



NEWSLETTER

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STATE OF THE ART

ACT NEWS

Compiled by Richard Morrison

HERITAGE DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND WATER RESOURCES (DEW)

National Cultural Heritage Forum (NCHF) - The NCHF, a non-government body of cultural heritage organisations formed to advise the DEW Minister, met with both Minister Turnbull and separately with Assistant Minister Cobb, 9-10 August 2007. ASHA, as a member of NCHF, was represented by Dr Tracy Ireland. This was an especially important meeting in the lead-up to an Australian Government election. The meeting included DEW briefings and discussion with the Ministers.

Matters discussed/presented included: NCHF heritage funding proposals (climate change response package, heritage care proposal, and heritage education initiatives), the World Heritage Tentative List, underwater cultural heritage, the National Listing process (including an outline of the 2006 amendments to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*), the status of Co-operative National Heritage Agenda projects (being undertaken under the auspices of the Environment Protection and Heritage (Ministers) Council), an update on National Heritage System communications, the Australian Government response to the Productivity Commission Inquiry on the 'Conservation of Australia's Heritage Places' (reported 2006), the reform of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984*, and a presentation on the Australian Government's new 'Working on Country' programme.

Also, whilst in Canberra representatives of the NCHF were to meet with non-Government politicians.

National Heritage List (NHL) additions – recent listings that may be of interest to readers include a group of eight convict-related places (NSW - Old Government House and the Government Domain, Hyde Park Barracks, Cockatoo Island, and the Old Great North Road Precinct; Tas - The Cascades Female Factory, Darlington Probation Station, and the Coal Mines Historic Site; and Norfolk Island - Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area (KAVHA)) and also the Wave Hill Walk-off Route. The convict places join other important convict sites (eg Port Arthur and Fremantle Prison) already on the NHL. For more information go to www.heritage.gov.au.

List of Overseas Places of Historic Significance to Australia (LOPHSA) – Anzac Cove, Kokoda Track and Howard Florey's laboratory were recently placed on the new LOPHSA to formally and symbolically recognise overseas places of remarkable historic significance to Australia. The new list will have high thresholds of inclusion and only comprise the most significant places of historical value to Australia. For more information go to www.heritage.gov.au.

Richard Morrison

GODDEN MACKAY LOGAN, HERITAGE CONSULTANTS (ACT)

Lake Burley Griffin and Adjacent Lands Heritage Management Plan - Godden Mackay Logan's Canberra team is soon to complete their long term study and preparation of a Heritage Management Plan for Lake Burley Griffin and Adjacent Lands, in the Central National Area of Canberra, for the National Capital Authority. The study team, lead by Dr Tracy Ireland, approached Lake Burley Griffin as a layered cultural landscape, and has combined specialist analyses of the environmental, Indigenous, historic and landscape architectural aspects of this unique cultural landscape. The Lake plays a key design and symbolic function in Walter Burley Griffin's and Marion Mahoney Griffin's design for Canberra, and its later Modernist re-interpretation in its period of construction in the 1960s. A feature of the study has been the use of GIS mapping and modelling to assist in the visual analysis of the landscape and to reconstruct the pre-lake landscape, looking at its original natural vegetation and habitats, its use by Aboriginal people and the location of artefact sites and ceremonial places recorded in early historic accounts of the Canberra region.

The study has also included an extensive community consultation program, including a 'drop in' feedback session last Monday 13 August at 'Chimes' at the top of the Carillon—with stunning views over the study area! The GML team includes Navin Officer (Indigenous heritage) Griffin Associates Environment (natural heritage) and Context (social and aesthetic values). The project is due for completion in September, 2007.



3D aerial photo looking towards the North West at Lake Burley Griffin, with Parliament House in the foreground and Black Mountain rising to the North.

