



Warrnambool

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Semester 1, 2023

Tutorial Programme

Warrnambool Library, Room 1, 14.00

7 February. **Mining Exploration. Bill Gardner**

Precis. This deals with a period when I got excited and took out a mining exploration licence in western NSW and the fun and games that ensued with that. A lot of interesting (to me) stuff about new remote sensing services offered by Geoscience Australia, the geology of the area, the great artesian basin and how it has behaved over the years.

Bill Gardner. Bill has had a varied career studying Agriculture at Melbourne University, farming at Hay, NSW, moving onto a Ph D at Melbourne University, then a stint as a researcher with the Agriculture Department, followed by private consulting to farmers, back to farming and now retirement. Take note that he is quite comfortable with making stuff up where his knowledge runs out.

28 February. **You're not what you wear: understanding fabrics and other polymers. John Sherwood**

Precis. It is hard for us to see our modern life being free of plastics. They are just one of a large family of giant molecules called polymers which are used in everything from containers to fabrics to paints. Nature has produced polymers from the beginnings of life (think cellulose and rubber in trees or wool and silk in animals). The first of many commercial polymers were made in the early to mid-twentieth century. They have greatly improved the quality of our lives but as we now realise create very significant waste problems.

John Sherwood: John has held an Honorary Associate Professor position since his retirement from Deakin University in 2010. He has professional and personal interests in environmental science in its many forms. His particular research interests are in the chemical and earth sciences of Southwest Victoria.

Wed 8 March **Heart Matters**

Do you know the symptoms of a heart attack, especially if you are female? Come along and learn...who knows, it might be very important!

14 March. No tutorial on this date. Instead, an excursion to Spring Creek megafauna site is planned with Bill Gardner.

The Spring Creek Megafauna fossil site was discovered accidentally by Tim Flannery and yielded articulated specimens indicating they were deposited in situ. Radiocarbon dating gave a range from 17,000 to more than 30,000 years ago, with the early date now thought most likely. Controversially, an incised mastodon tooth was found (by a local lady), which, if incised by humans, suggests co-existence of people and Megafauna. In any case, the extinction of Megafauna strongly supports the hotly contested idea that people were present around 30,000 years ago.

Given sufficient interest, a bus will be hired (there will be small cost associated with this) most likely leaving around 10 am and returning late afternoon. Arrangements regarding lunch and afternoon tea are being investigated. Bring a hat, gloves, and sturdy boots, possibly gum boots. Details will be advised close to the date.

28 March. An Introduction to the History, Operations and Historical Collections of Flagstaff Hill by Activations Coordinator Kate Wake and Collections curator Justin Croft

Precis. Kate and Justin will provide an insight into one of Warrnambool's key visitor attractions, community resource, and home to one of Australia's most significant historical Maritime collections.

Hear about how, through interactive and engaging day and night experiences, Flagstaff Hill contributes to the cultural interpretation of the region, entertains and informs visitors.

Gain an insight into Warrnambool City Council's most diverse Volunteer Program where people of all ages are welcome to share their knowledge and skills in an environment which promotes wellbeing and social interaction, creates opportunities and recognises contributions throughout the year.

Learn about some of the amazing stories attached to artefacts housed in the Flagstaff Hill collection. Many of these items survived some of Victoria's most notorious shipwrecks including that of the Loch Ard from which the Loch Ard Peacock was miraculously recovered.

Kate Wake. Kate commenced her role as the Flagstaff Hill Activations Coordinator in 2019 when she and her family relocated to Warrnambool from Adelaide. Her job involves coordinating volunteers throughout the precinct, managing staff, and coordinating functions, events, special programs and day to day activations.

After completing a Bachelor of Visual Arts at the University of South Australia in the late 90's she travelled to the UK and Europe where her experiences in some of the world's greatest galleries and museums inspired her to undertake a Masters in Art Curatorship at the University of Melbourne.

Throughout her career she has held various positions in regional and metropolitan art galleries and museums in both Victoria and South Australia where she has curated art exhibitions, managed significant art and cultural collections, and developed and delivered a broad range of public programs and events for diverse audiences. It was at the Hahndorf Academy in the Adelaide Hills however where her passion for history became apparent especially after learning that the 17th century building in which housed the Gallery and museum was built by her Prussian ancestors.

She moved from South Australian immigration history to Victorian maritime history which are also connected in many ways.

Justin Croft. Justin has been employed as the Flagstaff Hill Maritime Museum Collections curator for just over 18 months. He is also currently the Victorian Collections Coordinator and Office Coordinator at Australian Museums and galleries Association Victoria (AMaGA) in Melbourne where he has held a number of positions over the past 2 years. In 2017 Justin was a participant in the Open Palace Programme an educational tour of Britain where he worked alongside key professionals at some of the most significant heritage sites in the UK, identifying and advising practical solutions to crucial curatorial issues.

He completed a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in History at La Trobe University and following this, a Master of Cultural Heritage and Museum

Studies at Deakin University in 2020, where he was awarded the Roslyn Lawry Award for Excellence in Museum Studies.

Justin has a wealth of experience working in significant heritage attractions having worked for the national Trust of Australia (Vic) at Como House and the Old Melbourne Gaol and the collections of the Melbourne Arts Centre, University of Melbourne and the Australian Sports Museum at the Melbourne Cricket Club.

11 April. **From Africa to Warrnambool. Otha Akoch**

Precis. Otha will be talking about his journey of hope from Africa to Australia and his settlement in Warrnambool; he will also touch a bit on the history of the Shilluk Kingdom where he comes from.

