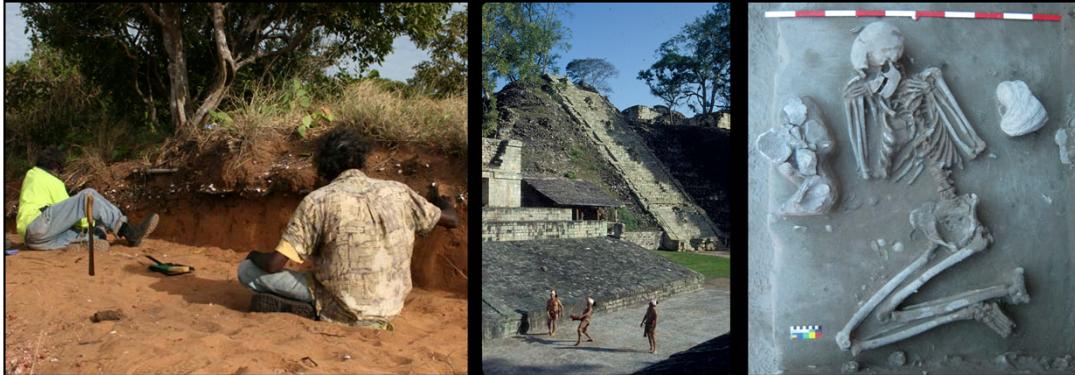


# Reflections on Archaeological Data and Data Standards in Australia, Melanesia, the Pacific and Mesoamerica



Sean Ulm



Photo credits (L-R): (1) Ulm, S., N. Evans, D. Rosendahl, P. Memmott and F. Petachy 2010 Radiocarbon and linguistic dates for occupation of the South Wellesley Islands, northern Australia. *Archaeology in Oceania* 45(1):39-43; (2) Sean Ulm; (3) McNiven, I.J., B. David, T. Richards, K. Aplin, B. Asmussen, J. Mialanes, M. Leavesley, P. Faulkner and S. Ulm 2011 New direction in human colonisation of the Pacific: Lapita settlement of south coast New Guinea. *Australian Archaeology* 72:1-6.

# What is a site?



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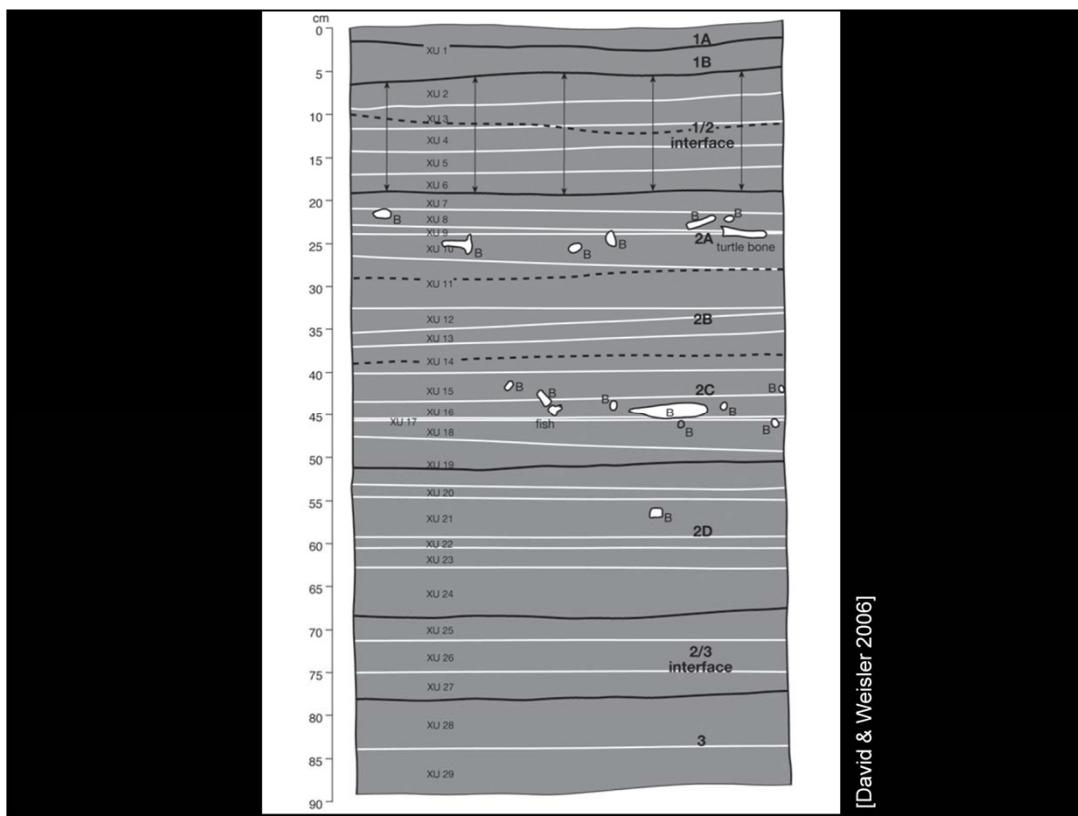
Photo credits: McNiven, I.J., B. David, T. Richards, K. Aplin, B. Asmussen, J. Mialanes, M. Leavesley, P. Faulkner and S. Ulm 2011 New direction in human colonisation of the Pacific: Lapita settlement of south coast New Guinea. *Australian Archaeology* 72:1-6.



