



Archaeology and heritage provide a window into our collective past—to understand who we are today and what is important to us, we need to understand where we have come from and how we have made the journey.

Dr Tim Owen

Principal & A/Professor

Dr Tim Owen has worked as a professional archaeologist for 26 years. He has extensive experience in directing both Aboriginal and historical projects and archaeological excavations throughout Australia.

He specialises in complex large-scale cultural landscape assessments, heritage management, bioarchaeological analysis and Aboriginal community, client and government liaison.

Tim's expertise lies in resolving complex strategic planning issues associated with large-scale projects, which include Aboriginal community involvement, Aboriginal and historical archaeological field survey, assessment, excavation, management and reporting.

Tim is an Associate Professor at Flinders University, with active research projects in Sydney and Adelaide.

He has conceived and directed numerous public archaeology projects and received the Martin Davies Award in 2007 for his long-term work at the Port Arthur Historic Site, Tasmania.

Qualifications

PhD, Flinders University, SA

Bachelor of Science (International Archaeology) (Honours), University of Leicester, UK

Professional affiliations

Australia ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites)

Australian Archaeological Association Inc. (AAA)

Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology (ASHA)

Key recent experience

Aboriginal heritage projects

- Calderwood Development Area, Various Aboriginal Heritage Projects—Clients: Stockland and Lendlease
- Parramatta Assessment and ACH Management, Multiple Projects—Client: City of Parramatta.
- Wave Hill, Northern Territory, Cultural Landscape Assessment—Client: Wave Hill Pty
- Blacktown Native Institution, Conservation Management Plan Update—Client: Dharug Strategic Management Group
- NSW Schools Aboriginal Heritage Assessment and Management for Multiple Schools—Client: School Infrastructure NSW
- Mt Gilead, Various Aboriginal Heritage Investigations—Client: Lendlease
- West Dapto, Forest Reach, Various Aboriginal Heritage Investigations—Client: Stockland
- SMDS, St Marys, Sydney, Various Aboriginal Heritage Projects—Client: Lendlease
- George Street Gatehouse, Parramatta Park—Client: Parramatta Park Trust
- Woomera Prohibited Area, Various Kokatha Heritage Projects—Clients: Department of Defence and Aurecon
- Parramatta Metro, Aboriginal Heritage Assessment and Excavation Direction—Client: Transport for NSW & GLC
- Parramatta Light Rail, Aboriginal Heritage—Client: Transport for NSW and Parramatta Connect
- Arthur Phillip High School, Parramatta, Aboriginal Heritage—Client: School Infrastructure NSW and Department of Education
- Sydney Light Rail, NSW, Aboriginal Heritage Assessments—Client: Acciona
- Parramatta Park, Gardens Precinct, Aboriginal Heritage—Client: Parramatta Park Trust
- Schofields and the Blacktown Native Institute, Aboriginal Heritage—Client: Defence Housing Australia & Dharug Strategic Management
- Baiame Cave, Heritage Management Plan—Client: Wonnarua Nation
- Sydney Defence Sites, Heritage Management Plan, Aboriginal Heritage—Client: Department of Defence

Historical heritage projects

- Glen Lorne Research Project—Joint Academic Venture between GML, Sydney University and Lendlease
- West Dapto, Various Historical Archaeological Projects—Client: Stockland
- Mt Gilead, Various Historical Archaeological Projects—Client: Lendlease
- Sydney Opera House, Various Archaeology Projects—Client: Sydney Opera House Trust
- Newmarket Archaeological Project—Client: CBUS
- Parramatta Park, Garden Precinct—Client: Parramatta Park Trust
- Parramatta Leagues Club, NSW—Client: APP for PLC
- Defence Establishment Orchard Hills, NSW, Historical Heritage—Client: Department of Defence

NSW LEC and Expert Witness

2025. Blantyre Farms Pty Ltd v Hilltops Council. Case Number: 2024/00447346. Aboriginal cultural heritage (ACH) expert for Young LALC.

