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NEWSLETTER

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STATE OF THE ART

ACT NEWS

Australian Heritage Commission

Commonwealth heritage legislation amendments saga – the re-drafted Heritage Bills are in the Senate. Here, the debate on the Bills has been delayed but may occur in March 2003. Amendments are being moved in the upper house by the Labor and Democrat Parties. Should the Bills go through the Senate they return to the House and would then most likely come into force at the beginning of the next Financial Year, 1 July 2003.

The Commission has been assisting with advice in relation to the recent, terrible bushfires to ensure that heritage values are considered in planning for recovery. This advice is connected with those fire affected Register of the National Estate places that are

Commonwealth managed or owned, or in relation to which a Commonwealth decision is required. An example of such a place is the ANU-owned Mt Stromlo Observatory Precinct.

ACT Heritage Unit

The bushfires in the ACT have been tragic and devastating. Loss of life and homes has affected everyone. Many heritage places have been lost. The ACT Heritage Unit has commenced an audit of places, commencing in Namadgi National Park, of which it is believed 95% is burnt, to ensure heritage issues are dealt with before water catchment remediation measures are undertaken. Access is not possible yet to many regions of the park, but known losses are: Mt Franklin Chalet, the oldest club built ski lodge in Australia; a large number of arboreta (these were established by the Commonwealth to trial exotic species for possible commercial use); many NSW/ACT border survey marks; and Tennant Homestead. Places destroyed outside the National Park include: many historic huts, Urriara Forestry Settlement; Pierces Creek Forestry Settlement; Mt Stromlo Observatory, administration buildings and housing; and Cotter Pumping House workers' houses (the pumping station sustained only minor damage). Several pipe buildings have been damaged, but the extent of damage has yet to be

assessed. The loss of arboreta will be high as many were within the ACT Forests region, now mostly destroyed. We have received many offers of voluntary help from heritage professionals and others, for which we are very grateful.

Compiled by Richard Morrison

NEW SOUTH WALES NEWS

I try to contact as many NSW people as possible to contribute to the Newsletter. However, I don't have a definitive email list. So if you would like to contribute to the Newsletter please email me at Jenniel@gml.com.au and I will include you on my list in future.

Jennie Lindbergh

It's shaping up to be a busy year with a number of projects underway around the State and there have been some movements of people. Mac North has left the Department of Public Works and Services to take up the position of the Sydney Water Heritage Manager and, being replaced by Caitlin Allen. Caitlin has been replaced at the Heritage Office by Yvonne Kaiser.

**News from Caitlin Allen
at the NSW Department of Public Works and Services
Heritage Design Services**

Having left the NSW Heritage Office in August this year after five and a half years, I am pleased to have a change and to rediscover life outside government policy and regulation. It seems to be a good time to make the decision to work for myself as the archaeological scene in NSW is booming with most of the consultants snowed under with projects. With a two month holiday behind me I am now happily occupied working on contract for DPWS four days a week and for myself the remaining days. It has been interesting moving from regulating other people's work to running my own projects. Heritage Design Services is a happy band of heritage specialists working largely on a diverse range of projects for other sectors of government. Large projects currently underway in the group include a Conservation Management Plan for Department of Housing Properties in the Rocks and Millers Point, Conservation Planning for the Chief Secretary's Building in Sydney and the State's ongoing stone conservation program. In particular I have been doing assessment and investigation work at Sydney Observatory, garden archaeology at an original Sydney homestead now used as a juvenile justice centre, impact assessments for the Upper Canal (Sydney's main water supply) and recording the interiors of a complex of court rooms and holding cells at the Hyde Park Barracks. Next year promises more interesting projects including a Conservation Plan for the convict settlement on Cockatoo

Island in Sydney Harbour. Leaving the Heritage Office has also given me more time to do work with Australia ICOMOS, working on the improvement of membership services. I am enjoying meeting and working with heritage professionals from a range of areas and countries.

Caitlin Allen

*Archaeologist, Heritage Design Services
Department of Public Works and Services
Sydney NSW 2000
Ph: 9372 8434*

Managing Heritage at Sydney Water

Sydney Water has embarked on an ambitious program to prepare conservation management plans (CMPs) for the nearly 60 assets it owns, which are listed on the NSW State Heritage Register. These assets range from iconic sites like the Tank Stream to places of technological significance, such as sewer vents and elevated steel water reservoirs. The CMPs are to be prepared by an in-house team that includes Sydney Water staff and external heritage specialists. Over three years the program will produce CMPs that will feed directly in to Sydney Water's asset management systems. The decision to create a team rather than to out source the work has many benefits. It will allow Sydney Water to further develop conservation and heritage management skills and enable a closer relationship between those writing the CMPs and those implementing them and operating the assets. The outcome will be CMPs that become a part of normal business, ensuring that Sydney Water manages its heritage. The CMPs planned for Year 1 are the Tank Stream, the first drinking water source for Sydney from 1788, which was turned into a stormwater channel in the 19th century, the West Ryde Water Pumping Station and a CMP that covers the Southern and Western Suburbs Ocean Outfall Sewer. This last CMP will provide both a system-wide CMP plus conservation reports for the 12 individually state significant sewer vents, pumping stations and other features within the system. Any questions about the CMP program should be directed to Mac North, Sydney Water's Heritage Manager, on 02 9350 6181.

