Biography

Joe is an archaeologist with wide experience in academic research and heritage management. He completed his PhD at UWA on Aboriginal responses to environmental changes in south-western Australia during and after the last glacial period, from 20,000 years ago to present.

Since then he has investigated archaeological evidence for Late Pleistocene faunal extinctions, researched past Aboriginal burning and landscape management in south-western Australia, and collaborated with geneticists and Aboriginal stakeholders on ancient and modern DNA analysis.

He's advised communities and industry on archaeological heritage, completing more than 200 heritage assessments for Aboriginal organisations, resources companies, private developers and government agencies.

Joe has delivered courses in archaeological field and lab methods, applied theory, and the intersection of environmental and social sciences (e.g. ARCY3003, ARCY4101, INDG2700 and ARCY3013).

In 2015-2018 he managed research on behalf of a large research team on the Dampier Archipelago as part of an ARC Linkage project, Murujuga: Dynamics of the Dreaming, and supervised Honours and PhD students on this project. He is currently a Heritage Advisor at Rio Tinto, assisting the company on Aboriginal heritage matters in the Pilbara.

Research outputs

Stone artifacts in the intertidal zone, Dampier Archipelago: Evidence for a submerged coastal site in Northwest Australia

Micro Methods for Megafauna: Novel Approaches to Late Quaternary Extinctions and Their Contributions to Faunal Conservation in the Anthropocene

Late Quaternary Aboriginal hunter-gatherer occupation of the Greater Swan Region, south-western Australia

So ends this day: American whalers in Yaburara country, Dampier Archipelago

The Mermaid? Re-envisioning the 1818 exploration of Enderby Island, Murujuga, Western Australia

The contest for the tall forests of South-Western Australia and the discourses of advocates

Murujuga Rockshelter: First evidence for Pleistocene occupation on the Burrup Peninsula
Genetic diversity and drivers of dwarfism in extinct island emu populations

Early human occupation of a maritime desert, Barrow Island, North-West Australia

Human Niche Construction: Noongar evidence in pre-colonial Southwestern Australia

Archaeology in the age of alternative facts: archaeological investigations and Roe 8

Madjedbebe and genomic histories of Aboriginal Australia

Dingo scat-bone 'signature patterns': an actualistic study and comparison of wild and captive scat-bone assemblages and interpretation of bone fragments from Witchcliffe Rock Shelter, south western Australia
Reynolds, J. E., Dortch, J. & Balme, J., Dec 2016, In : Australian Archaeology. 82, 3, p. 218-231

Site watch: recent changes to Aboriginal heritage site registration in Western Australia

Large mammal species richness and late Quaternary precipitation change in south-western Australia

A genomic history of Aboriginal Australia

Pleistocene occupation of Yellabidde Cave in the northern Swan Coastal Plain, southwestern Australia
Monks, C., Dortch, J., Jacobsen, G. & Baynes, A., 2016, In : Australian Archaeology. 82, 3, p. 275-279

The timing and cause of megafauna mass deaths at Lancefield Swamp, south-eastern Australia

Genetic diversity loss in a biodiversity hotspot: Ancient DNA quantifies genetic decline and former connectivity in a critically endangered marsupial
Editorial

Mid-Holocene exploitation of marine molluscs: In the lower Mid West, Western Australia
Monks, C., Sheppard, B. & Dortch, J., 2015, In : Australian Archaeology. 80, p. 99-103

Who we should recognise as First Australians in the constitution

Intergenerational archaeology: Exploring niche construction in southwest Australian zooarchaeology

Charlie Dortch: History and archaeology across three continents

Scrapheap Challenge: A novel bulk-bone metabarcoding method to investigate ancient DNA in faunal assemblages

Letters to the editors
Dortch, J., 1 Jun 2012, In : Australian Archaeology. 74, 1 p.

'Fire and hearth' forty years on: Essays in honour of Sylvia J. Hallam

Archaeological evidence for early human presence in the western reaches of the Greater Swan Region, WA

Book Review - Recent Studies in Australian Palaeoecology and Zooarchaeology: A Volume in Honours of the Late Su Solomon
Dortch, J., 2012, In : Australian Archaeology. 75, p. 124-125

Aboriginal responses to late Quaternary environmental change in a Mediterranean-type region: Zooarchaeological evidence from south-western Australia

An Aboriginal Australian Genome Reveals Separate Human Dispersals into Asia

The Role of Habitus in the Maintenance of Traditional Noongar Plant Knowledge in Southwest Western Australia

The petroglyphs of the Kybra Aboriginal Site, South-Western Western Australia
Fossil avian eggshell preserves ancient DNA

Identifying palaeo-environments and changes in Aboriginal subsistence from dual-patterned faunal assemblages, south-western Australia

Baker and Barker at King George Sound: A rectification
Dortch, C. & Dortch, J., 2007, In : Australian Archaeology. 63

Investigation of Aboriginal fish-traps at Oyster Harbour, south-western Australia
Dortch, J., Dortch, C. & Reynolds, R., 2006, In : Australian Archaeology. 61, p. 38-43

Prolonged coexistence of humans and megafauna in Pleistocene Australia

Reconstructing Aboriginal impacts on Australian forests: Archaeological studies from south-western Australia

Late Quaternary vegetation change and the extinction of Black-flanked Rock-wallaby (Petrogale lateralis) at Tunnel Cave, southwestern Australia

Palaeo-Environmental Change and the Persistence of Human Occupation in South-Western Australian Forests

The size of the largest marsupial and why it matters

Sandstone quarries and grinding stone manufacture: Survey and excavation at Yambacoona Hill in South-Eastern Australia

Early human occupation at Devil's Lair, southwestern Australia 50,000 years ago

Aboriginal occupation in the limestone caves and rock shelters of the Leeuwin-Naturaliste region, Western Australia: Research Background and Archaeological Perspectives

Late Pleistocene and recent Aboriginal occupation of Tunnel Cave and Witchcliffe Rockshelter, southwestern Australia

Review of Devil's Lair artefact classification and radiocarbon chronology
Dortch, C. E. & Dortch, J., 1996, In : Australian Archaeology. 43, p. 28-32
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