

Understanding Australian prehistory accurately depends on honest non-politicized research

By Vesna Tenodi, MA archaeology; artist, writer, former 25-year employee of the Australian Government

Politics of deception

Ten years ago, in 2009, my book, *Dreamtime Set in Stone: The Truth about Australian Aborigines*, was published. A group of Aborigines were "outraged" and promptly vandalized my house.

Their anger was enough to set the Aboriginal industry in motion—its taxpayer-funded lawyers were dissecting every word, demanding a retraction of my claims and sending me threats of legal action.

Their two "trump cards" that they believed would enable them to start a court case against me consisted of a couple of sentences taken out of context. One was the sentence "Aborigines are a dying race." The other one was "Aborigines are not Australia's 'first people,' as there were advanced Pre-Aboriginal races inhabiting our continent long before the ancestors of contemporary Aborigines arrived."

They failed, as no court would accept their spurious claims. So they resorted to malicious accusations and personal insults. They declared my hypothesis scientific heresy, and attacked my art—referenced to Australian prehistory—as "blasphemy." Some of their lawyers were publicly threatening to sue me for "blasphemy" and demanded for my art to be destroyed (ABC radio, *Law Report*, October 2010).

[BTW, the famous controversial Bradshaw paintings (Fig. 1) represent only part of the evidence there were other people besides the Aborigines in Australia during the Pleistocene. They give an immediate sense of a refined social hierarchy commonly seen in agricul-



Fig. 1. Left: Bradshaw paintings at least 17,000 years old from the Kimberley of NW Australia compared with similar paintings from Tanzania, Africa, **Middle and Right.** See my article [Wanjina and Bradshaw-style rock art in other parts of the world](#) (PCN #19, Sept-Oct 2012).

"No wonder that everyone wants to be an Aborigine these days, and as a result we now have about 40,000 real, tribal Aborigines, and more than 400,000 fake ones."



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tural societies but dissimilar to the hunter-gatherer lifestyle of the Aborigines. Other crucial evidence now ignored is that when Joseph Bradshaw discovered the paintings in the 1890s, his Aboriginal informants disavowed any connection to them, telling him they were "rubbish" paintings someone left there. With Bradshaw watching, the Aborigines also painted over the paintings while repeating "it's just rubbish, as if birds pecked on the rock, so we call them Gwion Gwion, a bird with a long beak." This is all very unlike modern Aboriginal claims (see my articles, [Pre-Aboriginal Australian rock art: Wanjina and Bradshaw figures](#) (PCN #17, May-June 2012), [Wanjina & Bradshaw-style rock art in other parts of the world](#) (PCN #19, Sept-Oct 2012), and [Decoding the messages of pre-Aboriginal rock art—Part 1](#) (PCN #33, Jan-Feb 2015).]

The Aboriginal industry's over-the-top accusations of me backfired, and their criticism of my work in both archaeology and art had unintended consequences—in the long run, their fury brought me a lot of support. Some people finally realized that the well-intended policy of helping Aboriginal tribes has turned into an appalling ideological tyranny that should no longer be tolerated.

Australians are smart, but they are often too kindhearted when it comes to Aborigines, and too timid to speak up when the time is right. Most of them were unaware that, while we were sleeping, 60% of our continent has been given to a handful of tribes based on false claims that they have some "sacred" connection to a particular area. They are now questioning why we, the Australian taxpayers, have to give more than \$33 billion every year to Aborigines, who also receive countless billions in royalties from the mining companies that work on "their" land, to never hear as much as a "thank you." It seems that the misdirected policy of our Government has made Aborigines not only the most privileged but also, apparently, the richest people on earth. No wonder that everyone wants to be an Aborigine these days, and as a result we now have about 40,000 real, tribal Aborigines, and more than 400,000 fake ones—the white people who masquerade as Aborigines, for the sake of all the privileges that self-proclaimed aboriginality automatically brings them.

We've created a monster

After half a century of constant brainwashing with stories about a culture that never

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Understanding Australian prehistory accurately (cont.)