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[David & Weisler 2006]

Image credits: David, B. and M. Weisler 2006 Kurturniaiwak (Badu) and the archaeology of villages in Torres Strait. *Australian Archaeology* 63:21-34.

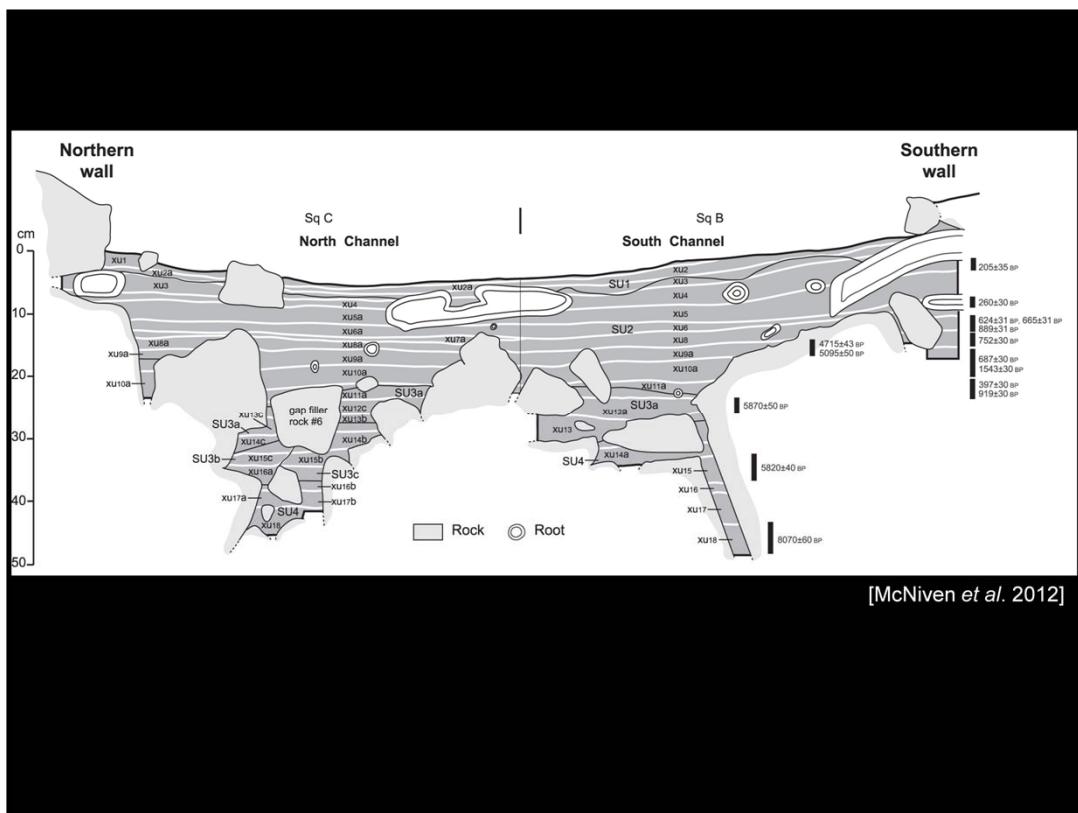
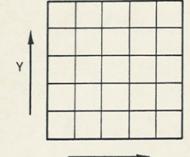
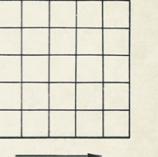
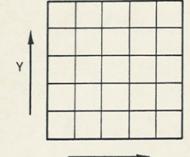
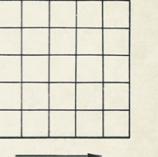
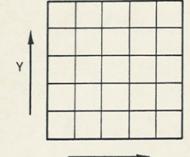
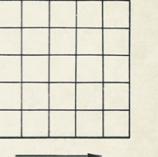


Image credits: McNiven, I.J., Crouch, J., Richards, T., Dolby, N., Jacobsen, G., Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, 2012. Dating Aboriginal stonewalled fishtraps at Lake Condah, southeast Australia. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 39:268-286.

