

## RACI SA Branch May Event

### Ancient DNA: reconstructing the past to inform the present

**Dr Jeremy Austin, Australian Centre for Ancient DNA  
School of Earth and Environmental Sciences  
The University of Adelaide**



Can the chemical extraction and analysis of ancient DNA assist in our explanation of the past, our understanding of today and our predictions for the future?

In terms of the past, the analysis of ancient DNA has been used to determine the 'flight paths' of the Dodo and to determine what causes the extinction or survival of penguins.

In addition there have been investigations of the potential that the Tasmanian tiger has 'not left the building' as faeces have been found. For the future DNA is also being used to try to preserve another Tasmanian species under threat like the Tasmanian Devil.



In terms of humans, DNA has been used to try to identify the HMAS Sydney unknown sailor.

In the extreme past Ancient DNA has been used to investigate the potential of reconstructing mammoths from frozen specimens and reconstructing dinosaurs from mosquitoes in amber. Can it work?

**This lecture will be of interest to, and is suitable for, school students so teachers are encouraged to bring their classes along (please RSVP). RACI non-members welcome.**

**DATE:** Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2009

**WHERE:** Macbeth Lecture Theatre, Badger Building, University of Adelaide, North Terrace (enter from the lower ground floor between the Johnson and Badger buildings).

**TIME:** From 6:30 pm for networking, drinks and nibbles. The seminar will commence at 7:00 pm.

**Please RSVP with numbers of attendees to Ian Milne,  
[Ian.Milne@hospira.com](mailto:Ian.Milne@hospira.com), by 5:00 pm, Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May.**

**Note:** Please see attached map for directions. Signs will be posted directing you to the correct entry.

