

# NEWSLETTER

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## STATE OF THE ART

### **ACT News**

#### **Australian Heritage Commission**

Commonwealth heritage legislation amendments saga – The re-drafted Bills [Environment and Heritage Legislation Amendment Bill (No.1) 2002, the Australian Heritage Council Bill 2002, and the Australian Heritage Council (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2002, which can be viewed at <http://www.aph.gov.au/bills/index.htm>] were re-introduced in the Winter Session of Parliament. Their debate has been delayed by a focus on, inter alia, stem cell related matters, but it is expected debate will take place in the Spring Session commencing in mid-September 2002. Provisions in the Bills allow for regulations to prescribe criteria for listing National heritage places and Commonwealth heritage places and management principles for both types of places. The public comment period has now closed on these items but the draft criteria and principles can still both be viewed at <http://draft.ea.gov.au/heritage/law/heritageact/index.html>].

#### **National Cultural Heritage Forum (NCHF)**

In 1996 the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment reviewed arrangements for Ministerial consultation with conservation organisations and decided to establish a separate forum for those groups principally interested in cultural heritage issues. Membership of the NCHF includes non-government organisations representing interests such as engineering heritage, history, archaeology, architecture, museums and shipwrecks. ASHA's NCHF representative, Tracy Ireland, was in Cyprus at the time of the most recent meeting. Brian Egloff was able to step into the breach at short notice and so attended a preliminary meeting of the NCHF members and various briefings on 6 August 2002, followed, on the next day, by the full meeting with the Hon Dr David Kemp, Minister for the Environment and Heritage.

Matters discussed included - the progress towards the Commonwealth's new heritage regime (related to this, the NCHF, will now have a role in the development of thinking in regard to the process of Commonwealth heritage property disposal, and the NCHF will also be able to provide input, after the public comment stage, on the proposed National and Commonwealth Heritage Place Management Principles); the new Environment Protection and Heritage (Ministerial) Council's proposed Integrated National Heritage Policy (in the development of which, NCHF will also have a role); resources for cultural heritage; and the future vision for the NCHF (Minister Kemp agreed, inter alia, that the NCHF will meet twice a year).

There were issues for historical archaeology in much of what was discussed.

The Minister has agreed that the next Forum (or some smaller, representative group of it) will meet in conjunction with the Australia ICOMOS conference in February/March 2003. However, our representative felt, in the interim, that to more adequately meet its responsibilities as a member of this important body, and to make useful contributions on behalf of its own constituency, ASHA needed to develop a clearer, national heritage vision, and he has made suggestions to the ASHA Committee as to how this might be achieved.

#### **ACT Heritage Unit**

On Thursday 29 August, the ACT Government released an exposure draft of the new Heritage Bill 2002. The Bill represents the Government's proposals for reform of the Territory's heritage legislation coming out of a review process that has been under way for some years. A package of documents has been developed with information on the proposals and can be found at <http://www.environment.act.gov.au/ie4/heritage/heritageleg.html>].

The public is invited to make submissions on the proposed reforms, the Regulatory Impact Statement, and the proposals in Integrating Development Application Assessment and Approval Procedures of

the Heritage Unit and PALM. Submissions close on 29 November 2002.

The ACT Heritage Council recently provided a grant to the National Trust of Aust (ACT) to undertake urgent conservation works to the Ginninderra Blacksmith's Shop, a slab building dating from the 1860's.

*Richard Morrison*

## **New South Wales News**

Godden Mackay Logan has welcomed Lisa Newell as Manager Archaeology. Lisa has broad experience in archaeology and heritage planning and has been working as a Strategic Planner for Randwick Council for the last couple of years.

Godden Mackay Logan in association with the Archaeology Program La Trobe University and Austral Archaeology carried out Phase 1 of the Casselden Place excavation in central Melbourne during May-July this year and the post-ex component of Phase 1 is currently in progress. Phase 2 of the excavation is still pending. The project builds upon work undertaken by Austral at "Little Lon" in the late 1980s and subsequent ARC-funded research and analysis undertaken by La Trobe University, Professor Tim Murray and Associate Professor Alan Mayne.

The Casselden Place Development (known as 'Urban Workshop') is a proposed major construction project fronting Lonsdale and Little Lonsdale Streets in Melbourne. The archaeological investigation project involves excavation of an extensive area, with historical archaeological features from the mid-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, prior to the bulk excavation of the site as part of the proposed redevelopment project. The site contains a buried urban residential/light industrial streetscape dating to the mid nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The area forms part of the district known as 'Little Lon', a working-class housing precinct of some historical notoriety, which was portrayed in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as a place of crime and poverty.

Phase 1 of the excavation has involved a team of 12 archaeologists with over 400 students and community participants. The excavation has generated extensive media and public interest, with thousands of people viewing the site from the public viewing platform constructed on Lonsdale Street, and visiting the site through tours run by Heritage Victoria and Melbourne Museum.

Godden Mackay Logan have also just completed a seven-week excavation at Bullecourt Place, Ultimo for

Australand Holdings. An archaeological assessment was originally prepared for the site in 1993.

The excavation exposed 7 allotments with construction of different elements dated between 1877 and 1880. The remains included houses, outhouses, cesspits, and a small factory, which was the site of ginger beer and cordial manufacturers, a hay store, metal workshop and a maker of globite bags for a short period! The site also contained the remnants of the 1925 AML&F Woolstore which burnt down spectacularly in 1992.

The area had seen light industry and cottage industry side by side with domestic occupation and it was the developing relationship between these types of occupation that were of research interest on the site. In the early 20th Century much of the Ultimo area, and the Bullecourt site too, were affected by demolition and construction of woolstores, which dislocated the communities that had developed there. The team, led by Dr Kate Holmes, was able to investigate the impact of such fundamental changes on neighbourhoods at the Bullecourt site.

GML is now undertaking the post excavation analysis of the artefacts from the excavation and developing an interpretation strategy for the site. It has been an interesting aspect of the project to be involved in the heritage aspects of the same site over such a length of time from initial assessment to interpretation and excavation reporting.