Denis Gojak

*Senior Project Officer - Heritage Conservation
Sydney Water Corporation*

Godden Mackay Logan undertook test excavations on the site of Luna Park in December. The site was originally part of James Milson's grant and later housed the railway sidings for Lavender Bay which were ultimately demolished and part of the area used to construct Luna Park, which opened in October 1935. The archaeological work was designed to investigate all phases of the occupation of this area from the earliest phase of settlement of the Sydney's north shore, in the early 19th Century, till the 20th Century occupation by one of Sydney's symbolic cultural sites. Test trenching revealed evidence of the reclamation of the harbour

foreshore in the late 19th century, the use of the site as a railway siding and the removal of portions of the nearby cliff face for the workshops for the Harbour Bridge construction. Archaeological work continues at the Mint site in Sydney. Originally built as the southern wing of the Sydney (Rum) Hospital and by 1854 it had been converted into the first Royal Mint outside England.

Archaeological work, associated with the refurbishment of the site for the new headquarters of the Historic Houses Trust of NSW is being conducted by Matthew Kelly from Godden Mackay Logan with assistance from archaeologist Dan Tuck, Shaun Gaudron and Dom Steele. Archaeological monitoring of remediation work has revealed infrastructure and machinery remains from the Coining Room, Melting House and the site of a large Chilean Mill and stamper battery. (yes in the centre of Sydney!!).

Work has revealed about 25% of the industrial area floor space of the complex with a variety of phases and different uses evident in the complex array of furnaces, machine bases, pits and drains so far uncovered. The archaeological work is providing valuable information relating to the operation of this exceptionally significant industrial site. Recording work has been directly fed to the site architects using GIS software to accurately position the archaeology within the development. This feedback has proved invaluable to the design development and assists in the development work avoiding significant archaeological remains. A significant interpretative display is planned based upon the exposed archaeological remains.

Heritage Concepts opened its doors for business in July last year and life has never been busier. For those who may not know Lori, she is an archaeologist qualified in both the historic and indigenous field. She has been practising as an archaeological and cultural heritage consultant since graduating from La Trobe University (1994) and has recently been awarded a BSc (Dip) in Cultural Heritage Management (University of Canberra). Lori Sciusco has gone into business for herself after working for other heritage consultants and government bodies in NSW, ACT and Victoria for nine years.

Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd...The N SW office of the company has been undergoing a few changes of late. We have moved to bigger and better premises at 96 Palace Street, Petersham NSW as well as welcoming a number of new staff members. Sam Moody has joined the practice in a full time position after stints at ERM and as an independent contractor. Sam brings a wide range of skills and a great deal of enthusiasm for the early history of the CBD which is being put to good use. Fiona Kidd and Caroline Wilby have joined us on a part time basis, bringing well developed research skills on board. These skills have been tested and refined on a number of large heritage assessment projects for state government authorities over the last six months.

On the digging front, we are currently involved in a number of monitoring/testing projects ranging from early inner city domestic and industrial sites to road development corridors in the outer suburbs.

Casey & Lowe undertook an excavation, during October to December 2002, of an early period site on the corner of George & Charles Streets, Parramatta for Meriton Apartments. This project involved 16 archaeologists as well as Mary and Tony. The site contained the remains of six pre-1822 structures within six early allotments. All were probably built by 1804. William Byrnes eventually purchased the entire six lots. He and his brother James operated a series of early flour and textile mills in Parramatta adjacent to the wharf. A Chinese market gardener leased part of the block in the first half of the twentieth century. The challenge of this important site was increased by it being located on the sandy alluvium of the Parramatta River with high heat, windstorms and stratigraphic anomalies.

