

# NEWSLETTER

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## STATE OF THE ART ACT News

### Australian Heritage Commission

**Commonwealth heritage legislation amendments –**  
The Senate Committee Report on these proposed amendments was delivered on the 8 May 2001. The Report can be studied in its entirety at [http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/ecita\\_ctte/herit2000/Contents.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/ecita_ctte/herit2000/Contents.htm)

The Committee's primary report contains 38 recommendations and also short minority reports from the Committee's Government and Labor Senators. Space limits a full presentation on the report's contents but select (edited) recommendations of the Committee follow –

**Recommendation 2.1** - that in order to strengthen the protection of Australia's heritage the Government should take a broader role in heritage protection than what is being proposed and hence that its efforts should not be limited to sites on the proposed National and Commonwealth lists.

**Rec 2.2** - that the Government actively pursue measures to achieve common standards and benchmarks for the identification, assessment and management of heritage places Australia wide and that high standards and benchmarks are set in order to improve heritage protection outcomes.

**Rec 3.1** - that s 5 of the Australian Heritage Council Bill 1999 be amended to broaden the roles of the Council to reflect those of the existing Commission set out in s 7 of the *Australian Heritage Commission Act (AHC) 1975*, and in particular to enable the Council to act both on its own motion and on the request of the Minister.

**Rec 4.1** - that the Government retain the Register of the National Estate (RNE) and that the Register continues to be actively developed and expanded.

**Rec 4.2** - that the definition of 'environment' in s 528 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* be amended to include the term 'heritage'.

**Rec 5.1** - that the Government incorporate all heritage properties on Commonwealth land that appear on the RNE into the Commonwealth Heritage List.

**Rec 5.2** - that Commonwealth heritage places should be recognised as matters of national environmental significance.

**Rec 5.6** - that the Government amend the bills to require Commonwealth agencies to implement a heritage inventory of their property portfolios that will properly identify and assess heritage values. Commonwealth agencies should be further required to review their inventories at least every five years.

**Rec 5.7** - that the Government amend the Environment and Heritage Legislation Amendment (EHLA) Bill (No. 2) 2000 to require Commonwealth agencies to prepare and maintain a heritage strategy for the management of their heritage places as was recommended by the Schofield Report.

**Rec 6.1** - that the Government consider means to ensure that the range of actions triggering assessment under the *AHC Act 1975* are also assessed under the proposed regime, especially with regard to the sale of Commonwealth properties and to the assessment of grants.

**Rec 6.8** - that s 15B and 15C of the EHLA Bill (No. 2) 2000 be amended to prohibit any significant impacts on a national heritage place or its heritage values.

**Rec 6.9** - that the Government consider incorporating a formal analysis of options and alternatives into s 341Y of EHLA Bill (No. 2) 2000 when seeking advice from the Minister about taking an action.

The Government is committed to responding to parliamentary committee reports within three months of their presentation. The Government determines the order of business in Parliament, ie which bills will come on for debate in any sitting week, but it is not possible to predict the order of business weeks hence and bills can be brought on for full or partial debate at relatively short notice. However, the next session of Parliament, starting on 22 May 2001, will be devoted to the Budget so debate on the heritage amendments may occur after this or when the opportunity arises in this election year for it to be inserted into the order of business.

**Heritage Tourism Guide** - The AHC has recently launched *Successful Tourism at Heritage Places. A guide for tourism operators, heritage managers and the community*. This is a joint project between the AHC, the CRC for Sustainable Tourism, and the former Tourism Council Australia. Developed with input from tourism operators, heritage managers, academics, regional tourism associations and communities, it provides a guide for better practice for tourism operators, heritage managers and communities.

**Lake Eyre Basin Project** - Heritage tourism potential and impacts will be investigated in the Lake Eyre Basin, an area the size of about one-sixth of Australia, as part of the project *Inland Rivers - Outback Tracks: a heritage tourism strategy for the Lake Eyre Basin*. The project will identify key actions required to build a sustainable heritage tourism industry in the Lake Eyre Basin, and provide a model for possible further development of regional heritage tourism strategies. This will be funded from the Regional Solutions Program (administered by the Commonwealth Dept of Transport and Regional Services) to develop the regional heritage tourism strategy. The AHC assisted in the development of the project proposal, and will be represented on the project reference group. The project will fund a facilitator to work with communities across the Basin to develop a heritage tourism strategy by June 2002.

