

heritage and history. The material is publicly available and will serve as a tool for both research and the promotion of historical archaeology in NSW. The broader aim of the project is to use digital innovation to ensure the survival of the professional outputs of historical archaeological research in NSW, to encourage comparative research and synthesis, as well as to create different kinds of interpretations of archaeology and heritage for research, education and professional practice by drawing on archive content.

The project is directed by Drs Martin Gibbs and Sarah Colley (Department of Archaeology, School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry, University of Sydney) in collaboration with the Archaeology of Sydney Research Group, the University of Sydney Library, and archaeology and heritage consultancy companies that donated reports. Funding was provided by a Heritage Grant from the NSW Department of Planning and Heritage Council.

The archive is stored and managed through the University of Sydney eScholarship Repository to be independent of future changes to proprietary software. As technology develops the content can be moved to new systems making it sustainable into the future, and its content is registered with the Australian National Data Service.

Stage 1 (2009-11) focused on locating, borrowing, scanning and creating a searchable archive of heritage reports produced in limited hard copy format before the mid 1990s. The project has been supported by contributions from a variety of sources, but especially from long-term ASAH members Judy Birmingham, Ian Jack, Annie Bickford, Wendy Thorpe, Ted Higginbotham, and Richard Mackay (Godden Mackay Logan). There are already 600 reports available on the system, with several hundred more being entered in the near future.

Stage 2 (2011-13) has recently been awarded further funding from the NSW Department of Planning and Heritage Council to increase the functionality of the system, identify further significant pre-1990s hard copy reports and incorporate a wider range of image, database and other documentary resources, including ways of preserving later reports and images which have been produced digitally as their 'native' format. To achieve this NSW Archaeology On-Line will be seeking opportunities to work with other government and industry colleagues to improve the system and make further archaeological information available. Subject to funding this could, for example, include creating a data portal to link NSW Archaeology On-Line to other digital collections.

The digital archive website address is: <http://nswaol.library.usyd.edu.au>

If you have any queries or comments regarding the website please fill in the Feedback form available on the website, or email: Archaeology.NSWAOL@sydney.edu.au

Sarah Colley and Martin Gibbs

Honours Theses 2010/2011

The current, and last years, Sydney University honours were invited to provide a synopsis of their topics for the newsletter. Should anyone require more information about a specific subject, please contact the students, through Martin Gibbs or Sarah Colley. [NSW Ed]

Rebecca Jones (USyd) 2011

For my thesis I am using a micro-CT scanner to determine whether it is an effective method for diagnosing different types of cut marks on bones. As yet, micro-CT has not been used

for this purpose but SEM analyses have received promising results. I will use experimental data of my own by creating metal, stone, and animal gnawing marks in order to compare with casts of cut marks from the Early Bronze Age site of Lerna in Greece. The main aim is to determine whether stone or metal tools were being used for butchering at this site.

Nicholas Pitt (USyd) 2010

Making Do: Manufacturing finer pottery in Sydney in the early 19th century

This thesis investigated the manufacturing methods of lead-glaze pottery from the site 710-722 George St, Sydney, which has been identified as the location of the pottery of Thomas Ball, a colonial potter active from c1801 to 1823. A particular focus was made on the finer wares found on the site.

The manufacturing methods were investigated using scanning electron microscope microanalysis (SEM-EDS) of pottery samples from the site and through analysing the archaeological assemblage of kiln furniture found on the site.

The manufacturing methods used in Sydney were found to differ significantly in key aspects to those used in Britain, while also showing that the potter was aware of those methods. Hence the manufacturing at the site was interpreted through the concept of 'making do', where the potter was forced to adapt his skills and knowledge to the conditions he faced in Sydney at the time.

The SEM-EDS analysis for this thesis was conducted at the Australian Centre for Microscopy and Microanalysis (ACMM) at the University of Sydney. The site 710-722 George St, Haymarket was excavated by Casey & Lowe in 2008. A summary of the author's scientific analysis has been included in the excavation report for this site.

Adele Anderson (USyd) 2010

Modernising the home: a case study in rural south-west Sydney.