Extensive significant remains were found belonging to all periods of the site's occupation. Remains of five 'convict huts' were found with the sixth likely to be beyond the boundary of the study area. A series of deposits belonging to the convict period and/or the later leaseholders were found containing quantities of lead-glazed and unslipped early pottery as well as leaseholder-period pits with shelledge, creamware, early blue transfer prints and Canton pattern Chinese porcelain. Two rectangular clay-lined features, possibly used for food storage, were found in two of the allotments. Another contemporary feature on another allotment, also probably for storage, was a stone-lined rectangular pit. Another lot had a single barrel pit - four similar barrel pits were previously found at the Babes in the Woods site, a few hundred metres to the west along George Street. The Byrnes-period occupation from the 1830s to 1940s was represented by extensive remains of buildings, water storage structures, pet burials and rubbish pits. The Byrnes' house was a large two-storey stone building with a large cellar with intact storage bays. Forms of water storage included wells and cistern, and two rectangular stone reservoirs. Rubbish pits associated with the Byrnes' dates to all periods of their occupation, the 1840s to the 1940s. It is an exciting corpus of material associated with two generations of a single family. The occupation of Ah Chee, the Chinese market gardener, at the site was mostly represented by the backfill of a well. This deposit included Chinese rice and tea bowls, lots of 'opium' bottles, alcohol bottles with Chinese writing, as well as a single Chinese coin. Specialist cataloguers are just commencing work on the various artefact categories. This work will continue for the next few months. The sandy soil profile of this site increased the potential for Aboriginal remains. These were identified on the first day of excavation and an extensive program of excavation for Aboriginal material was initiated by Dr Jo McDonald and the representatives of three Aboriginal groups. Significant remains associated with the Aboriginal occupation were identified. Part of the project involved the assistance of volunteers. Interpretation of the results of the archaeological program will be incorporated into the building as well as the reuse of the large sandstone blocks from the Byrnes' cellar to face the new building at street level.

Compiled by Jennie Lindbergh

SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWS

Flinders University

Darren Griffin (postgrad from Flinders University) is to postpone his research after being offered a position at Manchester University. Darren only recently returned to Adelaide from Sydney after twelve months with GML, and is off again. Good Luck Darren.

After two months in Tasmania's Port Arthur running the Summer Public Archaeology Programme, Jody Steele and Tim Owen return to Flinders to get back into the PhD grind.

Susan Piddock has recently completed her PhD, and is now free to live her life outside of the walls of university. Well done Susan.

Compiled by Jody Steele
Flinders University

QUEENSLAND NEWS

Rusty's Bazaar

Gordon Grimwade & Associates: Gordon Grimwade and Martin Rowney undertook excavations at the Rusty's Bazaar site in Cairns, a site located in the heart of what was Cairns' Chinatown district, inhabited by Chinese immigrants from at least 1885 until 1936. The archaeological program saw the excavation of 17 test pits across the site sampling under building areas and in rear yards. The site yielded 4000 artefacts from this occupation period and included a wide range of European and Chinese domestic artefacts.

One of the test pits revealed an undisturbed cess pit lined with timber from a packing case to stop it collapsing in the sand substrate. Stratified deposits in the cess pit included seeds and fruit pits among the usual array of beer and gin bottles. Artefact processing continues.

New student projects:

Justine Thorpe has enrolled in a PhD at James Cook University (Cairns Campus) on the cultural landscape of the tourist industry around Cairns. She is looking particularly at how the images promoted by the tourism industry are (or aren't) reflected in the infrastructure created to serve that industry and the modifications to the natural attractions that formed the basis of the industry. Justine obtained first class honours in History last year with a thesis on the cultural landscape of the Koah district near Kuranda.

Jan Wegner

Compiled by Gordon Grimwade

VICTORIA NEWS

Heritage Victoria

The second phase of the Godden Mackay Logan, Austral Archaeology and La Trobe University excavation at Casselden Place was completed early in January. Many of the artefacts are currently undergoing treatment in Heritage Victoria's conservation laboratory, and the process of detailed artefact analysis will begin at La Trobe soon. An excavation is planned for the Jolimont Square site in East Melbourne, which formed part of the Jolimont Estate owned by Charles La Trobe, former Superintendent and Lieutenant Governor of the Port Phillip Colony, later Victoria, from 1839 to 1854. The site is considered to have potential to contain relics relating to occupation from the late 1850s. Smaller excavation projects are being conducted in the city, and along the route of the Calder Freeway near Malmsbury. Fiona Weaver has just completed some test excavation works at the Former Supreme Court Building in Geelong.

Heritage Victoria has also just received a nomination to the Heritage Register for the 1803 Collins Settlement Site in Sorrento.

Jeremy Smith

La Trobe University post-doctoral fellow Alasdair Brooks has recently completed an extensive reevaluation of the ceramics from all ten sub-sites from Professor Graham Connah's 1999-2001 Lake Innes House excavations, near Port Macquarie, NSW. These sub-sites include not only the main house (original occupation 1831-52), but the outlying areas, including two possible assigned servant cottages and other support structures. Analysis is still ongoing, but early observations include:

□ The overwhelming majority of the ceramics from the main house dates from the post-Innes period of occupation, complicating comparisons with the earlier sub-sites. The other sub-sites, however – particularly the two cottages – are far more coherent in date, and are thus important assemblages for increasing our knowledge of the material culture of Australia's European rural poor in the pre-Gold Rush period.