**Birdsville and Strzelecki Tracks Historic Heritage Survey** - Exploration, transport and communications, pastoralism and Aboriginal contact sites are some of the themes that will be investigated in this survey. This \$84 000 project is jointly funded by Heritage SA and the AHC. The survey will assess historic heritage resources associated with the Birdsville and Strzelecki Tracks, consider the tourism potential of these places and make recommendations for listing on heritage registers. It will identify and assess places of all levels of significance, from national to state and local. The project consultancy team, Historical Research, commenced work in April 2001, and the project will be completed by June 2002.

**Heritage Economics** - The AHC has recently published the proceedings of the Canberra, July 2000, international conference on this topic (subtitled 'Challenges for heritage conservation and sustainable development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century'). Copies of this publication should be available from the AHC at GPO Box 787, Canberra ACT 2601 or at [www.ahc.gov.au](http://www.ahc.gov.au)

#### **Canberra Archaeological Society**

CAS has a very interesting and diverse program of guest speakers for the rest of the year:

Wed 20 June Rebecca Parkes Islamic landscapes in Granada, Spain.  
 Wed 18 July Mike Smith "Archaeology and the National Museum of Australia: past, present and future".  
 Wed 15 Aug Michael Pearson "Heritage at the Poles".  
 Wed 19 Sept. Tim Denham "The origins of agriculture in the Highlands of New Guinea".  
 Wed 17 Oct. Sue O'Connor "Archaeological research resumes in East Timor after 25 years: retrospect and prospect".  
 Wed 21 Nov. Tracy Ireland "Bitter lemons and sour grapes: historical archaeology in Cyprus with the Troodos Archaeological Survey Project".

All meetings at 7.30pm in Manning Clark Lecture Theatre 6, ANU, except for Sept which will be held in the Haydon Allen Tank. All welcome, entry is by gold coin donation.

CAS activities report - the members are still sieving at Crinnigan's Hut (remains of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century selector's hut built by former convict John Crinnigan); and CAS had an information stall at both the opening and closing events of the ACT Heritage Festival, as well as hosting an open day at Crinnigans and presenting a public talk on Unity Cunninghams Lower Freshford Garden at CMAG during the festival. For those interested in further exploring the past of CAS its archive of minutes and reports is now held in the ACT Heritage Library at Woden and can be accessed by first obtaining permission from the current CAS committee.

*Richard Morrison*

#### **New South Wales News**

##### **NSW Heritage Office**

##### **Parramatta Historical Archaeological Landscape Management System**

The NSW State Government recently launched a new system for managing the archaeological resource of Parramatta, which is anticipated to have benefits for both heritage and development.

The project was conceived and managed by the Heritage Office with funding support from NSW Treasury through the Department of Public Works and Services, Parramatta City Council, the Property Council of Australia and the Parramatta Rail Link Corporation.

The system is designed to manage archaeological landscapes (networks of sites) rather than current

individual allotments. Information about each Archaeological Management Unit is contained in the State Heritage Inventory database and linked to a GIS. This information includes an indication of the potential archaeological resource and its significance and management recommendations for both the site owner/developer and the archaeologist.

In this sense it is similar to previous Archaeological Zoning/Management Plans. One of the key differences however, is that the assessment and management recommendations for each AMU are based on a regional research framework which outlines how archaeological sites in Parramatta can contribute to the developing history of Parramatta and the State. The study also provides a better basis for understanding the range of sites present in Parramatta and hence their significance, rather than on a site by site basis.

This basis of information will provide more certainty of process for site owners who will know up front if they have an archaeological site that must be retained in situ, or if they need to obtain approvals prior to excavation. Parramatta Council will be incorporating this system into its statutory planning framework and will be taking on delegations under the Heritage Act to issue excavation permits some time this year.

If you want information about the system, a copy of the brief or would like access to the database, please contact Caitlin Allen at the NSW Heritage Office by email [allenc@heritage.nsw.gov.au](mailto:allenc@heritage.nsw.gov.au) or on (02) 9849 9569.

On other Heritage Office news, Natalie Vinton (formerly of Sydney City Council) has joined the archaeology team following the departure of Mac North to greener (and more fieldwork oriented) pastures.

## **Statement of Archaeological Significance Port Macquarie Government House**

### **Archaeology**

Through the excavation of the Government House site the scientific or research potential of the site has been partially realized. The excavated artifacts included many elements of the penal settlement period of Port Macquarie and give us an insight into the daily life of those who lived and worked at Government House. Food remains such as beef and chicken bones, even down to the level of individual fish bones and fish scales have been found. A military uniform button, horse stirrup, coins of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century including

a penny from 1799, fragments of pottery plates, bowls and cups, glass wine, gin, and beer bottles, and delicate wine glasses have been excavated. Playthings such as marbles and a great variety of shells and pebbles collected on the beaches can be used to talk about other aspects of life in Government House such as the pastimes of the Commandant's wife and children. Thousands more artefacts await further study, cataloguing, and description in a comprehensive report.