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actually existed, most Australians only recently started to realize that we have been systematically deceived by these appeals to our compassionate hearts and generosity of spirit.

Despite being elevated to the status of a "national treasure" and showered with money and privileges, Australian Aborigines are embittered, angry, and violent.

Some brave Australian intellectuals have been warning of the disastrous consequences of the pro-Aboriginal policy of our Government. They are warning of more harm to come to the Australian people, because,

"The goal of Aboriginal political activists today is to gain 'sovereignty' and create a black state, equivalent to the existing states. Its territory, comprising all land defined as native title, will soon amount to more than 60 per cent of the whole Australian continent"

—Keith Windschuttle, *The Break-up of Australia—The real agenda behind Aboriginal recognition*. 2016.

Despite all the decades of effort and countless billions of dollars, there is no improvement in remote Aboriginal communities. The same author doesn't mince words and condemns those communities as "cesspits of alcoholism, drug taking, homicide, suicide, domestic violence and the sexual abuse of children" and describes these communities in their 'homelands'—a concept that was borrowed from North America—as "cultural and political disasters" (*ibid*).

It would seem that this fabricated culture, invented by the Aboriginal industry, is being used to keep robbing us of our country, our values, and our basic human right to live in our own country without fear of Aboriginal violence. It seems we have created a monster.

Paleolithic culture reinvented as a "civilization"

This overview of the Australian recent past is necessary to understand how much damage has been done by archaeologists and anthropologists who have been willing participants in this fabrication of a non-existent culture.

In order to elevate the tribes to something other than Paleolithic hunter-

gatherers, the first priority was to destroy archaeological material which didn't fit the desired narrative, and in order to make the new paradigm sustainable, also to ignore those finds which prove the existence of pre-Aboriginal races and cultures.

One of the most vocal objectors to this destruction of what should be regarded as world heritage and rigorously analyzed by any scientist interested in the subject, was late Emeritus Professor John Mulvaney, known as the father of Australian archaeology. Mulvaney raised his voice when the fossilized remains return policy had started, when a large number of skeletons from the Kow Swamp site (**Fig. 2**) were returned from Melbourne's museum and destroyed, as well as when Mungo Man remains from the Willandra Lake site were "returned." About Kow Swamp Dr. Mulvaney said:

"This carefully excavated cemetery was unique in that the large sample was dated from 8000 to 14,000 years, came from one locality and their cranial features suggested either descent from *Homo*

erectus or an early cultural practice of head binding."

—John Mulvaney. Reflections. *Antiquity*. 1998.

We appealed on television for the bones not to be returned. So, in his frustration, he pointed a finger at the real culprits who are always willing to lie, defining them as "those consultants who are inexperienced or less qualified who

may report in a manner their employer hopes for, regardless of reality."

He wanted all fossilized human remains saved for scientific reasons, for DNA testing, which could easily prove who is who in this land of identity politics. That was exactly what the Aboriginal industry would never allow—to have the genetic proof of whether any of the bones have

anything in common with contemporary tribes. They knew the land claims policy would be proven to be baseless. In the end, Professor Mulvaney started ridiculing the decisions which destroyed our archaeology, especially the decision that the Kow Swamp remains "must be 'returned'—to a community some 400 generations removed" (*Ibid*).

With our most important archaeological finds destroyed, and archaeology reduced to endless litany about the sanctity of Aboriginal Stone Age culture, I know that the battle that so many great people fought, for saving the archaeological finds, is now lost.

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Fig. 2. Kow Swamp skull. Due to political claims involving the Aborigines Australia has permitted the destruction of its prehistoric heritage. However, like Neanderthal remains of Europe, such are world heritage not just the country of discovery and is world loss. Photo courtesy of J. Vanhollebeke.

Understanding Australian prehistory accurately (cont.)

"This overview of the Australian recent past is necessary to understand how much damage has been done by archaeologists and anthropologists who have been willing participants in this fabrication of a non-existent culture."