Following on from the report in the last ASHA Newsletter on the three carronades uncovered during the Backyard to Bush redevelopment at Taronga Zoo, a successful conservation assessment was carried out by International Conservation Services (ICS) and Jon Carpenter of the Department of Materials Conservation, WA Museum. The assessment concluded that the carronades had not been submerged in salt water and would therefore only need minimal conservation work before being displayed.

This evidence suggests that the carronades were most likely from the Bradley's Head Fort, which is approximately one kilometre further down Bradley's Head Road. Historical references indicate that two 12-pdr carronades, similar to the ones found at Taronga Zoo were positioned at Bradley's Head fort from 1842 to 1859. By this time the use of carronades on harbour defences in British colonies was largely obsolete. Carronades were used on the other forts in Sydney Harbour, such as Dawes Point Battery and Fort Denison. After this type of ordnance became obsolete, they may have ended up at Bradley's Head, which during the 1890s was used as a storage depot for military material. The three carronades may have been dumped around this time when the area was transferred from a military reserve to a Quarantine reserve.

The carronades were found not far from Bradley's Head Road, which was constructed in 1870, in order to link Bradley's Head to the forts at Georges Head and Middle Head and to North Sydney. The three carronades found at Taronga Zoo are not the first piece of evidence of the dumping and burying of this type of ordnance in this area. Documents held by Taronga Zoo report that in the 1930s Lieut-Colonel Russell from Georges' Height excavated four carronades at Bradley's Head.

Taronga Zoo still intends to display and interpret the three carronades at the new Backyard to Bush precinct. Thank you to all the people who offered information and references about these fascinating artefacts.

Tony Lowe has recently completed three weeks in the field at St Patrick's Cathedral site, Parramatta, revealing remains associated with an 1829 Catholic school and 1888 monastery, as part of works connected with the construction of the new cathedral building designed by MGT Architects. Most of the monastery remains and sections of the school are to be retained *in situ*. He was assisted by Tim Adams, Franz Reidel, Bob Stanton and Glen Suey.

Mary Casey submitted her PhD in April, *Remaking the Sydney Domain: Archaeology, Landscape and Meaning*. This incorporated the results of the archaeological work from the Conservatorium of Music site but was extended to include the whole of the Sydney Domain and its landscape. Since April she has been busy finalising the excavation report for the Conservatorium of Music site as well as other small projects.

Denis Gojak has finally done what he has been threatening to do for years – he has become a private heritage consultant. Banksia Heritage & Archaeology is based in Marrickville.

*Jennie Lindbergh*

### **The Blacktown Native Institution Site**

Tracy Ireland and Jane Lydon (La Trobe University) have joined forces with Godden Mackay Logan to undertake a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the site of the Blacktown Native Institution. The study is jointly funded by the Blacktown City Council, the NSW Heritage Office and NSW Landcom (who currently own the site). The site contains the archaeological remains of the Native Institution which was a missionary run "school" for Aboriginal children which operated between 1821 and 1829. Blacktown was the site of the first colonial land grants made to Aboriginal people (Colebee and Nurragingy). It was an important location for the Darug people before colonisation and remains important to the large contemporary Aboriginal community in the area.

Major issues for the CMP include future ownership and management of the place, the future role of archaeological investigation, and interpretation and commemoration of the site. The site contains rare archaeological evidence of this important phase in black – white relations. For the local Aboriginal community the place is a key historical site symbolising dispossession, child removal and enduring links to land. The site also has important meanings for local non-indigenous people and for the Sydney Maori community (Samuel Marsden brought numbers of Maori children to the school).

### **The SHFA Heritage Award 2002**

Your editor is very pleased to report that this year's Heritage Award sponsored by the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority was awarded on the 11<sup>th</sup> September by the Deputy Premier Dr Andrew Refshauge. First prize went to Tracy Ireland (University of Sydney) for her PhD thesis *An Artefact of Nation*, which is a study of the relationship between historical archaeology, heritage and nationalism in Australia. Second prize went to Eileen Slarke (University of NSW) for her work on Wylie's Baths, Coogee, looking at the intangible spirit of the place. The winners shared \$5000 in prize money.

As the winner of this award I would like to comment that this is an excellent initiative to support academic research on heritage related issues. It is open to all tertiary students in NSW and I urge all academic staff to encourage students to submit their work in the future.

*Tracy Ireland*

### **South Australia News**

#### **NASC Publication**

August saw the release of the Proceedings of the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Archaeology Students' Conference (NASC). The volume was edited by Greg Carver (Masters Candidate, Flinders University) and Katrina Stankowski (Masters Candidate, Flinders University) and contains an array of papers given during the 2000 students conference in Adelaide.

Copies of this volume may be purchased by contacting:

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Or email [greg.carver@flinders.edu.au](mailto:greg.carver@flinders.edu.au)  
The volume costs \$20.00 + \$5.00 p&h  
Cheques or Money orders are to be made out to NASC.

### **Polish Hill River Excavation.**

In September an excavation will take place at Polish Hill River, South Australia. The aim of the six-day fieldwork is to locate the original rubbish dump of one of the districts early Polish homesteads. At this stage approximately 50m<sup>2</sup> is to be exposed, with several trenches located within the three-room building. The excavation is seen as an effort to gain a deeper understanding of those who resided in the house. Another Polish homestead recently located will also be surveyed to be included in the Masters thesis being done on the site by Katrina Stankowski.

### **The Recent Adventures of Jody Steele.**

I thought some of you might be interested in the events of my recent travels to the USA. The purpose of the trip was to extend my PhD research abroad, looking at the varying ways in which Archaeology as a discipline is disseminated to a wider audience through Public Interpretation and Public Education Programmes. The trip was made possible through the award of the Flinders University Overseas Fieldtrip Scholarship. Lasting just over a month my travels enabled me to visit a number of Public Archaeology Programs across the US. Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia, Historic Annapolis in Maryland, Washington DC, Mission San Luis in Florida and Harpers Ferry & Monocacy Civil War sites in Maryland are just a few of the sites I managed to squeeze in.

