

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE AUSTRALIAN RANGELAND SOCIETY
BIENNIAL CONFERENCE**

Official publication of The Australian Rangeland Society

Copyright and Photocopying

© The Australian Rangeland Society 2012. All rights reserved.

For non-personal use, no part of this item may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior permission of the Australian Rangeland Society and of the author (or the organisation they work or have worked for). Permission of the Australian Rangeland Society for photocopying of articles for non-personal use may be obtained from the Secretary who can be contacted at the email address, rangelands.exec@gmail.com

For personal use, temporary copies necessary to browse this site on screen may be made and a single copy of an article may be downloaded or printed for research or personal use, but no changes are to be made to any of the material. This copyright notice is not to be removed from the front of the article.

All efforts have been made by the Australian Rangeland Society to contact the authors. If you believe your copyright has been breached please notify us immediately and we will remove the offending material from our website.

Form of Reference

The reference for this article should be in this general form;
Author family name, initials (year). Title. *In*: Proceedings of the nth Australian Rangeland Society Biennial Conference. Pages. (Australian Rangeland Society: Australia).

For example:

Anderson, L., van Klinken, R. D., and Shepherd, D. (2008). Aerially surveying Mesquite (*Prosopis* spp.) in the Pilbara. *In*: 'A Climate of Change in the Rangelands. Proceedings of the 15th Australian Rangeland Society Biennial Conference'. (Ed. D. Orr) 4 pages. (Australian Rangeland Society: Australia).

Disclaimer

The Australian Rangeland Society and Editors cannot be held responsible for errors or any consequences arising from the use of information obtained in this article or in the Proceedings of the Australian Rangeland Society Biennial Conferences. The views and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Australian Rangeland Society and Editors, neither does the publication of advertisements constitute any endorsement by the Australian Rangeland Society and Editors of the products advertised.



The Australian Rangeland Society

REGIONAL VARIATION IN THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE RANGELANDS

Dan Witter

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Broken Hill, NSW 2880, Australia

There is considerable regional variation in the archaeology of the rangelands of western New South Wales. For example, rocky ranges have engraved and painted rock art, or quarries for stone tool material. River and lake systems have middens of freshwater mussel shells, and the calcareous dunes and lunettes preserve Aboriginal burials. Less conspicuous are the open camp sites with stone artefacts. These consist of a basic tool kit as well as specialised additions which appeared after about 3-4,000 BP. Since these stone artefacts are so abundant and widespread, they provide the best definition of archaeological regions.

The suggested regions for western New South Wales are: (1) Cobar Plateau, (2) Riverine Plain, (3) Lower Darling Plains, (4) Barrier Ranges, (5) Strzelecki Dunefield and (6) West Darling Ranges and Plains. The boundaries for some of the regions are similar to the system used by the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia. An important feature of these regions is the condition and preservation of the archaeology, and how this has been affected by past European land use.