2024. Cox v Central Coast Council. Case Number: 2024/00209816. ACH expert for Council.

2024. Michael Fountain Architects v Hunters Hill Council. Case Number: 2024/130582. ACH expert for Council.

2024. Pertama Development v North Sydney Council. Case Number: 2024/310163. ACH expert for Council.

2022. Spedding v Tweed Shire Council. Case Number: 2022/00282091. ACH expert for Council.

2021. Lilac v City of Ryde Council. Case Number: 2019/25398. ACH and historical archaeology expert for Council.

2020. Maxwell Underground Coal Mine Project. Independent Planning Commission (IPC) reports and presentation. Heritage expert for the Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association (HTBA).

2019. Dartbrook Mine Modification 7. IPC reports and presentation. Heritage expert for the HTBA.

2017. Watermark Mountain, Section 10 application, report for the Gomeri People. Heritage expert for Beatty Hughes and Assoc.

2016. Drayton South Coal Project. IPC reports. Heritage expert for Coolmore Australia, Darley Australia, and HTBA.

2014. AWWP & Darkinjung LALC v Minister for Planning and Rocl. Case Number: 2014/10024. ACH expert for AWWP.

Professional and honorary positions

Director, GML Heritage, 2022–present

Principal, GML Heritage, 2018–present

Flinders University, Associate Professor, 2026–present

Flinders University, Senior Research Fellow, 2009–2026

Sydney University, Academic Associate, 2004–2008, 2021–present

City of Parramatta, Heritage Advisory Committee, 2022–present

Senior Associate, GML Heritage, 2015–2018

Associate, GML Heritage, 2010–2015

Archaeology Team Leader, ERM, 2007–2010

Archaeological Consultant, ERM, 2003–2007

Public Archaeology Project Director, PASHA, 2002–2003; 2006; 2008

Private archaeological consultant, 1999–2003

Published books and chapters

Owen, T, 2025, 'Aboriginal Traditions of Food—Investigating Holocene Dietary Changes in Southern Australia', in M, Shanahan, *The Archaeology of Food*, Sydney University Press

Owen, T, White, B, Newchurch, J 2021, *Kaurna Stone Artefacts*, GML Heritage, Sydney

Owen, T 2019, 'Aboriginal Heritage in the Process of National Reconciliation', in *The Future of Heritage*, GML Heritage, Sydney

Owen, T, Cowie, D, Pickles, S 2015, *Stories from Kaurna*, GML Heritage, Sydney

Owen, T, Steele, J 2001, *Digging Up The Past, Archaeology for Kids*, Southern Archaeology, South Australia

Peer-reviewed journal publications

Gale, S, Owen, T, 2026, 'Windblown deposition in the alluvial Parramatta Sand Bed sequence of central eastern New South Wales', *Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales*. 148: 31–42.

White, B, Donohoe, L, Owen, T 2025 'Occupation prior to the Last Glacial Maximum at Parramatta site AT14', *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports*, DOI: 10.1016/j.jasrep.2025.105483

Morris, H, Holm, T, Freeman, N, Owen T 2025 'First Nations Aboriginal ring trees in New South Wales—establishing a cultural context and basic archaeological recording typology', *Archaeology in Oceania*, DOI: 10.1002/arco.70003

Owen, T, Munt, S, Toms, P, Wood, J 2024, 'First Nations pre-LGM ochre processing in Parramatta, NSW, Australia', *Archaeology in Oceania*, DOI: 10.1002/arco.5313

Quinn, M, Owen, T, Flanagan, J, Westaway, K 2023, 'An Aboriginal presence in the Sydney basin prior to the LGM; further investigations into the age and formation of the Parramatta Sand Body', *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports*, DOI: 10.1016/j.jasrep.2023.104195

Munt, S, White, B, Owen, T 2023, 'Social information inherent in backed artefacts from the Illawarra, western, and southwestern Sydney, NSW', *Australian Archaeology*, DOI: 10.1080/03122417.2023.2218992