I was also lucky enough to spend time at the South East Archaeological Centre and the Arkansas Archaeological Survey. The trip also facilitated discussions of Public Archaeology with many American Archaeologists who have specialised in public programmes for a number of years now. I was fortunate enough to be able to meet with the likes of Mark Leone, Barbara Little, Paul Shackel, Hester Davis, John Jameson Jnr, John Ehrenhard, George Smith and Bob McGimsey III, all of which have had an enormous influence on my research. Needless to say the trip was a success and a great motivational experience.

*Jody Steele  
PhD Candidate  
Flinders University.*

### **Port Adelaide Historical Archaeology Project Quebec Street Excavation**

This project aims to combine extant collections of material culture, archaeological excavation and historical documentation to give an insight into the lives of the working class in Port Adelaide. The Project is funded through an Australian Research Council Linkage Grant with the industry support of CSX World Terminals, South Australian Maritime Museum and the Maritime Union of Australia (SA Branch).

To get a detailed picture of what life was like for the working classes three street blocks will be chosen for closer examination. By looking at rate assessment records, land titles, street directories and family histories a picture will be built up of the people who lived and worked on the site. Within each of the blocks one site will be chosen for excavation. The first block and excavation site has been chosen and the excavation will be carried out between 24 September and 6 October. The site, in Quebec Street, had four two roomed wooden cottages on it from around 1863 until about 1893. The cottages had a reasonably high turn over of tenants although conversely were others that stayed up to eleven years. The occupations (as well as the description of the cottages) of the occupants confirm these were the homes of the working class with the majority employed at work such as lumpers (wharfies), carters, woodmen, laundresses and so on. The excavation will hopefully clarify the arrangement of the four cottages on the site as well as a range of material culture. If you would like any more information about this project please contact me at [susan.briggs@flinders.edu.au](mailto:susan.briggs@flinders.edu.au)

*Susan Briggs  
Flinders University*

### **New Zealand News**

#### **News from Wellington**

Recent Department of Conservation publications of note include: a thematic study of shore whaling by Nigel Prickett; a parallel study of sealing sites by Ian Smith and an aerial archaeology study of coastal southern Hawke's Bay (Jones 2002, Jones and Tanner 2002).

Tony Walton joined the Defence of New Zealand annual field trip in March and visited a string of sites in the south Taranaki and Wanganui areas including Te Ruaki pa, Ohangai pa, Wereroa redoubt, Tauranga-ika, Alexander's redoubt, Woodall's redoubt, and the Landguard Bluff battery.

Kevin Jones has also been using the winter light for aerial photography. Five separate flights have been made. The first was from Timaru to the pa Waiateruaiti near Temuka and south to Waitaki River, Oamaru, Totara Estate and Waianakarua. The second, again from Timaru, was over the Waitaki Dam, Mt Buster goldfields, and a number of historic stations in the Middlemarch to Manuherikia areas. The third was to Molesworth Station including the Rainbow and Acheron accommodation houses. The final mainland job was the Inch Clutha, from there over the Otago coast to Dunedin. Kevin is taking more photographs of urban settings and buildings than in the past – he reports that they provide interesting subjects and that the need to balance details of facades with fairly strict

minimum height rules is a bit of a challenge. His latest flight was to the Auckland Islands (50 degrees South) in an RNZAF Orion. Happily, there was reasonable visibility with moderate winds, whiteouts and snow on the high country, and clear and even sunny in the northern parts. A good crop of shipwreck, castaway, astronomical observatory, colonial and WWII coast watcher sites were photographed, along with the ships' nemesis, the mighty west coast cliffs, and some right whales.

### Recent Publications

- Jones, K.L.; Tanner, V. 2002. *Archaeological survey of the southern Hawke's Bay coast from the air*. Science for Conservation 202. Department of Conservation. 49 pp. Price to be announced.
- Prickett, N. 2002. *The archaeology of New Zealand shore whaling*. Department of Conservation. 151 pp. NZ\$ 45
- Smith, I.W.G. 2002. *The New Zealand sealing industry: history, archaeology, and heritage management*. Department of Conservation. 72 p. NZ\$ 25

### Northern Territory News

#### Fannie Bay Gaol Field School

Over the four days of the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> August the annual NTU archaeological field school was held in Darwin's Fannie Bay Gaol, part of the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT. This marked the field school's fifth year, an event which has become something of an institution in the museum calendar. The previous three years were spent exploring the remains of the nineteenth century guards' quarters (*ASHA Newsletter* 31(3): 5-6). This year the focus shifted to the other end of the gaol and the spot of a large circular depression in the ground near the muster block. Students were not told what the depression might have been (for a hint see *ASHA Newsletter* 29(3): 1), and it has been left up to them to interpret the features and artefacts they uncovered. A range of materials surfaced from an infilled circular concrete-lined structure, including broken glass bottles (one with the South Australian "pickaxe" brand), a fishhook, a cartridge case, and a circular disk that may be the remains of an identification tag used in the Territory in the 1950s.

#### Excavation of the Fort Dundas Magazine

In August Colin De La Rue completed five weeks of fieldwork that will form a major component of his MA in historical archaeology at NTU. The work involved excavating a subterranean magazine inside the fort, discovered by preliminary excavation last year (*ASHA Newsletter* 32(1): 3). Excavation by Colin and his team

uncovered a 1.9m deep chamber that had been dug out of bedrock. This had been infilled with soil, hundreds of mainly broken bricks, and occasional charred wood fragments. Among the artefacts recovered from the fill were copper nails (many crimped) and dozens of musket balls, of which a large proportion were retrieved from on or near the floor of the chamber. This raises the possibility that a (brick reinforced?) roof collapsed while the magazine was still in use. Analysis over the coming months will address this and other questions relating to the magazine and the wider strategic function of the fort.

#### SS Brisbane survey

NTU archaeology postgraduate student David Steinberg undertook an underwater and terrestrial survey of the wreck of the *SS Brisbane* in late August. This ship was wrecked in shallow water in 1881 and many hard to come by material items subsequently salvaged and distributed throughout Darwin and the Territory. David's MA research will focus on what is left at the wreck site and what was recycled into the community, as determined by archival research and from artefacts surviving today in private and public collections (*ASHA Newsletter* 32(1): 4).

