

# *Time Travel Australia*

*Our Business is in Ruins*

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**Newsletter  
Winter 2014**

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Not a good time to be in Canberra – has it always been this cold? I still have more than a month to go before I head off to warmer climates. What is wrong with my planning!!!

Our first tour to Japan was a great experience. The gardens were beautifully crafted, castles nothing like those we are used to and the temples quite a spiritual experience. We were fortunate enough to see Mt Fuji in brilliant sunshine and it is quite a spectacle. I later learnt that visitors one day either side of our visit saw nothing but fog and cloud.

I think everyone was also surprised just how much forest there is in Japan, dense forest too. Many of the areas that we drove through looked almost impenetrable for the most part. While Kyoto and Nara may have been highlights, I really enjoyed our time at Kurashiki –

walking along the canals and the art of the O'Hara Museum. Hiroshima was a very moving and sobering experience. A flame burns at the memorial and will continue to do so as long as nuclear weapons exist. Let's hope that it doesn't burn for much longer.

It was such an enjoyable experience that we are already planning another tour to Japan in 2015. The focus of this tour will be north from Tokyo and across to Hokkaido. We will also offer an extension to Kyoto and Nara for first time visitors.

The Mt Serle archaeological project went very well and while we complained about the cold (and frost!) some mornings, the weather was fine for the most part with beautiful sunny days.

As this was our first field season, we really didn't



**Cliff Coulthard at Red Gorge, Flinders Ranges, SA**

know what to expect and while we were not surprised, we were very pleased with the results. The landscape itself was worth the visit on its own, from the beautiful red sandstone ridges to the tree lined banks of the Frome River - it is a spectacular part of the country.

I won't add too much more here as Bronwyn McElvenny has penned a few words for this edition.

At this stage we plan on returning to Mt Serle in May, 2015, a little earlier than this year. However, for the next season we intend continuing where we left off this year but will offer a more structured program now we know the type of sites and material that we will be looking for.

We will also have Tony Corrigan join us and he will be conducting an ecological survey. His particular interest is rock wallabies but he will be looking to see what else the property has to offer. The ecological survey will include the collection of scats (animal poo for the uninitiated), recording tracks and dens, spotlighting and floral sampling. We will offer places in either the archaeological or ecological program or a combination of both.

Next year is shaping up as a busy year. Apart from returning to some of the well-worn paths, we are adding Ecuador and the Galapagos, Northern Japan and, for something a little more exotic, South Australia. We also welcome Doug Williams to the broader fold as he will lead his first overseas tour for us, taking a group to Crow Canyon in the USA and Turkey.

Happy travelling.

Chris Carter

### **MT. SERLE / IGA WARTA.J**

June 16-26, 2014

When Chris suggested we might like to join his preliminary archaeological survey at Mt. Serle, it only took us a few seconds to respond in the affirmative. We had just completed the Lake Mungo trip ( March/April ) which had whetted our combined appetites for more 'in depth' experience of this magnificent part of the country.



**Mick McKenzie – a man of many talents**

The fact that neither of us had done any archaeological fieldwork did not deter us as we felt we could at least keep up our end as 'gophers'....added to that Kaye had been identified during the Mungo trip as 'having the spotter's eye'!

Day 1.....All converged on Adelaide Airport in 'dribs and drabs' ending with a group of 12 including our three chauffeurs, Chris, Doug and George.....then divided into the three vehicles and set off in convoy north to Iga Warta, a journey of over seven hours, arriving after dark. Those seven hours gave us an opportunity to get to know one another and view the 'lay of the land'.

On arrival, a very warm welcome from our hosts, Josie and Terence and a delicious beef casserole, vegetable bake and apple crumble to die for! The 'Boree Log'...(large log fire in half a kettle drum) was also very warming and welcoming. Reasonably early (!) evening after dispersal to our various accoms. on either side of the creek bed.

Day 2.....After being given a 'welcome to country' sung in the Adnyamathana language by Terry, which was very moving, we then had a short briefing from Chris and Doug (our chief archaeologists) and headed out with Cliff and Mick (our Adnyamathana guides) to acquaint us with the areas chosen to work in over the following ten days.

From here on in our days were packed to the brim and went somewhat along these lines:

Brek at 0800...always varied and delicious...I even managed to have an old-fashioned jaffle cooked over the open fire one morn.... scrumptious and nostalgic. We then trooped 'en masse' into the kitchen where the lunch makings were all laid out for us to help ourselves. Thus, armed with our replete lunchboxes and bags of trail mix etc we would hit the trail at exactly 0900.

Returned mostly around 1630 to 1800.....debriefed on the verandah...loaded photos, recorded findings of the day from the various sites.....hugging the restaurant style tall gas heaters (on one side only !) Then followed happy hour, always a delicious repast and even the gluten free dishes were delicious.