Otha Akoch. Born in Tonga, Upper Nile Region of South Sudan, Otha arrived in Australia from Egypt with his wife Charity Joseph Nyinyal on a humanitarian visa in November 2000. and resided in Mulgrave, Melbourne.

He became involved in the community six months after his arrival to Australia. He was elected president of Australian Chollo Community Inc. in 2001 and 2002. His main objective was to assist those who were left behind in refugee camps in Kenya, Ethiopia central Africa and Middle East to call Australia home and help with a smooth settlement process after arrival in Australia which he successfully did.

Otha decided to relocate to Warrnambool to give his children a better future in a quiet and peaceful social environment. He was the first Sudanese family to arrive in Warrnambool on 10/10/2003. In Warrnambool his main goal was to integrate into the wider community and help with community development and cultural diversity experiences. He became a regular speaker at public meetings, social clubs, churches, non-governmental organizations and schools promoting cultural awareness in the Southwest Region.

In October 2005 Otha was recognized by the State Government with a special award for his contribution to his community and to the wider community of Victoria. These efforts gained him part-time jobs at the Warrnambool City Council and Community Connections in 2005.

In October 2020, Otha ran for Warrnambool City Council elections and won a landslide victory with the second highest votes as the first South Sudanese to be elected to the local government in Australian history.

2 May. **Origins of Australian Weather Forecasting. John W Zillman**

Precis. This talk will trace weather and climate forecasting in Australia from its origins in the dedicated data collection of our colonial meteorological pioneers in the 1800s to the establishment of the Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology in 1908 and the following half century of spectacular scientific progress as the Bureau geared up for World War II and then built on its War-time infrastructure to become a modern highly effective post-War century community service. Its scientific leaders of the 1960s and 70s then worked closely with their National Meteorological Service counterparts around the world to harness the power of satellites and computers to build a 'World Weather Watch' as the foundation for the modern numerical weather prediction systems which enable present-day Australian forecasters to provide the remarkably skilful weather and climate forecasts that are now available around the clock to all Australians.

John Zillman. Dr John Zillman began his meteorological career as an operational weather forecaster in the 1960s, worked in meteorological research in Australia and the US in the 1970s and served as Director of the Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology for 25 years from 1978 to 2003. He played an active role in international scientific cooperation, serving as Principal Delegate of Australia to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) from 1994 to 2004, President of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) from 1995 to 2003 and President of the International Council of Academies of Engineering and Technological Sciences (CAETS) in 2005.

9 May. **Choosing Humanity: Australia and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Jemila Rushton.**

Precis. Nine heads of state have the ability to launch more than 13,000 nuclear weapons between them, threatening all life on this planet. To address this existential peril, a global majority of nations have negotiated a treaty to finally outlaw nuclear weapons. The 2017 United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is the circuit breaker to the nuclear status quo. It is our best chance against our worst weapon.

In 2017 ICAN - the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons - was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. ICAN was started by a group of Melbourne doctors. It was recognised for 'its work to draw attention to

the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons'.

Join us as we hear from Jemila Rushton, ICAN's Campaigner in Australia, as she explains the humanitarian imperatives behind the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, what it calls for and Australia's response to date.

Jemila Rushton. Jemila Rushton is a Campaigner, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Australia. Jemila has been working with ICAN Australia since 2019. With a background as an organiser, networker and community builder, Jemila has been working to address the interlinkages of militarism, extractivism, and colonialism for over a decade. Jemila Represented ICAN Australia at the First Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW in Vienna in June 2023.

Jemila holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Community Development from Victoria University, Naarm/Melbourne, and is based on the lands of the Peek Whurrong speaking people on the shores of Gunditjmara Southern Ocean Sea country in Victoria.

23 May. Mysterious stone marks in the Grampians. Bill Gardner.

It is generally agreed that man-made stone markings (petroglyphs) are very rare or non-existent in Western Victoria, while quite common in other states. But there is a report of marks identified as manmade near Horsham. And another site which was dismissed as “natural features”. This intrigued me so over several years, the sites were located (not as easy as it sounds) and looked at first hand. This talk will explore just what is at these sites and uncover an interesting academic trail which casts doubt on the initial conclusions about them.

Bill Gardner. Bill has had a varied career studying Agriculture at Melbourne University, farming at Hay, NSW, moving onto a Ph D at Melbourne University, then a stint as a researcher with the Agriculture Department, followed by private consulting to farmers, back to farming and now retirement. Take note that he is quite comfortable with making stuff up where his knowledge runs out.

6 June. Weather knows no boundaries. The work of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). Peter Dexter.

Precis. The daily weather forecast could not happen without a huge, globally coordinated, effort to measure the atmosphere, land surface and oceans on a continuous basis, exchange these data in real-time, process them in large meteorological centres with enormous computing power, and then deliver the forecast products to the public through regional and local offices. All this work is coordinated and regulated by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), a specialised agency of the United Nations, whose origins date back to 1853. This talk will look briefly at the history and management of WMO, and in more detail at the global observing, communications and forecasting systems which lead to the daily forecasts. There will be some emphasis on the marine activities of the Organization.

Peter Dexter. With basic studies in physics and meteorology, Peter worked briefly as a duty weather forecaster in Queensland before moving into air-sea interaction and wave forecasting research in the BOM in Melbourne. He has a PhD in ocean remote sensing. In 1984 he moved to WMO in Geneva, where he was manager of the Marine Programme for 20 years. Returning to Australia in 2004, he became manager of ocean services in BOM before retiring in 2015 to live at Crossley.

20 June. **Marvellous Medicines with Flagstaff Hill Apothecary Dr John Harrison**

Precis.