□ The original preliminary site reports frequently raised the possibility that the 'finer' ceramics at the cottages and support farm were hand-me-downs from the main house. While there are occasional pattern matches across most of the sites (beyond the ubiquitous Willow and Rhine transfer prints), the assemblages are largely characterised by inter-site variability rather than inter-site continuity. Combined with other artefact evidence (notably the recovery of coins from at least one of the cottages), this suggests that the assigned labour at Lake Innes had both the desire and the means by which to make their own acquisition choices rather than being forced to rely on hand-me-downs from the Innes family. What assemblage continuity that does exist may well be a side-product of the limitations on supply to Port Macquarie in the pre-Gold Rush period rather than

an indication of cast-offs from the main house.

Alasdair Brooks

The **Casselden Place** Development (known as '50 Lonsdale Street') is a proposed major construction project fronting Lonsdale and Little Lonsdale Streets in the Melbourne CAD. The site is owned by the Industry Superannuation Property Trust and the development managed by Clifton, Coney, Stevens. Archaeological investigation of the site was carried out in two stages in 2002 (Phase 1: May-July, Phase 2: November- December) prior to the bulk excavation of the site. The site contained 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. The Casselden Place development gave us the opportunity to explore the rich archaeological resources of the site, including historical archaeological features from the mid-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The project is being undertaken by Godden Mackay Logan Pty Ltd in association with the Archaeology Program La Trobe University and Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd. The project team included a number of professional archaeologists as well as La Trobe University students, whose involvement in the excavation forms part of their undergraduate course at La Trobe University. Members of the general public were also invited to participate in the excavation. The site contained the remains of numerous cottages and small workshops, which ranged from the earliest European occupation of this area, to the small scale industrial operations at the site up to the 1960s.

The dense and multi-layered history of the site is demonstrated through the complex stratigraphy of the archaeological remains. Post-holes found across the site provide evidence of basic timber structures that were built in the early-to-mid 1800s. Bluestone foundations indicate the remains of small cottages constructed throughout the nineteenth century, and brick foundations provide evidence of the later use of this area as a small-scale industrial precinct, with workshops and small factories spanning the earlier residential allotments. Most of the buildings on the site were demolished by the 1960s and much of the area was covered with a bitumen carpark at this time, sealing the rich archaeological deposits beneath.

Post-excavation work is currently in progress, including the preparation of the artefact database catalogue and detailed trench stratigraphy reports, as well as a 'Plain English' report of the results of the excavation. Where possible, artefact analysis will be undertaken as honours and post-graduate research projects through La Trobe University. A number of the artefacts are currently undergoing conservation treatment at Heritage Victoria.

Anne MacKay-GML

WESTERN AUSTRALIA NEWS

The **Historical Archaeology of the Pilbara Project** began its first phase with archaeological investigations at the township of Cossack (February 2003). The focus of this field season was occupation sites around the town. These appear to be Asian settlements associated with nineteenth century market gardens, and Aboriginal camps predominantly from the period of Aboriginal pearl divers. Two Honours and a Masters student will begin analysis of the excavated material focusing on glass tool making technology, the differences between Aboriginal and Asian camps, and changes in Aboriginal diet from the Holocene into the early contact era.

Compiled by Alistair Paterson,

*Centre for Archaeology
University of Western Australia*

NEW ZEALAND NEWS

Wellington

On 24 January 2003 a digger was used to investigate the fill of the 1890s Botanic Gardens gun emplacement. A trophy gun (German, WWI) was thought to have been buried in the vicinity in 1942. Underground radar had earlier thrown up some possible 'hits' in the fill of the gun pit although one of them always looked exactly right as the location of the pivot mount of the emplacement rather than the remains of a later trophy gun. The dig was organised by Wellington Conservancy of the Department of Conservation in conjunction with Wellington City Council and a private sponsor. The principal objective was to locate, and if found recover, any remains of a trophy gun buried there and not to damage the gun pit in the process. As the dimensions of the gun pit were known, five trenches were dug to an appropriate depth by the digger and then a spade were used to locate the gun platform or floor of the gun pit. No evidence of the trophy gun was found. As the trophy gun was buried in 1942 and the fill in the gun pit was deposited post-1900, no NZ Historic Places Trust permit was required.

Tony Walton
Dept of Conservation

Compiled by Rick McGovern-Wilson

TASMANIA NEWS

Tasmanian Heritage Office - Maritime Heritage

Sydney Cove Survivor's Camp. Following the conclusion of fieldwork at the survivor's camp of the *Sydney Cove* shipwreck, Preservation Island (carried out by the Tasmanian Heritage Office with the assistance of Flinders University) in November, cleaning and cataloguing of the artefact assemblage has continued. Due to the large quantity of faunal material retrieved from the site, a consultant (Chris Langeluddecke) has also been employed to properly identify and catalogue that component of the assemblage.