**HIGHLIGHTS...**The first day with Cliff and Mick showing us the various sites of importance to the Adnyamathana, i.e. King Bob's gravesite and for us what to look for in terms of positions of branches and stones designating a gravesite.

The Tree where the meeting between the missionaries and the Adnyamathana took place in 1929...first contact 1840's.

Being invited as a group to the celebration following the erection of the memorial stone to an honoured member who had died four years ago.

The openness, warmth, hospitality, friendliness, willingness to share the stories and knowledge and inclusiveness we received from the Adnyamathana people especially those mentioned already.

Doug's training session on the skill of knapping was fascinating and most helpful specifically in identifying the artefacts and the raw materials utilised.

Listening to George's stories and admiring his singing voice not to mention Doug's...though yet to hear the latter's poetry readings !

Our 'day off' in the Red Gorge with Cliff as guide....rugged walk over the 'unforgiving riverbed stones', (more like loose cobblestones!) to finally come to the most beautiful and poignant rock carvings and paintings almost 'wall to wall' they were so prolific.

The excitement and delight of finding flakes and cores and of finding examples of artefacts that showed contact with whites i.e flakes skilfully crafted from bottle glass and pottery etc.

Just walking in this isolated amazing country and treading ground where indigenous people had trod 40-50,000 years ago was very special and humbling.

The wildlife...yellow-footed rock-wallabies, Euros, Red Kangaroos, Emus ... birds too numerous to mention here ... the flora, the red river gums.



**Bronwyn, Kaye and Josie - Iga Warta**

Finding my deceased Uncle's name on the plaque at Nepabunna.

Kaye proving her canny navigational skills ! Catherine, Helen and Don sharing there knowledge.

Ewan displaying what good celtic genes and years of dancing can do for one scrambling up a rockface!



Jenny for her amazing computer and photographic skills and for being so supportive in my times of need!

Dorothy for her amazingly nimble feet and wonderful whackiness and caring!

Peter for his persistence and his amazing find of site at the very last hour!

Chris and Doug for masterminding the whole venture and virtually 'sinking with the ship' outside Port Pirie on our return!!

CONCLUSION: Every day was in fact full of highlights. Our group was delightful and diverse or should that read 'delightfully diverse'?

Many thanks to one and all for contributing of themselves and to the majestic Flinders Ranges in toto. This was indeed a very special and enriching experience.

Cheers to all...Bronwyn  
Also on behalf of Kaye.

### **Scheduled Tours – 2014**

#### **To the Edge of the Outback: Mungo, Broken Hill & Beyond.**

15 days from 18 October 2014

Led by Tony Corrigan

This tour aims to introduce the depth and breadth of the cultural and natural history of South-West NSW. Departing from Canberra, we will follow the expansion of settlement along the Murrumbidgee River stopping off at Gundagai and Balranald on the way. We will then detour inland to see Lake Mungo and discuss its 50,000 years of prehistory.

After a night in Mildura (including a dinner at Stefano's) we will head north along the Darling to Bindara Station before heading on to Broken Hill where we will visit some of the historic sites of this famous area. We will also visit Mutawintji National Park to experience some of its Aboriginal prehistory.

Accommodation varies between hotels, motels and shearers' quarters where sleeping bags will

be required.

Call or email us directly for further information.

### **2015**

Itineraries and prices for the 2015 tours will be available around twelve months prior to departure.

#### **Beyond Light's Vision: The History & Heritage of South Australia**

16 days - from 9 March 2015

Led by Christopher Carter

From Adelaide, this tour will begin with an explanation of the Colonial settlement of SA - from first settlement at Glenelg and the survey of the city; the copper boom that saved the young colony from bankruptcy; to the Murray River and its importance in the development of inland NSW.

The prehistory of SA goes back beyond 50,000 years. We will visit a number of Aboriginal sites which include rock art and camp-sites, from the coast lines to the Murray River and into the Flinders Ranges.

There is an option to extend the tour a further five days to visit Kangaroo Island.

Contact Chris via email or call 02 61664620 or 0412001586 for further information.

#### **The Many Cultures of Mexico: From Aztec to Maya**

20 days – from 17 April 2015

Led by Christopher Carter.

Mexico has a rich tradition filled with music and dance. The tour includes visits to venues to experience it first hand and you will also have free time to further explore these areas at your own pace. We will visit the colonial cities of Luebla, Merida and Oaxaca as well as many archaeological sites including Teotihuacan, Chichen Itza, Uxmal, Mayapan and Palenque with an option to go on and see Tikal.

The tour also takes us to the shores of the Caribbean and we will also have some time to relax and have some fun. There is an option to extend the tour into Belize and Guatemala.

This tour is being run on behalf of the Australian Museum Members as an adjunct to the Aztecs exhibition beginning later this year.

Contact Chris via email or call 02 61664620 or 0412001586 for further information.