The abandoned farmsteads of rural Australia are a valuable but under-utilised archaeological resource and are rapidly disappearing as they give way to the elements, or to the pressures of increasing urban sprawl. While large colonial estates or particularly early examples, have attracted the attention of archaeologists, the twentieth century small-holdings of ordinary families have more often been overlooked. Yet these sites are relics of a way of life that was largely undocumented and which is rapidly passing from living memory, and offer unique insights into the way broader processes of change affected the majority of rural families.

Change was the defining characteristic of the twentieth century. Rising mass production, the spread of electricity, and developments in household appliances and farm machinery were linked with notions of post-war progress. New forms of mass media and increasingly pervasive advertising encouraged the growth of consumer culture and reshaped the way people thought about daily life. This process of change, known as modernisation, had notable physical impacts on suburban houses. The extent of its impact on rural homes has never been systematically assessed but, given the material nature of modernisation, is well suited to archaeological inquiry.

This study documented and analysed a derelict farmhouse located at Werombi, in western Sydney, in order to examine the process of domestic modernisation in a rural context. The cottage was occupied by the Smith family from 1923 to the late 60s and, by comparing its

changing features to typical suburban houses throughout the first half of the twentieth century, the thesis evaluated the impact of shifting ideas about the way a home should look and function.

It was found that the Smith family's rural location, and their poverty, were strongly related to the process of domestic modernisation at the site. On one hand, their rural location meant that amenities such as electricity and running water were not available to them, while their poverty meant that they could not afford to fully modernise their home or live up to magazine standards of home-making. But living in a rural area also gave them freedom and opportunities not available in the suburbs. They were not constrained by the building regulations that standardised houses in urban areas, and had access to free building materials. These circumstances encouraged the use of locally available timber and sandstone, and therefore resulted in the persistence of traditional building techniques and vernacular architectural forms at the site, and in the local area generally. Nevertheless, modernisation did occur in aspects of the cottage that were straightforward and inexpensive to change (surface decoration and floor plan), and in the kitchen, where the introduction of a stove and kerosene fridge would have improved daily life in a functional way.

The material culture of the cottage showed that the Smith family, though constrained by isolation and poverty, was still affected by the pervasive ideology of modernism. Although many aspects of the modern home were beyond their reach, changing ideas about the home still had considerable influence. The family endeavoured to comply with current standards of home-making and sought to bring their cottage up-to-date by modifying those features that could easily be altered.

Rebecca Moore (USyd) 2010

Class in Late Nineteenth Century Parramatta: A Comparative Study

Understanding class in Australian archaeology is still at a rudimentary stage, with little knowledge of the way in which historical class ideas permeated Australian society during the late nineteenth century, and which artefacts are most appropriate for such an investigation. This work sought to examine these issues by questioning what the interaction of the historical and archaeological record reveal about the class and status of the people of late nineteenth century Parramatta, an area which itself has come under little academic scrutiny considering its volume of archaeological material. To understand the interaction between the historical and the archaeological record three themes were devised; The Service of Tea, Hygienics, and Victorian Libations. These themes reflect historical class concerns and have a high material component which would be visible archaeologically. Three sites from Parramatta, excavated by Casey & Lowe Pty Ltd, each with a different historically documented class, were compared on each theme and data was analysed for quantity and quality components.

The results of this analysis showed that while in some areas of each theme, such as ceramic fabric, class difference was visible, in many other areas, such as the quantity of materials, ceramic decoration and glassware quality, there were remarkable similarities across the three sites. Moreover, when these results were compared with two other studies in Sydney and Port Adelaide, which also analysed differences in material culture along similar thematic lines, the results from Parramatta were found to be in line with these earlier findings. The implication of this analysis is that class is a highly problematic concept which

cannot be easily extrapolated from the archaeological record despite its influence on the historical record. A number of factors were discussed as a reason for this including the fact that the Australian class system may have been dominated by large loosely-defined groups with a high degree of movement between social classes possible for an individual. Ultimately however, these results highlight the need for further investigation to more fully understand class in late nineteenth century Australia.