Cultural Heritage Assessment: Point Puer, Port Arthur. On 18 October the Maritime Heritage Unit was engaged by Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority to carry out an assessment of a 40 x 50-metre section of seabed off Point Puer in Carnavon Bay due to potential jetty development in the area. The dive team, comprising Nathan Richards (THO) and AIMA/NAS graduate Brad Williams, carried out the survey with survey assistance and shore-support from Justin Welch. No cultural material was found.

Cultural Heritage Assessment: Southern Shore, Sarah Island. From 12 – 18 February a team of divers from the Tasmanian Heritage Office (Nathan Richards), and Flinders University (Aidan Ash and Mike Gerner), along with AIMA/NAS student Brad Williams carried out an inspection of the southern shore of Sarah Island. This survey was a component of a Conservation Management Plan being undertaken on the historic site focussing on the heritage impact of the installation of a new jetty. Over the 6 days an area of 54 x 80 metres was surveyed, in visibility severely restricted by suspended sediment and tannin stained water. The report of the survey is currently being prepared. Some inspections of the seabed in the southern portion of the eastern shore were also carried out to determine the comprehensiveness of previous surveys of the area by the Maritime Archaeological Association of Tasmania (MAAT) in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Nathan Richards

Mineral Resources Tasmania. The preparation continues of reports of surveys of the Spray, Florence, Argent No 5 and Argent No 2 19th – early 20th Century silver mine sites at Zeehan on Tasmania's west coast. Further surveys are planned for areas at the Mt Bischoff tin mine as part of the Acid Mine Drainage Remediation Project (specific surveys of areas of the site that may potentially be impacted by AMD remediation earthworks).

Reconnaissance surveys have also been carried out on mining leases in the north-east of the State, including historic alluvial mining areas in the Lisle Valley, and along the Ringarooma River, where reduced water levels have exposed

interesting hydraulic engineering features. Assessment of mine lease applications and formulation of conservation management prescriptions in association with the Forest Practices Board are ongoing responsibilities. The report has been completed of the investigation of the tin mining sites and alluvial tin plant associated with the late Charles Denison "Deny" King at Melaleuca in the Tasmanian southwest, and integrated into MRT's archaeological report system.

Tony Webster

A Conservation Management Plan is currently being prepared for the Sarah Island historic site, Macquarie Harbour, Tasmania. Sarah Island is best known as the site of one of Tasmania's earliest convict settlements, with convicts mainly engaged in Huon pine logging and shipbuilding. It also has Aboriginal historical associations, and for the last 100 years it has been a focus of tourists to Tasmania's west coast. Sarah Island has important and acknowledged historic values, and is part of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. The conservation management planning is being undertaken as a consultancy to the Tasmanian Heritage Office (Department of Tourism, Parks, Heritage & the Arts) which is managing the project on behalf of the Parks and Wildlife Service (Department Primary Industry, Water & Environment), the government agency responsible for the management of Sarah Island. The consultant team comprises Kathy Evans, Jerry de Gryse, Anna Gurnhill, Greg Lehman, Anne McConnell and Robert Vincent. The project started early 2003, and it is planned complete a draft Conservation Management Plan by early April 2003. If anyone would like to provide input into the planning, or would like more information, please contact Anne McConnell (ph 03 6239 1494 (W/H), annemc@aaa.net.au GPO Box 234, Hobart, Tas, 7001) or Anna Gurnhill (anna_gurnhill@yahoo.com.au).

Anne McConnell

Forest Practices Board

Chinese campsite. An undisturbed 1880s Chinese miners' camp has been located by a trained forest practices officer while inspecting a planned harvesting coupe. Excavation of the site by archaeologist Parry Kostoglou is to be funded by Forestry Tasmania. The site has been listed by the Heritage Council and is being excavated with its support. The Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery are providing cataloguing assistance and will curate the finds.

D'Entrecasteaux garden survey and management. Sites relating to the French expedition of 1792-3 have been located on North West Peninsula in Recherche Bay. The area is privately owned and is planned for some timber harvesting. The fact that a number of sites with historic values were either known or likely to be found led to a 100 m buffer zone being excluded from the harvest area along the coastline. A local residents group undertook further research to locate the garden planted in 1792 and have found evidence on the ground that appears to

correlate with this feature. This site was located within the buffer around the coast which has now been extended further to maximise protection from harvesting. The main pressure on these sites is from the recent publicity and subsequent uncontrolled visitation.

