

# NEWSLETTER

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Secretary [jodyvs@senet.com.au](mailto:jodyvs@senet.com.au)  
PO Box 220 Holme Building  
University of Sydney 2006  
Website [www.asha.org.au](http://www.asha.org.au)

## STATE OF THE ART

### ACT NEWS

#### **Heritage Division, Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH)**

At the time of writing, and since the beginning of 2004 when the heritage amendments to the *Environment and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* came into force, about 120 nominations for the National and Commonwealth Heritage Lists, including Emergency Nominations, have been received. Most of these, about 80, have related to the historic environment. A number of these latter, about 10% have obvious, identified historical archaeological interest. Should members wish to see what has been nominated or listed they can search the Australian Heritage Database at <http://www.deh.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl>.

#### **ACT Heritage Unit**

The new *ACT Heritage Act 2004* commences from 9 March 2005. A new Heritage Council is being appointed consistent with the new Act. Conservation Guidelines for Aboriginal and Historic Places are under development and will be Disallowable Instruments.

*Richard Morrison*

### QUEENSLAND NEWS

#### **Mill Point**

In February 2005, a second season of fieldwork was undertaken at Mill Point - the site of one of the earliest timber settlements in Queensland. This work was a continuation of survey work undertaken in 2004 by a team of staff and volunteers from the University of Queensland, the Environmental Protection Agency and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. The 2005 field season focused on two main objectives: the completion of a broad scale survey to firmly establish the spatial spread of major features at the site complex, and more detailed surveying in a targeted area. The broader feature survey included the tramway, fencelines and extremities of the jetty structures, together with an attempt to find the site of the schoolhouse, (documented in local oral histories). As part of this work, detailed topographical surveys were undertaken in order to establish the extent of the current shoreline. This was done with a view to establishing rates of shoreline erosion, particularly

around the mill area itself. Erosion is suspected as photographic evidence appears to show areas of industrial activity that are now inundated by the lake.

Detailed surface artefact recording was undertaken in two 25m x 25m grid squares situated approximately 250m inland from the lakeshore and the industrial area, in a location hypothesised as being a settlement area. The two grid squares yielded over 1,600 artefacts, consisting of glass, ceramics and small amounts of metal. The material was largely fragmented and widely dispersed across the squares. Analysis will be undertaken through the year on the material to establish spatial patterning. As in 2004, we also took the chance to include some public outreach, holding an open day in each week and also hosting visits by two local schools. The progress of the 2005 field season can be seen at <http://www.atsis.uq.edu.au/millpoint>

Further to the fieldwork in February, the nomination of Mill Point to the Queensland Heritage Register was accepted. The site is also now the subject of two APA-funded PhD projects at the University of Queensland. Investigations at the site will be continuing through the year, with further survey work, some sub-surface investigations and the collection of oral histories in the Noosa area. At the end of 2005, a detailed plan will be established for the 2006 field season, informed by analysis and work through 2005.

*Sean Ulm & Jon Prangnell*

## **NEW SOUTH WALES NEWS**

### **News from the Heritage Office**

The Strategic Archaeology Review commenced in 2004 is still in progress. Initial suggestions and recommendations provided by consultant Dr Tracy Ireland in early 2005 are being considered by the Heritage Office.

Observant historical archaeologists who have been issued Section 140 Permits may have noticed two recent changes to the conditions of consent:

- (1) Excavation Permits are now valid for five (5) years from the date of approval. This change was made to bring S140 approvals in line with other approvals such as those issued under Section 60 of the Heritage Act and the DA consents issued by local government; and
- (2) Summaries of the results of the fieldwork will be requested within one (1) month of completion of archaeological fieldwork. It is intended that this summary will provide the Heritage Office and community with basic information about the results of the archaeological fieldwork, until a Final Excavation Report is received.

Changes have also been made to the Excavation Permit approval letter, which now requests the Applicant to provide information on economic aspects of the proposal. This information will assist the Heritage Council of NSW in determining the economic role of heritage in development in NSW.

The archaeologists in the Heritage Office are also working on the development of a revised form, "Application Under Section 140 for an Archaeological Excavation Permit" and checklist. The new format will assist with the provision of the essential information needed for the permit reporting process and also aims to facilitate a possible future move to on-line

lodgement of statutory applications. The purpose of these changes is to help streamline and standardise how applications are received, assessed and processed by the Heritage Office. Major sites the Office has been working on in recent months, include:

- An Excavation Permit has been issued for a site at the cnr of Marsden, Macquarie and Hunter Sts, Parramatta;
- Parramatta Hospital where a major redevelopment is proposed and the archaeology of the site is included in the State Heritage Register;
- Fitzroy Iron Works, Mittagong; and
- Pre-DA advice for a site in George St., Parramatta where the Heritage Office is looking to achieve in-situ conservation of convict huts.

The Office continues to work with developers and archaeologists in the interpretation of the archaeological remains at several sites, such as Glebe Incinerator, Sydney; KENS site, Sydney; O'Connell Street, Parramatta and 25 Smith Street, Parramatta.

*Siobhan Lavelle*

## **Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority**

### *The Rocks "Heritage Centre"*

The archaeological excavation in the Sydney Visitor Centre, opened in 1994, has been dismantled in preparation for a move to a new location in Kendall Lane, The Rocks, opening around October. The new location will be in the 1840s "Coachhouse", a three-storey sandstone warehouse originally constructed to serve the Unwins Stores, a row of stone shops and offices fronting George Street.