Tracy Ireland

NSW NEWS

Compiled by Tim Owen

ARGYLE STORES - HYDRAULIC WHIP CONSERVATION

The historic hydraulic whip in the courtyard of the Argyle Stores in The Rocks, Sydney is currently undergoing conservation works in Auburn under the direction of the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority (SHFA). The whip was removed from the wall on Wednesday 8 August and should be back in place by mid September.

Between 1860 and 1865 Isaac Ellis Ives was manager of the Argyle Bonded and Free stores for messrs. Tooth, Mort and Croft. In May 1865 Isaac moved into the Argyle Bond Stores and lived there with his family whilst managing the stores for J.S. Mitchell. However, it was in 1876 that he purchased the stores and began to expand their capacity. Part of this expansion involved the demolition of most of the South wing and the construction of a new wing, c.1878.

The Whip, made by Tannett Walker of Leeds (UK), was installed on the building c.1885. The pump and accumulator, and the gas engine to power them, were located in the basement of the south wing.

It is significant to note that Isaac Ellis Ives was Mayor of Sydney from 1897-1898 and that he died in 1906.

The Whip was used by the storemen to lift goods from horse drawn drays, and later motor trucks, to one of the three levels within the stores complex. It was also used to lower goods from the upper levels to the ground.

Initial conjecture was that the power source for the Whip was high pressure water from the Sydney and Suburban Hydraulic Power Company (1888 – 1975). However, an article in the Lend Lease publication *The Link*, September-October, 1968 included a picture showing the in-situ gas engine, pump and accumulator used to supply the Argyle Stores hydraulic power.

In the late C19th hydraulic systems were common sources of power. The first large public power installation was at Hull in 1876, then London in 1884. The fourth public system was built in Melbourne (1889) with the Sydney system following in 1890. The advantage of reticulated hydraulic power systems was increased efficiency and less pollution from a lot of small individual steam plants.

Smaller industries installed in-house stand-alone systems for their own lifts, whips and wool presses such as in the Argyle stores.

Some other hydraulic systems identified as operating in central Sydney were located at:

1. Pier St. - Sydney Hydraulic Power Co,
2. Walsh Bay,
3. Garden Island,
4. Cockatoo Island,
5. Eveleigh Railway Workshops,

and some remnants of each of these remain today.

Anyone with information relating to the extant remains of hydraulic power in Sydney, or who worked with hydraulic power is invited to contact the author with details as I have, over the past couple of years, been trying to document this information.

Please contact:

John Gibson
PO Box 553
Balgowlah 2093

John Gibson

HERITAGE CONCEPTS PTY LTD NEWS – SYDNEY NSW

Lori Sciusco and Charles Parkinson are pleased to announce that Sterling Smith has joined the company in the role of senior consultant. Sterling's experience in maritime and terrestrial archaeology will be put to good use across the wide variety of projects undertaken by Heritage Concepts. In addition to the standard workload of archaeological assessments and excavations, he will also be involved in mentoring recently appointed trainee archaeologists Nicki Nolan and Darran Jordan.

Staff at Heritage Concepts have recently completed a long term project involving the relocation and recording of Alignment Stones along a section of Windsor Road at Rouse Hill. The Alignment Stones form an important part of this State significant road corridor and the development of an effective management strategy has ensured their survival for future generations.

As well as archaeology we have been carrying out a wide range of heritage management activities including the archival recording of Junction Reefs Dam near Mandurama. The Dam was designed and built by mining engineer Oscar Schulze in 1896 for the Lyndhurst Goldfields Company and is the only brick multiple arch buttress dam in Australia. The use of brickwork to form this type of structure is not standard practice and we are currently making enquiries overseas as it appears that it may be the only dam of its type in the world.

