



EXPLORING ORDINARY, EVERYDAY &amp; OVERLOOKED AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE



## SYMPOSIUM: BACKYARD ARCHAEOLOGY

WHEN: 12:30pm – 3:30pm, Saturday, 25 May 2024

WHERE: Theatrette, Canberra Museum + Gallery

[Register here](#)

This symposium, which is aimed at a general audience, is associated with a current CMAG exhibition – Backyard Archaeology – and will include case studies from the ACT region and a panel discussion on the idea of 'backyard archaeology - everyone can do it!'

The presentations aim to raise awareness of archaeology, history, and horticulture in local contexts and of personal importance (as opposed to the grand and the best). They will show how backyard studies can reveal and inspire stories of everyday life through found and excavated objects and nurtured gardens.

The Symposium will appeal to people interested in family history research and creating place history narratives.

The Symposium is supported by the Canberra Museum + Gallery, University of Canberra 'Everyday Heritage Project', and Australian Archaeological Association.

### PROGRAM

**Introduction to Backyard Archaeology: Everyone can do it!**

Steve Brown

**Backyard: Bricks—'Reds in the Shed'**

Martin Rowney

**Backyard Bunker: Working as an archaeologist in my own town**

Nicola Hayes

**Backyard Dunny**

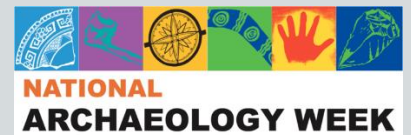
Doug Williams

**Backyard Garden: A memory box in plants and paths**

Anne Claoue-Long

### PANEL DISCUSSION

This is a National Archaeology Week event.



### RESEARCH PARTNERS

## **SYMPOSIUM: BACKYARD ARCHAEOLOGY – PROGRAM**

### **Welcome**

Anna Wong (Director, Museum, Galleries & Heritage, Canberra Museum + Gallery)

### **Backyard Archaeology: Everyone can do it!**

Steve Brown (University of Canberra, GML Heritage)

Steve will introduce the symposium and set the scene for the four wonderful presentations. The aim of the symposium is to engage citizens in the idea of backyard archaeology and the ways in which found objects can be used to create stories about the places on which they live and the lives that went on before them. Such work can support family history research and inspire narratives of people, place, and things.

### **Backyard: Bricks—'Reds in the Shed'**

Martin Rowney (GML Heritage)

Canberra Reds, the building blocks of early Canberra, can be found in the corners of backyards across the ACT and surrounds. They touch Canberra society at all levels—propping up the facades of public buildings, forming the fabric of local houses and edging garden beds. Recent archaeology has found the 'lost' first phase of kilns from the Canberra Brickworks in Yarralumla, and they tell a tale of experimentation. Those kilns built the Brickworks and their products ended up in almost everyone's backyard.

### **Backyard Bunker: Working as an archaeologist in my own town**

Nicola Hayes (Navin Officer Heritage Consultants)

Nicola will present on her connection to the ACT and how working in her backyard brings a special connection to the archaeology and history of a place. Nicola has family connections dating back to the building of Canberra and has worked as an archaeologist in the ACT since 2005. Nicola's family may have left archaeological traces, perhaps yours have too. She explores this intimate relationship to the archaeology of Canberra.

### **Backyard Dunny**

Doug Williams (Access Archaeology)

The title of this paper certainly evokes an image of that established feature, usually small and ramshackle, in the back yard of homes in towns and cities before the ubiquity of flushing conveniences. The backyard dunny I will discuss in this instance was that of a relatively poor 19th century selector with a few hundred acres between Queanbeyan and Bungendore. The contents of this rediscovered repository are both evocative and informative on family life on a 19th century selection.

### **Backyard Garden: A memory box in plants and paths**

Anne Claoue-Long (Australia Garden History Society)

Gardeners may not necessarily be archaeologists but as a group they are adept at digging, both in the dirt and into the past history of their plots. Our gardens are full of memories: of past land use, gardening fashions and styles, plants that have flourished or floundered, and of other gardeners and friends.

### **Panel discussion**

Panel – Symposium presenters; Moderator: Steve Brown

The panel will draw on the notion that 'we are all archaeologists' to discuss the ways in which a focus on everyday life and found objects allows us the opportunity to link the smallest story to the largest social transformation. The panel will take questions from the audience.

## PRESENTER BIOS

**Steve Brown** – Senior Research Fellow, University of Canberra; Special Advisor, GML Heritage

Steve undertakes work on the Australian Research Council funded 'Everyday Heritage Project' which is a collaboration between 14 academics and practitioners from across Australia, the UK, Ireland, and Finland. Steve is the curator of the Backyard Archaeology exhibition at CMAG. He lives on a 60-hectare property that is managed for conservation and love.

**Martin Rowney** – Heritage Principal, GML Heritage

Martin Rowney is a consultant archaeologist with 30 years' experience in historical, industrial and Aboriginal archaeology and heritage site management around Australia. Martin also has a strong interest in heritage site interpretation and the development of place specific artwork.

**Nicola Hayes** – Senior Archaeologist and Senior Heritage Specialist, Navin Officer Heritage Consultants

Nicola has worked as a consultant archaeologist/heritage specialist for 19 years. Nicola has been involved in and/or project managed over 500 projects to date. Prior to joining the NOHC team in 2005 Nicola worked in the ACT Heritage Unit, where her role included the registration of Aboriginal sites within the ACT. Nicola has led excavation programs as part of the cultural heritage management process including engaging cross-specialist teams on complex heritage projects. Nicola is a Canberra/Queanbeyan local and has close ties with her subject matter having spent a lot of time with her maternal Grandfather who grew up at the Causeway.

**Doug Williams** – Principal, Access Archaeology & Heritage

Doug has been a consultant archaeologist and heritage manager in various capacities for over 30 years. He has worked on sites that are small, intimate, and 'every day' through to World Heritage listed landscapes. With primary interest in First Nations archaeology, he has a particular interest in the archaeology of everyday activities, and how it can inform us about the lives of the less documented people of history.

**Anne Claoue-Long** – Australia Garden History Society

Anne has worked as a curator and professional historian in museums and in heritage conservation studies. She researches, writes, and presents on the identification and conservation of significant gardens and cultural landscape for the Australian Garden History Society where she serves on both the local Branch and National Management Committees.