The Rocks is considered a living, commercial centre rather than a heritage theme park, and thus it conserves evidence of its past development in the historic fabric of the hundred or so buildings and sites that comprise it. The new exhibition is not intended as a "museum", but will serve as a place for visitors and researchers to interface between the sites outside the centre, and the enormous resource of historical photos, documents, maps, plans and archaeological artefacts that has accumulated over the past 35 years. Central to this collection are more than 1.5 million artefacts from the large urban excavations at Lilyvale (1989) and Cumberland/ Gloucester Sts (1994). SHFA's education unit, Learning Adventures, conducts a number of archaeology-based teaching modules and is actively involved in the design of the new centre. It is expected that the new centre will open in two stages, the first being a traditional static display of historical aspects of the precinct, interweaving historical evidence against archaeological evidence. The second stage will integrate audio-visual and computer-based activities to guide the visitor through research material.

### *Cumberland/ Gloucester Sts Archaeological Site*

In February-March a team of volunteers from Sydney University and the City of Sydney Historical Association worked under the direction of Helen Nicholson and Karyn McLeod to "clean up" the Cu/Gl site. Since its excavation by GML in 1994 the site has lain dormant, utilised by SHFA and Historic Houses Trust for education programs and occasional public open days. The "clean-up" is a detailed re-excavation of areas which have become silted over or obscured by weeds. It is gratifying to note that in the past 10 years of exposure the site has undergone minimal degradation.

The Cu/GI site was the subject of one of the most comprehensive urban excavations, uncovering the remains of over 30 houses, shops and pubs with remains identified dating back to the 1790s. The site was demolished in the early years of the 1900s and has essentially been an open site ever since. Of the two laneways crossing the site, Cribbs Lane (created by 1808) had been asphalted around 1900. In the recent work a section of this asphalt was removed to expose sandstone paving in a remarkable state of preservation.

The exercise has given students an opportunity to learn archaeological excavation and recording methodology during the summer holidays. SHFA is committed to the preservation of the site, and is investigating means of incorporating the remains into a possible new development on part of the site. The site is the subject of Grace Karskens book, *Inside The Rocks: Archaeology of a Neighbourhood* (Hale & Iremonger, 1999).

#### *Darling Island Interpretation, Stage I*

Darling Island, joined to the surrounding Pyrmont since 1836, is currently the subject of a large-scale urban renewal project. Situated in Darling Harbour it had been the site of ship building activities from 1849-1895 by the Australasian Steam Navigation Company. It was here in 1863 that the gunboat *Pioneer* was built for the New Zealand wars, a gun turret of which is preserved in a park in Ngaruawahia (NZ).

During excavation works in 2002 two large iron propellers were unearthed which have been conserved and incorporated into on-site installations with interpretation panels providing historical text and illustrations. Some six new streets on the island and two parks have been named in commemoration of aspects of the site's history whilst the styles and placement of new buildings also reflect the historical development of the island.

Extensive quarrying from 1895 removed much of the evidence of the slipway (1855) and building remains. Pyrmont Wharves 12 & 13, and the Royal Edward Victualling Yard, were subsequently built on the site which was heavily utilised for troop departures during WWII, and immigrant arrival after the war. All phases of the site's history are included in the interpretation panels erected on site, or proposed for Stage II (2005).

#### *Ballast Point Oil Storage Facility*

Commenced in 1929 the Caltex oil storage facility at Ballast Point, Balmain, has been purchased by the NSW Government to be redeveloped as public open space. Whilst an industrial archaeological report by Dr Aedeon Cremin and Roger Parris identified industrial elements such as 1929 storage tanks and other elements that could be retained, public exhibition of the Masterplan and exhaustive public consultation demonstrated a luke-warm response to retention of industrial items, in favour of landscaping and gardens on this prominent Sydney Harbour headland. Never the less, the landscaping plan will assist in the interpretation of the site's former industrial use, as well as highlighting the archaeological remains of the mansion "Menevia" (1860s) that stood until the 1920s. Consultants Heritage Concepts are currently scheduling the necessities of site recording prior to the commencement of Caltex's demolition on site.

*Wayne Johnson*

## **A Unique Discovery Near Emmaville**

HLA-Envirosciences Pty. Ltd's Principal Scientist, Mining Tom Farrell and Dr Iain Stuart, then Principal Archaeology and Heritage Management, often combined their skills to address issues to do with abandoned and derelict mines. These sites frequently have major environmental problems to do with pollution of adjacent streams and lands and hazards due to open decrepit buildings and mine workings. Cleaning up these sites often impacts on the heritage values of the site.

During one such study for the Derelict Mines Program on Webbs Consols Mine near Emmaville (north-west of Glen Innes in NSW) HLA was engaged to review a previous assessment and remediation plan for the mine. The reports had identified a semi-circular stone feature located in the middle of the mine processing area as a horse whim. Tom Farrell had his doubts as it was in a creek bed and too far from the main shaft for efficient working. There was also the question of whether the horse was going to be happy walking on the stones or end up crippled. Iain Stuart also looked at the photos and description and agreed with Tom that a whim seemed odd in that location. He sent Tom a photocopy of Ritchie and Hooker's very useful article on mining terminology ( in AJHA No 15). After reviewing this Tom posed the hypothesis of the feature being an arrastra. An arrastra is a very primitive way of crushing ore. It consists of a series of mullers or boulders being dragged around a circular gutter by a swinging arm drawn by a horse. It is a primitive version of what is called a Chilean Mill where the gutter is better formed and a large steel capped wheel is used. The problem with the identification was that while arrastra's were common in the USA none had been identified in Australia or New Zealand.

