

Open letter to Svante Pääbo and the Max Planck Institute

By Vesna Tenodi, MA archaeology; artist and writer

"MtDNA and genome sequencing showed that interbreeding of the ancestors of humanity produced the genetic diversity and migratory routes, a notion which was in the past entertained only by visionaries in archaeological circles."



Full title of letter: Open letter to Svante Pääbo and the Max Planck Institute: your revolutionary work is crucial to save Australian archaeology

I write this article as my own opinion as well as on behalf of my Australian colleagues who are too timid to be named for fear of a violent back-

lash. We are overjoyed to see scientific teams overseas carry out genetic research that we are not allowed to do in Australia.

We congratulate Svante Pääbo and his team at the Max Planck Institute, on their groundbreaking study and making the results of genetic analysis, including Aboriginal genome sequencing, freely available to the public. We also congratulate and wish to acknowledge the teams at Harvard Medical School in Boston, the University of Copenhagen in Denmark, the University of Tartu in Estonia, Novosibirsk State University, the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts and the University of Zagreb. With valuable contribution by the staff at museums, independent researchers and open-minded individuals they are all collaborating in genetic research projects, with one common goal in mind—to find the truth about our human past and learn more about prehistoric races.

The results of Dr Pääbo's team published between 2010 and 2013 confirm what many of us in Australia know or have sus-

pected, but are not allowed to say for fear of "offending" Aborigines. Those of us who upset them risk being attacked, ridiculed and publicly humiliated.

The genetic research results obtained over the last few years contradict a politically-enforced dogma that Australia had no contact with the rest of the world between the arrival of the first humans and the coming of Europeans. Instead, the research results support theories of multiregional origins of modern humans, the existence of pre-Aboriginal races, and multiple waves of arrival, with the ancestors of modern Aborigines being relatively late newcomers.

The genome sequencing results announced a few months ago have caused anger and panic in the Australian mainstream scientific community. The gene flow showing connection between the Neanderthal, Denisovan and Australian Aborigines flies in the face of a politically-driven dogma and the claim that the modern-day Aborigines are the "first people" of Australia. This dogma is essential for the ongoing success of Aboriginal land claims and for protecting of political interests of what is known as the "Aboriginal industry."

Ironically, the fabrication of Australian prehistory, tailored to fit the politically-enforced ideology, was started by the Australian Archaeological Association (AAA). This organisation was expected to protect and advance free scientific enquiry, but has turned into a political body instead.

In 1983 the AAA stated that science and losses to science do not matter, the only thing that matters is not to upset contem-

porary tribes. They decided that Aborigines should be given full ownership of all archaeological material and the power to dictate how it should be interpreted. They enforced the compulsory return of all archaeological material to today's tribes. Australian museums and universities were ordered to return their collections and to remove every image of ancient human skeletons from their websites. Aborigines were advised by their lawyers to keep claiming that those finds are "sacred" and that even images of prehistoric skulls are "offensive."

Pre-Aboriginal cave art was another matter endangering Aboriginal land claims. Grahame Walsh researched and recorded pre-Aboriginal anthropomorphic cave paintings for 30 years, amassing 1.2 million photographs. He provided evidence of three distinct phases of rock art, with the oldest phase being most sophisticated and created by a pre-Aboriginal race. He established the fact that pre-Aboriginal anthropomorphic cave art, with clothed figures, was created by a highly advanced pre-Aboriginal race whom he termed the "Erudites" and I termed the "Abrajanas."

In 1995 the AAA decided to destroy his reputation, publishing a media release declaring Grahame Walsh a racist, dismissing his theories with their usual "now we know he was wrong" mantra, unsupported by any evidence.

Since his death in 2007, Grahame's name has been systematically deleted from reference material, but his photographs are widely used, often without proper attribution, and

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carrying the copyright of another person instead.