Denise Gaughwin

Port Arthur Historic Site

The dust has barely settled, but preliminary indications are that the 2003 archaeology summer program at Port Arthur has been successful in achieving its major aims. The works involved investigating a collapsed retaining wall at the Point Puer workshops, completing the test trenching at the keeper's house at the Separate Prison commenced in 2002 and commencing archaeological investigations of the Penitentiary ablutions block and adjacent industrial workshops. Approximately 30 volunteers from across the nation took up trowels over the six week dig, and if the amount of alcohol consumed is any indication had fun into the bargain. The trenching coincided with more geophysical remote sensing by PhD student Fiona Links at the penitentiary workshops site and Isle of the Dead cemetery. The data collection was assisted greatly by Martin Gibbs and David Roe from JCU, who provided a new GPR (ground penetrating radar) courtesy of a fledgling collaborative research agreement. The findings were presented at the recent

ASEG Society of Exploration Geophysicists. The works coincided with a public archaeology program, led by Tim Owen and Jody Steele, which comprised twice daily tours of the diggings, as well as their own hands-on public dig at the convict sawpits. A museum display and updated Port Arthur Archaeology web site outlining the findings of the 2003 summer program is also being finalised, and should be available at:

<http://www.portarthur.org.au/archaeology/index.htm>.

Greg Jackman

Congratulations Dr Cahuna. A little bird has related that archaeologist and historian Andrew Piper has recently been awarded a PhD in history from the University of Tasmania on the subject of 19th century institutional care in Tasmania. His thesis "Beyond the Convict System: The Aged Poor and Institutionalisation in Colonial Tasmania" promises to be fascinating reading and a worthy contribution to the literature on the subject. Dr Piper and his partner Lynnette Ross continue to be involved in archaeological and historical research consultancy projects in the north of the State.

Compiled by Greg Jackman

PAHSMA

NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWS

No report for this Newsletter – Clayton Frederickson gently reminds us that not much historical archaeology is done in the Top End during the wet season.

NORTH AMERICAN NEWS

SHA 2003 Conference Report

Your intrepid guest editor made the long trip to the east coast of the USA this past January in order to attend the 2003 conference of the Society for Historical Archaeology in Providence, Rhode Island. The average SHA conference is on a very different scale from your typical Australasian or British historical/post-medieval archaeology conference, with up to 13 concurrent sessions taking place at any one time. However, it's worth noting that the quality of papers is often highly uneven – a paper of coruscating insight and brilliance is, as often as not, followed by one of the dreariest presentations you're ever likely to hear on either side of the Pacific.

Frequent session-hopping is almost inevitable under the circumstances, and it's quite rare to find yourself sitting in a single session for the duration. The book room is a definite highlight, with a wide range of often difficult to find volumes on sale. Another significant difference with Australasian archaeology conferences is the cost, with the official conference hotel costing about AUS\$140 a night, and the conference banquet costing AUS\$90 (never mind the receptions).

My own paper was titled "A Road Less Travelled? British-made American-market Ceramics in 19th-Century Australia", which is probably self descriptive enough a title that little elaboration is required here. The paper was presented in a session titled "Over Land, Over Sea: Trade in the Colonial Period", chaired and organised by Mechelle L. Kerns- Nocerito.

As far as I'm aware, I was the only Australia- or New Zealand-based delegate actually at the conference (I know a lot of people have been saving up for WAC). Susan Piddock, however, wrote a paper that was presented by proxy titled "A Space of Their Own: Nineteenth-Century Lunatic Asylums in Australia". This paper was in a session titled "Fewer Possessions than Regulations; the Archaeology of Institutional Life", chaired and organised by April Belshaw and James Gibb. A complete conference programme (including abstracts) may be found online (and downloaded) at: http://www.palinc.com/sha_program.htm

Realistically, very few of the papers at the conference directly impacted Australasia, though many (far too many to list individually) would undoubtedly be of interest in providing comparative data or theoretical and methodological perspectives for our work. Nonetheless, while the international element of the conference has undoubtedly expanded since I first started attending in 1995 (with Ireland, the UK, Portugal, Africa and, yes, Australia all represented this time), there's no point in trying to hide the fact that the SHAs are still for the most part an insular North American meeting with a bit of an international veneer. Frankly speaking, I doubt I would have made the 30 hour trip if I didn't have family in the eastern USA. But then, there's always the networking opportunities, to whit....

SHA Newsletter

Allow a Canadian to buy you a drink, and look what happens: The Society for Historical Archaeology has a new newsletter liaison for Australia and New Zealand. News may be sent to: Alasdair Brooks, a.brooks@latrobe.edu.au. Deadlines for news are every three months: January 10 for the Spring Newsletter

April 10 for the Summer Newsletter; July 10 for the Autumn Newsletter; October 10 for the Winter Newsletter. For all its undoubted emphasis on North America, the S HA is the world's largest historical archaeology organisation, so this is an excellent opportunity to pass on your news to an international audience. Sending your news to me voluntarily will also save you from having me hound you via e-mail.