The brick foundations of the original building (first seen on a plan of April 1824) consisting of verandah, 6 rooms, and the cellar under the hall are visible up to 8 courses high, and the cellar walls are about 2 metres tall. The later addition of two wings (First seen on a plan of March 1826), each containing 4 rooms, the paved courtyard between the wings, and a complex drainage system are also visible. These foundations have been left in place.

### **Demonstrative ability**

By leaving the foundations exposed in the ground more people will be able to experience the research values of the site. Other types of research may evolve from the physical analysis of the place, such as studies of the size and spatial relationships of the rooms, the topological placing of the building on a hill overlooking the penal settlement. Also its place in the landscape, and its contribution to the debate so important in Australia about the origin and development of the verandah, as this building was constructed with a three sided verandah early in the evolution of this structure.

The fact that the three-dimensional remains of nearly all of Government House are present will encourage the study of the layout and evolution of the Port Macquarie penal settlement and the remains of its other buildings. It will also promote its comparison with the other places of secondary punishment set up around the same time - Sarah Island on the remote south west coast of Tasmania, Norfolk Island, Wellington, and Moreton Bay - and Port Macquarie in 1821 was one of the first.

The intact remains of the building's walls, cellar, and drains will make the building easy for non-specialists to understand, and along with the display of the food remains, military insignia, and other artefacts the convict history of Port Macquarie will be brought to life.

Anne Bickford BA Hons MAACAI 10 May 2001

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Heritage Consultants  
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## Northern Territory News

### 2001 Season at Fort Dundas

In July further research will be carried out at the site of Fort Dundas. The focus of this year's work will be the completion of the excavation of the commandant's residence site begun last year; the test excavation of selected areas of the fort itself; and further digital mapping of the settlement.

This year's team will consist of Colin Delarue, Wayne Roddom, David Steinberg, Richard Woolfe, and Clayton Fredericksen. Wayne has enrolled in a PhD at NTU to examine aspects of the management of the site, while Colin and Richard will be embarking upon thesis research on respectively the military function of Fort Dundas, and GIS analysis of the use of space within the settlement.

### New Publication

A book that has some relevance to historical archaeology has been recently published by NTU Press:

Clayton Fredericksen & Ian Walters (eds) 2001 *Altered States. Material culture transformations in the Arafura region*. ISBN 1 876248 55 6.

Chapters include David Bulbeck & Barabara Rowley 'Macassans and their pots in northern Australia'; Clayton Fredericksen 'The dragon without a crown: contexts and meanings of a Fort Dundas shako plate'; and Malene Bjornskov 'Rock, mortar and traditions: an archaeological study of Chinese ovens in the Northern Territory'. Orders can be directed to [lisa.marie@ntu.edu.au](mailto:lisa.marie@ntu.edu.au)

*Clayton Fredericksen*

## South Australia News

### Preliminary Archaeological Investigations at Monarto Zoological Park

Monarto Zoological Park ([www.monartozp.com.au](http://www.monartozp.com.au)) is a natural wilderness sanctuary and open range zoological park. It is situated 70km east of Adelaide not far from Murray Bride, located on the River Murray. Invitation by the Director of the Park, Chris Hancock, saw preliminary investigation by the authors, Dr. Mark Staniforth and Peter Birt (Department of archaeology, Flinders University) of a

number of potential archaeological sites situated within a region of the park know as 'Bretag Scrub'.

A tour of the park provided an opportunity to assess the archaeological potential of the various historic structures. Several buildings were inspected, these included a homestead, shearing shed, dairy, old brick limekilns, bake-house, various outbuildings, cisterns and a rubbish dump. Pre-disturbance photography and site positioning using GPS was conducted. It was noted that scattered over every site were a number of historically related artefacts.

The visit highlighted the archaeological potential at Monarto. It is anticipated that initial archaeological work will focus on the buildings identified as structurally unstable and at risk of demolition. The park is keen to build collaboration between Flinders University and it is anticipated that the programme of community archaeology established by the department will be continued. All future work will be based upon public interpretation and it is planned to establish a schools programme with assistance from the parks education officer, Ian Walton. This will follow the Fern Avenue model established by Owen and Steele.

It is hoped that collaboration between Flinders University Archaeology Department and Monarto Zoological Park can develop into a project that offers a wide variety of benefits to both the community and each individual party.

*Jody Steele and Timothy Owen, Department of Archaeology, Flinders University, Adelaide*

### Teaching Historical Archaeology Underwater at Flinders University

From February 3 to 18 2001 Flinders University ran its inaugural maritime archaeological field school subject (ARCH 3304) at Port Victoria, on Yorke Peninsula, west of Adelaide.