#### Fort Wellington survey

Clayton Fredericksen has been awarded funding that will allow a survey of Fort Wellington on Cobourg Peninsula. This is a collaborative project with Emeritus Professor Alan Powell (author of *Far Country* and other books) who will oversee archival research on this settlement, which was abandoned the same year as Fort Dundas. Wellington has never been the subject of field survey, other than preliminary mapping by the NT Historical Society in 1966, while the only detailed historical study is Mulvaney and Green's 1992 compilation of the writings of Captain Collett Barker, the settlement's most successful commander. A request has been lodged with the traditional owners of the land for permission to visit the site in mid-2003.

*Clayton Fredericksen*  
Northern Territory University

### NEWS FROM THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

Australian archaeologists have a long tradition of involvement in the Eastern Mediterranean (i.e. Greece, Cyprus, Syria, Jordan, Turkey). In recent years a number of Australians working in these areas have used their interest in the recent past and some of the methodologies of historical archaeology to broaden approaches to the cultural landscapes of the region. I report here on recent work in Cyprus and I hope to persuade other historical archaeologists working in this region to report on their work in future newsletters.

In 2000 I was invited by Professor Bernard Knapp, University of Glasgow to develop an historical archaeological component for a new project centred on the copper rich foothills of the Troodos Mountains in Cyprus. This developed into the Troodos Archaeological and Environmental Survey Project and it is co-directed by Bernard Knapp and Michael Given (Glasgow), Vasiliki Kassianidou (Cyprus) and Jay Noller (Oregon State). Field seasons were undertaken in 2001 and 2002 and preliminary results can be viewed at [www.tasp.arts.gla.ac.uk](http://www.tasp.arts.gla.ac.uk).

The historical archaeological research design aims to closely interrelate with the other archaeological and environmental aspects of the project to ensure that the contemporary landscape is contextualised in terms of its cultural, social, political and historical meanings. To this end a methodology was designed to integrate historical, material and anthropological data into a geographic format to promote diachronic comparisons and the identification of temporal and geographic cultural and landscape patterns. Three major themes of the historical archaeological research are outlined below:

#### **Recording agricultural, industrial and sacred landscape features.**

The field survey and recording in the historical archaeological component focuses on three specific material aspects of the recent past: agricultural structures and features; industrial remains; and evidence of sacred and ritual use of places such as shrines.

Detailed recording and analysis has also been undertaken of three agricultural settlements abandoned over the last 100 years. Phasing of the growth, development and abandonment of the villages has been undertaken using a structural analysis based on Martin Davies' method developed for Port Arthur. This work has been complemented by historical research, interviews and cultural mapping exercises.

The recording of the water mills of the Karkotis valley has been developed as a priority for the theme of agricultural/industrial evidence of the recent period. 26 mills have been located and recorded, including the still operational mill of Stelios Mylonas at Everykhou (BU0047) which was published by Australian Robert Morris in 1984. The mills appear to date from a range of periods; one in Phlasou has an inscription with the date 1760. Further historical, architectural and technological research will be undertaken to establish the chronological parameters for the mills and in particular to develop an understanding of their place in the landscape and the networks of production and communications which inter-relate them.

The location of roadside and other shrines and votive or sacred landscape features forms another focus that will be developed further with ethnographies and cultural mapping. Shrines are generally located on the roadside, 11 have so far been recorded in the study area. A tree associated with the Koussoulitissa church is used for votive offerings to the Panayia concerning the health and well being of children. The tree is a eucalyptus, probably less than 20 years old.

#### **Hunting**

Two other historical archaeological themes have also been developed. The first concerns the modern practice of hunting in the survey area. Hunting is a very popular recreation in contemporary Cyprus and during the preliminary season in 2000, when the issue of modern material culture encountered during survey was being discussed, it emerged that in many parts of the survey area one of the most distinctive material patterns of modern cultural practice was formed by the used cartridges left behind by hunters.

While modern pottery is being considered by the survey project, modern glass and other detritus were not considered to contribute substantially to research interests, especially as modern landscape activities are more usefully interpreted through the built environment. For instance, relatively little glass occurs on 19<sup>th</sup> century sites in Cyprus, reflecting the ongoing, traditional use of terracotta vessels and the lack of imported, commercial commodities in any quantity. However the practice of hunting draws together a number of themes and issues of interest in the context of landscape research: gender and environmental perception, issues of control and freedom in the landscape, culturally based philosophies of environmental management and conservation, and traditions of sport and subsistence hunting for instance.

Cartridge distribution, in terms of location and density, is therefore being recorded by all survey teams for parts of the survey area. It is essential that the material culture of hunting be contextualised with documentary and anthropological/ethnographic research. It is also hoped that a historical perspective on this activity, particularly through the British colonial period, will contextualise the modern practice of hunting. It is hoped that an ethnography of hunting, and hunting places, will provide a window into an aspect of cultural practice that is very significant in the Cypriot context and forms a particular form of knowing, moving through and using the landscape.

#### **The Landscape of Colonialism**

Another theme is the landscape of British colonialism (British colonial period 1878 – 1960). How meaningful or transformative were British systems of landscape modification, environmental management and the bureaucratisation of the social and physical landscape?

A number of significant landscape elements relevant to this period have emerged: the opening of the large Skouriotissa mine in 1914, the construction of roads and bridges from the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century, the opening of the Morphou- Evrykhou railway in 1914, the development of protected forest management areas, as well as the cadastral, topographic and ethnic mapping exercises, which were so central to the British perception of colonial control. Archaeology itself can also be seen as intimately related with colonialism. Kitchener, the young subaltern charged with the responsibility of mapping Britain's new colony had an interest in archaeology and mapped the Cypriot landscape as an archaeological, historical and ethnic mosaic. Gunther, of Cyprus Mines, at Skouriotissa, co-funded the excavation of tombs by Menelaos Markides, early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Archaeologists employed large numbers of local people, men and women, just as they were by the British road engineers. The average number of men, women and children employed on the road gangs in 1900 was 450. This must have had a significant impact on daily life in the area during this period, as well as on the shape of, and communication routes through, the landscape.