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Image credits: © Ian Johnson 1982!

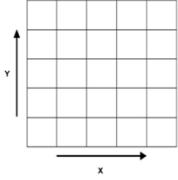
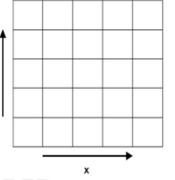
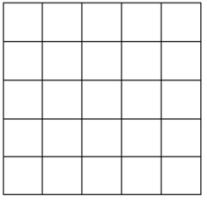
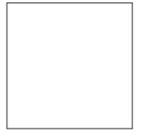
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Image credits: © Sean Ulm 2012 channelling Ian Johnson 1982!

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Your description of it: _____																																																																			
Why do you think this?: _____																																																																			

Image credits: Burke, H. and C. Smith 2004 *The Archaeologist's Field Handbook*.  
Crow's Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin.





Photo credits (L-R): (1) Sean Ulm; (2) Sean Ulm; (3) Sean Ulm; (4) Sean Ulm



SITE INDEX FORM		STATE FILE NUMBER																																																																												
ARCHAEOLOGY BRANCH GPO BOX 2210 BRISBANE 4001																																																																														
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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SITE: .....																																																																														
RECODER																																																																														
Name .....	<input type="checkbox"/> Ranger	Recorders Reference .....																																																																												
Address .....	<input type="checkbox"/> Warden	Site Name .....																																																																												
.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Researcher	Date Recorded .....																																																																												
Telephone .....	<input type="checkbox"/> Consultant	Permit Number .....																																																																												
LOCATION Map Sheet Name .....																																																																														
Scale .....	Grid Reference .....																																																																													
Parish .....	Portion Number .....	Property Name .....																																																																												
Airphoto run number .....	Latitude .....	Longitude .....																																																																												
What other Sites are known in the Area .....																																																																														
LAND TENURE																																																																														
<input type="checkbox"/> Freehold	<input type="checkbox"/> Lesseehold	<input type="checkbox"/> Reserve																																																																												
<input type="checkbox"/> Crown Land	<input type="checkbox"/> National Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Forestry																																																																												
<input type="checkbox"/> Mining lease	<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal																																																																													
Other .....																																																																														
Owner/Leaseholder		Manager																																																																												
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LAND USE																																																																														
<input type="checkbox"/> Forested	<input type="checkbox"/> Cleared	<input type="checkbox"/> Ploughed																																																																												
<input type="checkbox"/> Built on	<input type="checkbox"/> Used for recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> Cultivated																																																																												
<input type="checkbox"/> Undeveloped	<input type="checkbox"/> Grazed																																																																													
Other .....																																																																														