A diverse group of individuals and organisations were represented at the field school, with staff members Dr. Mark Staniforth, Matt Schlitz, Nathan Richards, Chris Lewczak, Cass Philippou (Flinders University), Dr. Peter Veth (James Cook University), Bill Jeffery, Terry Arnott, Rick James (Heritage South Australia), Vicky Richards, Corioli Souter (Western Australian Maritime Museum) and Viv Moran (Queensland Museum). All providing appreciated assistance, guidance and unique expertise during the duration of the field school. Support was also obtained from the Australian National Maritime Museum and the Society for Underwater Historical Research Inc.

The teaching started with a two day AIMA/NAS Part 1 Course on the weekend of 3 and 4 February, and was followed by fourteen days in the field, during which the sixteen students in attendance were exposed to a range of sites, techniques and technologies associated with maritime archaeological practice.

A diverse array of tasks were instituted on a range of sites, including wreck and jetty site inspections, wreck surveys using a range of recording techniques, corrosion potential measurement tasks, magnetometer searches and exposure to limited wreck excavation, underwater still photography, digital video and cutting edge High Precision Acoustic Survey System (HPASS) technology. An emphasis on the adaptation of historical archaeological recording methodologies for underwater use was helped along with the introduction of an in-water communication system.

Investigations of allocated sections beneath the historic Port Victoria jetty were a major focus of the work carried out. The jetty built in 1878 to service the local wheat growers in the area and came to be the focal point of South Australia's fourth largest shipping port. Constructed of jarrah, ironbark and redgum, with a later addition of steel replacement piles and sporting tracks for horse drawn carts an L-head was added in 1883 and it saw continued use up until the 1950s.

A range of shipwreck sites were visited around adjacent Wardang Island, a local shipping hazard since 1907 with the wrecking of the three-masted iron barque *Aagot* (built 1882). The three masted iron ship *Songvaar* (ex *Barcore*) (1884-1912), the schooner rigged screw steamer *Australian* (1879-1912), the three masted iron schooner *MacIntyre* (1877-1927) and the composite built three masted fore-and-aft schooner *Moorara* (1909-1975) were the main focal points for wreck survey exercises. Also visited were the remains of the auxiliary ketch *Victor*, wrecked close to shore at Balgowan.

Besides the obvious educational outcomes, a series of reports were produced, adding significantly to the already extensive archive of material on the sites, with some students completing their AIMA/NAS part 2 certification, and all participants adding to their AIMA/NAS part 2 and 3 modules. Special thanks must go to local Balgowan resident Stuart Moody for access to his voluminous local knowledge and extremely charitable assistance, without which the proceedings of the two weeks would not have run nearly as smoothly.

The field school will be run again in February of 2002, and anyone interested is invited to contact Dr. Mark

Staniforth on (08) 82015195 or via email at [mark.staniforth@flinders.edu.au](mailto:mark.staniforth@flinders.edu.au)

*Nathan Richards, Flinders University*

### Schools Archaeology in South Australia. A continuum and development of the Fern Avenue Programme.

Following the success of the Fern Avenue Community Gardens Archaeological Schools Programme an opportunity has arisen to advance the project, expanding the educational possibilities through the excavation activities at Burra, South Australia.

The Fern Avenue schools programme saw the creation of a project that taught school children the fundamentals of archaeological practice through class based teaching and on-site excavation (Owen and Steele 2000 & Steele and Owen 2000). Accomplishment achieved at Fern will be transferred to the historical excavation site at Burra (Smith *et al* 2000). During Easter 2001 the programme will be taught to five classes from reception (prep) through to grade 6.

The nature of excavation at Burra determines that more emphasis will be placed upon school based teaching, with only the older children participating in active fieldwork. The project will be integrated into the schools centenary of federation activities, where historical education will be combined with archaeology permitting reconstruction of local history. Excavation results and artefacts recovered from the first two excavation seasons will be used to create activity sheets with emphasis on mid-nineteenth century life.

Excavation at Burra has managed to generate wide spread local interest in archaeology. The integration of the local school represents the latest progression of community archaeology in Burra. The introduction of schools archaeology in Burra proves that transposition of the Fern Avenue Schools Programme is possible from site to site. Burra allows for advancement of the model developed by Owen and Steele and further determination of parameters required for combining excavation and children.

*Timothy Owen and Jody Steele  
Department of Archaeology, Flinders University,  
Adelaide*

### References

Steele, J. & Owen, T., 2000. Fern Ave Community Garden Archaeology Project. Archaeology, Jam and the Community. Conference abstract, *Archaeology, Heritage and Tourism Conference Program*, AIMA &

ASHA Conference, 27 Nov-2 Dec, Adelaide, South Australia.