Improvement of road transport must have also eventually affected the local networks within which the water mills of the Karkotis Valley had been previously entwined. The gradual abandonment of the mill complexes occurred during the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and yet the mills remain as significant and enduring landscape elements. Two bridges in the study area were built by the British, incorporating and recycling earlier Ottoman bridges. In these the British road engineer Nichols, faithfully reproduced the construction methods and style of the earlier structures. Many other bridges were constructed by the British in the study area from scratch where none, or only temporary fords, had existed. The main British road through the area mostly followed an existing bridle track, and therefore re-emphasised what had been a familiar communication route through the landscape.

Results of fieldwork are currently being analysed and prepared for publication. The final field season will be undertaken in 2003 with a study season to follow in 2004. The project also has funding to prepare a final monograph, which will integrate all aspects of the project.

*Tracy Ireland*

### **Historical Archaeology in the Eastern Mediterranean: a review**

Until fifteen years ago, there was no historical archaeology to speak of in the Eastern Mediterranean. There was certainly a long tradition of the archaeology of the Classical, Hellenistic and Roman periods, which

used texts as well as material culture, and the academic study of Medieval art and architecture goes back to the nineteenth century and beyond. But the rich archaeology of the recent past was almost entirely ignored.

It was Australian and North American historical archaeologists who led the way in showing how revealing and stimulating this approach was. To this was added a more unlikely impetus that of the new fashion of intensive archaeological survey which increased dramatically in popularity during the 1980s and 90s and is now established as a major sub-discipline of archaeology in the Mediterranean. Survey projects initially focused on the land use and settlement patterns of antiquity. Almost all such projects, however, found enormous quantities of Medieval and post-Medieval material, which became increasingly impossible to ignore. For example, of the datable pottery analysed by the Sydney Cyprus Survey Project from across a 65-square kilometre survey area, 45% came from these periods.

Today there are ever increasing numbers of historical archaeologists working in many countries of the Eastern Mediterranean, though even so this can hardly be called an 'explosion'. Greece is certainly leading the way, though there is now significant work being done in Israel, Jordan, Cyprus and Turkey. The development of land use and settlement patterns is one major theme, unsurprisingly, given the impact of archaeological survey. Such studies range from the planned, linear Crusader villages of 12th-century Palestine to the organisation of Ottoman estates.

In the last 500 years the Eastern Mediterranean has seen a variety of imperial and colonial rulers, particularly the Venetians, Ottomans, British and French. Archaeological evidence is now beginning to be exploited by those interested in the relationship between imperial rulers and ruled. The Ottoman Empire has huge potential for study; particularly as the detailed *defters* or tax registers give such valuable information for archaeologists interested in rural economy, population and settlement patterns.

There are problems, of course, including a general lack of pottery typologies, and the multitude of languages in which the documents are written. In spite of this, the wealth of material, documents and issues of prime archaeological importance makes historical archaeology in the Eastern Mediterranean an exciting field, with many opportunities for new and stimulating research.

### Further reading

Baram, Uzi, and Lynda Carroll (editors)

2000 *A Historical Archaeology of the Ottoman Empire: Breaking New Ground*. New York: Kluwer/Plenum Press.

Boas, Adrian J.

1999 *Crusader Archaeology: The Material Culture of the Latin East*. London: Routledge.

Sutton, Susan Buck (editor)

2000 *Contingent Countryside: Settlement, Economy, and Land Use in the Southern Argolid Since 1700*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Michael Given

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## CONFERENCE REPORT

### Report on the Islands of Vanishment Conference.

On 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> June this year the Port Arthur Historic Site hosted the Islands of Vanishment Conference. The conference was jointly organised by the Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority, the University of Tasmania, the Tasman Institute of Conservation and Convict Studies, and Australia ICOMOS under the title “Exploring, conserving and interpreting heritage places which commemorate painful or ambivalent themes in the history of our societies”. A very diverse set of papers was accommodated by this broad compass, all presented in the rich atmosphere of the three wings of Port Arthur’s former asylum block. In all 77 papers were presented over the three session days to 165 delegates drawn from Great Britain, Israel, South Africa, Spain and the United States, as well as Australia. Paper themes ranged the full spectrum, from practical issues in heritage conservation and management to explorations in deconstructing visions of the past. Papers falling into the latter were especially thought provoking, and it was fascinating to see practitioners from different backgrounds (historians, heritage managers, conservation planners, architects, and archaeologists, to name a selection) reflecting on the meanings we implant into places, particularly those associated with politically charged or culturally challenging events. All sessions that I attended had interesting papers and, as might perhaps be expected, presentations by some of the senior practitioners were highlights – David Lowenthal’s “Tragic traces on the Rhodian shore” and Peter Reid’s “Purifying the dead place” are two that immediately spring to mind. But other equally stimulating papers were peppered throughout the sessions. John Schofield’s discussion “The discordant archaeology of the Cold War” gave pause for reflection on what are now archaeological landscapes of a very recent but significant time in our history. Another memorable paper was Denis Byrne’s “Nervous landscapes”, which examined how

segregation in the Australian context was a reality with a measurable spatial dimension that was continually tested by the Aboriginal community.

