Thank You

Mike's family wish to thank everyone for the many messages of condolences and support received. We are very grateful to the University of Wollongong for hosting this Memorial and to everyone who has come here today to contribute their own acknowledgement of Mike's uniqueness and generosity in this life.

Gawler Foundation

The Gawler Foundation runs programs that encourage and empower people to make positive changes. The Foundation supports and inspires those diagnosed with cancer, together with their families, through their journey. Donations can be made in memory of Mike at website www.gawler.org or to The Gawler Foundation, PO Box 77 Yarra Junction Vic 3797.

Mike Morwood Memorial Web Page

A tribute to Mike's life is available, including photos spanning the decades, recordings of public lectures and anecdotes and remembrances from those with whom he worked, at cas.uow.edu.au/mikemorwoodmemorial.

Tribute written by Doug Hobbs and Robyn McDougall. The booklet was designed by Paul Martens and printed by UOW Printery.

A fateful decision was made to re-excavate a nearby limestone cave called Liang Bua to a greater depth than previous Indonesian excavations with Professor Rahmat Pandji Soejono and colleagues from Indonesia’s National Centre for Archaeology. But this was only possible through Mike’s innovation where he developed a system of shoring for the excavations, allowing digging to extreme depths. In 2001 a “Hobbit” bone was recovered at 9m but no-one could determine what it was because there was nothing with which to compare it. By the end of the 2003 season a partial “Hobbit” skeleton and second jawbone were unearthed, taking the world by surprise. The skeleton was dated around 18,000 years old.

Although the stage Mike was internationally recognised as an expert in the human habitation of Australia, his name will forever be bound to the discovery of the “Hobbit”. The discovery propelled Mike further into the international spotlight, as it challenged what had previously been thought about the development of modern humans in Asia and Australia.

Mike Emerged from the period with valuable insights to many other aspects of fossil and rock ages. He continued the Liang Bua excavations, including the work recently undertaken by the Australian team, and cooperatively with the Flores excavation. Mike was keen to pursue new ideas and the idea of Liang Bua alone involved a number of years before proposing a research project with Turkish colleagues before undertaking the fieldwork.

In 2007 he became a Senior Research Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and Senior Research Fellow at the Australian National University, as well as Adjunct Professor at the University of Sydney and at the University of New South Wales.

In 2007 he joined the Centre for Archaeological Science at the University of Wollongong and with true Mike vision and spirit established a program to train young Indonesian archaeologists to undertake postgraduate study at the University. Even in the stage before his death, Mike was generous in his engagement with postgraduate students, discussing fieldwork and planning for their future, and his capacity for work is illustrated by the work he undertook the last few years of his life. It was only in his later years that Mike was comfortable with the status and accolades he was rightly accorded.

Mike was a fine, loyal friend; a gentle and compassionate man who chose passivism when confrontation arose; he was a modest person in an intellectual world filled with the dynamic spirit. His single-minded dedication to archaeology combined with his dynamic spirit proved the perfect combination for achieving great things.
Welcome

Master of Oceania
Professor Colin V Murray-Wallace

Ward Professor of Oceania Studies
University of Wollongong

Department of Anthropology, Archaeology and Sociology
Honorary Research Fellow, Department of Anthropology
Emeritus Professor John Mulvaney AO CMG
Adjunct Professor, Department of Archaeology and
Head, School of Earth & Environmental Sciences
Senior Archaeologist, Archaeo Cultural Heritage
Palaeoanthropology, University of New England

Professor Harry Allen ONZM, FAHA, FSA
Adjunct Senior Research Fellow (Archaeology)

Professor Colin V Murray-Wallace
Retired Foundation Chair of Prehistory
Australian National University

Master of Ceremonies
James Cook University

Professor Richard (Bert) Roberts
Future Fellowship Research Fellow
School of Earth & Environmental Sciences
Director, Centre for Archaeological Science

Dr June Ross
A Family's Tribute

Professor Richard (Bert) Roberts

Perspectives

Dr June Ross
A Family's Tribute

Reflexions

Dr June Ross
A Family's Tribute

Refreshments

Professor Michael (Nikel) John Monwood

27 October 1950 to 23 July 2013

Where the leaves fall not: land of my people forever!

In Eressea, in Elvenhome that no man can discover,
Sweet are the voices in the Lost Isle calling,
Long are the waves on the Last Shore falling,
I will pass the wide waters lonely sailing.