WAC – Special opportunities for Australians and New Zealanders

The following organisations and individuals are willing to offer additional research and tour opportunities to Australians and New Zealanders visiting the USA for WAC 5:

The Alexandria (Virginia) office of leading American consultancy firm John Milner Associates (JMA) are willing to make their extensive collection of grey literature reports available to Australasian researchers attending WAC. This literature collection encompasses not just historical archaeology reports by JMA, but several other consultancy firms as well. JMA's collection is particularly rich in (though by no means restricted to) urban reports. Alexandria is just across the Potomac River from Washington. For more information, contact Dr. Charles Cheek, ccheek@johnmilnerassociates.com.

The Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory (MAC Lab) is willing to offer free tours to any Australasian attendees who are able to make the 45 minute trip (by car) from Washington. The MAC Lab is a state-of-the-art archaeological research, conservation, and collections storage facility located at the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum in southern Maryland. Nearly 4 million artefacts are curated at the MAC Lab. Almost all of these collections were recovered from archaeological sites in Maryland and represent a priceless part of the State's rich heritage. For more information, contact Dr. Julia King, King@dhcd.state.md.us. See also their web page at: <http://www.jefpat.org/3arch-maclab.htm>

Dr. Diana Wall of the City University of New York has kindly offered to chat about historical archaeology in New York to any Australasian WAC attendees who are planning to travel to that city while in the USA. For more information, contact Dr. Wall at DDIZW@aol.com. If more than a couple of Australians or New Zealanders are planning on travelling to New York, Dr. Wall has asked that travel be coordinated as a group if at all possible. It should be stressed that the above are entirely unofficial opportunities in no manner attached to the formal WAC programme. When I was in Providence, I simply asked the above individuals if they'd be willing to help; Julie King can also regale you with stories of what I was like as a callow 18 year old undergraduate...

Alasdair Brooks

ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

CALL FOR PAPERS:

The Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology (ASHA) and The Australian Association for Maritime History (AAMH) ISLANDS AND COASTLINES CONFERENCE, Norfolk Island, 1-5 Oct 2003.

Norfolk Island is located in the Pacific Ocean east of Australia and north of New Zealand. It is famous as the place where the descendants of the Bounty mutiny settled. Norfolk Island has significant convict related heritage sites at Kingston and the Norfolk Island website is located at:

<http://www.norfolkisland.com.au/index2.html>

The Conference theme will focus on aspects of the maritime history and historical archaeology of island and coastal communities. The theme however takes an inter-disciplinary perspective and encourages participants to consider island and coastal communities as well as the role of the sea in human history in the widest sense. We also hope to have sessions that combine both maritime history and historical archaeology on topics such as island communities, ports and harbours, coastal defences, fishing, sealing and whaling.

Intending participants are encouraged to consider submitting their papers for publication in one of the two fully refereed journals The Great Circle (maritime history) or Australasian Historical Archaeology (historical archaeology). Proposals for sessions or individual papers should be sent to the Program Convenor at the address below by 30 June 2003.

Dr Mark Staniforth

Program Convenor Islands and Coastlines Conference

email mark.staniforth@flinders.edu.au

fax 618 8201 3845

phone 618 8201 5195

CALL FOR PAPERS:

CHAT 2003 - CONTEMPORARY AND HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY IN THEORY BRISTOL UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGY DEPARTMENT (UK)
FRIDAY 21-SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2003

<http://www.bris.ac.uk/Depts/Archaeology/events/chat.html>

Historical archaeology in the UK has seen increasing theoretical engagement in recent years. A diversity of theoretical perspectives has developed in this increasingly vibrant and exciting area of study, testing disciplinary boundaries: especially with history, social anthropology and material culture studies. Similarly, those working in 'contemporary archaeology' - including museums, professional archaeology and the media have developed significant and

distinctive bodies of theoretical practice, most notably in the study of collecting, the relationships between heritage, politics and identity, and the presentation and field practice of archaeology.

The CHAT Standing Committee has established this new archaeology conference group - Contemporary and Historical Archaeology in Theory (CHAT) to provide an opportunity for dialogue to develop among researchers in these fields: especially postgraduate researchers, junior academics and museums and archaeological professionals.

CHAT 2003 takes place between Friday 21 and Sunday 23 November 2003 at Bristol University Archaeology Department. The 2003 conference is convened by Dan Hicks (Department of Archaeology, University of Bristol) and Angela Piccini (Department of Drama: Theatre, Film, Television, University of Bristol).