Archaeologists who fought against politically-enforced practices such as the repatria-



Fig. 1. Alan Thorne holding a delicate Mungo Man skull at right, mtDNA dated at 62,000-70,000BP, and a robust, archaic Kow Swamp skull at left, dated at 9,000-13,000BP. This reversal of expectations has challenged the ideas of human evolution, and supports a hypothesis of pre-Aboriginal races, cyclic evolution, and multiregional points of origin.

"Over the last few decades, they have been successful in destroying politically inconvenient archaeological finds, and ... to prevent wide dissemination of politically undesirable test results."

tion of ancient remains, and who researched the bones of pre-Aboriginal races were also vilified and ridiculed. Any politically-undesirable research findings were dismissed with the same "now we know they were wrong" statement, again, reached solely by consensus, unsupported by evidence.

Enter Mungo Man, again!

The team which researched Mungo Lady (LM1, found in 1969), and Mungo Man (LM3, found in 1974) consisted of Rhys Jones, Alan Thorne and John Mulvaney, from the Australian National University (**Fig. 1**). Together with other team members from auxiliary fields, they reached politically-undesirable conclusions and, as a consequence, were humiliated and saw their work discredited. Until his death in 2012, Thorne was adamant that mtDNA tests results—obtained by his team—were correct and Mungo Man's remains were 62,000-70,000

years old. He also asserted that "a simplistic 'Out of Africa' model is no longer tenable." He remained defiant and fought against the destruction of pre-Aboriginal skeletal remains, telling his critics: "If you do away with the bones, I'll always be right. You won't be able to refute my work" (*Discover* magazine).

Over the last several decades, most archaeologists, anthropologists and geneticists who objected to the destruction of archaeological finds have been treated much like dissidents in communist regimes. Some were forced to make unethical compromises, intimidated and bullied into compliance. Some of them say they were "forced to change their mind" and to say things they do not believe. Some say that, in order to save their careers, they had no choice but to participate in the fabrication of the Australian past.

Tug of war over late Pleistocene human remains

Genetic research carried out by Gregory Adcock under supervision of Alan Thorne dated the Mungo Man remains (LM 3 or WLH 3) to 62,000 to 70,000 years ago (*Adcock et al.*, 2001). This fragile specimen

was far more advanced than much younger finds such as the robust and archaic Kow Swamp skeletons, discovered by Alan Thorne in 1967. These remains were dated at 9,000 to 13,000 years ago, and were destroyed in the early 1990s

in accordance with the AAA "repatriation" policy. Furthermore, Mungo Man had nothing in common with the robust skeletons of the specimens established to have been the ancestors of today's Aboriginal tribes. These specimens include the finds from the Kow Swamp, Talgai, Keilor, Coobool Creek, Kendrick Cave, Pintupi (**Fig. 2**) and Nacurrie (**Fig. 3**) sites. All bones were returned to today's tribes and destroyed. Pintupi-Bindaboo classification and contrast in morphology was researched by NB Tindale and J Birdsell (N Tindale. 1941. "*Sociological Cards; Expedition to Mt. Liebig*"; 1932, updated 1953; J Birdsell: "*A preliminary report on the trihybrid origin of the Australian aborigines*" 1941).

The forbidden theories developed by Jones and Thorne said that there was a human devolution taking place in

Australia and a plunge towards the stone age during the period between 30,000 and 10,000 years ago. A highly advanced pre-Aboriginal race inhabited the continent for hundreds of thousands of



Fig. 2. Pintupi-1 (dated to early 20th Century) compared with modern skull. Photos courtesy of J. Vanhollebeke.

years prior to the arrival of the ancestors of modern-day Aboriginal tribes.

These theories were dismissed, by consensual ridicule, and the "that's just impossible" argument.

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**"In 2001,
the Australian geneti-**

Even John Mulvaney, regarded as the "father of Australian archaeology" did not escape vilification by the gatekeepers of today's regime. In the early 1980s he was the first to object to the falsification of Australia-

nary team which investigated Mungo remains and conducted archaeological and genetic research on Mungo Man bones refused to yield to political pressure and declined to "change their mind." The only one who

decided to play politics was Jim Bowler, a geologist who was invited by Jones-Thorne-Mulvaney to join the team when Mungo Lady (LM1) was discovered by

Alan Thorne in 1969.