Charles Parkinson

GML NEWS

Former Prince Henry Hospital Site – WWII Air Raid Trenches

After four years, archaeological monitoring of ground remediation work undertaken by GML at the former Prince Henry Hospital site, Little Bay has been completed. The site is currently being redeveloped by Landcom. Monitoring exposed a series of World War II air raid trenches lining either side of Pine Avenue, the main thoroughfare of the former hospital site. The trenches were not previously identified in plans or aerial photographs of the site dating from 1930s and 1940s. However, they are likely to date to the first years of World War II when the threat of Japanese invasion was at its greatest.

The trenches were horseshoe-shaped, with access to the trenches from both ends, and measured up to 12 m in diameter. The walls of the trenches sloped inwards to a base width of c600 mm, while their height was preserved up to 1.3 m. They were constructed

using sandbag 'bricks' made of the natural sand of the site mixed with a consolidant, probably cement, and reinforced with metal rods. No fabric of the bagging survived.

Although the design of the trenches recalls examples of gun emplacements from this period, they are unlikely to have been such features given their location within a hospital's grounds. They are more likely to have been air raid trenches, although they may have been designed principally with an eye to protection from shrapnel from artillery bombardment by naval vessels attempting to knock out the nearby Cape Banks or Malabar Batteries, rather than air raids alone.



Ashton House: Elizabeth Bay

A GML team undertook archaeological investigations at Ashton on Elizabeth Bay Road preparatory to the redevelopment of the site by Southern Cross Group (International) Pty Ltd. Ashton is a grand late nineteenth century house designed by architect Thomas Rowe and built in the early 1870s. The house and gardens had been subject to various phases of alteration throughout the life of the estate, and had fallen into a state of partial restoration and partial disrepair. Archaeological excavation was carried out in the front and upper rear garden and the lower Esplanade Cottage area (once occupied by Ashton's stables), as well as in sub-floor areas of the house itself.

Excavations in the area of the front garden were directed principally towards exposing evidence of the original and early garden layouts. Although the nineteenth century plans of the site do not record any turning circle in front of the house, excavation exposed the remains of Ashton's original turning circle. An approximately 10m stretch of the southern curve of the circle survived sloping from the gate to the original entrance of the house.

Doonside Residential Parcel, Western Sydney Parklands Conservation Management Plan

The northeast section of the Bungarribee Homestead Complex and farm estate, listed on the NSW State Heritage Register as an archaeological site, forms part of the Doonside Parcel. GML prepared a CMP to inform Concept Plans for the residential redevelopment of the Doonside Parcel by Landcom and to guide the conservation and interpretation of the archaeological remains and surviving landscape elements of the former Bungarribee House and its surrounding estate.

Several substantial brick built outbuildings were associated with the house from c1828 (including barracks, ham house, dairy and barn). Austral Archaeology have previously undertaken test excavations at the site, exposing the footprint of the Bungarribee Homestead and evidence of two associated outbuildings. In February 2007 a Total Field Magnetic survey was undertaken (by Alpha Geoscience) in association with archaeological test trenching to locate and identify the archaeological remains of outbuildings, landscaping and other features. This information was used to accurately define boundaries of a Core Heritage Area containing the key archaeological remains and landscape features.

Cowper Street, Parramatta

GML also recently undertook a program of archaeological monitoring at the site of 2-20 Cowper Street, Parramatta, prior to the redevelopment of the site by Crown International Holdings Group. The site was part of the late nineteenth century residential development of this area of Parramatta. The study area consisted of 10 allotments, each occupied by a single residence by the late nineteenth century. A series of brick built cisterns were exposed across the middle of the site, two of which comprised of large beehive-shaped cisterns. The cisterns appear to have been backfilled in the early to mid twentieth century following the connection of the area to the sewer and stormwater lines.