Actually seeing the feature in the field convinced Iain Stuart that it was an arrastra. Various mining history sages around Australia and New Zealand were consulted and supplied with relevant photos and they agreed it was likely to be an arrastra and confirmed its rarity.

The history of the site suggests that it was only briefly in operation in the late 1880s and the processing plant was described as "most primitive" by Pittman in his study of NSW mining. From the photographs in Pittman's book it was clear the site was not in use when he visited around 1900. It seems that the arrastra may have been a cheap and expedient way of crushing ore. Presumably if the deposit had proved to be richer, a more efficient crushing plant would have been established.

In the early 1950s the mine was reopened for four or five years before it too closed leaving a legacy of some fairly nasty contamination as well as remains of a headframe and treatment plant which fortunately avoided the arrastra. The challenge is now, having identified this unique feature to protect it during remediation and to preserve it in the long term.

*Iain Stuart*

## **Godden Mackay Logan**

### *Former Prince Henry Hospital*

The former Prince Henry Hospital Site at Little Bay is currently being redeveloped by Landcom. Godden Mackay Logan is providing a wide range of heritage services. Ongoing archaeological monitoring work at the site has been and is continuing to be carried out by Catherine Tucker and Andrew Sneddon. Recently, two former World War II gun emplacements/bunkers, not previously identified in early plans or aerial photographs of the

site, were uncovered during works along Pine Avenue, the main thoroughfare of the former Prince Henry Hospital site. The gun emplacements/bunkers consisted of approximately 1m wide by 1.4m deep trenches extending in a semicircular form up to 7.5m across at the widest point. The trench walls were lined with sandbags consolidated with a low cement mix reinforced with metal rods.

See photos below.



#### *Living with Heritage — Angkor, Cambodia*

Godden Mackay Logan is an industry partner with Sydney University, UNESCO, the Commonwealth Dept of Environment and Heritage and others in the Angkor 'Living with Heritage' project. In January and February 2004 and 2005, members of Godden Mackay Logan staff, including Lisa Newell, Liz Holt, Karina Waddell and Richard Mackay, participated in fieldwork at Angkor, Cambodia in association with the 'Living with Heritage' project and also volunteering within the University of Sydney's 'Greater Angkor Project'.

Angkor, a World Heritage site in Cambodia, includes the largest single concentration of religious buildings on Earth and the most extensive urban complex of the pre-industrial world. The major temples are within a heritage park designated by the Cambodian Government. The remains of the vast urban complex that supported the temples are at risk from modern urban expansion and intensive agriculture, both necessary for Cambodia's economic development.

The Greater Angkor Project (GAP) is creating the first comprehensive, consistent and detailed record of the whole of Angkor and its surrounding region. The project is investigating the relationship between the vast extent of Angkor in the 12th–16th centuries AD, land clearance for rice production and regional ecological damage both then and now. The study has implications for the past and the future health of the regional ecosystem, sustainable development and the management of Angkor as a national and an international heritage resource and cultural landscape. The five year 'Living with Heritage' project will entail analysis of the 1,000 square kilometre buried city surrounding the temple complex, working with local communities to articulate its values and dealing with the impacts of tourism and changing agricultural practices. Richard Mackay visited Angkor early this year and, collaborating with Sharon Sullivan and Malin Blazejowski began preliminary work, inspecting the site and meeting with relevant stakeholders.

### *Mittagong*

Godden Mackay Logan Pty Ltd has been engaged by Fabcot Pty Ltd to prepare an Archaeological Assessment of the site of a proposed retail outlet (Mittagong Marketplace) at old Hume Highway, Mittagong.

The site is part of the former Fitzroy Iron Works; the first iron works in Australia. Members of Godden Mackay Logan undertook a program of archaeological testing in January 2005 and further investigation and reporting on this site is expected to continue in the first months of 2005.

### *Departures*

Godden Mackay Logan sadly says good-bye to Catherine Tucker who will leave in March 2005. Cathy has been with us for two years as an archaeologist and is leaving to return to Melbourne. We wish Cathy all the best in her move back home.

### *Karina Waddell*

#### **A further update on 'Sydney's Greater Angkor Project'**

The ceramics team of the University of Sydney's Greater Angkor Project has been successfully using an Access database modified by Penny Crook from that originally devised for the Archaeology of the Modern City project. So far the database has been used largely for registering, but now that the analysis is starting it is proving its worth. We have registered about 20,000 sherds of handmade ceramics, about 80% from domestic-use vessels, 15% from ceremonial or ritual vessels and 5% Chinese (imports or copies of imports). The material dates generally from the 11th and 12th centuries, but there are some earlier and later pieces: the surface survey of one site has shown a range from 9th to 20th century.

I'd be interested to hear from anyone who is currently using this database. Conversely if anyone is interested in our results I can send them a copy of the PowerPoint presentation I am preparing for the ANU.

### *Aedeen Cremin*

#### **Hyde Park Barracks Museum, Sydney - Clay Pipe Collection Assessment**

The assemblage of clay smoking pipes gathered as a result of the underfloor and underground archaeological excavations (1980-1981) of the Hyde Park Barracks site is one of the largest of its kind in Australia. A recently completed project at the Barracks aimed to improve collection management and increase the potential of the collection for further study. Descriptions of over 3500 pipes and pipe fragments were entered onto a database, which can be searched by keywords that include place of origin, manufacturer and decorative devices. Digital images were taken of the artefacts, enabling off-site researchers to view the collection. Although analysis was only carried out on a basic level, some interesting observations have been made.

