Bert’s interests centre on the interactions between past peoples and their environments, in particular the timing, causes and consequences of modern human (*Homo sapiens*) migrations around the planet and their encounters with archaic humans.

His early work was concerned with the first evidence for the human colonisation of Australia and the resulting mass extinction of the megafauna. He was later involved in the discovery and dating of the ‘Hobbit’, a new species of tiny human (*Homo floresiensis*) found in 2003 on the Indonesian island of Flores.

Most recently, Bert has contributed to new archaeological discoveries in Africa, Arabia and India, and is currently applying frontier technologies in archaeological science to sites between central Asia and northern Australia to shed light on the evolution, dispersal and activities of modern and archaic humans.

**TOPIC: Human Evolution and Dispersal from Africa to Australia**

Bert will provide an update on recent progress in understanding the history of our species, *Homo sapiens*, and those of three other human lineages that survived until recent times – the Neanderthals, Denisovans and ‘Hobbits’. He will also discuss how advances in archaeological science techniques are helping to illuminate the human past, from improvements in scientific dating techniques to the chemical analysis of residues attached to ancient artefacts, illustrated by examples from his current project funded by the Australian Research Council.

**DATE:** Thursday 27 August 2015

**TIME:** Doors Open 6pm and lecture starts a 6.30pm

**VENUE:** Performing Arts Centre
Chevalier College (enter off 11 Charlotte Street, Burradoo)

**PRICES:** *Lecture Only:* Non-members $10 | RS Members $5

Following the lecture, there will be a dinner with the lecturer, open to members and non-members.

*Bookings for dinner can be made by ringing Hub Regtop on 0411192917 prior to 25 August 2015.*