Tim Adams

NEW ZEALAND NEWS

Compiled by Rick McGovern-Wilson

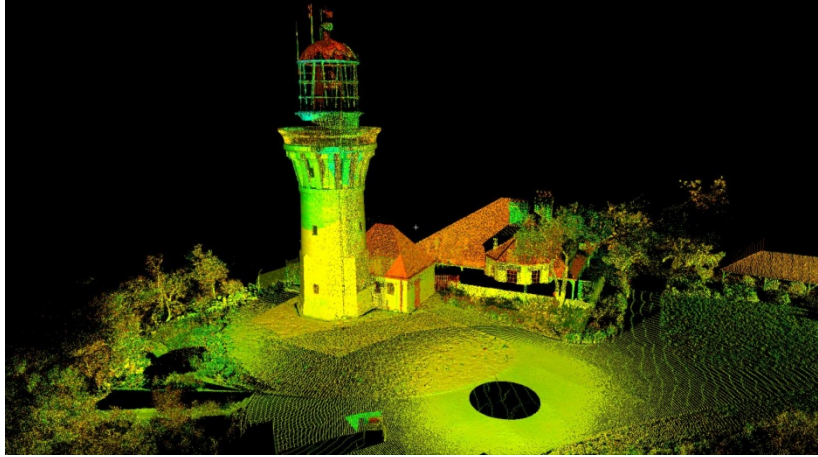
STONE STORE AND KERIKERI MISSION STATION

Geophysical and laser scan surveys were undertaken at the site of two of New Zealand's oldest buildings located in Kerikeri, Northland for the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. The Stone Store and Kerikeri Mission Station are New Zealand's oldest stone and wooden buildings respectively. Both buildings were laser scanned for archival and modelling purposes using a Leica Scanstation. Fluxgate gradiometer surveys were also undertaken in the grounds as part of the Heritage Bypass investigations. The surveys coincided with recent flooding events at Kerikeri that resulted in the evacuation of artefacts from the Mission Station as rising flood waters threatened to inundate the building. The flood on 12 July was the third 100-year flood to hit Northland this year though fortunately this time the storm was not as severe as in March. Due to the location of the road bridge at the mouth of the Kerikeri River, the flooding is a serious threat to the long-term survival of these buildings. The NZ Government is funding the construction of a bypass that will take the river crossing approximately a kilometre upstream. Once the bypass opens, the current bridge will be demolished.

BARRENJOEY LIGHTHOUSE TRACK SURVEYS

The historic Barrenjoey Lighthouse track was surveyed using a laser scanner and robotic total station prior to remedial work being undertaken on the track for HLA Envirosiences and the New South Wales Department of Environment and Conservation. The aim of the surveys was to provide an accurate and detailed account of the fabric of the track prior to

the upgrade and locate key kerb and path stones that could be reinstated in the upgraded track. The track consists of approximately 700 metres of laid stone pathway which has severely eroded over time. A photographic archive of the track was recorded along with the scan and survey data to aid feature recognition. Exterior scans were taken of the Barrenjoey Lighthouse from which architectural drawings can be extracted at a later date if required.



Rick McGovern-Wilson

NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWS

Compiled by Colin De La Rue

WWII CONFERENCE

Harking back to the March issue of our illustrious Newsletter I have to report the conference on WWII archaeology that we in the NT were considering organising is now indefinitely postponed. Some of the interested parties up here have had to divert their time and attention to family problems and other matters, besides, I am afraid that we have been given very little incentive. The previous item asked for indications of interest from members—we received three replies.

Thanks to you people who replied: your constructive interest is very much appreciated and gives us sufficient hope to keep the matter on hold rather than reject it altogether. There are still interested parties in the Top End who will be trying to keep the idea alive. Perhaps in another twelve months or so the matter can be raised again.

DE HAVILLAND MOSQUITO CRASH SITE

However, relics of WWII will continue to receive some attention. A property owner near Darwin has asked for help in recording and preserving an aircraft wreck on his land. Colin De La Rue and Julie Mastin are undertaking the task, which has involved developing models for display and interpretation.

This investigation is proving interesting. The plane, a De Havilland Mosquito crashed on take-off very late in the war. Some parts were salvaged from it, but when news of Victory in the Pacific reached the airfield, a celebratory bonfire was built and the Mosquito hoisted on top.