For our days are ending and our years failing.
I will leave, I will leave the woods that bore me;
The voices of my people that have gone before me?
Grey ship, grey ship, do you hear them calling,

The Lord of the Rings, Return of the King
Legolas in J.R.R.Tolkein,
West, west away, the round sun is falling,

o the sea, to the sea! The white gulls are crying,

As the world wends its course:

Continuing to listen to his instincts, Mike began to search for evidence for Macassan contact along Australia’s north west coast. During subsequent expeditions he discovered evidence for Macassan contact along Australia’s north west coast, including a midden site at Cape York Peninsula. He has also been active in archaeology in Indonesia and in the Pacific, including excavations in the Bismarcks and New Guinea, and he has contributed to research on the origins of civilisation in the Pacific.

Mike’s work has significantly influenced the study of human evolution, particularly in Australia and Indonesia. He has made major contributions to our understanding of early human dispersals to this continent and to our understanding of the antiquity of human occupation of Australia and New Guinea. His research in Indonesia has been particularly significant for the study of early human occupation of the region. His work has also been influential in the study of the earliest human occupation of Australia, and in particular the site at Terra Amata, northern Australia, which is now recognised as the oldest known stone tool assemblage in Australia. Mike’s research has also contributed to our understanding of the antiquity of human occupation of the Pacific, particularly in the Bismarck Archipelago and New Guinea, and he has made important contributions to the study of the origins of civilisation in the Pacific.

Mike’s work has also had a significant impact on archaeological education, particularly in Australia. He has been a key figure in the development of archaeology as a discipline in Australia, and he has been a strong advocate for the importance of archaeology in the study of human evolution. His contributions to the field of archaeology have been recognised with numerous awards and honours, including the Australian Academy of Science award for outstanding research in archaeology, the Australian Academy of Science award for outstanding research in archaeology, and the Australian Academy of Science award for outstanding research in archaeology.

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Mike had an extraordinary impact on the study of human evolution, with his work leading to an increased understanding of the antiquity of human occupation of Australia and New Guinea. His research has also contributed to our understanding of the origins of civilisation in the Pacific, particularly in the Bismarck Archipelago and New Guinea. Mike’s work has been influential in the study of the earliest human occupation of Australia, and in particular the site at Terra Amata, northern Australia, which is now recognised as the oldest known stone tool assemblage in Australia. Mike’s research has also contributed to our understanding of the antiquity of human occupation of the Pacific, particularly in the Bismarck Archipelago and New Guinea, and he has made important contributions to the study of the origins of civilisation in the Pacific. A Family’s Tribute

Michael John Munwood

27 October 1950 to 23 July 2013

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Legolas in J.R.R.Tolkein,
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As the world wends its course:
Welcome

Master of Ovendarter
Professor Colin V. Murray-Wallace
Arcan College and the School of Archaeology and Sociology, University of New England

Reflections

Mr Catie Winton
Retired
Professor Harry Akers ONGD, FAA, FSA
University Research Fellow, School of Anthropology, Archaeology, and Sociology, University of New England

Professor John Mulvaney AO CMG
Adjunct Professor, Department of Archaeology and Head, School of Earth & Environmental Sciences, University of New England

Emeritus Professor John Mulvaney AO CMG
Senior Archaeologist, Archaeo Cultural Heritage Palaeoanthropology, University of New England

Professor Harry Allen ONZM, FAHA, FSA
Adjunct Senior Research Fellow (Archaeology)

Professor Colin V Murray-Wallace
Retired Foundation Chair of Prehistory

Ms Catherine Morwood
Master of Ceremonies

University of Wollongong

James Cook University

Dr Noelene Cole
Welcome

A Family’s Tribute

Dr June Ross

Professor Michael N Mikel John Monwood

Photo Tribute

Professor Colin V Murray-Wallace

Close

Professor Colin V Murray-Wallace

Refreshments

The Lord of the Rings, Return of the King

Mike had an extraordinary impact on the understanding of human evolution, on archaeology, and on geographic and linguistic past. Archaeology captured his imagination. From his undergraduate days at the University of Auckland to 1970, when he undertook extensive fieldwork for his PhD at the University of Wollongong, Mike always had a strong sense of adventure to his work. After undertaking a long-term research project on the late Grahame Walsh, who was surveying the Bradshaw paintings in the Kimberley in 1993, establishing that Aboriginal occupation in this part of Australia began for the first time 28,000 years ago. Mike’s detailed study of the Tooloolla Rock Art site in Queensland, with the aid of Dr Fachroel Aziz, began excavations in the Soa Basin on the Indonesian island of Flores. This work continued for three years and yielded stone artefacts in association with animal bones dating back c. 800,000 years, but no skeletal evidence of humans. Mike reasoned that if this were the case then evidence of the first Australians should be found in Indonesia. He now had a possible route.

