

## The Archaeology of a Torres Strait Saga

You may have heard about the Icelandic Sagas, featuring Viking voyages, migrations and family feuds but did you know about the Sagas on your doorstep? In 2014, Western and Eastern Torres Strait Islanders recruited an archaeologist to excavate sites associated with Waiat. This wandering culture hero brought new knowledge to communities along a 240 km pathway spanning Papua New Guinea also western, central and eastern Torres Strait. In this lecture we explore a 130 year old saga and provide archaeological results from key sites along this trackway. We examine complex and transitioning rituals on Australia's northern border and discuss the important role mythology plays encoding human histories.

Free online streaming via Zoom.

Register using the following link:

[https://anu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_dBT-L5KaQ2-SLWfoJSUKCw](https://anu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dBT-L5KaQ2-SLWfoJSUKCw)

After registering you will receive a confirmation email

### Seminar Series

May 17<sup>th</sup>, 4pm (AEST)

Online seminar streamed via Zoom.

A recording of the seminar will be available for National Archaeology Week



James Zaro sitting at Waiat's fireplace on Waier Island, Eastern Torres Strait.

Duncan Wright is a Senior Lecturer at the Australian National University's School of Archaeology and Anthropology with a research interest in mythology. Wright practices partnership archaeology, involving collaborations with Torres Strait Islander and Australian Aboriginal communities who seek to historicise (through archaeology, including rock art) practices and places of social, political and/ or spiritual significance. Currently he has active projects in Torres Strait, Arnhem Land and Czech Republic.



**NATIONAL  
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*We acknowledge and celebrate the First Australians on whose traditional lands we meet, and pay our respect to the elders past, present and emerging.*