Adams, C, Owen, T, Pate, D, Bruce, D, Nielson, K, Klæbe, R, Henneberg, M, Moffat, M, 2022, "Do dead men tell no tales?" The geographic origin of a colonial period Anglican cemetery population in Adelaide, South Australia, determined by isotope analyses', *Australian Archaeology*. DOI: 10.1080/03122417.2022.2086200

Owen, T, Jones, J, Watson, L, Norman, C 2022, 'Parramatta, NSW: a deep time Aboriginal cultural landscape', *Journal of the Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists*, 9, pp 10–29

McPhail, M, Owen, T, Tooby, L, Comber, J, Casey, M 2022, 'A potential microfossil indicator for culturally introduced fats and oils associated with Aboriginal and Colonial archaeological deposits, Sydney, NSW', *Australasian Historical Archaeology*, 39, pp 4–16

Munt, S, Owen, T 2021, 'Aboriginal uses for introduced glass, ceramic and flint from the former Schofields Aerodrome, Western Sydney (Darug Country), New South Wales', *Australian Archaeology*, DOI: 10.1080/03122417.2021.1955597

Pate, D, Henneberg, M, Anson, T, Owen, T, Newchurch, J, Draper, N, Wight, C, Lucas, T, Moffat, I, Weyrich, L, Skelly, E, Naumann, J, Gurr, A, Logan, C, Walsh, J 2020, 'A stable, inexpensive and widely available burial environment or keeping place for archaeological or historical human skeletal remains', *Australasian Historical Archaeology*, 38, pp 68–71

Rippon, L, Rollog, M, Bruce, D, Farkas, J, Pate, D, Owen, T, Lucas, T, McCallum, S, Moffat, I 2020, 'Baseline bioavailable strontium and oxygen isotope mapping of the Adelaide Region, South Australia', *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports*, 34, 102614

Forbes, C, Owen, T, Veale, S 2020, 'Risk and resilience: Baiame's Cave and creation landscape, NSW, Australia', *8th ICBR Lisbon Book of Papers*, pp 219–228

Owen, T, Hise, B, Player, S, Ingrey, M 2019, 'The procurement and use of River Thames flint by Sydney's Aboriginal people', *Australasian Historical Archaeology*, 37, pp 5–17

Owen, T, Field, J, Luu, S, Kokatha Aboriginal People, Stephenson, B and Coster, A 2019, 'Ancient Starch Analysis of Grinding Stones from Kokatha Country, SA', *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* 23, pp 178–188

McPhail, M, and Owen, T, 2018, 'What was growing along the Tank Stream Valley, Sydney Cove, in 1788?', *Australasian Historical Archaeology*, 36, pp 16–28

Owen, T, Casey, M 2017, 'The Old Sydney Burial Ground: using isotopic analysis to infer the origin of individual skeletons', *Australasian Historical Archaeology*, 35, pp 24–33

Owen, T, Casey, M, Pitt, N 2017, 'The Old Sydney Burial Ground: an inference of early colonial diet in Sydney and Britain', *Australasian Historical Archaeology*, 35, pp 34–42

Owen, T, Cowie, D 2017, 'Four predictive models to describe Aboriginal lithic artefact site patterning on the Cumberland Plain', *Journal of the Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists*, 5, pp 1–13

Owen, T 2015, 'An Archaeology of absence (or the archaeology of nothing)', *Historic Environment*, 27, pp 70–83

Owen, T, Veale, S 2015, 'No intrinsic value in archaeology? Constructing agency and social value from archaeology', *Proceedings of: Fabric. The Threads of Conservation, Australian ICOMOS*

Owen, T 2015, 'Advocating Aboriginal Heritage Conservation and Management Through the Land Development Process—An Example from New South Wales', *Proceedings of the 2015 International Austronesian Conference*, pp 186–204

Owen, T 2015, 'Australian Aboriginal traditional knowledge and intellectual creations—an examination of issues and consequences within the heritage system', *Proceedings of the 2015 International Austronesian Conference*, pp 272–284

Pate, D, Owen, T 2014, 'Stable carbon and nitrogen isotopes as indicators of sedentism and territoriality in late Holocene South Australia', *Archaeology in Oceania*, 49, pp 86–94, DOI: 10.1002/arco.5019