The site remained essentially untouched after the war (apart from becoming a favoured resting-place for a local mob of buffalo). Because of this we can expect at least a significant number of the metal parts, the Mosquito was built largely of wood, to be lying in the correct relative positions, which should aid identification.

The project so far has required some careful assessment of excavation and recording needs due to the very large numbers of small fittings surviving in the soil. It is, as far we know, the first terrestrial excavation of an aircraft wreck in the Territory, so we do not have much precedent to work from and are taking some care to “get it right”.

Colin De La Rue

SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWS

No response to request for news this issue

VICTORIA NEWS

No response to request for news this issue

WESTERN AUSTRALIA NEWS

Compiled by Shane Burke

DISCOVERY OF THE FIRST SOUTHAMPTON HOMESTEAD

In late June a team of archaeology students from the University of Notre Dame Australia, Fremantle and the University of Western Australia uncovered a homestead in the Western Australia south west. The students spent three days at the 1859 dated Southampton Homestead site on the Blackwood River south of Balingup conducting an archaeological investigation on what is thought to be original home of Richard Jones – one of the first settlers of the Balingup region.

The property comprises two homestead sites. The first built in 1859 was later demolished at an unknown date, while the second, extant homestead – comprising nine rooms of hand-made fired brick and hand-sawn timber – was built in 1862. The team’s main objective was to find the first homestead’s site and other property use. Within three-days the team made discoveries, finding the site of the original 1859 homestead. The structure was wattle and daub with brick hearths, while melted glass fragments, charred ceramic and a mould of the

timber floorboards baked into the surround clay soil (Figure 1) was strong evidence for suggesting the structure's destruction by fire.

It was also established that there were seven original buildings on the property, including archaeological evidence suggesting that some sites contained more than one structure over time. Plans are being made to revisit the site in November to continue the research, including work on a nearby flourmill site. During this visit, the archaeologists will identify more about structure location and construction detail, as well as continuing the gathering of data allowing a glimpse into life of people who lived at the picturesque but isolated site overlooking the Blackwood River during the last 148 years.



Figure 1. The end of unit 2 square S11 showing fired clay with floorboard moulds (A), low-fired brick (B) and charcoal remains of a flooring joist (C) from the site of the 1859 dated Southampton Homestead (Meath 2007)

Shane Burke

OTHER WA NEWS

In October 2007 Corioli Souter was awarded her MA thesis titled "Archaeology of the Iron Barque Sepia-An investigation of Cargo Assemblages". Corioli is a curator in the Department of Maritime Archaeology at the Western Australian Museum.

Thesis Abstract

The Western Australian Museum houses a large collection of artefacts from late nineteenth century iron sailing vessels, wrecked en route from Britain. The bulk of this collection comprises cargo objects, destined for sale in the Swan River colony. The protection

afforded artefacts, due to the integrity of these shipwrecks, presents new research opportunities for identifying particular classes of commodities which were considered either necessary or desirable for colonial consumers.

This thesis examines the notion of material consumption as reflected in shipwreck assemblages in Western Australia for the later nineteenth century, prior to Federation.

The research is concerned with the notion of cultural continuity from Britain through specific product selection, as demonstrated by the archaeological assemblages of iron barques importing general merchandise into the colony. Focusing on the Sepia (1898), the objectives include an appraisal of shipwreck cargo artefacts and their applicability to questions relating to consumer behaviour.

While the primary objective of this study is on the identification of cargo assemblages, it presents an opportunity to study taphonomic processes and provide a method of relating the vessel to its cargo contents in order to answer broader questions about shipping practices, with a particular focus on stowage. This research also critiques shipwreck collections comprised of selectively recovered, unprovenanced artefacts and suggests appropriate methods for using such material.

