

Speakers Program
DAY 1



Exploring the Legacy of the 1948 American-Australian Scientific Expedition to Arnhem Land
INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM • NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA • 16 – 20 NOVEMBER 2009

DAY 1 **Tuesday 17 November** **HISTORIES**

MORNING

8am–3pm Registration desk open

9–9.20am **Official opening of symposium**
Craddock Morton
Director, National Museum of Australia

Overview of symposium
Margo Neale
Project director and Principal Advisor
to the Director (Indigenous),
National Museum of Australia

9.20–9.50am **Overview of the Expedition**
A history of the 1948 Expedition
Sally K May
Convenor, Graduate Program in Liberal Arts
(Cultural and Environmental Heritage),
Research School of Humanities,
The Australian National University

9.50–10.30am **Unpacking the testimony of Gerald Blitner:**
An Indigenous perspective on the Arnhem
Land Expedition
Martin Thomas
Research Fellow, Department of History,
University of Sydney

10.30–11am Morning tea

11–11.30am **Locating the Expedition politically:**
1948 American–Australian relations
Kim Beazley
Chancellor, The Australian National University

11.30am–12noon **Historic perspectives on the Smithsonian's**
participation in the Arnhem Land Expedition:
Transformations of the expeditionary enterprise
Paul Michael Taylor
Director, Asian Cultural History Program,
Smithsonian Institution

AFTERNOON

12noon–12.30pm **'A Robinson Crusoe in Arnhem Land...':**
Howell Walker, National Geographic
and the 1948 Mountford Expedition
Mark Jenkins
Historian, National Geographic Society

12.30–1pm **Fossicking memories**
Expedition botanist Raymond Louis Specht
interviewed by Martin Thomas

1–2.30pm Lunch

2.30–4.30pm **Session: Charles P Mountford**
Chair and respondent:
Emeritus Professor John Mulvaney

2.30–3pm **Inside Mountford's tent:**
Paint, politics and paperwork
Philip Jones
Senior Curator, Department of Anthropology,
South Australian Museum

3–3.30pm **The responsibilities of leadership:**
The records of Charles P Mountford
Suzy Russell
Content services librarian,
State Library of South Australia
paper co-authored with
Denise Chapman
Content services librarian,
State Library of South Australia

3.30–4pm **'Bastard barks':**
A gift from the 1948 Arnhem Land Expedition
Margo Neale
Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Historical
Research and senior curator, National Museum
of Australia

4–4.30pm **Session responses and discussion**

4.30–5pm **General discussion and questions**
led by Margo Neale (National Museum of Australia),
Sally K May (Research School of Humanities,
The Australian National University) and
Peter Veth (Deputy Director, National Centre for
Indigenous Studies, The Australian National
University)