ART SITE		STATE FILE NUMBER
<input type="checkbox"/> Stencils <input type="checkbox"/> Prints <input type="checkbox"/> Paintings <input type="checkbox"/> Drawings <input type="checkbox"/> Other .....		
<input type="checkbox"/> Abraded <input type="checkbox"/> Pecked and Abraded <input type="checkbox"/> Pecked only <input type="checkbox"/> Other .....		
Recorder's Name .....		Recorder's Reference .....
ART SURFACE	COLOUR OF MOTIFS	TYPE OF STONE
<input type="checkbox"/> Vertical	<input type="checkbox"/> Red	<input type="checkbox"/> Volcanic
<input type="checkbox"/> Horizontal	<input type="checkbox"/> White	<input type="checkbox"/> Sedimentary
<input type="checkbox"/> Sloping	<input type="checkbox"/> Orange	<input type="checkbox"/> Metamorphic
<input type="checkbox"/> Overhanging	<input type="checkbox"/> Black	<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
<input type="checkbox"/> Broken	<input type="checkbox"/> Mauve	Specify .....
Other .....	<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
ASSOCIATED MATERIALS		COMPOSITION OF FLOOR
<input type="checkbox"/> Occupation	<input type="checkbox"/> Bedrock	Area of Art Surface
<input type="checkbox"/> Burial	<input type="checkbox"/> Rubble	
<input type="checkbox"/> Stone Tools	<input type="checkbox"/> Sand/Soil	Number of Motifs
<input type="checkbox"/> Caches	<input type="checkbox"/> Charcoal/Ash	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hearths		
MOTIFS		
no./Type		No./Type
<input type="checkbox"/> Abstract	<input type="checkbox"/> Animal Tracks	
<input type="checkbox"/> Single Circles	<input type="checkbox"/> Bird Tracks	
<input type="checkbox"/> Concentric Circles	<input type="checkbox"/> Animal Forms	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dots	<input type="checkbox"/> Bird Forms	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lines	<input type="checkbox"/> Reptile Forms	
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Hand	<input type="checkbox"/> Fish Forms	
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Foot	<input type="checkbox"/> Weapons	
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Damage by Animals		
<input type="checkbox"/> Pigs	<input type="checkbox"/> Rubbing	Surface Deterioration
<input type="checkbox"/> Cattle	<input type="checkbox"/> Rooting	<input type="checkbox"/> Stable
<input type="checkbox"/> Roos	<input type="checkbox"/> Licking	<input type="checkbox"/> Flaking
<input type="checkbox"/> Brumbies	<input type="checkbox"/> Dust	<input type="checkbox"/> Granular disintegration
<input type="checkbox"/> Insects	<input type="checkbox"/> Erosion	<input type="checkbox"/> Honeycomb weathering
<input type="checkbox"/> Birds	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Block collapse
Other .....		<input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Staining
		<input type="checkbox"/> Fungus
		Other .....
Water Damage		
Direct exposure to rain .....	%	Water runs all across surface .....

Image credits: Archaeology Branch, Queensland Department of Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs



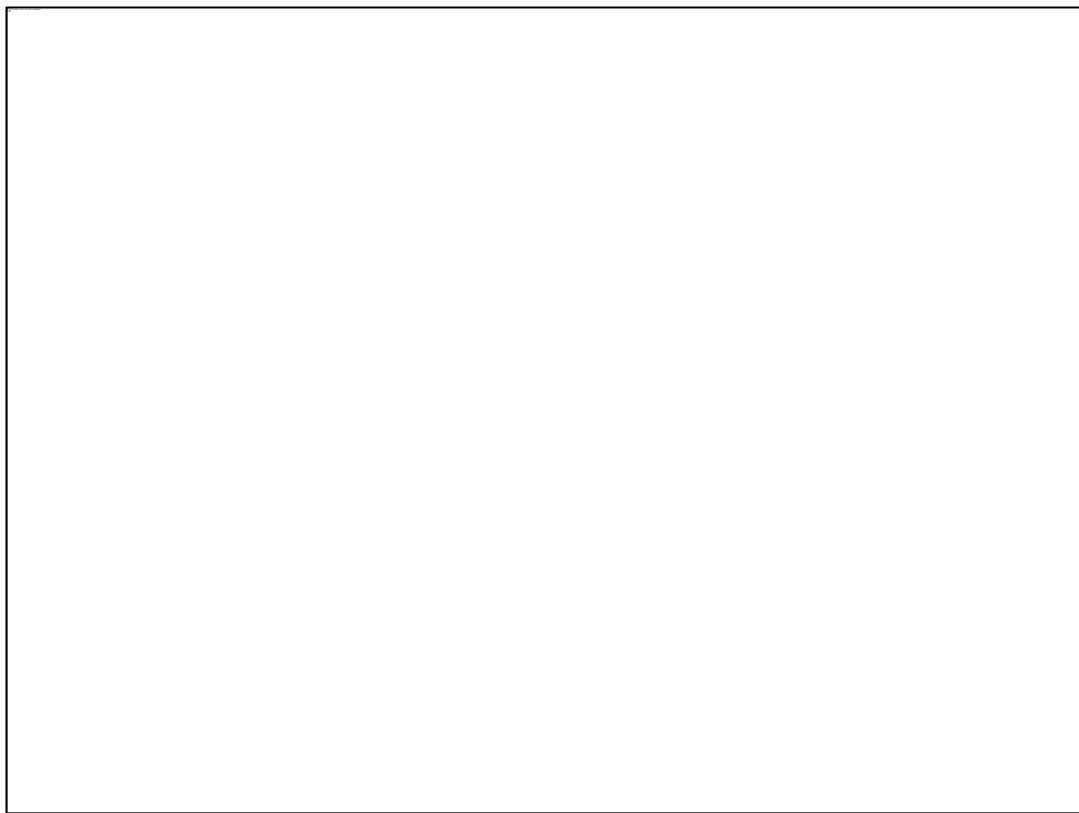
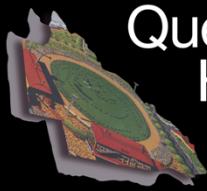