Alistair Paterson

QUEENSLAND NEWS

No response to request for news this issue

TASMANIA NEWS

Compiled by Greg Jackman

RICHMOND GAOL COURTYARD EXCAVATIONS

A team of Parks & Wildlife Service staff and Green Corps volunteers have transformed the courtyard of the Richmond Gaol from a leafy cottage garden to a stark prison courtyard. The courtyard restoration is one aspect of a significant interpretation upgrade and maintenance works for the Richmond Gaol Historic Site.

Generally, the gaol has had few modifications since the day it closed as a convict gaol complex in 1898. It was built in 1825-27, pre-dating Port Arthur by about five years and remains one of the most intact places of incarceration from the early convict period of Australia.

Over the years various plantings by a succession of occupants and caretakers had created a leafy, cottage garden environment with bitumen and brick pathways. The aim of the recent archaeological work was to help return the courtyard to its original purpose, an austere prison exercise yard.

Controlled excavation and recovery of artefacts from the site has added to the understanding of the use of the site following closure as a colonial gaol, as well as revealing many of the courtyard's original features. Removal of the vegetation and garden deposits will also help prolong the life of the sandstone gaoler's residence which has suffered from damp problems.

Work has also begun on the interpretation upgrade which will highlight the stories of the many and varied people associated with the goal, including convicts, both men and women, chain gangs, road parties, colonial architects, magistrates, district surgeon, free settlers and others.

Jody Steele

ARTEFACTS ADD TO FEMALE FACTORY STORY

Exploratory trenching on the foundations of a boundary wall of the Cascades Female Factory has revealed a collection of interesting finds. Animal bone fragments, glass marbles and fragments of clay pipes have been uncovered on the South Hobart site which operated as a women's prison from 1828 to 1856. At its peak the factory expanded to hold 1200 women and children in overcrowded conditions. Women were employed at the factory washing, sewing, carding and spinning.

The test trenching is required to gauge the depth and competence of the foundations preliminary to conserving the imposing south wall.

Funding for the project is shared by the State Government and a National Heritage Investment Initiative Grant. The Female Factory is among five Tasmanian sites included in an Australian Government convict site serial nomination for World Heritage Listing.

Jody Steele

COLLEGIATE SCHOOL MANSION

ARC TAS Pty Ltd. has recently undertaken successful test excavations at the site of a former 1830s Georgian mansion at Collegiate school, Hobart. After positive test results revealing the house, basement and nearby cesspits, the main excavation will occur shortly.

ARC Tas will also re-commence excavation work at the Menzies Centre re-development in the Hobart CBD. This will entail the excavation of a suspected cellar at 19 Liverpool Street related to an 1830s private residence and stables complex at nearby 55 Campbell Street.

Parry Kostoglou

ANNIVERSARY SYMPOSIUM 5–6 OCTOBER

This is a very significant year as we are celebrating both the 20th Anniversary of the Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority and the 30th Anniversary of Archaeology at the Port Arthur Historic Site.

In recognition of this milestone, we have put together a small program of events over 5–6 October. We hope that ASHA members with a past association with the Site will be able to join the Directors and staff of the Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority in our celebration. We also encourage anyone else who would be interested in participating.

If you are able to join us please return the Booking Form to Vicki Skeggs at the PAHSMA office by 12 September 2007. This will assist with our planning. We look forward to having your company.

PORT ARTHUR ANNIVERSARY SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM OF EVENTS

FRIDAY 5 OCTOBER

2:00 – 5:00 pm

Anniversary Symposium

Hosted by internationally respected conservation specialist and PAHSMA Deputy Chair, Professor Sharon Sullivan AO, this afternoon of presentations from people who are passionate about the Site and its stories will examine the history and achievements of the Port Arthur Historic Site. (Includes afternoon tea)

5:30 – 6:30 pm

Sunset Cocktail Cruise

Socialise with others who are passionate about our heritage as you cruise Port Arthur's harbour, departing the Port Arthur Wharf at 5.30pm sharp. Refreshments will be available on board from the bar.