### **Mt Serle Archaeological and Ecological Survey**

#### **Northern Flinders Ranges, SA**

11 days, May 2015

Led by Doug Williams, Chris Carter & Tony Corrigan

After our successful first season, we will be offering this programme again in 2015.

Mt Serle Station is located in the northern Flinders Ranges of South Australia. Working closely with the traditional owners, the Adnyamathanha people, this project will involve a survey and recording plan of this property and will be undertaken over a number of years.

In 2015 we will be continuing the archaeological survey that commenced in 2014, however an ecologist will join us and we will have a team undertaking a floral and faunal survey at the same time. You can choose to do both or just stay with one discipline.

Accommodation will be in an established camp located adjacent to Mt Serle. Some camping may be required when working in more remote locations.

Contact Chris via email or call 02 61664620 or 0412001586 for further information.

### **Northern Japan: Honshu & Hokkaido**

15 days, June/July 2015

Led by: Chris Carter

From Tokyo, this tour will head north via Old Nikko to Matsuhsima and then across to Hokkaido. We will go as far north as the beautiful Shiretoko Peninsula .

The tour will include an optional extension to Kyoto and Nara for those who have not travelled to Japan previously.

Contact Travelmakers on 02 62232780 for further information.



**Matsumoto Castle, Honshu, Japan.**

### **The Archaeology of South-West, USA**

21 days, August 2015

Led by Doug Williams

This tour will consist of two components – two weeks archaeological field work at the Crow Canyon Archaeological Centre (Colorado) and a week visiting some of the better known sites of the Four Corners region of the USA including Mesa Verde and Monument Valley.

The Crow Canyon Archaeological Centre is dedicated to understanding, teaching, and helping to preserve the rich history of the ancestral Pueblo people of the American Southwest. Time spent at the Centre will include archaeological excavation as well as laboratory work.

An itinerary will be available later in the year. Please let us know if you are interested at all.

Contact Chris via email or call 02 61664620 or 0412001586 for further information.

### **A Taste of Turkey**

21 days, Sept/Oct 2014

Led by Doug William & Sami Ozcini

Experience the Byzantine and Ottoman splendour of Istanbul, including the bazaars, mosques, ancient palaces and the seraglio of the sultans. We will tour the battlefields of Gallipoli, birthplace of modern Turkey and an Australian legend; explore legendary cities of the Aegean coast, from Troy to Pergamon and Ephesus; and explore the wonders of Cappadocia.

As with previous tours, we will spend six nights cruising the Mediterranean on a private chartered yacht. We will also experience a range of

Turkish cuisine from simple home-cooked meals, making your own pides through to the finest restaurants.

Contact Chris via email or call 02 61664620 or 0412001586 for further information.

### **An Andean Adventure: Chile, Bolivia & Peru**

21 days, October 2015

Led by Chris Carter & Juan Cardenas

Tour manager: Penny Heath

Travelling through Chile, Bolivia and Peru this tour will provide a basic understanding of the cultures of the Central Andean Region of South America. While it would not be possible to follow a distinct chronological route, the theme of the tour will basically follow the Inka Empire from its southern periphery in the Atacama Desert to its inner sanctum in Cuzco. En route we will also visit a range of sites that present evidence of many of the cultures that either pre-date or were contemporaneous with the Inka.

We will offer an option/extension to walk the Inka Trail for those so inclined.

Please note that Chris will only leading the first half of the tour.

Contact Chris via email or call 02 61664620 or 0412001586 for further information.

### **Ecuador and the Galápagos**

23 days - October/November 2015

Led by: Christopher Carter

Ecuador is a remarkable country, apart from being the 'most biodiverse' in the world, it has a rich and varied history and numerous cultural sites including the World Heritage Sites of old Quito and the centre of Cuenca. In the Amazon, we shall learn something of the culture and modern life of the Añangu Quichua people. Ecuador also has some of the northern most Inka sites including Incapirca where you will see examples of the fine masonry similar to that found in Cusco.

This tour focuses on four key areas – the southern high Andes near Cuenca, the north-western cloud forests, the eastern lowland Amazon basin rainforests and of course the near-mythical, remote and wonderful Galápagos archipelago, in the Pacific 1000 kms west of

mainland Ecuador.

Contact Chris via email or call 02 61664620 or 0412001586 for further information.

### **Music, Art and Wonders of South America Chile & Argentina**

20 days, November, December 2015

Led by ABC Presenter Damien Beaumont & Chris Carter

Discover the extraordinary opera, music, dance and art of South America, combined with some of great natural wonders of the world. Includes a luxury expedition cruise around Cape Horn and Patagonia!

This tour is being organised by Renaissance Tours, Sydney. Call Lissa on 1300 727095 for further information.

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Please contact us directly if you have any questions or require further information for any of the tours.

If you have any news that would be of interest to our readership, feel free to forward items, snippets of news or photographs to the address below for inclusion in our next newsletter.

Chris Carter

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