Papers are invited for the 2003 conference on the theme of "Encounters between Past and Present". Abstracts of around 200 words should be sent by email to Dan.Hicks@bris.ac.uk. Papers are invited for three sessions:

- Archaeology as Political Action
- The Archaeology of Colonial and Post Colonial Worlds
- Archaeology and Popular Culture

Attendance fees for CHAT 2003 are £20, including a wine reception and field trip/boat trip. Full conference details and registration forms are online at

<http://www.bris.ac.uk/Depts/Archaeology/events/chat.html>

Further details from:

Dr Dan Hicks

Teaching Fellow

Department of Archaeology, University of Bristol

email: Dan.Hicks@bris.ac.uk

tel: 44 (0)117 954 6060

Dr Angela Piccini

Research Associate

Department of Drama: Theatre, Film Television,
University of Bristol)

email: A.A.Piccini@bris.ac.uk

CHAT Standing Committee Members:

Professor David Austin (*Department of Archaeology, University of Lampeter, Wales*)

Professor Mary Beaudry (*Department of Archaeology, University of Boston, USA*)

Bill Bevan (*Peak District National Park Authority*)

Dr Dan Hicks (*Department of Archaeology, University of Bristol*)

Dr Mark Horton (*Department of Archaeology, University of Bristol*)

Professor Matthew Johnson (*Department of Archaeology, University of Durham*)

Dr Tadgh O'Keefe (*University College Dublin, Ireland*)

Dr Angela Piccini (*Department of Drama: Theatre,
Film, Television, University of Bristol*)

NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK

National Archaeology Week (NAW) is an initiative of archaeologists across Australia and has received support from a broad range of government agencies, private individuals, corporate sponsors, archaeological consultants, cultural institutions and universities across Australia. The objective of the week is to introduce the broader public to archaeology as it is practiced in Australia and abroad. A further objective is to help encourage the protection of Australia's unique archaeological heritage.

Although the first NAW was intended to be a low key pilot, in a number of states the program has quite literally taken off. The ACT has over 20 events planned for the week, while Qld and Vic have around a dozen or so each. It was initially envisaged that the events would be largely restricted to metropolitan areas, however, Central Qld and SW NSW have actively thrown together exciting programs in their regions.

Events range from public lectures, mock excavations, open days at sites, forensic anthropology workshops, historic ship wreck tours and radio programs. Details of events in various states will soon be accessible on the web site:

www.archaeologyweek.com

There are contact people for most states so please feel free to contact Michael Westaway at the National Museum (m.westaway@nma.gov.au) who will then put you in contact with the relevant state representatives.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION:

The Annual General Meeting in Townsville confirmed that future issues of the ASHA Newsletter would be distributed via email only. To ensure that all members continue to receive their Newsletters it is imperative that the Secretary is informed if/when your e mail address changes.

The meeting recognised that some members of the Association do not have email and Rick McGovern- Wilson has offered to print and send hard copies of the Newsletter to those people who identify themselves as wishing to receive the Newsletter in that format. Can you please contact him via the details on the last page so that he can add your name to the list.

FORTHCOMING NEWSLETTERS

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

The 2003 guest editors are:

This issue: Alasdair Brooks

email: a.brooks@latrobe.edu.au

June Anne McConnell

email: annemc@adelaide.on.net

September Martin Gibbs

Email: martin.gibbs@jcu.edu.au

December Rick McGovern-Wilson:

email: rmcgwilson@historic.org.nz

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.

Ross Gam

General Editor

ASHA Newsletter

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Tamworth NSW 2340

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MEMBERSHIP FORM

ASHA membership is based on the calendar year, i.e. from January-December. There are no part-year memberships. Members who join later in the year will receive all Newsletters/Journals for that year as back issues.

TO: KATRINA STANKOWSKI
AUSTRALASIAN SOCIETY FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY INC.
BOX 220 HOLME BUILDING
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY NSW 2006 ABN: 41 196 332 496

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ (hm) _____ (wk)

FAX: _____

EMAIL: _____

New Membership *Renewal of Membership (please tick one)*

Due to rising costs, ASHA is no longer able to publish a hardcopy Newsletter. Newsletters will be emailed to all members in Adobe Acrobat format (pdf). You must supply an email address to receive the Newsletter.

\$A35.00: Full Time Student / Pensioner / Unwaged (include photocopy of ID)

\$A50.00: Individual membership (Australia & NZ only)

\$A60.00: Household membership

\$A65.00: Corporate membership (Australia & NZ only)

\$A75.00: Overseas membership (excluding Australia & NZ)

\$A1000.00 Life Membership (includes copies of all in-print monographs as a gift)

NOTE: Payment must be in Australian dollars. Rates inclusive of 10% GST. I enclose Cash / Cheque / Money Order / Credit Card as payment (circle one).

Visa MasterCard Bankcard

Card No: _____ Expires: _____

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