Owen, T, Pate, D 2014, 'A Kaurna burial, Salisbury, South Australia: Further evidence for complex late Holocene Aboriginal social systems in the Adelaide region', *Australian Archaeology*, 79, pp 45–53

Owen, T, James, S 2013, 'The history, archaeology and material cultural of 105 Radar Station, Cox Peninsula, Northern Territory', *Australasian Historical Archaeology*, 31, pp 92–98

Pate, D, Roberts, A, Walsh, K, Owen, T 2011, 'Stable Isotopic Analysis of Indigenous Skeletal Remains from Blanchetown Bridge, South Australia', *Journal of the Anthropological Society of South Australia*, 4, pp 90–97

Owen, T, Henneberg, M, Pate, D 2006, 'Aboriginal stature in South Australia: A 10,000-year history', *Przegląd Antropologiczny – Anthropological Review*, 69, pp 3–13

Owen, T, Steele, J 2005, 'Perceptions of archaeology amongst primary school aged children, Adelaide, South Australia', *Australian Archaeology*, 61, pp 64–70

Pate, D, Owen, T, Lawson, E 2003, 'AMS radiocarbon dating of bone collagen: Establishing a chronology for the Swanport Aboriginal burial ground, South Australia', *Australian Archaeology*, 56, pp 8–11

Pate, D, Brodie, R, Owen, T 2002, 'Determination of geographic origin of unprovenanced Aboriginal skeletal remains in South Australia employing stable carbon and nitrogen isotope analysis', *Australian Archaeology*, 55, pp 1–7

Owen, T, Steele, J 2002, 'The Fern Avenue Community Gardens Archaeology Project: How to run a Public Archaeology Excavation Program', *Proceedings of the Third National Archaeology Students Conference*, pp 99–103

Owen, T 2002, 'The diversity of the ancient Indigenous Australian skeletal material', *Proceedings of the Third National Archaeology Students Conference*, pp 65–75

Owen, T 2002, 'Bone Sampling for Isotope Analysis', *Australian Archaeology*, 54, pp 57–58

Owen, T 1999, 'Potential Errors In The Dating At The Jinmium Site, In Northwestern Australia', *World Archaeological Bulletin*, 9, pp 32–36

Select conference and lecture papers

'Aboriginal Traditions of Food—Investigating Holocene Dietary Changes in Southern Australia', presented at the World Archaeology Congress, 2025

'Sydney Harbour—the Aboriginal cultural landscape', presented at Sydney Historical Archaeology Practitioners' (SHAP) workshop, 2024

'Three Deeptime Aboriginal Landscapes', presented at Sydney University, 2023

'Deep Time Parramatta', presented at National Archaeology Week, Sydney, 2022

'The Black Town, Sydney, NSW', presented at ASHA Conference, New Zealand, 2022

'Deep Time Parramatta', presented for the City of Parramatta, National Archaeology Week, 2021

'Deep Time Aboriginal Cultural Landscape of Parramatta', presented at the Australian Museum, Future Forum, Sydney, 2021

'Late Holocene Parramatta—Absence, Evidence and Social Control', presented at AAA Conference, 2021

'Schofields—Aboriginal Contact Archaeology: on the edge?', presented at SHAP, 2021

'British flint in Sydney, a perspective through traditional Aboriginal use', presented at ASHA Conference, 2019

'Aboriginal Places and Landscape Memory', presented at History Week, 2019

'Flint, ballast, and tools: A new story in Sydney's record of stone', presented at the University of Sydney, 2019

'RSY1—The Aboriginal Use of Thames Valley (English) Flint in Sydney, in the late 18th century', presented at SHAP, 2019

'Sydney Cove in c1788(ish). The ancient but new Country. Lessons to be learnt from the archaeological record', presented at Sydney Ideas, University of Sydney, 2019

'Isotopic methods to examine migration and mobility: Australian case studies', presented at AAA Conference, 2018

'Ancient Starch Analysis of Grinding Stones from Kokatha Country', presented at AAA Conference, Melbourne, with the KAC, 2017