The project continues work in building up a picture of the day-to-day lives of the 30,000 convicts who resided at the Barracks between 1817 and 1848 and of the immigrant and asylum women who followed them. The clay tobacco pipes found at the Barracks contain few 'contentious' items. As clay pipes were cheap and readily available, they provided a simple means by which the poor could express their allegiances to social groups. Pipes found at Cadman's Cottage in The Rocks bear Irish patriotic emblems and slogans, for example shamrocks and 'ERIN GO BRAGH'. Only one such pipe was found at the Barracks, with 'CORK' stamped on the stem and tiny, discreet shamrocks on the spur. The pipe was found complete, under the floor in a Level Three room, hinting that it was deliberately hidden.

Together with the absence of pipes advertising public houses, and bearing images such as mermaids or skulls (found elsewhere in Sydney), this may indicate that the types of pipes used in the Barracks were subject to scrutiny, as convicts were searched upon returning from work. Tobacco may have been too valuable an 'indulgence' to risk by smoking it in anything but an inoffensive pipe. The pipes that were used at the Barracks illustrate burgeoning local businesses, with Sydney pipe manufacturers and tobacconists represented. One pipe, manufactured by Samuel Elliot of Sydney, bears the word 'REFORM' – a reference to the 1832 Reform Act, which extended the vote, demonstrating that local manufacturers were keeping up with events back in Britain.

The pipe collection from Hyde Park Barracks is similar in content to that found at Port Arthur in Tasmania, suggesting that Government assigned convicts were restricted in their choice of smoking accoutrements. It is hoped that the improved accessibility of the collection arising from this project will allow further comparisons and discoveries to be made.

*Susan Casey*

### **The Clark Kiln – Moorebank**

A heritage study in 2002 (by Jennie Lindbergh and Megan Mebberson) identified the subsurface remains of a 1950s kiln. This kiln was built by John Clark of Clark Kilns, who attempted to adapt existing technology and revolutionise the kiln firing process. Unfortunately most evidence relating to the kiln was dismantled and destroyed during the 1980s. However, excavation during January uncovered the partial remains of the flue system – see photographs.



It appears Clark had attempted to alter the existing technology of 'down-draught' kilns (ie the Patent Kiln design often see in contemporary Sydney brickyards), whilst installing a

continuous firing method, where the bricks moved through the kiln in a circular pattern. The layout of the flues provided spaces for pre-heating and cooling bricks, as well as a firing zone. The kiln design was not successful, and may have failed because of the uneven distribution of heat within the firing zone – possibly an attribute of the radial flue design.

If anyone has any further information about John Clark or Clark Kilns could they contact me, as data as been very difficult to find.

*Tim Owen*

## **NEW ZEALAND NEWS**

### **Whaling station excavations**

Excavations were carried out from 16 January to 13 February at the Te Hoe whaling station site, Mahia Peninsula, northern Hawke's Bay. The dig was the second of two undertaken for a programme of investigation into New Zealand shore whaling – Oashore on Banks Peninsula was excavated in January–February 2004. The project, 'The Emergence of Pakeha Culture: historical archaeology of the shore whalers' is supported by a grant from the Marsden Fund of the Royal Society of New Zealand, and is under the direction of Ian Smith, University of Otago and Nigel Prickett, Auckland War Memorial Museum.

Work at Te Hoe focussed on the tryworks area, and on whalers' huts marked by the collapsed remains of stone chimneys. Prominent stone remains near the beach turned out to be only one of several tryworks. There was also an earlier tryworks beneath the visible remains, and another stone foundation nearby, which clearly had supported a trypot, with a 4 ft square riveted 'ship's tank' next to it, sunk into the ground, to hold whale oil before it was put into barrels for shipping.

Five domestic fireplaces were excavated, most serving earth-floored huts. One hut of *ca* 3 x 4 m was marked out by the remains of a slab wall, but other hut walls were not easy to find and may have been made only of light poles supporting thatch or canvas. The largest collapsed stone chimney stood at the end of a wooden floored hut. This may date from late in the history of the settlement, when it had changed from a station manned mostly by European whalers when established *ca* 1840 into a largely Maori village with whalers having married into the local community. The settlement may not have been abandoned until early last century. Whaler descendants in Mahia today are generally Maori.

The Te Hoe excavation attracted considerable local interest. As many as 200 visitors made the 20 minute walk from the road on our open day, with more visitors including the local school coming on other days. Work still to be carried out on the project includes historical research into the Oashore and Te Hoe stations and their whaler communities, and generally into New Zealand shore whaling. A report on the project will be prepared by the end of 2006.

*Nigel Prickett*

### **Wellington Inner City Bypass**

Finally, after two years of legal wrangling, the first phase of the Wellington Inner City Bypass Project has been undertaken. Tonks Avenue and Arthur Street were the site of a major

archaeological investigation undertaken by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust prior to the construction of the \$40 million Wellington Inner City Bypass. Warren Gumbley and Louise Furey project managed a team, on behalf of the Trust, of over 30 archaeologists for the excavations that took place over late January and February.

A major focus of the investigation was into the social history of the area, such as the status of landowners such as the Tonks family and their workers who lived in close proximity. Early members of the Tonks family owned a brickworks on Webb Street adjoining Tonks Avenue from the 1860s, and at various times also had a drapers, a shipping company, a bread factory, and were responsible for reclamation of part of Wellington Harbour.

