A150.00 for non-members. Membership with AURA can be obtained at the registration desk. Registration covers a conference satchel and contents, including program; light refreshments on arrival; coffee, tea and cake¹ or homemade cookies during session breaks; refreshing buffet luncheons²; and field trip participation and literature. It excludes din-

¹ Choice of assorted homemade muffins; banana and macadamia nut cake; lemon and poppy seed cake; fruit and pumpkin scones with fruit preserves and cream; or mini spring rolls, curry samosas and dim sims served with dipping sauce.

² Choice of mixed country style quiche (vegetarian available); traditional lasagne or vegetarian lasagne; chicken cacciatore and steamed rice; penne pasta with bacon, tomato, spinach and Parmesan cheese (all served with mixed green garden salad, dress-

ners, transport (other than venue's courtesy bus) and accommodation. The Registration Desk will be open on Tuesday (30 August 2005) from 2 p.m. through to 7 p.m. and on Wednesday morning. Academic sessions will commence on Wednesday, 9 a.m., and continue to 6 p.m. each day.

Please direct any queries to:

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

All abstracts of papers will be published in the symposium program, which all delegates will receive. Current and updated details about the event can always be checked on the web-site of the AURA Congress specifically dedicated to the Cairns 2005 Symposium, at

<http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/home/congress/web/cairns.html>

We look forward to seeing you in Cairns!

The AURA Executive Committee
and Symposium Chairmen Professor
John B. Campbell and Robert G. Bednarik

ings and freshly baked bread rolls); or a light summer lunch – platters of assorted closed sandwiches with a variety of fillings, including vegetarian.

Man charged with rock art vandalism

JOE BAUMAN

Deseret Morning News, Friday, 17 September 2004

A 22-year-old resident of Huntington, Emery County, has been charged with vandalising a rock art panel in Buckhorn Draw, San Rafael Swell, a site whose ancient pictures may date back 2000 to 4000 years.

Jeremy Shane Craig faces a third-degree felony charge for alleged violation of the antiquities protection law, said the Emery County Attorney's Office. The maximum possible sentence is zero to five years in prison and a \$5000 fine.

Craig, who was arrested and released on bail, is to appear on 21 September in Castle Dale before 7th District Judge Bruce K. Halliday. A charge is pending against another person, according to the attorney's office. Prosecutors are not sure of the second person's whereabouts, said Deputy Emery County Attorney Brent Langston.

The vandalism is believed to have occurred about 19 July 2004. Chalking on the sandstone wall near ancient paintings denoted the phrase 'I Love You Wendy' — the 'I' was a picture of an eye, the word 'love' was symbolised by a heart, 'you' was a large letter 'U', and 'Wendy' was written out.

A \$1000 reward for information had been posted by the Emery County sheriff's office, the Bureau of Land Management and a local group concerned about restoring historic sites, said Emery County Sheriff LaMar Guymon.

Three people came forward with information, he said. "The reward is based on arrest and conviction", he added. If a conviction results, "we will distribute the reward".

The sheriff's office is appreciative of the information, Guymon added. "The reward had everything to do with it, I think — and just citizens coming forward."

This is not the first time that the large panel of Barrier Canyon pictographs has been damaged. For many years it carried graffiti such as a forged inscription: '1846 Jim Bridger'.

In 1994, the panel was repaired through efforts of local citizens and private donations. Fencing, interpretive signs and other facilities were installed. But ten years later it was hit again. BLM archaeologist Julie A. Howard, Salt Lake City, said the agency is pleased with the tips from the pub-



Ancient rock art panel in Buckhorn Draw, Emery County, was vandalised with chalk drawing in July. Photograph by U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

lic. "We need more people to be our eyes and ears. ... Vandalism to rock art, whether from ignorance or malice, has resulted in irreparable damage."

A report by Constance S. Silver of Preservar Inc., a conservation expert who worked to restore the panel, noted that after authorities requested that the public not try to remove the vandalism, someone tried to take it off by washing off the chalk and covering that part of the panel with mud. Unfortunately, the attempt just made things worse. Until now, the surface of the rock was a rosy colour, tinted by the 'very fragile' desert varnish that formed naturally on the sandstone centuries ago, Silver wrote. "The vandalism and subsequent 'washing' and mud application totally destroyed the desert varnish. As a result, the panel has been irreparably damaged."

More than two days of work was needed to treat the vandalism. On 7 and 8 August, the mud was removed and the raw surface of the rock was recoloured with watercolours and pastels. Conservation and treatment costs amounted to \$2500. This treatment will have a life span of no more than eight to ten years, Silver said. "The area will have to be visually reintegrated" unless a major breakthrough occurs in conservation of rock art.

AURA Newsletter

Entire sets of the *AURA Newsletter*, 1983 to 2004, are available and can be purchased for \$A70.00, postage paid to anywhere in the world.



Visions of the past: the world's most endangered rock art

A public exhibition of the rock art of Dampier Archipelago
by the Australian Rock Art Research Association, Inc.

AURA is assembling a public exhibition to highlight the plight of the Dampier cultural precinct in Western Australia, which includes the world's largest petroglyph concentration and Australia's largest series of stone arrangements. The Dampier site complex is under severe threat from an expanding petrochemical industry that could easily and more economically be established elsewhere.

This exhibition is expected to be completed shortly and will open at the Walkington Theatre, Karratha, Western Australia, probably in April. It will subsequently travel in W.A., in the rest of Australia and abroad. Expressions of interest in hosting the exhibition are invited.

The exhibition requires a floor space of approximately 400 square metres. It is a free public service, and is therefore provided free by AURA. This includes the provision of colour brochures and a curator. Preference is given to public venues that can be made available free of cost to AURA. However, consideration will be given to all offers as this education facility is of the utmost importance in generating public support for rock art protection.

Please send expressions of interest with preliminary details of proposed venue and timing to the Editor of the *AURA Newsletter* at the address below.

AURA Treasurer's financial statement 2003/2004

ELFRIEDE BEDNARIK

Balance in hand on 30 June 2003: \$18 458.98

INCOME:		EXPENDITURES:	
Sales of books	415.92	Postage	587.45
Bank interest	452.33	Business Affairs Registration	33.00
Hamilton registrations	1670.00	MCC Grant expenditures	4816.90
Sales of conference merchandise	352.00	Telephone and Faxes	173.75
		Stationery and photocopies	165.85
		Subscriptions	45.00
		Bank and merchant account fees	466.21
		Hamilton venue and expenses	2622.16
		Refunds, Hamilton registrations	105.00
		Printer cartridge	145.00
TOTAL	2890.25	TOTAL	9160.32

Balance in hand on 30 June 2004: \$12,188.91

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