

Thursday 3 November
6.30-7.30pm
Kambri, Level 2, T2

Followed by a reception at Badger & Co

MODERN HUMANS IN PLEISTOCENE WALLACEA ...the story thus far

Professor Sue O'Connor

Distinguished Professor

School of Culture, History & Language, ANU



Our species embarked on the world's first great maritime journey from Sunda (greater Southeast Asia) to Sahul (Australia and New Guinea) at least 50,000 years ago. In the process they settled Wallacea, the archipelago of thousands of islands lying between these two continental landmasses.

By ~45,000 years ago they had occupied the larger islands, from Sulawesi to Flores and Timor. It appears that these societies were stable for about 30,000 years but at the end of the last glacial phase ~16,000 years ago things changed dramatically.

Obsidian from an off-island source appears in the archaeological assemblages of at least four islands in southern Wallacea marking the onset of the world's earliest maritime exchange network and a period of extensive demographic movement across Wallacea.

This lecture explores the archaeological and genetic evidence for this remarkable human story thus far.



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Register here for this free event and associated reception.

Direct enquiries to
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The Mulvaney Lecture is a bi-annual event presented by scholars of international renown on themes of interest to the School of Archaeology and Anthropology founding Professor - the late great John Mulvaney.

ANU School of Archaeology & Anthropology

The 2022 Mulvaney Lecture is proudly supported by the ANU Australian Studies Institute.

THE MULVANEY LECTURE