The excavations uncovered intact remains of an 1860s house (including their rubbish pits), a line of two-room tenement cottages, a spaghetti-junction of late 19<sup>th</sup> century ceramic drains, evidence of a large-scale public works project (involving several thousand metres of fill) in the late 1890s, and an intact brick-lined well – 7m deep still with water the full depth.

An earthquake in 1855 had raised swamps in the Te Aro valley making it accessible for urban development. A buildings' archaeologist analysed construction methods and materials used for the Edwardian homes and pre-1900s workers' cottages built side-by-side. As part of the Bypass project a total of 16 heritage buildings are to be relocated and refurbished – 11 to be shifted to the Tonks Precinct between Kensington and Cuba streets. These include Kate Tonks' former home Wharanui, used as the Stagecraft Theatre from 1958. The remaining five are to be relocated between Vivian and Abel Smith streets.

Two open days were held, and over 600 people took the tours that were offered. These ran every ¼ of an hour and proved to be very successful at highlighting the archaeological aspects of what has been, at times, a bitter and acrimonious fight over the viability of the roading project.

Further phases of the archaeological programme will take place in April and October as the buildings are relocated, thus freeing up their sites for investigation. Further details of the excavations will come in the June ASHA Newsletter.

*Rick McGovern-Wilson*

## **NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWS**

### **The Walls Of The City**

Darwin city, situated on its narrow peninsula projecting into Darwin Harbour has undergone many attacks of growing pains. Suburbs have crept north and east to accommodate the increase in population. This, of course, has given rise to concern for the preservation of historical sites valuable to the heritage of the Top End, particularly World War Two defence installations which were scattered thickly around the harbour and town.

The preservation of Darwin's World War Two heritage sites has had a chequered history. While major installations, such as the coastal defence gun turrets at East Point have been carefully preserved, many less striking features have felt the bite of the developer's bulldozer blade. Thus numerous campsites, trench fortifications and light weapon emplacements have been destroyed.

At present the Defence Housing Authority is initiating a new housing development north of Darwin along Lee Point Road and it is encouraging to note the care taken to locate and identify any features of heritage significance within the area. One feature on which historical and archaeological advice has been sought is an apparent gun emplacement, built in a style very common in this region during WWII. This is a cruciform arrangement of earth-filled forty-four gallon drums, some six metres along the major dimensions, with a wide earth bank around the outside.

This style of construction was typical of WWII light gun emplacements and conformed very accurately to the layout for housing a Bofors 40mm Anti-aircraft gun of that period. However, this feature was something of a puzzle, as the condition of the drums was markedly better than any existing known WWII feature and some of the drums even bore stencilled figures appearing to record various dates in August 1957. Excavations at the site provided no help, most material found was refuse of the 1980s, with nothing that could unequivocally be dated earlier than about 1970.

However, here oral history was able to resolve the problem. A Darwin resident who had served as a sergeant of Artillery in the area in the 1960s was located. He was able to identify the feature as a Bofors emplacement that he had supervised in late 1963 and early 1964. It was one of an outer defence ring of six guns established to the north of Darwin during that tense period of the troubles in Indonesia that led to the suppression of the Indonesian Communist Party and the rise to power of General Suharto. The lack of any 1960s artefacts at the site was due to a strictly enforced Army regulation at the time that no litter of any sort was to be left at or near installations as a security measure.

With the return of stability to our north these defences were dismantled and now there is little visible sign - and little public memory - of this period of activity in Australia's military history. Like a mediaeval city Darwin is outgrowing its defences and the outer ring of 1960s anti-aircraft defences is being absorbed among suburbs. The recognition or preservation of the site is now under discussion.

*Colin & Kathy DeLaRue*

## **SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWS**

No news has been received from South Australia.

## TASMANIA NEWS

No news has been received from Tasmania.

## VICTORIA NEWS

### **Geophysical investigation of a Chinese cemetery, Buckland**

A team from La Trobe Archaeology, Earth Sciences, University of Tasmania, and the Chinese Australian Family Historians of Victoria recently carried out remote sensing investigations at the site of a nineteenth century Chinese cemetery in the Buckland Valley, NE Victoria. The purpose of the research was to target and map the lateral position of burials, using non-destructive remote sensing and in particular ground penetrating radar and magnetometry. The project was initiated by members of the Chinese Australian Family Historians of Victoria and the local historical society in Buckland, who by 2007 wished to mark individual graves to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Buckland Riots.

In the 1850s the Buckland Valley was the scene of one of the richest alluvial gold rushes in Victoria. It was also the scene of one of the most violent anti-Chinese riots in Australian history. In July 1857 a crowd of around 80 white men attacked Chinese miners camped along the diggings, and as many as 20 Chinese were killed while hundreds fled into the surrounding mountains. These events, followed by the even greater anti-Chinese violence at Lambing Flat, NSW, in 1860, contributed to the atmosphere of fear and animosity which eventually led to the White Australia Policy.