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Owen, T. & Steele, J., 2000. *Fern Avenue Community Garden Archaeology Project*

Website. [http://www.ehl.flinders.edu.au/Archaeology\\*smith/fernave/fernhome.htm](http://www.ehl.flinders.edu.au/Archaeology*smith/fernave/fernhome.htm)

### Call for Tin Can data

A database of tin can morphologies and inscriptions dating from the 19th century and first half of the 20th century (although later dates will also be accepted) is currently being compiled through the Department of Archaeology, Flinders University. This information will eventually be available on-line through our website using the LucID database. This will enable data entries to be matched when only a limited number of data are available (eg a quarter of a rusted tin can).

This project is being undertaken in spare time and may take a year or two to complete. I have found that metal containers were the most useful artefacts for dating post-contact indigenous sites in dry climates, (which is most of Australia). As references to metal containers are relatively rare in Australian archaeological literature, I have decided to embark on this project with the help of all who are able to contribute.

The Database will be available to ALL and will be FREE. If you are able to contribute to this project please contact [Pamela.Smith@flinders.edu.au](mailto:Pamela.Smith@flinders.edu.au)

### Request for information on Burial and Cemetery sites

Susan Piddock is seeking any references to excavations or reports concerning burials or cemeteries done in Australia and New Zealand from colonisation for an American researcher. She can be contacted at

[Susan.Piddock@flinders.edu.au](mailto:Susan.Piddock@flinders.edu.au) or by snail mail, C/- Department of Archaeology, Flinders University, GPO Box 2100, Adelaide, SA, 5001

### Burra Community Archaeology Project

Work has continued on miner's dugout home sites at Mitchell Flat, Burra, in South Australia's Mid-North. Staff and students from Flinders University have conducted excavations in September 2000 and April 2001, as part of Peter Birt's Ph.D. research into this

unusual creek community.

The dugouts were literally homes excavated into the banks of the Burra Creek and were occupied from circa 1846 to 1851, when they housed 1,800 of Burra's 4,403 residents. Floods and the Victorian gold rush then virtually ended this phenomenon, but people were still recorded as being washed out of the creek in 1859.

The September dig looked to build upon preliminary work undertaken in April 2000 and two trenches in separate depressions were excavated. The dig was used as a field school for Mark Staniforth's third year field methods class, with other post-graduate students helping with the supervision and under the direction of Peter Birt. The first trench was an extension from the first season and uncovered internal lime whitewashed clay wall and floor, front wall and a probable entrance with a stone step. Based on the artefacts recovered, it is uncertain whether or not this dugout was occupied, but there is less doubt about the second trench.

The second trench was located in another depression to the south of the first and based on the quantity and types of artefacts recovered, was probably occupied when it collapsed. Internal clay and whitewashed walls were found, that appear to have been a doorway leading further into the creek bank and with an alcove to one side. This alcove contained the remains of a pair of boots, a plate dated to 1856, window glass and assorted other fragmented ceramic and glass. The date of 1856 indicates that this dugout was probably one of the later ones occupied and may have come down during big floods in 1859. The rest of the trench contained plentiful, but mostly fragmented material culture, lenses of creek silt and grit, and pieces of charcoal that were probably washing out from the fireplace at the dugout's rear.

The April 2001 season targeted a more exposed depression and the evidence of flood damage was much more pronounced. Evidence of internal clay walls and a probable internal doorway was found, but nearly all of the whitewash was gone and the ceramic and glass found was extremely fragmented. An area to the depressions front revealed what was probably washed out internal wall intermixed with whitewash, charcoal and material culture. During this season Jody Steele and Tim Owen, both post-graduate students at Flinders, conducted their popular schools program with the Burra Community School. This saw over six classes of kids receive both in-class and on-site teaching about archaeology, raising the kids awareness about the project and their historic home.

Is anyone aware of any similar underground homes in Australia or overseas, associated with colonial settlement? If so please contact me at [peter.birt@flinders.edu.au](mailto:peter.birt@flinders.edu.au)

*Peter Birt*

### Maritime Archaeology Field School

Flinders University is running a maritime archaeology field school from 2 February to 17 February 2002. The field school will be located at Port Victoria and Wardang Island, South Australia. Eight historic shipwrecks around Wardang Island have been marked as part of a maritime heritage trail in SA.

The field school has the following aims:

- To develop the field skills associated with the practice of maritime archaeology
- To improve understanding of the theoretical and methodological approaches to archaeology underwater
- To increase knowledge and understanding of the history and practice of maritime archaeology
- To appreciate the place and role of maritime archaeology in the interpretation of maritime subcultures and culture in the wider context.

