

## The Social Archaeology of Australian Indigenous Societies

**Bruno David, Bryce Barker and  
Ian J. McNiven (eds)**

### DESCRIPTION

*The Social Archaeology of Australian Indigenous Societies* presents original and provocative views on the complex and dynamic social lives of Indigenous Australians from an historical perspective.

Building on the foundational work of Harry Lourandos, the book critically examines and challenges traditional approaches which have presented Indigenous Australian pasts as static and tethered to ecological rationalism.

The book reveals the ancient past of Aboriginal Australians to be one of long-term changes in social relationships and traditions, as well as the active management and manipulation of the environment. It encourages a deeper appreciation of the ways Aboriginal peoples have engaged with, and constructed their worlds. It solicits a deeper understanding of the contemporary political and social context of research and the insidious impacts of colonialist philosophies. In short, it concerns people: both past and present.

Ultimately, *The Social Archaeology of Australian Indigenous Societies* looks beyond the stereotype of Aboriginal peoples as 'hunter-gatherers' and charts new and challenging agendas for Australian Aboriginal archaeology.

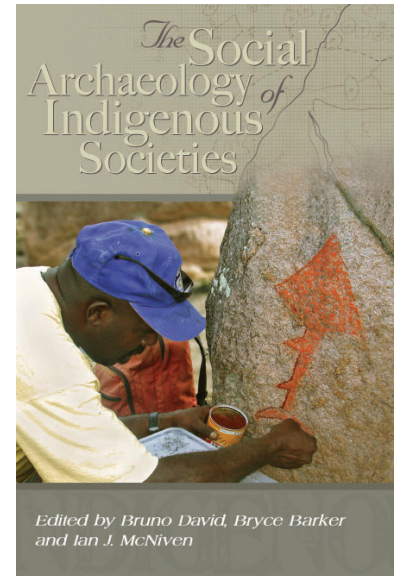
### AUTHORS

All three editors are respected and widely published. They have drawn together Indigenous and non-Indigenous scholars who, between them, represent a new generation of provocative and exciting thinkers.

Dr Bruno David is QEII Fellow at Monash University (Australia). He was awarded the inaugural UK *Antiquity Prize* in 1994.

Dr Bryce Barker is a Senior Lecturer in Anthropology at the University of Southern Queensland.

Dr Ian J. McNiven is Senior Lecturer and Co-Director of the Programme for Australian Indigenous Archaeology, Monash University.



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#### Target markets

- academic & tertiary students
- archaeology & anthropology practitioners

#### Selling points

- first Australian archaeology text from a social theoretical perspective
- critiques established orthodoxy in Australian archaeology
- provides challenging agendas

#### Categories

- archaeology
- anthropology
- Indigenous studies

#### AIATSIS

##### Aboriginal Studies Press

GPO 553, ACT 2601

(Acton Peninsula, Canberra)

Tel (02) 6246 1111

Fax (02) 6261 4285

[www.aiatsis.gov.au/asp](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/asp)

[asp@aiatsis.gov.au](mailto:asp@aiatsis.gov.au)

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Acknowledgements

Contributors

1. The social archaeology of Indigenous Australia *Ian McNiven, Bruno David and Bryce Barker*
2. An interview with Harry Lourandos *Bruno David, Bryce Barker and Ian McNiven*
3. Harry Lourandos's life and work: an Australian archaeological odyssey *Sandra Bowdler*

## Part 1. Tyranny of text

4. Unpacking Australian prehistory *Bruno David and Tim Denham*
5. Hierarchies of knowledge and the tyranny of text: archaeology, ethnohistory and oral traditions in Australian archaeological interpretation *Bryce Barker*
6. Colonial diffusionism and the archaeology of external influences on Aboriginal culture *Ian J. McNiven*
7. Harry Lourandos, the 'Great Intensification Debate', and the representation of indigenous pasts *Deborah Brian*

## Part 2. Anthropological approaches: meaning

8. Footprints of the ancestors: the convergence of anthropological and archaeological perspectives in contemporary Aboriginal heritage studies *Luke Godwin and James F. Weiner*
9. Earth, wind, fire, water: the social and spiritual construction of water in Aboriginal societies *Marcia Langton*
10. The social, economic and historical construction of cycad palms among the Yanyuwa *John J. Bradley*
11. Landscapes with shadows of once living people: the Kundawira challenge *Amanda Kearney and John Bradley*
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