Photo credits: Daniel Rosendahl



# Queensland Historical Atlas

histories, cultures, landscapes

**IMAGES**

Photographs	Maps	Art	Diagrams	Book Covers	Postcards	Other
Title	Title	Title	Title	Title	Title	Type
Location	Creator	Artist	Author	Author	Author	Title
Date	Subject	Date	Publisher	Publisher	Publisher	Author
Creator	Description	Place	Description	Date	Date	Date
Part of	Publisher	Accession number	Data series	Place	Place	Place
Accession number	Image number	Collecting institution	Source	Notes	Notes	Holding institution
Original format	Original Format	Collection title	Rights	Rights	Rights	Rights
Digital format	Digital format	Medium	Keywords	Holding institution	Holding institution	Keywords
Publisher	Original dimensions	Dimensions	URL	Keywords	Keywords	URL
Image number	Managed by	Digital format	Alternative URL	URL	URL	Alternative URL
Digital ID	Collection or series	Publisher	Related items	Alternative URL	Alternative URL	Related items
Rights	Date	Provenance		Related items	Related items	
Source	Place	Rights				
Keywords	Rights	Source				
URL	Original scale	Keywords				
Alternative URL	Keywords	URL				
Related items	URL	Alternative URL				
	Alternative URL	Related items				
	Related items					

## Queensland Dated Archaeological Site Index (n=1416)

- Site Name 100%
- Lab. Code 96.3%
- Sample Type 98.7%
- Weight 74.3%
- Provenance 79.7%
- $d^{13}C$  43.5%

Error rate in publication of dates = 6%

# Australian Archaeology in Profile 2010 Survey

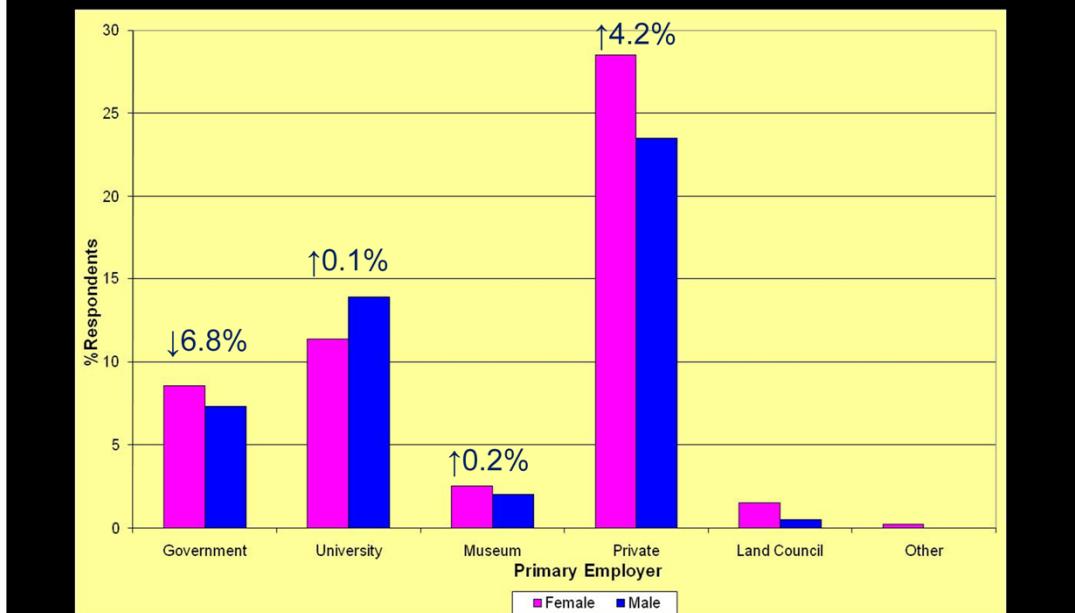


Image credit: Ulm, S., G. Mate, C. Dalley and S. Nichols in press A working profile: The changing face of professional archaeology in Australia. *Research in Archaeological Education Journal*.

## Some thoughts

- Common basic geospatial and geotemporal standards *are* possible *and* desirable
  - also colour (e.g. Munsell) and pH
- Trade-offs required in adopting any standards; the lower the trade-off the greater the uptake
- Customisation is the key
- Granularity *must* be defined
  - Smooth or hairy