His team, in collaboration with Dr Fachroel Aziz, continued to listen to his instincts, to his knowledge and with his encouragement of both undergraduate and postgraduate students. Mike had an extraordinary impact on the understanding of human evolution, on archaeology, and on geographic and linguistic past. Archaeology captured his imagination. From his undergraduate days at the University of Auckland to 1970, when he undertook extensive fieldwork for his PhD at the University of Wollongong, Mike always had a strong sense of adventure to his work. After undertaking a long-term research project on the late Grahame Walsh, who was surveying the Bradshaw paintings in the Kimberley in 1993, establishing that Aboriginal occupation in this part of Australia began for the first time 28,000 years ago. Mike’s detailed study of the Tooloolla Rock Art site in Queensland, with the aid of Dr Fachroel Aziz, began excavations in the Soa Basin on the Indonesian island of Flores. This work continued for three years and yielded stone artefacts in association with animal bones dating back c. 800,000 years, but no skeletal evidence of humans. Mike reasoned that if this were the case then evidence of the first Australians should be found in Indonesia. He now had a possible route.
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Master of Ceremonies
Professor Colin C Murray-Wallace
McArthur Suited, University of Wollongong

Reflections
Ms Catherine Morwood
Master of Ceremonies
University of Wollongong

Professor Harry Aston OMD, FAA,
University Research Fellow, Department of Anthropology
University of Sydney

Emeritus Professor John Mulvaney AO CMG
Adjunct Professor, Department of Archaeology and
Head, School of Earth & Environmental Sciences
Senior Archaeologist, Archaeological Heritage
Palaeoanthropology, University of New England

Professor Harry Allen ONZM, FAHA, FSA
Professor Colin V Murray-Wallace
Retired Foundation Chair of Prehistory
Australian National University

Ms Catherine Morwood
Master of Ceremonies
University of Wollongong

Mr Douglas Hobbs
Senior Academic, Department of Archaeology and
University of Auckland

Professor Richard (Bert) Roberts
School of Earth & Environmental Sciences
University of Wollongong

Dr June Ross
Senior Academic, Department of Anthropology
University of Auckland

Mr Thomas Sutikna
Director, Centre for Archaeological Science
University of Wollongong

Welcome

A Family’s Tribute
Dr June Ross

Mike had an extraordinary impact on the understanding of humanity’s evolution, on the geographic and temporal distribution of human occupation in the archaeological record, and on the role of archaeology and anthropology in understanding the past. Archaeology captured his imagination, and in his own lifetime he was a pioneer of research into the earliest occupation of Australia. The significance and influence of his work is unparalleled. Mike’s research and teaching spanned more than three decades. He went into the field with the boldness and determination of a young man, but what defined him was a commitment to his research. He was unfailingly generous with his time, and he always supported his colleagues and his students. He was a mentor whose support and encouragement was always available. He taught us that the world is full of opportunities, and that we can make the most of them. Mike’s influence on the field of archaeology is profound, and his contributions to the understanding of human evolution have been extraordinary.

Close
Professor Michael N Mark John Morwood
27 October 1950 to 23 July 2013

The Lord of the Rings, Return of the King
Legolas in J.R.R.Tolkein,
West, west away, the round sun is falling,
The wind is blowing, and the white foam is flowing.
The white gulls are crying,
To the sea, to the sea! The white gulls are crying,
The white gulls are crying, the white gulls are crying.

Tribute
Professor Michael N Mark John Morwood
27 October 1950 to 23 July 2013

To the sea, to the sea! The white gulls are crying.
The white gulls are crying, the white gulls are crying.
Mike, we lost you too soon. The voices of my people that have gone before me. I will sail, I will sail the winds that call me. For our days are ending and our years failing. Long on the waves on the last shore belaying.

