

Archaeological and historical evidence will be integrated in a GIS database to facilitate the investigation of questions relating to the adaptation of technology in new environments and industries, changes in water management strategies through time, and the environmental effects of different kinds and scales of water technology. The analysis of historical archaeological evidence for the active management of water and the associated environmental impacts will improve understanding of changes in land use at a local and regional scale, providing historical context for modern debates about water sustainability and climate change.

Peter Davies

ABSTRACTS FROM THE 2010 HONOURS THESES FROM LA TROBE UNIVERSITY, MELBOURNE

Bennett, Georgia *A Grave Matter: a historical archaeological study of ornate iron grave rails in colonial Victoria*

Victoria was a colony shaped and adorned by the boom and bust of the gold rush, where visual displays of wealth and new found status could be found in the architectural ornamentation of the city's public and private buildings and in the demarcation of its dead. The popularity and widespread use of ornate wrought and cast iron grave rails in Maldon and Echuca cemeteries can be seen to reflect the wider trends and fashions of the time, in which the technological advances of the industrial revolution catered to the ever growing demand for more elaborate and diverse ornamental cast ironwork for use in both the landscapes of the living and the deceased. While the ornate iron grave rail was essentially a decorative element of funerary architecture, its use within this religious landscape resonates with a deeper symbolism of protection, both physical and metaphorical, for the remains of the deceased. This thesis has used the world's most Victorian city of Melbourne (Turner 1985: 61) to compare the use and popularity of ornamental ironwork within the urban environment to the funerary landscapes of Maldon and Echuca. This has allowed for a study of the evolution of the grave rail, from the locally produced wrought iron rail, to the elaborate mass produced cast iron grave rail, until its eventual simplification and abandonment altogether, as the Victorian era was left in the shadow of the emerging Edwardian.

Dunk, Melissa *Made in China: The analysis of the artefact assemblage from Atherton Chinatown, North Queensland*

The Chinese came to Australia, especially to the north, in search of wealth to take back to their homes in China. The movement of the Chinese was guided by their search of a sustainable income as merchants, or in the mining or agricultural industry. Atherton Chinatown was a small Chinese settlement located in north Queensland. This thesis presents the analysis of an assemblage from Atherton Chinatown. The information gained provides insight into the Chinese community at Atherton. This research addresses the similarities and differences in assemblages from comparable Chinese sites and examines the interaction between the Chinese and Europeans. The types of artefacts found at Atherton Chinatown concur with established patterns from Chinese sites elsewhere in Australia. This thesis demonstrates the necessity for consistency in archaeological methodology in Chinese sites across Australia, especially the accurate recording and cataloguing of artefacts. The implementation of these factors will create a solid foundation for future archaeological research on the Chinese in Australia.

Jastrzebski, Fiona *Insanity and Incarceration: An Archaeological Comparative Study of the Treatment of the Mentally Ill and Prisoners in Victoria*

The archaeological evidence of the treatment of the mentally ill at Beechworth Mental Asylum is compared with the archaeological evidence from Old Melbourne Gaol to ascertain how differences in treatment philosophies are manifest in the physical structure of the institutions, and how the specific goals of each institution were met. Similarities and differences in room size, size and placement of windows, degree of observation possible and other attributes are indicative of the social ideals, laws, and understanding of the mentally ill and prisoners during the nineteenth century.

Keogh, Christine *A History Never Forgotten: A Collection of Artefacts from the Yandoit Diggings*

This dissertation explores a collection of artefacts from a 19th century gold mining site at Yandoit in central Victoria. Yandoit was home to a variety of nationalities during the gold rush, including the Swiss Italians who settled in the area. Other nationalities such as British and Chinese also occupied the region in their search for gold.

The aim of this thesis is to analyse and catalogue the collection of artefacts from a domestic context, which includes ceramics, glass and personal items.

Comparisons will be made with other mining sites by examining patterns, artefact types and trends that were typical during the Victorian era. This will also entail looking at ceramic patterns to see if there may be subtle hints of cultural influence or whether certain patterns were merely a reflection of the types of wares that were popular at that time.

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA NEWS

Compiled by Shane Burke

ARCHAEOLOGY AS A TOOL TO TEACH AUSTRALIAN HISTORY TO US STUDY ABROAD STUDENTS

Since 1997, between 65 and 120 study abroad students per semester from various US universities have spent time studying at the Fremantle campus of the University of Notre Dame Australia. Students take units supplementing their home university degree, but also a compulsory unit covering Australian history. The unit, *Australian History and Society* (unit AL375), has for two reasons traditionally scored poorly in student feedback at semester's end. The first reason is that few of the visiting students are doing degrees in history, and therefore the training in the discipline to achieve high grades, while, secondly, many students simply find the study of the past through the written word uninteresting.

In second semester 2007 the course was restructured to include Australian pre-history. In addition, students were invited to volunteer in archaeological excavations run by the university at the 1830 dated Peel town camp site half an hour south of Fremantle. Since then, gradually students numbers interested in participating in the excavation have grown from 15 students in 2008 to 60 students in 2010. The site is an ideal training ground for the inexperienced and for those not studying history or archaeology, with artefact richness and shallow deposits keeping