**Topic Outline:** This topic will provide students with an introduction to the techniques of underwater survey, position fixing, mapping, photography (including video), recording, excavation and conservation. Lectures and videos will be provided on the various research methods and techniques used by maritime archaeologists. The first part of the topic (two days) will consist of the Australian Institute for Maritime Archaeology (AIMA) and the Nautical Archaeology Society (NAS) Part 1 Training program. The remainder of the topic will comprise practical exercises and associated lecture/seminars.

The topic has a quota of 20 students, and applicants should contact the Topic Coordinator as soon as possible to reserve a place.

**Expenses:** In addition to the normal HECS liability the topic has an additional fee of \$400 charged for participation to cover accommodation, transport and SCUBA diving costs that include AIMA/NAS Part 1 Training. Anyone who is not currently a University undergraduate student should contact the Topic Coordinator in order to discuss possible participation.

**Diving/safety requirements:** Flinders University has strict requirements for diving and boating safety. As a minimum students will need to hold a certified open water diving certificate, having logged a minimum of

15 hours, have a current diving medical certificate and have carried out a diving competency test.

For further details contact:

Dr Mark Staniforth – Topic Coordinator  
Senior Lecturer in Maritime Archaeology  
Department of Archaeology  
Flinders University  
GPO Box 2100  
Adelaide SA  
Phone (08) 8201 5195  
Fax (08) 8201 3845  
Email: [Mark.Staniforth@flinders.edu.au](mailto:Mark.Staniforth@flinders.edu.au)

### Queensland News

Please note that the email address for Gordon Grimwade & Associates has changed, and is now [gga@austarnet.com.au](mailto:gga@austarnet.com.au). The Gordon Grimwade & Associates website can now be seen at: <http://www.gga.com.au>

### Victoria News

Andrea Murphy of Tardis P/L has had a bit of a drought regarding getting excited about new sites located in the field. Most sites in the south east suburbs of Melbourne relate to early 1900s small land holding where mixed farming was practiced.

The most interesting project to be recently undertaken has been a monitoring program of development at Matlock Hill. Matlock is situated near the famed Jericho diggings and was also extensively mined itself during the 1860s but petered out by the 1870s. The township was established on the summit of treeless hill at the junction of the Yarra Track and Jordan Gold diggings route, and on the rare fine days, has the best view in Victoria. This wonderful view would not however, have alleviated the arduous conditions encountered at this site. Water had to be carted up from creeks below in the steep valley, the structures built on exposed rock and absolutely everything one needed had to come from transport along the Yarra Track.

The town was already in decline in the 1870s when it was destroyed by a bushfire and abandoned. A new Matlock was constructed at slightly lower elevations. Since this time, apart from errant bottle hunters and amateur archaeologists, the site has not been re-occupied or substantially developed. In the true goldfield manner of discard patterns, wherever one attempts to dig in the now shallow top soil layer tons of artefacts are exposed. Of course all the good large bits are now gone but what remains is a very nice

deposit of the short occupation. During the course of monitoring works at this site a range of artefacts (mostly fragmented) have been retrieved, catalogued and now reside in the Heritage Victoria collection. It is a good collection for anyone wanting a comparative base and includes all the major material groups.

#### **News from Biosis Research Pty. Ltd.**

The Cultural Heritage Group of Biosis Research Pty. Ltd. has continued to grow with a new position recently advertised for a senior archaeologist in our Sydney office whilst in Melbourne Gary Vines has joined us from the Living Museum of the West. Gary has been putting his industrial archaeological skills to good use with various assessments through out Victoria. One of these has included an assessment of the Excelsior Vineyard near Shepparton, a remarkably intact but derelict winery of the 1870s, complete with wine press, vats, cellars, barrels and straw insulated walls and ceiling. Other projects include heritage action plans for Day's Flour Mill in Murchison, Warby Falls weir near Glenrowan and the Chiltern Forest cemetery. He is also commencing a further heritage study at Puckapunyal army training camp.

Historical excavations have recently been completed with Sam George supervising a series of projects in the La Trobe Valley. Oona Nicolson has been working closely with a number of clients organising interpretative material and management plans for heritage sites that are to be retained in public open spaces in metropolitan Melbourne. It has been satisfying to reach agreements with various stakeholders on the value of retaining these sites, particularly as so many are destroyed by rapid urban development.