Photo Tribute
Close
Professor Colin C Murray-Wallace

Professor Michael N Mark John Morwood
27 October 1950 to 23 July 2013

Michael
Meriwa John
Morwood

Close
Professor Michael N Mark John Morwood
27 October 1950 to 23 July 2013

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Mr Thomas Sutikna
Director, Centre for Archaeological Science
University of Wollongong

Dr June Ross
Senior Academic, Department of Archaeology and
University of Auckland

Mr Douglas Hobbs
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Donations can be made in memory of Mike at website www.gawler.org or to The Gawler Foundation, PO Box 77 Yarra Junction Vic 3797

Mike Morwood Memorial Web Page

A tribute to Mike’s life and work, including photos spanning the decades, recordings of public lectures and anecdotes and remembrances from those with whom he worked can be found at cas.uow.edu.au/mikemorwoodmemorial

Tribute written by Doug Hobbs and Robyn McDougall. The booklet was designed by Paul Martens and printed by UOW Printery.

A fateful decision was made to re-excavate a nearby limestone cave called Liang Bua to a greater depth than previous Indonesian excavations with Professor Radian Pandji Soejono and colleagues from Indonesia’s National Centre for Archaeology. But this was only possible through Mike’s innovation where he developed a system of shoring for the excavations, allowing digging to extreme depths. In 2001, although a ‘Hobbit’ bone fragment was found, it was not enough to determine what it was. Therefore there was nothing with which to compare it. By the end of the 2003 season a partial ‘Hobbit’ skeleton and second jawbone were unearthed, taking the world by surprise. The skeleton was dated around 18,000 years old.

Although by this stage Mike was internationally recognised as an expert in the human inhabitation of Australia, his name will be forever bound to the discovery of the ‘Hobbit’ – one of the greatest palaeoanthropological finds in modern times.

He emerged from this period with valuable insights into current research questions and had much international attention from his fellow archaeologists. Mike became the leader of the Liang Bua project and contributed a number of ideas before proposing a research project ‘Wallace Line Studies’ for the study of unknown parts of the east Indonesian Archipelago.

In 2007 he joined the Centre for Archaeological Science at the University of Wollongong (UOW), and with true Mike vision and spirit instituted a training program for young Indonesian archaeologists to undertake postgraduate study at the University. Even in the days before his death, Mike was generous in his engagement with his postgraduate students, discussing fieldwork and planning for the future. He was always ready to help those with ideas for developing their research.

He had a huge impact on those around him and was known for his dynamic, passionate elements in all aspects of life. He changed many people’s lives through his academic teaching and supervision, and through his bright, inquisitive spirit which he brought to all he did. Mike’s research was characterized by his ability to synthesise and present his ideas in a simple, clear and elegant manner.

In 2009 Mike was appointed Full Professor and co-Director of the Centre for Archaeological Science and he is currently the Director of the Centre for Archaeological Science. His recent research interests include the study of early Australian humans and the development of the modern human in Australia. Mike’s work has been acknowledged with numerous awards and honours, including the Australian Academy of the Humanities Senior Fellowship in Archaeology and the Royal Australian Geographic Society's Gold Medal. He is also a Fellow of the Academy of the Humanities and the Royal Geographical Society.

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Although the stage was set Mike was internationally recognised as an expert in the human inhabitation of Australia. His work has been key to the discovery of the ‘Hobbit’, Homo floresiensis, in Indonesia and the ‘Java Man’, Homo erectus, in Java. The discovery propelled Mike further into the international spotlight, as it challenged what had previously been thought about the development of the human species and what he had seen about human evolution.

He emerged from this period with valuable links to many other institutions around the world, including the Smithsonian Institution, which jointly continues the Liang Bua excavations. Mike’s capacity for work is illustrated by the research he undertook concurrently with the Flores excavation. Mike went to eastern Java and the island of Sulawesi where he excavated a number of sites before proposing a research project “Astride the Wallace Line” into unknown parts of the east Indonesian Archipelago.

In 2007 he joined the Centre for Archaeological Science at the University of Wollongong (UOW), and with true Mike vision and spirit instituted a training program for young Indonesian archaeologists to undertake postgraduate study at the University.

Even in the days before his death, Mike was generous in his engagement with his postgraduate students, discussing fieldwork and planning for the future, as well as encouraging them to follow that part of their own path. We think that his advice led to the whole host of doctoral theses that have now been submitted for the degree of PhD. It is quite possible that some of the students, as has happened for others who have followed in Mike’s footsteps, will now be in the position to shape how research is undertaken in the future.

Mike was a fine, loyal friend; a gentle and compassionate man who chose passivism when confrontation arose, his single-minded dedication to archaeology combined with his dynamic spirit proved the perfect combination for achieving great things.