For his willingness to support the new ideologues, Bowler was greatly rewarded. He is a darling of the media. The interviews and documentaries about Mungo fossils, aired these days on Australian radio and television, make no mention of the scientists who actually worked on the Willandra Lakes site and Mungo remains. The only name mentioned in association with the Mungo Man site these days is Jim Bowler. It is only his opinion that matters, because he is strongly in favor of returning the skeleton to "traditional owners" and wants to see it done quickly (*ABC radio*, 17 July 2013).

One of the tribal elders who falsely claims that the Mungo Man skeleton is an "Aboriginal ancestor" openly threatened anyone who refuses to comply with Aboriginal demands. "If Mungo Man isn't returned soon, I'll get 1000 blackfellas to sit on the lawns in Canberra to protest," he said. [*The Australian* 13 July 2013]. Threats of violence such as these have become a common Aboriginal way to communicate their will, and are causing great anxiety and distress among Australian independent researchers.

Parallel Prehistory of Australia

Being forbidden to conduct a free scientific enquiry and open-minded scientific research here in Australia, we place our hopes in European, American and Russian scientists. We urge them not to yield to any of those endless, irrational demands as are constantly being made by Australian "Aboriginal industry" representatives, which have corrupted Australian research and paralysed Australian archaeology, anthropology and genetics.

To us, Svante Pääbo and his team are unexpected saviors, bringing a bittersweet joy that science is moving forward despite Australian attempts to subvert every independent enquiry. It gives us hope that the great people who are no longer with us, who had their research ridiculed and their character maligned, will finally be vindicated.

Regards,

Vesna Tenodi

Sydney, 23 July 2013

VESNA TENODI is an archaeologist, artist, and writer based in Sydney, Australia. She received her Master's Degree in Archaeology from the University of Zagreb, Croatia. She also has a diploma in Fine Arts from the School of Applied Arts in Zagreb. Her Degree Thesis was focused on the spirituality of Neolithic man in Central Europe as evidenced in iconography and symbols in prehistoric cave art and pottery. After migrating to Sydney, she worked for 25 years for the Australian Government, and ran her own business. Today she is an independent researcher and spiritual archaeologist, concentrating on the origins and meaning of pre-Aboriginal Australian rock art. In the process, she is developing a theory of the Pre-Aboriginal races which she has called the Rajanes and Abrajanes. In 2009, Tenodi established the DreamRaiser project, with a group of artists who explore iconography and ideas contained in ancient art and mythology.

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Nacurrie, Australia 11,000 Y.A.
(KS Type)

Fig. 3. Robust and morphologically similar Nacurrie (left and center) and Kow Swamp crania (right) compared. Nacurrie photo courtesy of J. Vanhollenbeke; KS1 photo by Alan Thorne.

cist Gregory Adcock and his team dated the gracile Mungo 3 fossil remains to 62,000+ years old...

The results were promptly 'revised' by a group of archaeologists... the figure set by 'consensus.'"

lian prehistory. His passion for free scientific research without interference by politicians and lawyers continues to this day. At the age of 88, as brilliant as ever, Mulvaney summed up the sorry state of Australian archaeology in one sentence: "It's all now being made up, they are inventing a culture that does not exist" (*Forbidden Art, Politicised Archaeology and Orwellian Politics in Australia*, 2012).

However, thanks to the Max Planck research, those efforts to literally bury the past by destroying the evidence, have proved to be futile.

Unethical demands for ownership of Mungo Man

Following the Max Planck announcement in March, with the Neanderthal-Denisovan-Aboriginal gene-flow and genome connection, the tug of war over human remains in Australia was resumed with new ferocity.

In mid July 2013, realising that parts of the Mungo Man skeleton are still in possession of the Australian National University, Aboriginal tribes started yet another aggressive push for immediate return of every speck of bone, because they are "very upset." The scientists from the original multidisciplinary