Activities for participants were provided in the afternoons and evenings of each day. The afternoon of the first day, Saturday, saw a choice of fieldtrips – one to the Cascades and Norfolk Bay convict stations and the other of Port Arthur and the Isle of the Dead. The evening saw the option of viewing a short play (“The man who threw a stone”) in the Separate Prison, or joining one of Port Arthur’s famous “Ghost Tours”. I opted for the play and was rewarded with an engaging performance by three excellent actors – I found it easy to imagine that I had somehow been transported back to the nineteenth century to view this little sad story as it unfolded. The play and ghost tour were followed by a “gourmet barbecue” accompanied by quantities of fine Tasmanian wine. On Sunday afternoon an excursion was made to the Coal Mines and Saltwater River convict stations, and a second tour organised of Port Arthur and the Isle of the Dead. I joined the Coal Mines group. After a bus journey of a little over half an hour we arrived at place of dark history and quite spectacular beauty. Here convicts worked, lived and died underground in maintaining a poorly run and economically inefficient coal industry. I could not help but be impressed by the sheer scale of this futile enterprise, preserved today as the substantial stone ruins of houses, barracks and other buildings, as well as the mines and the cutting for the convict-powered coal tramline. On Sunday evening an official conference dinner was hosted at Felons Restaurant. Two further fieldtrips were held on Monday, the final day of sessions - one more trip to Port Arthur and the Isle of the Dead, and a second option of an excursion to the Boys’ Prison at Point Puer. The latter appealed to me so on a particularly wet, cold and windy afternoon I joined an adventurous group with Greg Jackman as the official guide. Point Puer has yet to be fully developed as a tour destination. Its dense undergrowth, slippery walking tracks and often ill-defined remains provided a contrast to the well-groomed Port Arthur complex. For me Point Puer was a strangely familiar place, perhaps because it resembled the archaeological sites that I deal with, mysterious places that have yet to be fully investigated or documented. Greg’s enthusiasm for this place and its history was infectious, so that by the end of the trip we were all totally enthralled by this desolate spot.

The Islands of Vanishment Conference was a hearty feast, my only criticism being that perhaps it was a little too much for only three days. The Port Arthur site was the perfect conference setting, providing resonance to the theme of painful and ambivalent histories. It was this poignancy that struck me most about the conference when in the early yet pitch-black evenings I

walked along the road trodden by countless convict boots, up the hill past the elegant houses formerly occupied by the officers and medical surgeon, and finally to my motel room with its spectacular views over the desolate ruins of Australia's iconic place of vanishment.

*Clayton Fredericksen  
Northern Territory University*

### **NEWS FROM THE SECRETARY**

Items of interest from the Minutes of the August 17 Committee meeting:

#### **New ASHA Website**

The ASHA Website has been moved to a new location: [<http://www.asha.org.au>]. Paul Rheinberger and Ross Gam are acting as interim Webmasters until the AGM.

#### **Deed of Copyright**

ASHA is implementing a Deed of Copyright for contributions to the Journal. This Deed will simplify the process of ASHA authorising reprints from the Journal. The Deed stipulates that ASHA will take copyright of the *form* an article is published in the Journal. The author retains copyright in the content and can republish in a different form elsewhere. Paul Rheinberger is finalising the Deed and preparing Explanatory Notes for authors.

#### **ASHA Joins Copyright Agency Limited**

ASHA has joined Copyright Agency Limited, a non-profit organisation which represents the rights of small publishers for reproductions of their works. Now anyone wishing to reprint material from any issue of the ASHA Journal can do so through CAL and CAL will forward ASHA the reproduction fees, if any. CAL has been operating for a number of years and represents a large number of small academic publishers. Any reproduction fees received will be used to support the operation and activities of the Society.

#### **ASHA Logo**

ASHA has been asked to supply a logo for the 2002 Joint Conference in Townsville – but we don't have one! A temporary logo is being put together, but submissions for a new, official logo are invited. Any member interested to have a crack at it should send submissions via post or email to the Secretary, for consideration by the ASHA Committee at its next meeting.

#### **Publications of interest received**

*History: The Magazine of the Royal Australian Historical Society*  
September 2002, Number 73

- Article by Ian Jack *the Icely Family and Coombing Park, near Carcoar*  
*Vital Signs*  
Newsletter of State Records NSW  
August 2002, Issue 2
- Article by Cassie Findlay *Planning for Obsolescence* on archiving digital data
- New index to Convict bank accounts available – 'Warrants to pay convicts sums to their credit in the Savings Bank of NSW 1837-1870'

*Insites: newsletter of the Historic Houses Trust of NSW*  
Spring 2002, Issue 32

*Signals: Quarterly Magazine of the Australian National Maritime Museum*  
December 2001-February 2002, Number 57

- Article by Kieran Hosty on *Vasa 1628 – Strange Fate of a King's Warship*

*Memento: news from the National Archives*  
September 2001, Number 18

*The Site Gazette: Newsletter of the Friends of First Government House Site*  
July 2002, Volume 8 Number 3

- Note on the auction of articles belonging to Governor William Bligh in the UK on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2002.

#### **Events to note:**

History Week  
Organised by the History Council of NSW  
Extensive program of events from 14-21 September 2002  
Contact 02 9385 1070 or [<http://www.historycouncilnsw.org.au/>].

Sydney Open  
Behind the scenes tours of Sydney sites  
Sunday 3 November  
Contact NSW Historic Houses Trust on 02 9571 7888

Engineering Heritage of Sydney's Maritime Industries  
Ferry tour  
30 November 2002  
Contact RAHS on 02 9247 8001 for details  
Two key ASHA Committee positions are vacant:  
Secretary and Treasurer

Because of personal commitments the present ASHA Secretary and Treasurer have indicated they will not seek re-nomination. It is essential that these key positions in ASHA's structure be filled as soon as possible. If you are interested in either role and would like to make a very real contribution to the successful operation of your Association, please indicate your interest in either of these positions ASAP. We would also appreciate suitably qualified applicants for the soon to be vacated position of journal editor contact President Neville.

## NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK

### *Rationale*

A proposal was advanced at last year's Australian Archaeological Association (AAA) Meeting to develop a Nationwide Archaeology Week (NAW). The date of Professor Gordon Childe's birthday, April 14, 2003 had initially been selected for the commencement of NAW in 2003. It has been raised that this proposed date falls uncomfortably close to "Heritage Week". It may be necessary to revise this date.

There are a number of objectives behind the development of NAW, and undoubtedly they will be refined as the initiative progresses. The overall objectives of the week will be to work toward broadening public awareness of Australian archaeology and the work of Australian archaeologists abroad.

Public outreach will hold numerous benefits ranging from promoting the protection and value of Australia's unique archaeological record (historic, maritime and Aboriginal), encouraging creative learning in school students, encouraging an appreciation for different cultures (which may hold reconciliation benefits), and broadening the public awareness of archaeology's value in contributing to our understanding of the past.

### **i). Public Education**

There are two primary stakeholders that the week will be aimed at, which can be broken into two very general categories:

- a) School children – primary and secondary
- b) The public

Different approaches will be required for the different groups.