Sam and Oona have also completed investigations at a site in Williamstown with bottle collectors kindly visiting the site under the cover of darkness. The site in question was opposite the local Police Station and they greeted the bottle collectors on their return visit. No prosecutions have happened to date however, the incident has raised interesting discussions with other archaeologists in the state. We are interested to know what solutions others have experienced with this sort of issue. Contact [onicolson@biosisresearch.com.au](mailto:onicolson@biosisresearch.com.au).

The members of the Cultural Heritage Group at Biosis now have their own email addresses:

Oona Nicolson [onicolson@biosisresearch.com.au](mailto:onicolson@biosisresearch.com.au)  
 Taryn Debney [tdebney@biosisresearch.com.au](mailto:tdebney@biosisresearch.com.au)  
 Helen Cekalovic [hcekalovic@biosisresearch.com.au](mailto:hcekalovic@biosisresearch.com.au)  
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 Jenny Tulloch [jtulloch@biosisresearch.com.au](mailto:jtulloch@biosisresearch.com.au)

### *La Trobe University*

La Trobe archaeology undergraduate student volunteers participated in the recent Grantham dig run by Fiona Weaver for Heritage Victoria.

Year 2000 archaeology honours graduates Matt Chamberlain and Zvonka Stanin assisted Jonathon Howell-Meurs and Dr Peter Davies – yes, Peter deserves our heartiest congratulations for having completed and passed his Ph.D. – in conducting a test program at Casselden Place, part of Melbourne's urban 'Little Lon' district, for Andrew Long and Associates. Several LTU present undergraduate and honours students also contributed to this project, which involved mechanical and hand excavation aimed at determining the nature and extent of 19<sup>th</sup> century domestic remains beneath a car park scheduled for redevelopment.

The whisper from Dr Jane Lydon is that Valerie Hill has commenced excavation at her Sunbury site, gathering data for her Ph.D. research into early Port Phillip District pastoralism.

The La Trobe archaeology seminar series has been favoured recently with an address by Dr Diana di Zerega Wall on the subject of the historical archaeology of New York City. Recently, Chris Evans, Director of Cambridge University's Archaeology Unit, spoke about the significance of site models within the history of British field archaeology and answered many questions relating to how practical archaeology is presently organised in Britain. La Trobe University Adjunct Professor Richard Mackay, who is also known as the MD of Godden Mackay Logan, presented, under the title of "Urbane Archaeology", an overview of the GIS-based Parramatta Project; offering a possible way ahead in management of the interface between archaeological heritage and urban development.

This, of course, is the arena of co-operative effort between La Trobe University's Professor Tim Murray and GML and the particular interest of Ph.D. scholar Nadia Iacono who is considering the historical archaeology of the modern city. This work was the subject of a recent seminar presented in Sydney.

The year 2001 crop of archaeology honours students at La Trobe are investigating a wide-ranging variety of topics of interest to historians: Alex Ariotti is researching the provenance of a mosaic in St James Church, Sydney. Glass artefacts occupy the attention of both Anthony Bagshaw and Peter Waldie. Anthony is studying the interaction between bottle collectors and the archaeological record, while Peter is engaged



on an analysis of the glass artefacts excavated from the Camp Street site at Ballarat. Sarah Lambert has embarked upon an archaeological study of pubs in Victoria and will probably make many friends in the process. Lyndon Patterson has decided to study woolsheds on Victoria's northern plains and Adrienne Ellis is hoping to identify European childhood in the Victorian archaeological record.

Keep in touch with what our postgrads and honours students are up to on our website: [www.archaeology.latrobe.edu.au](http://www.archaeology.latrobe.edu.au) !

*Geoff Hewitt*

## West Australia News

**Archaeological Investigations of Batavia related sites in the Wallabi Group Abrolhos Islands. Juliette Pasveer, Corioli Souter and Jeremy Green (WA Maritime Museum); Alistair Paterson and Juliet King (Centre for Archaeology, UWA)**

Collaborative fieldwork involving the Department of Maritime Archaeology (WA Maritime Museum) and Centre for Archaeology (UWA) was conducted in February 2001. The aim was to evaluate the archaeological potential of islands in the Wallabi Group of the Houtman Abrolhos believed to be associated with the survivors of the Dutch East India Company ship Batavia, lost in 1629.

Fieldwork involved:

1. Completion of Beacon Island mass grave excavation begun in 1999.
2. Determination of the extent of archaeological remains on Beacon, Long and Seal islands including burials and/or above-ground structures using non-destructive remote sensing devices.
3. Mapping and accurately positioning the location of identified sites revealed as a result of the above investigations.
4. Developing conservation and management policies for the sites.

Staff and students of both institutions are currently conducting analysis of the skeletal and cultural material.