8pm **MANIKAY PERFORMANCE**



Speakers Program
DAY 2



BARKS BIRDS & Billabongs

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DAY 2 Wednesday 18 November		LEGACIES	
MORNING		AFTERNOON	
8am–3pm	Registration desk open	12.30–1pm	Hidden for 60 years: The motion picture films of the American-Australian Scientific Expedition to Arnhem Land Josh Harris Senior Electronic Resources Technician, Department of Collections and Technical Services, University of Kentucky (formerly Archives Manager, Film and Audiovisual Archives, National Geographic Society)
9–10.30am	Session: Natural Sciences		
9–9.30am	Beneath the billabongs: The scientific legacy of Robert Rush Miller Gifford H Miller Professor, INSTAAR and Geological Sciences, University of Colorado, Boulder, United States of America <i>and</i> Robert C Cashner Emeritus Research Professor of Biological Sciences, Vice-Chancellor for Research and Dean of the Graduate School, University of New Orleans, Louisiana, United States of America	1–1.30pm	Collecting Australia at the Smithsonian: 150 years and still going Adrienne L Kaeppler Curator (Oceania), Department of Anthropology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution
9.30–10am	Appraising the legacy of the Arnhem Land Expedition: An insider's perspective Raymond Louis Specht Emeritus Professor of Botany and 1948 Expedition member, University of Queensland	1.30–2.30pm	Lunch
10–10.30am	The 'exciting thing was the landscape': Raymond Specht, a botanist in the field Lynne McCarthy Research Fellow, Centre for Historical Research, National Museum of Australia	2.30–3.30pm	Politics of Repatriation panel: The collection and return of human remains and cultural materials
10.30–11am	Morning tea	3.30–4pm	Making a sea change: Rock art, archaeology and the enduring legacy of McCarthy's research on Groote Eylandt Anne Clarke Program convener, Heritage Studies, Department of Archaeology, School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry, University of Sydney <i>and</i> Ursula Frederick PhD candidate, School of Art, The Australian National University
11am–1.30pm	Session: Collections across media	4–5pm	Indigenous Community panel Expedition camp 1 – Groote Eylandt
11–11.30am	Boomerang to Australia the big sky country: Photographic legacies in books of the 1950s and 1960s Catherine de Lorenzo Senior Lecturer, Faculty of the Built Environment, University of New South Wales	5–5.30pm	General discussion and questions led by Peter Stanley (Head, Centre for Historical Research, National Museum of Australia) and AnnMcGrath (Director, Australian Centre for Indigenous History, The Australian National University)
11.30am–12noon	Birds on the wire: Colin Simpson and the emergence of the radio documentary feature Tony MacGregor Arts Editor, ABC Radio National	7.30pm	SYMPOSIUM DINNER
12noon–12.30pm	Snapshots of musical life: Simpson's 1948 recordings Allan Marett Professor Emeritus, University of Sydney and Professor of Ethnomusicology, Charles Darwin University <i>and</i> Linda Barwick Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures, University of Sydney		

Speakers Program
DAY 3



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DAY 3 Thursday 19 November CONTINUITY & CHANGE

MORNING

- 8am–3pm Registration desk open
- 9–10am Session: Fibre**
- 9–9.30am **The forgotten collection: Baskets reveal histories**
Louise Hamby
Postdoctoral fellow, Research School of Humanities,
The Australian National University
- 9.30–10am **Forget the barks! Bring on the string figures! The string figures of Yirrkala: Activating a legacy**
Robyn McKenzie
PhD candidate, Research School of Humanities,
The Australian National University
- 10–10.30am Morning tea
- 10.30–12.30pm Session: Western Arnhem Land**
- 10.30–11am **The forbidden gaze: The 1948 Wubarr ceremony performed for the American-Australian Scientific Expedition to Arnhem Land**
Murray Garde
ARC Linkage Postdoctoral Fellow,
School of Languages and Linguistics,
University of Melbourne
- 11–11.30am **From Fish Creek to the Mann River: Hunter-gatherer transformations in western Arnhem Land, 1948-2008**
Jon Altman
ARC Australian Professorial Fellow,
Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research,
The Australian National University
- 11.30–12.30pm **Indigenous Community panel Expedition camp 2 – Gunbalanya (formerly Oenpelli)**

AFTERNOON

- 12.30–1.30pm Lunch
- 1.30–3.30pm Session: North-east and central Arnhem Land**
Chair and respondent:
Howard Morphy
Director, Research School of Humanities,
The Australian National University
- 1.30–2.30pm **Indigenous Community panel Expedition camp 3 – Yirrkala**
- 2.30–3pm **Yolngu ways of knowing Country**
Ad Borsboom
Chair Pacific Studies,
Department of Anthropology
and Development Studies, Radboud University
Nijmegen (The Netherlands)
- 3–3.30pm **Missing the revolution: Christianity and the 'Macassan-Dreaming' in north-east Arnhem Land**
Ian McIntosh
Director of International Partnerships and Adjunct
Professor of Anthropology, Indiana University –
Purdue University at Indianapolis,
United States of America
- 3.30–3.45pm **Session responses and discussion**
- 3.45–4pm Afternoon break (*if necessary*)
- 4–5pm **General discussion**
led by symposium steering committee (Margo Neale,
Martin Thomas and Sally K May), Howard Morphy
(Director, Research School of Humanities,
The Australian National University), Ann McGrath
(Director, Australian Centre for Indigenous History,
The Australian National University) and Peter Veth
(Deputy Director, National Centre for Indigenous
Studies, The Australian National University)
- Closing remarks**
Peter Stanley (Head, Centre for Historical
Research, National Museum of Australia)
- 6pm NFSA ARNHAM LAND EXPEDITION FILM NIGHT**