- a) School children

One of the focus groups will be school children. It is hoped that we can work NAW in with the relevant state curricula across Australia.

In NSW Archaeology, History and Science are taught in the first term of Year 11, so it would be appropriate to conduct NAW early in the year, certainly before the end of first semester. Many teachers are looking for excursions during this time of the year. It would be best to advertise NAW at the end of the previous year (term 4) so that teachers can make arrangements for site tours; museum visits etc., then send a reminder at the very beginning of term 1.

If an archaeology education project is to be one of the outcomes of NAW then the development of planned courses in archaeology week may be necessary. As it is essential that educational goals (critical thinking, independent study etc) be addressed, clear direction and close collaboration with teachers will be necessary. It is important to ask what aspects of archaeology week will assist teachers in achieving their educational goals? This will ensure that archaeology week becomes more than a quaint diversion for students and can be incorporated into broadening the educational experience in school children and widen the range of behaviours incorporated in the learning process (Zimmerman et al 1994).

Archaeology is an inter-disciplinary field and therefore may have appeal to teachers from various subject areas (science, history, maths, geography etc). The romance of archaeology can be used to lure students into applying what is learnt in these different disciplines (Zimmerman et al 1994).

### b) The public

Each state committee will attempt to develop a range of activities for NAW at museums and archaeological sites open to the public. Activities may include lecture programs, public debates and hopefully open days at archaeological excavations. Close liaison with Government Heritage Branches and Indigenous custodians will be necessary.

### **ii). Site Protection**

A primary objective of the week will be to promote the preservation of Australian archaeological heritage and this of course will be greatly enhanced with public support. Rodney Carter (2000), an indigenous cultural heritage officer affiliated with Natural Resources and Environment (Victoria), discussed in a conference paper on burial site protection at the 2000 AAA that public outreach and education should be the primary objective for the preservation of cultural heritage and would be far more effective than building fences around sites. Education is central to the role of bringing

an appreciation of the cultural significance of these sites into the public consciousness.

There may also be potential to link this in with education programs directed at school children. For example there is huge scope within the HSIE K-6 syllabus in NSW. The syllabus is currently in the process of being revised and there will be even greater emphases on 'active history' in which the students have to do 'active' research, such as write a conservation report on an archaeological site.

### **iii). Appreciation of culture and heritage**

Archaeology provides meaning to our heritage and the heritage of others. With greater public knowledge of the indigenous past this will hopefully hold reconciliatory benefits, as it will develop a greater appreciation of past Aboriginal culture. It is important to maintain a link between the living culture and the past, and sensitive dialogue with indigenous custodians and professionals will be required to ensure that NAW sets realistic goals in this area.

### **Possible activities for National Archaeology Week**

It will be necessary for each state and territory to develop state programs/calendars of events for NAW. Further suggestions for possible activities are required. A number of suggestions have been proposed which include archaeologists in the classroom, special museum exhibitions, and open days on excavations, public lectures, conference on teaching archaeology in public schools, workshops, film festivals, photographic exhibitions, tours of archaeological sites, and an archaeology high school essay competition. Activities will be planned throughout the country and held at universities, museums, sites, national parks, libraries and schools to celebrate this special week.

### **Advertising National Archaeology Week**

A detailed communication strategy is necessary to appropriately market NAW. A clear message for the week that can be relatively easily marketed needs to be devised. In addition to using regular media, a NAW web site will provide a means of further advertising activities. Electronic newsletters will assist in keeping the public up to date with goings on and here is an example from the states  
[\[http://www.saa.org/PubEdu/a&pe/submission.html\]](http://www.saa.org/PubEdu/a&pe/submission.html).

National Science Week has the ABC as a media partner and works closely with the media science unit. It may be possible to develop a similar relationship with the ABC and host an archaeology special on Catalyst for the relevant week.

### **The first year**

The first year will act as a pilot study for NAW. NAW will require a formal recognised base/institution/association initially to contact and

request support/expressions of interest from state education departments, state heritage agencies, professional and amateur archaeological organisations, Aboriginal communities and organisations, museums, industry etc. The Australian Archaeological Association (AAA) is happy to act as sponsor for the first year. A meeting at the first combined AAA, Australian Institute of Maritime Archaeologists (AIMA) and Australian Society of Historical Archaeologists (ASHA) conference in Townsville in November will seek to recruit the sponsorship of the other two main archaeological associations so that all areas within Australian archaeology have a sense of ownership in the week. Sponsorship at this immediate stage does not require any financial support (but of course this would also not be declined if it were offered).

A workshop will be conducted at the Townsville annual conference in order to establish a non-profit business case for NAW. Planning is essential in order to ensure that the week can be sustainable for future years. Out of the workshop will come a series of recommendations for the agreed aim of the NAW.

Sub committees have been established to arrange activities for NAW across the country. Ideally each sub committee will have a co-ordinator and those people who have either volunteered or been nominated to act as co-ordinators are listed below.

### **1. QLD**

Sean Ulm (MAACAI)  
 National President, Australian Archaeological Association Inc.  
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### **2. VIC**

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**7. NT**

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**8. ACT**

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**The future of National Archaeology Week**

If all goes well, National Archaeology Week is planned to be an annual celebration, commemorating Australia's cultural heritage as revealed through archaeology. If the week is to continue successfully it may be necessary to obtain funding to develop archaeology week into a more professional enterprise. It may be necessary to identify what grants and schemes can be accessed for this purpose, and forge stronger links with state heritage agencies and museums.

Funding could be used to employ an individual to coordinate NAW at a later stage, and perhaps maintain a newsletter. The person would ideally have experience in archaeology, education, media and web design. The individual could be based at an institution and be responsible for updating a newsletter which would include summarising research/work for the public. NAW will remain largely unprofessional if it operates as a voluntary scheme.

**References**

Carter, R. 2000. Research and reburial and Dry Plains Mound 1, Nyah State Forest. Paper presented at the AAA conference, Beechworth.