*Alistair Paterson*

## Letter to the Editor

I noted Dr Madge Schwede's letter to this newsletter regarding my concerns and stating the provisions for permits in Western Australian. It was never my intention to suggest that there are not perfectly

adequate provisions for permits to cover both archaeological and non archaeological disturbance in WA. My concern is with the current situation around the buried former freshwater lakes in the Metropolitan area.

The former lake areas sprawl in a chain across several inner city suburbs, however the majority of the lakes and their surrounds have been buried to create the suburbs. Excavation at two of the lake areas indicate that the banks and surrounds are buried under approximately one metre of fill with the lake bottoms being buried too deeply for a short term excavation to reach. As the lakes were important camping and hunting areas for Aboriginal people they and their surrounds have been heritage listed. The listed areas take in large tracts of houses, roads and parks in the inner city. My point is that some sort of disturbance is carried out within such inner city areas virtually all the time. To have all such disturbances go through permit procedures at the Department of Aboriginal Affairs would undoubtedly jam up their system.

Because of this and because the lake sites are known to be deeply buried there appears to be a grey area where disturbances are carried out without telling AAD, gaining permits and consulting with the Aboriginal stakeholders. While some people involved may know about the Aboriginal sites issue many do not, leaving perfectly innocent builders, electricians and other contractors open to possible persecution when either the local Aboriginal people lodge a protest or a pesky historical archaeologist is hired at the last second and says "but you can't DO that".

A case in point is the job, which led to my protest. The head contractor was told two days before he planned to start work that he needed an historical archaeologist because the project was at an historical site. He did not know that it was also an Aboriginal site until I told him. I immediately lodged an emergency section 16 permit application to AAD and talked the contractor into modifying his project to avoid impacting the buried lake and lake banks. This information went into the permit application along with provisions to tell the local Aboriginal stakeholders about the project, the strategies taken to avoid impacting the lake site and post excavation consultation with Aboriginal people if any contact or pre-contact material was actually uncovered.

The last minute inclusion of archaeology and permits created a bad situation all around where the contractors and their project were held up, AAD had to try to process an permit application in an emergency situation, the local Aboriginal stakeholders felt pushed aside and I copped flak from all sides. The situation only happened because the site owners got

caught out by an historical archaeologist. You can guess what will happen next time they want to dig a hole in their historic site.

This situation should never have arisen, as Dr Schwede pointed out they would have actually been committing an offence under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972. Such offences appear to be happening on a regular basis over these former lake sites. What I wish to happen is for the major stakeholders to get together and work out a reasonable due process to employ on these buried lake areas. One that takes into account that most disturbances will only affect post lake fill historic layers which are not necessarily of importance to Aboriginal people and which are not the reason the areas have been listed in the first place. Such a mutually agreed due process should reduce the ill feeling presently surrounding these areas and make them actually manageable in terms of both town planning and heritage.

*Gaye Nayton*

#### **FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES**

**Australia's Ever Changing Forests V**  
Fifth National Conference on Australia's Forest History. Hobart, 18-20 February 2002. Study Tour, 20-22 February 2002. First Notice and Call for Papers. Australian Forest History Society Inc.

The Australian Forest History Society was formed in 1988 and became an incorporated body in 1999. It has approximately 100 members in Australia and overseas members in New Zealand, the United States of America and several other countries. The Society does not provide a forum for forest policy advocacy, but can make cases for the preservation of historical records, photographs and other materials. New members are very welcome.

This conference welcomes papers and presentations on every aspect of Australian forest history. We seek offers of papers to be presented at the conference and subsequently published in the Proceedings. We will welcome short presentations of work in progress, and there will be plenty of opportunities for discussion in and out of conference sessions.

The Conference will be held in Jane Franklin Hall, a residential college of the University of Tasmania in Hobart. The Hall has a Conference Room for the meeting and provides single or double rooms as well as all meals.

The Study Tour of the Southern Forests will inspect stands of *Eucalyptus regnans*, the tallest hardwood

species in the world, the endemic and now rare Huon pine, visit a canopy walkway, the Forest and Heritage Centre in Geeveston, and examine the history of utilisation.

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#### **FORTHCOMING NEWSLETTERS**

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In order to facilitate a more efficient newsletter production, all contributions should be forwarded to the e-mail address of your state rep by the second week of the month prior to circulation. See ASHA contacts in this newsletter for address details.

The guest editors are asked to finalise the newsletter in the third week of the month prior to circulation. Final copy must reach the General Editor, (Ross Gam), by the final week of the month prior to circulation.

This is your newsletter and your contributions are vital. Please check deadlines diligently. Your efficiency will be greatly appreciated. I look forward to your forthcoming news of events.

*Ross Gam*  
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