There is little documentary evidence of the Chinese cemetery, but according to local oral tradition, burial markers were present on the site until the 1960s when they were removed by souvenir hunters. Nevertheless, the cemetery is of particular significance for understanding the history of the Chinese in the Valley. For the overseas Chinese who died in foreign countries, it was highly important that they be buried in the traditional manner, with the appropriate accompanying rituals and offerings. Ideally, the remains of the deceased would be exhumed at a later date and returned to China, where they could be cared for by the family. Grave markers were placed over the burials to facilitate exhumation and the making of ritual observances by descendants. These markers survive at some Chinese cemeteries in Victoria, including in the Ballarat General Cemetery and at Vaughn, on the Mount Alexander Diggings. On the Buckland, the disruption to the Chinese community caused by the riots meant that it is likely that exhumation and shipment to China was less likely to have occurred, but also that there was no local descendant community to carry out the rituals required to honour the ancestors. The anti-Chinese violence which took place on the Buckland make the cemetery a highly charged place of remembrance and symbolism.

The cemetery is located partly on Crown Land and partly on freehold, with only the former accessible for this investigation. An area of approximately 1200 m<sup>2</sup> was surveyed. Two geophysical methods were used to investigate the site: ground penetrating radar (GPR) and magnetometry. The GPR was chosen to provide high resolution subsurface stratigraphic information for up to 3.5 m depth, along a series of parallel survey lines. A magnetometer was used to measure the remnant magnetism of the area and to detect ferrous metallic objects. Approximately 50 features interpreted as likely graves were identified, based primarily on the GPR results. Potential grave features were predominantly located within 1 m depth, indicating that they may have been originally shallow and/or that erosion has since reduced the cover.

Plans are now being formulated to develop an interpretive strategy for the site, including some form of commemorative marker.

*Susan Lawrence  
La Trobe University*

### **Pre-Gold Rush Settlement in South Gippsland**

An application for funding to the Australian Research Council was recently successful for a project titled 'Life on the Edge: Pre-Gold Rush Settlement in South Gippsland, Victoria'. The project principles are Chief Investigator Susan Lawrence, Partner Investigator Jane Lennon, and APD research fellow Alasdair Brooks, and the research will be based out of La Trobe University, Melbourne.

The aim of the project is to develop archaeological perspectives on pre-gold rush settlement in regional Victoria using a community studies approach. The research aims to understand the local effects caused by the dislocations of the gold rush, and to trace the impact on the material culture of a regional community. The project will focus on the case study of settlement at Corner Inlet, Gippsland, where several associated informal camps, private company towns, and government towns were established in the 1840s. The Old Port on the Albert River was the first port in eastern Victoria and the region was the gateway to pastoral settlement in the central Gippsland plains. Due to the subsequent economic decline in shipping to Pt. Albert in the 1860s caused by the discovery of navigation routes through the Gippsland Lakes, the Corner Inlet settlements have largely escaped later development and much of the archaeological evidence of the original physical fabric of the 1840s and 1850s has been preserved. The intact nature of the archaeological record there presents a unique opportunity for research. The project aims to investigate both material culture in a pastoral colony and the immediate impact of the 1850s gold rush, using a combination of GIS-based survey and mapping of archaeological sites, the excavation of key domestic and commercial sites from the pre-and post-gold rush periods, and the detailed analysis of the associated artefact assemblages.

It is currently planned to undertake an initial survey of the old Corner Inlet town of Tarra Vale (later Tarraville) in 2005. Probably the seventh town laid out in what became Victoria (1843), Tarra Vale was considered Gippsland's foremost town of the 1840s, and by 1844, already featured 50 buildings and one brick inn. Later largely abandoned, the area is mostly open field today, with very few structures surviving above-ground from the first two decades of settlement.

*Alasdair Brooks*

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

Biosis Research were involved in a number of small historical archaeological excavations late last year, and are currently completing the post excavation artefact analysis for the sites. A series of excavations were carried out as part of the Craigieburn Rail Electrification Project, which involves the upgrading of tracks and stations along the Craigieburn to Donnybrook line. The excavations included some of the former stations along the line, such as Somerton, and a late nineteenth to early twentieth century dairy at Broadmeadows. Probably the most interesting and intact site was the original 1878 weatherboard station building at Craigieburn

Station. Excavations revealed intact building foundations, including three 1.3 metre wide by 1.8 metre deep bluestone chimney bases, as well as sealed underfloor deposits. The artefacts recovered from these deposits reveal the eating and recreational habits of the station workers, who lived in the building, and the changing status of the workers and Craigieburn Station itself.

The other major project that Biosis Research has been involved in is the excavation of the



former Harvest Home Hotel in Epping, in the expanding northern suburbs of Melbourne. The site will be impacted by the widening of Harvest Home Lane and therefore VicRoads commissioned Biosis to carry out the rescue excavation. The Harvest Home Hotel was a two storey bluestone structure built by one of the many German settlers to the area, Heinrich Ludeman, in 1869. The hotel closed in 1915 and was subsequently destroyed by fire. Once again excavation revealed intact bluestone foundations and sealed underfloor deposits. The foundations uncovered indicated that the hotel had

four small rooms with a veranda at the front facing Epping Road, with a larger room behind them. Veranda post remains/post holes were also uncovered to the rear and side of the building. The hotel dump was also located approximately 50 metres east of the hotel site and a large number of artefacts were excavated including aerated water bottles, transfer printed plates and glass inkwells. The site was excavated and the artefacts successfully recovered despite the best midnight digging efforts of a local bottle collector and metal detectorist!

*Darren Griffin*

## **WESTERN AUSTRALIA NEWS**

No news has been received from Western Australia.