What bothers me these days is this Newspeak we are forced to adopt. The whole new jargon when talking about Aborigines. What irritates me is that the promoters of these lies believe that Australians are dumb and will adopt any terminology invented and dictated by the Aboriginal industry. Among most recent mandatory syntagmas enforced through constant repetition in all the media, is calling Australian prehistoric culture a "civilization."

This is yet another fantasy dreamed up by the Aboriginal industry, betting on ignorance of the meaning of the term. Indeed, ordinary Australians would think nothing of it, just start repeating it and, *voilà*, we can trumpet to the world that we've got the "first civilization."

The worry is that this new jargon is now included at all levels of education, including in primary school books, so that children will know from day one that we have the "oldest civilization in the world."

Growing up in this ideological climate, the children are never going to be told that the word 'civilization' comes from the Latin word 'civitas (city) and 'civis' (citizen—someone who lives in the city). That there is a huge difference between a typical Paleolithic (the Old Stone Age) culture of semi-nomadic hunter-gatherers—such as was the Aboriginal culture that the settlers found in Australia—and civilization as we know it.

But the Aboriginal industry is now committed to spinning this new lie that Aborigines built cities and were organized as its citizens (hence 'civilized'). We all know that Aborigines as the British settlers found them in 1788 never made the transition to the Neolithic—the New Stone Age—and never invented any of the markers of what is known as the Neolithic Revolution. Unlike some advanced ancient cultures elsewhere in the world, Australian Aborigines never invented clothes, pottery, metalwork, never built settle-

ments nor had agriculture, and never made any of the discoveries that are typical for Neolithic cultures elsewhere.

But rather than being upset about our children being fed this nonsense by fake scientists and their junk science, I have become resigned to our reality—we are where we are, and I have decided to do exactly what my friend, John Mulvaney, did in the end—to ridicule the mindless and the corrupt.

Thanks to good friends, I have access to Aboriginal fossilized skulls and bones, as well as to Australian Paleolithic artifacts kept in Europe. With scientific venues disappearing I use images of these in my art to show what real Australian prehistory looks like. In modern history suppressed knowledge has often been expressed in the arts.

Fossil skulls available for study via 3D scanning

There is also good news in light of Australian archaeological evidence destruction. With recent developments in computer technology, 3D scanning has become part of scientific routine. Museums and institutions that house ancient fossils, including human skulls and skeletons, have been scanning the specimens in their collections for more than a decade (*Nature*, March 6, 2019). This means people worldwide can now use 'virtual fossils' for their studies.

Perhaps even more exciting is the fact that scientists are now converting 2D photos of ancient fossils, including fossilized human remains, into 3D models. There are several complex programs that are now being used for converting 2D images to 3D models. Scientists in Asia are currently converting photos of ancient Aboriginal skulls, as well as photos of past and present Aborigines, into 3D skull models.

We are already able to share the print-ready scans of skulls, digital morphology data, and 3D STL files—ready for 3D printing, as soon as they are

uploaded online. With 3D printers being quite affordable these days, many of us will soon be able to print a model of any ancient skull, in our own home.

In light of this, the hysterical demands of the Aboriginal industry for all of our fossilized human remains to be "returned" and destroyed, and all relevant photos removed from the internet, have become redundant.

I wonder how the Aboriginal industry is going to deal with these new developments. Perhaps they will start the fight for control over 'virtual fossils.' Or, perhaps, they will see the light and change their hostile attitude and apologize to those of us who they have offended and harassed for years, just for doing our job.

Despite my horrible experiences with the Aboriginal industry, I would still like to have a Kow Swamp skull replica on my desk and new 3D technologies will make that possible.

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http://pleistocenecoalition.com/#vesna_tenodi



The Pleistocene Coalition

Prehistory is about to change

- Learn the real story of our Palaeolithic ancestors—a story about intelligent and innovative people—a story which is unlike that promoted by mainstream science.
- Explore and regain confidence in your own ability to think for yourself regarding human ancestry as a broader range of evidence becomes available to you.
- Join a community not afraid to challenge the status quo. Question with confidence any paradigm promoted as “scientific” that depends upon withholding conflicting evidence from the public in order to appear unchallenged.

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