Zimmerman, L.J, Dasovich, S, Engstrom, M, and Bradley, L.E. 1994. Listening to the teachers: warnings about the use of archaeological agendas in classrooms in the United States. In P.G. Stone and B.L Molyneux *The Presented Past: Heritage, museum and education*. One World Archaeology 25.

*Michael Westaway*

*Repatriation Section, National Museum of Australia*

*Louise Zarmati*

*Teacher Education, University of Western Sydney*

**FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES****Call for Papers - Mining History Conference Broken Hill 2003**

The next annual conference of the Australian Mining History Association will be held in the City of Broken Hill, New South Wales, on 2-6 July 2003. Broken Hill commenced production in 1883 and is Australia's most productive mining field, its mine sites and settlement now forming a complex and fascinating industrial landscape. It is hoped that the conference will coincide with the re-commencement of silver-lead-zinc mining on the Broken Hill Lode.

The Association invites papers on any subject relating to the history or archaeology of mining industry and settlement. If you wish to submit a paper, please send

an abstract (or at least a title) to Peter Bell of Adelaide by 30 November 2002.

Dr Peter Bell, PO Box 3044, Rundle Mall 5000  
Phone/fax (08) 8373 1900 or mobile 0407 793 652  
Email pbell@adelaide.on.net or  
pbell\_history@yahoo.com.au

### **Royal Australian Historical Society NSW Conference**

*Broadening the View: the other side of our histories*  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> November  
Contact RAHS on 02 9247 8001 for details

### **Land and Sea: Common ground and contemporary issues for Australasian archaeology**

The Australasian Institute for Maritime Archaeology (AIMA)  
The Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology (ASHA)  
The Australian Archaeological Association (AAA)  
Combined Annual Conference  
17 - 21 November 2002  
[\[http://www.faess.jcu.edu.au/saas/conferences\\_2002.html\]](http://www.faess.jcu.edu.au/saas/conferences_2002.html)  
After much delay, the conference organisers would like to announce that the updated web pages are now available, including the final list of sessions:

- Archaeological Practice I: Landscapes and Seascapes
- Archaeological Practice II: Working with Law and Policy
- Archaeological Practice III: Approaches to Artefacts
- Archaeology and The Public I: Engaging the Community.
- Archaeology and the Public II: Museums, Interpretation and Virtual Reality
- Archaeology and the Public III: Object Lessons - Archaeology and heritage in Australian society
- Training Archaeologists
- Australian Contributions to World Archaeology
- Colonization, Contact and Cultural Transference
- Recent research and issues in Bioarchaeology
- Cultural Crossroads: Current Research in Torres Strait and Northern Australia
- Urban Archaeology
- Australasia and the Pacific at War
- The Chinese in Australasia

Response so far has been fantastic, with almost 100 papers accepted and more coming in daily. There is an exciting mix of maritime, historic and indigenous archaeology in every session and it is great that many

people have offered papers which cross boundaries. Several international speakers have confirmed that they will be attending and we will provide more details closer to the start date. Several of the sessions are almost full, so if you have been leaving it until the last minute to submit an abstract, you really need to contact the appropriate session convenor directly, ASAP:  
[\[http://www.faess.jcu.edu.au/saas/program\\_abstracts.html\]](http://www.faess.jcu.edu.au/saas/program_abstracts.html)

### **Conference Schedule**

c.7:00pm Sunday evening - Welcome drinks (Maritime Museum Townsville) and opening.

The weekdays are roughly scheduled as follows:

9:00 -10:30 'Common Ground' session (plenary) - Single room.  
10:30 -11:00 Morning tea, (rooms and AV will be reorganised)

Conference splits into three concurrent 'Contemporary Issues' sessions

11:00 -12:30 Presentation Period 1  
12:30 -1:30 Lunch  
1:30 - 3:00 Presentation Period 2  
3:00 - 3:30 Afternoon tea  
3:30 - 5:00 Presentation Period 3

Evening activities will generally start at 7:30pm.

Monday - Presidential addresses in morning, Civic reception in evening.  
Tuesday - Richard Gould talk - Museum Tropical Qld  
Wednesday - Evening Annual General Meetings (concurrent)  
Thursday - Last session plenary, Evening Conference Dinner

### **Plenary Sessions**

The morning 'Common Ground' joint sessions are shaping up nicely. Thanks to those who have already filled in and submitted the questionnaire on the registration form. There are already a few potentially controversial insights, criticisms and suggestions to be considered by the panels and participants at large. If you want to have a say in these considerations of the future of Australian archaeology, or otherwise get those long-held gripes off your chest, here is your chance to stir the pot! Please return them with your registration or by email. All responses are anonymous, so it may be your big opportunity.

### **Poster Session**

Poster titles are required before 13 September for inclusion in the programme booklet, although posters can be brought directly to the conference (see the 'Information for Presenters' page).

### **Registration and Accommodation**

Early registration closes at the end of September, so please make sure that you have sent your forms and payments by then.

A reminder that this year accommodation has been left to participants to organize, although a guide to nearby hotels, hostels and other venues of various cost is provided on the 'Accommodation' link. There is a range of other free or low-cost activities for conference attendees during the evenings and further details will be posted on the web closer to the date.

The conference promises to be an exciting and not to be missed event. If you need further detail or have problems downloading the registration form from the web, please contact us.

Land and Sea Conference Organisers  
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### **FORTHCOMING NEWSLETTERS**

The ASHA Newsletter is produced quarterly with the assistance of guest editors. The 2002 guest editors are:

This issue	Tracy Ireland email: <a href="mailto:tireland@griffin-nrm.com.au">tireland@griffin-nrm.com.au</a>
December	Martin Gibbs: email: <a href="mailto:Martin.Gibbs@jcu.edu.au">Martin.Gibbs@jcu.edu.au</a> or Rick McGovern-Wilson: email: <a href="mailto:rmcgwilson@historic.org.nz">rmcgwilson@historic.org.nz</a>

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 on last page 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.

I would like to apologise for the extreme lateness of this issue, but the General Editor decided to have a heart attack, as he was about to send the newsletter to be printed.

*Ross Gam*  
General Editor  
ASHA Newsletter

email: [agam @ceinternet.com.au](mailto:agam@ceinternet.com.au)

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