## **ASSOCIATION BUSINESS**

### **Australians at the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) Conference in York, UK.**

From 5 to 10 January 2005 the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) held its annual conference for the first time in Britain. The conference theme was *Continuity and Change* and it was supported by English Heritage, the York Archaeological Trust and hosted by the Department of Archaeology at the University of York. Britain in January was cold and rainy - York had the flood gates locked against the floodwaters of the river Ouse but Australian historical and maritime archaeologists still turned out in force.

At least in part the big turnout of Australians was due to a great effort made by Alaisdair Brooks who managed to organise a symposium on "Current Research in Australia and New Zealand" that took place on Saturday morning (8 January). Ten papers were presented in the session - some by established academics such as Graham Connah, Jon Prangnell and Mark Staniforth and others by recent PhD graduates and current PhD candidates such as Susan

Piddock and Susan Briggs. There were two papers on convict sites (Greg Jackman and Susan Piddock) and two on mission sites (one by Tracey Ireland and one by Jane Lydon, Alasdair Brooks and Zvonkica Stanin). The session drew about 30 people to most of the papers and the papers were generally well received. Alasdair had organised two discussants for the session - one Australian (Alistair Paterson from the University of Western Australia) and one American (Barbara Heath who works at Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest and is also a Board member of the SHA). The discussants drew out common points from the various papers and summarised some of the key issues raised. While not everyone could make it to York to present their paper in person, all of the papers were presented which was a great result - well done Alasdair!

Other Australians who got to York included Bill Jeffery from James Cook University who gave a paper on the underwater sites in Truk Lagoon, Mary Casey of Casey and Lowe Archaeological consultants who presented on "Remaking the Sydney Domain, 1788-1821" and Alistair Paterson who somehow managed to give two papers on "Australian Aboriginal workers in pastoral contexts" and "The Pilbara in the Indian Ocean". Expatriate Australian and Archaeology staff member at the University of York, Laurajane Smith, hosted a dinner one evening for some of the Australians far from home which was much appreciated. The Conference tours included walking tours of York and bus tours to places like Castle Howard, Wharham Percy and the Royal Armouries at Leeds. Mark Staniforth was elected Chair of the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology (ACUA) for a three year term - the first non-American to be elected ACUA Chair and as a result Mark also becomes a member of the SHA Board for the next three years. Overall the Conference drew nearly 1,000 registrations and was deemed a great success.

The next SHA Conference will take place in Sacramento, California in January 2006. Compared to York the weather should be pleasant and it is only a 14 hour flight across the Pacific instead of the 21 hours it takes to get to Britain. So get organised and start saving - anyone interested in giving a paper or organising a session should contact the SHA Conference organisers through the SHA website at <http://www.sha.org>

*Mark Staniforth*  
*Department of Archaeology, Flinders University*

## **FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES**

### **The City and the Bush**

2005 ASHA Conference

Melbourne, 29 September - 2 October

Papers are now being sought for the 2005 ASHA conference. People are invited to consider presenting a paper and/or organising a session. There will also be a poster session for students and a modest prize for the best student paper presented at the conference. If you are interested in presenting a paper or poster, please send a title, 100 word abstract and your contact details. Those organising a session are requested to supply the names and contact details of all those included in the session, as well as titles and abstracts. The closing date for abstracts is 1 August 2005.

Please send information to  
Susan Lawrence,  
[s.lawrence@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:s.lawrence@latrobe.edu.au)  
Archaeology  
La Trobe University  
Melbourne  
VIC 3086  
Australia

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS / NOTICES**

### **Second Sydney Historical Archaeology Workshop**

The first Sydney historical archaeology workshop spectacular was the brainchild of Denis Gojak. The mini-conference saw discussion papers on the state-of-the-art as well as significant Sydney projects. Most importantly the event allowed Sydney practitioners the opportunity to 'catch up' and newer members of the community, the opportunity to meet their esteemed colleagues. The whole day (and night) event was attended by around 100 people. Building on the success of the first workshop, it has been proposed that a second workshop be held. An interim-committee has been formed to organise the second workshop and a date has been set. The venue will be the same as for the first workshop:

Date – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2005

Venue – The Newtown Neighbourhood Centre – the same as before

After workshop drinks/dinner – The Courthouse Hotel

A rough outline of topics for discussion has been penned and includes:

- Feedback from the Heritage Office
- OH&S issues – including asbestos identification and does and don'ts
- Teaching workshops – maybe artefacts
- The latest on digs in Sydney.

It is requested that you pen this date into your diary and tell anyone who is interested in attending. The event is open to any archaeologist or student and will be catered in a similar

manner to the last W/S. The cost will also be similar to the last event. If anyone else would like to join the committee, knows of an interesting subject for inclusion in the programme – or has requests for a discussion point, a subject they would like the NSW Heritage Office (or anyone else) to discuss, or would like to sponsor the event in some way please contact me at [tim.owen@erm.com](mailto:tim.owen@erm.com)

*Tim Owen*

### **Sub lease portions of the famous Blokeworld - Percival Rd Stannore NSW 2048.**

#### **Features**

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- Smoking Area Outside
- Continual stream of interesting jobs and people passing through

The spaces are available from mid March and can be inspected in about 1 week's time

#### **Contact**

Martin CARNEY  
AMAC Group

9686-7115  
9568-6093  
0411 727395

email [MartinCarney@archaeological.com.au](mailto:MartinCarney@archaeological.com.au)  
or [jtyl1@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jtyl1@bigpond.net.au)