7:00 pm

Anniversary Dinner

Join our host, the irrepressible Dr Barry Jones AO, Chair of PAHSMA for a delicious and enjoyable evening of stories and celebration. Our special guest will be the Hon Paula Wriedt, MHA, Minister for Tourism, Arts and Environment.

SATURDAY 6 OCTOBER

9:00 – 11:00 am

Archaeology Planning Workshop

PAHSMA Archaeologist Greg Jackman will lead a workshop to develop a new Archaeology Plan for the Port Arthur and Coal Mines Historic Sites. (Includes morning tea)

12:00 – 4:00 pm

Picnic at the Coal Mines Historic Site

Explore the Coal Mines site with some expert guides on this special tour and picnic. Management of the Coal Mines Historic Site was transferred to PAHSMA in late 2004. It is a uniquely significant example of convict industry and was the first mine in Tasmania. Coaches will depart from and return to Port Arthur and a picnic lunch is included.

For more information, please contact:

Vicki Skeggs
Conservation Department
Port Arthur Historic Site

Ph (03) 6251 2339
Facsimile (03) 6251 2322
Email vicki.skeggs@portarthur.org.au

RSVP by 12 September 2007

Greg Jackman



Anniversary Celebrations

Booking Form

Yes, I would like to attend the following activities as part of the PAHSMA Anniversary Symposium.

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Postcode _____

Phone (BH) _____ Phone (AH) _____

Mobile _____ Email _____

Name/s of others attending with you _____

Payment Cheque (enclosed) Visa Master Card AMEX

Card Number

Expiry Date / /

Card Name

Signature

Date	Time	Event Details	Cost per person	Number Attending	Subtotal
Friday 5 October	2:00 – 5:00 pm	Symposium with afternoon tea	—		
	5:30 pm	Sunset Cocktail Cruise aboard MV Marana	Drinks at bar prices		
	7:00 pm	Anniversary Dinner	\$70.00		
Saturday 6 October	9:00 am	Archaeology Workshop with morning tea	—		
	12:00 – 4:30 pm	Coal Mines Historic Site tour and picnic lunch	\$22.00		
				Total	

Please fax or post this form back to

Vicki Skeggs, Port Arthur Historic Site Port Arthur, Tas 7182

Ph: (03) 6251 2339 Fax: (03) 6251 2322

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

NEW GROUND: AUSTRALASIAN ARCHAEOLOGY CONFERENCE 2007

University of Sydney | 21–26 September 2007 | www.newground.org.au

The New Ground Conference is fast approaching. We have a line-up of just over 200 papers offered by a broad range of contributors including archaeologists from all fields, technicians, education specialists and others. There are many papers and sessions which should be of interest to ASHA members—too many to list here! See the website for paper abstracts and the full schedule of sessions.

If you haven't already registered, please do so online using the secure online form. It will be possible to register or pay on the day, but please note that only cheques or credit cards will be accepted at the registration desk. No cash facilities are available. Bookings and payment for the conference dinner must be received by the first day of the conference.

Maps of venues for the conference and associated events are available on the Overview section of the website www.newground.org.au.

ASHA AGM

The 2007 Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at the Bosch Complex, Western Avenue, University of Sydney, Sydney on Sunday 23 September 2007 at 5.15 pm.

Notices AGM were mailed out in late August. If you have recently moved or did not receive your Notice for any other reason, please contact secretary@asha.org.au for a copy of the relevant documentation.

We encourage all members who cannot attend the AGM to appoint a proxy and cast their vote. Proxy Appointment forms must be received by the Returning Officer, Neville Ritchie, 24 hours prior to the AGM (i.e. by 5.15 pm, 22 September). It is recommended that forms be posted well in advance.