## 2005 Committee

President:	Susan Lawrence	<a href="mailto:S.Lawrence@latrobe.edu.au">S.Lawrence@latrobe.edu.au</a>
Vice Presidents:	Susan Piddock	<a href="mailto:spiddock@ozemail.com.au">spiddock@ozemail.com.au</a>
	Paul Rheinberger	<a href="mailto:pr@umwelt.com.au">pr@umwelt.com.au</a>
Secretary:	Jody Steele	<a href="mailto:jodys@senet.com.au">jodys@senet.com.au</a>
Treasurer:	Paul Rheinberger	<a href="mailto:pr@umwelt.com.au">pr@umwelt.com.au</a>
Membership Secretary:	Katrina Stankowski	<a href="mailto:katstankowski@yahoo.com.au">katstankowski@yahoo.com.au</a>
Journal Editor	Mary Casey	<a href="mailto:mary.casey@bigpond.com">mary.casey@bigpond.com</a>
Newsletter Editor	Ross Gam	<a href="mailto:agam@ceinternet.com.au">agam@ceinternet.com.au</a>
Committee Members:	Mary Casey	<a href="mailto:mary.casey@bigpond.com">mary.casey@bigpond.com</a>
	Clayton Fredericksen	<a href="mailto:clayton.fredericksen@ntu.edu.au">clayton.fredericksen@ntu.edu.au</a>
	Martin Gibbs	<a href="mailto:m.gibbs@mailbox.uq.edu.au">m.gibbs@mailbox.uq.edu.au</a>
	Tracey Ireland	<a href="mailto:tireland@griffin-nrm.com.au">tireland@griffin-nrm.com.au</a>
	Greg Jackman	<a href="mailto:greg.jackman@portarthur.org.au">greg.jackman@portarthur.org.au</a>
	Rick McGovern-Wilson	<a href="mailto:rmcgwilson@historic.org.nz">rmcgwilson@historic.org.nz</a>
	Leah McKenzie	<a href="mailto:leah.mckenzie@doi.vic.gov.au">leah.mckenzie@doi.vic.gov.au</a>
	Alistair Paterson	<a href="mailto:paterson@arts.uwa.edu.au">paterson@arts.uwa.edu.au</a>
	Catherine Tucker	<a href="mailto:CathyT@gml.com.au">CathyT@gml.com.au</a>
Immediate past President:	Neville Ritchie	<a href="mailto:nevalexy@xtra.co.nz">nevalexy@xtra.co.nz</a>

## ASHA CONTACTS

ACT	Richard Morrison 25 Forbes Street, Turner, ACT 2612	ph: 02 6274 2133 W 02 6247 9574 H fax: 02 6274 2095 e-mail: <a href="mailto:richard.morrison@ea.gov.au">richard.morrison@ea.gov.au</a>
NSW	Tim Owen Cultural Heritage Services	ph: e-mail: <a href="mailto:Tim.Owen@erm.com">Tim.Owen@erm.com</a>
NZ	Rick McGovern-Wilson New Zealand Historic Places Trust PO Box 2629, Wellington, NZ	ph: 0011 64 4 470 8055 fax: 0011 64 4 499 0669 e-mail: <a href="mailto:rmcgwilson@historic.org.nz">rmcgwilson@historic.org.nz</a>
NT	Colin DeLaRue Dept of Anthropology, Northern Territory University Darwin, NT, 0909	ph: 08 8946 6865 fax: 08 8946 6955 e-mail: <a href="mailto:delarue@octa4.net.au">delarue@octa4.net.au</a>
QLD	Jon Prangnell Univ of Qld Archaeological Services Unit University of Queensland 4072	ph: 07 33652887 fax: 07 33654696 e-mail: <a href="mailto:j.prangnell@uq.edu.au">j.prangnell@uq.edu.au</a>
SA	Susan Briggs Dept of Archaeology, Flinders University PO Box 2100, Adelaide, SA 5001	ph/fax: 08 8201 2863 e-mail: <a href="mailto:susan.briggs@flinders.edu.au">susan.briggs@flinders.edu.au</a>
TAS	Greg Jackman Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority Port Arthur, Tasmania 7182	ph: 03 6251 2336 fax: 03 6251 2322 e-mail: <a href="mailto:greg.jackman@portarthur.org.au">greg.jackman@portarthur.org.au</a>
VIC	Darren Griffin Biosis Research Ltd, Port Melbourne, Vic 3207	ph: 03 5243 1462 e-mail: <a href="mailto:dgriffin@biosisresearch.com.au">dgriffin@biosisresearch.com.au</a>
WA	Shane Burke Archaeology, University of Western Australia Nedlands, WA 6907	ph: 08 9380 2867 fax: 08 9380 1023 e-mail: <a href="mailto:sburke@graduate.uwa.edu.au">sburke@graduate.uwa.edu.au</a>

## **FORTHCOMING NEWSLETTERS**

The ASHA Newsletter is produced quarterly with the assistance of guest editors. The 2004 guest editors are:

This issue March: Jon Prangnell  
email: [j.prangnell@uq.edu.au](mailto:j.prangnell@uq.edu.au)

June issue: Alasdair Brooks  
email: [a.brooks@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:a.brooks@latrobe.edu.au)

Sept issue: Tim Owen  
email: [Tim.Owen@erm.com](mailto:Tim.Owen@erm.com)

Dec issue: Rick McGovern-Wilson:  
email: [rmcgwilson@historic.org.nz](mailto: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*

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

Post: "Windermere Cottage"  
121 Fishers Lane  
Loomberah NSW 2340  
Phone: 02 67694103