AHA REVIEW EDITOR: POSITION VACANT

Alistair Paterson is standing down as the Review Editor for *Australasian Historical Archaeology*. If anyone is interested in taking on this important role please contact either Mary Casey or Alistair Paterson. The Review Editor is responsible for contacting publishers regarding recent publications of interest to the Australasian historical archaeological community, finding reviewers, and assisting in the preparation of the reviews for the journal.

SOCIETY NEWS

REPORT ON DARWIN AIMA–ASHA CONFERENCE, 2006

Last year's conference had its genesis in a proposal by Clayton Fredericksen in 2003 for a Darwin conference in 2006. Over the course of a year or so, and after much discussion on whether the meeting should be an ASHA event, a double header with AIMA, or a mega-conference with AIMA and AAA, agreement was reached on holding the conference jointly with AIMA at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT). After his

move to Canberra, Clayton's involvement with the conference was down-scaled. Fortunately Julie Mastin agreed to step in to take over the practical organisation for ASHA, while Silvano Jung handled things from the AIMA side. Julie and Silvano took time out from their post-graduate studies at Charles Darwin University to undertake the substantial task of conference organisation, with Clayton Fredericksen and Aidan Ash offering long distance support.

And so, after months of planning and the generous assistance of many people from Darwin, MAGNT, AIMA and ASHA, the conference came to fruition. The museum, overlooking Darwin Harbour, provided an ideal venue. The conference theme - "Land, Sea and Air – Australasian Archaeology from 1606-2006" - attracted 31 papers on a diverse range of topics. These were grouped into seven themes – Management of Maritime and Historical Heritage, The Archaeology of Isolation, Narrating the Past, Historical Archaeologies of the Individual and Community, Archaeological Perspectives of Air War and Space Exploration, Studies in Historical and Maritime Archaeology, and Scientific Methods in Historical and Maritime Archaeology. The conference, which ran from 14th to 18th September, began with a Larrakeyah welcome to country, introductions by the Presidents of ASHA and AIMA, and the keynote talk by Robert Parthesius of the Amsterdams Historisch Museum. On the evening of the first day conference participants attended a formal reception at Government House, hosted by the Northern Territory Administrator, the Hon. Ted Egan A.O.

The conference provided much food for thought, including (perhaps for the first time in Australia) a formal session on the developing area of aviation archaeology, and papers on new developments in geophysical techniques and 3D computer-aided visualisation. A poster session was held on the third evening. Formal presentations were augmented by four field trips – a diving trip to the wreck of the *Booya*; a boat trip to a WWII Catalina wreck; an excursion to view the highlights of Darwin's historical precinct; and a day trip to the historic Coomalie wartime airstrip inland of Darwin. The ASHA AGM was held at the Museum on the second day of the conference. On the evening of the third day the La Beach restaurant provided the venue for the Conference Dinner. Here Susan Lawrence conferred Honorary Life Membership of ASHA on Graham Connah for his dedication, contribution and hard work over many years.

Other awards were made. The following were presented with prizes for, what were judged, by anonymous vote of the conference participants, to be especially outstanding papers/posters:

- Best Student Paper: Wendy van Duivenvoorde, from the WA Maritime Museum, Fremantle. 'From Batavia onwards: New Light on Dutch shipbuilding practices'.
- Best Paper: Oldrich Sadilech, Nagle College, Bairnsdale. 'Archaeology an Elective Program in Australian Schools'.
- Best Poster: Silvano Jung, Charles Darwin University. Darwin.
- Student Travel Bursary: Samantha Bolton, University of Western Australia.

Judging by informal feedback from ASHA participants, everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Their attendance, plus the efforts of presenters and the numerous people who gave up their time to help, made the 2006 conference a great success.

Clayton Fredericksen and Julie Mastin

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FORTHCOMING NEWSLETTERS

The ASHA Newsletter is produced quarterly with the assistance of guest editors. The 2006–2007 guest editor for this issue was Clayton Frederickson (email: clayton.frederickson@gmail.com).

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
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