Diana Cowie (UNE) 2010

In the thesis *Re-excavating Tarsus: A comparative evaluation of Late Bronze/ Iron Age archaeological sites in the Eastern Mediterranean* (2009) I develop and apply a comparative methodology to characterise the relative importance of Tarsus, in relation to Late Bronze and Iron Age phases of several contemporary Eastern Mediterranean sites (i.e. Mersin, Kinet Höyük, Kilise Tepe, al Mina and Ugarit). My approach treats sites as reference points to understand wider politico-economic dynamics of the Late Bronze to Iron Age Eastern Mediterranean. The cross-comparison of these sites shows that there are different zones of political significance (Coastal Anatolia and Coastal Syria) within the Late Bronze Age Eastern Mediterranean region. However, after the collapse of the Bronze Age there is a tendency for sites to become more economically focused. I present six propositions (extracted from the literature) to explicitly evaluate comparative significance of these sites. Quantitative architectural and ceramic data calibrated from excavation reports, using site excavation area, forms the basis for cross-comparison. Architecture is primarily used to compare the level of political organisation while ceramics are used to compare levels of economic activity. In combination, these two proxies provide a robust index of socio-political significance.

NEW ZEALAND NEWS

Compiled by Rick McGovern-Wilson

MANGUNGU MISSION STATION, NORTHLAND, NORTH ISLAND

A physical and geophysical survey was undertaken at Mangungu Mission Station near Horeke on the Hokianga. The purpose was to create an accurate plan of the existing buildings and investigate the sub surface remains to find a route for a new service trench through the property, doing the least damage to archaeological features. The footprints of individual buildings shown on a child's drawing of 1838 could be located within the landscape using the geomagnetic survey results. Large 1970s changes to the property including earthworks, sewage and drainage could be traced too. This interesting archaeological site has received far too little attention for its national importance as one of the early contact sites.

Archaeology Solutions Limited (ASL)

STOKES ROAD, AUCKLAND, NORTH ISLAND

From private residence to St. Cuthbert's College

NEW RESEARCH INTO THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF MELBOURNE'S MIDDLE CLASS

La Trobe University, in conjunction with Melbourne and Deakin Universities, has recently been awarded an ARC Discovery grant for a research project titled *Suburban Archaeology: Approaching the Archaeology of the Middle Class in 19th Century Melbourne*. Chief Investigators on the project are Professor Tim Murray, Associate Professor Susan Lawrence, Associate Professor Andrew Brown-May and Dr Linda Young. The project aims to further develop archaeological approaches to middle class and aspirational middle class culture using the discourse of consumption. The analysis of urban material culture from archaeological and museum collections, in conjunction with historical research, will be used to articulate the social relations shaped by the experience of consuming, and the social construction of the consumer as a consequence of these processes.

Ultimately it is intended to conduct excavations on middle-class sites in suburban Melbourne. The first phase of the project was to identify potential sites using a GIS database that combined historic maps and satellite imagery from Google Earth. A number of car parks and public parks in Hawthorn and Prahran were identified where GIS indicated that cesspit deposits may have survived. The second phase of the project has recently been completed and involved geophysical testing of four of those sites. Ground penetrating radar surveys were carried out by Dr Armin Schmidt of GeodataWIZ with assistance from David Hunter of Hunter Geophysics. The next phase will include limited sub-surface disturbance and is being planned at present.

Another part of this project is a Post-doctoral Fellowship held by Sarah Hayes. Her research will involve the re-examination of artefact assemblages from previously excavated sites in order to examine social difference in early colonial Melbourne, by examining the variety and diversity of the people who engaged with the range of values that can be associated with the middle class. The sites are Viewbank Homestead, 300 Queen Street and three households on the Commonwealth Block.

Sarah Hayes, Susan Lawrence and Tim Murray, La Trobe University

WESTERN AUSTRALIA NEWS

Compiled by Shane Burke

HONOURS AND MASTERS BY RESEARCH PROJECTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

MA research on the Meares site in the Beeliar Regional Park, Western Australia

The remains of Meares' dwelling on Lot 13 in the Mount Brown area fronting Cockburn Sound has the potential to provide inference about one family's adaptation to the Western Australian climate and environs. The research examines how the unfamiliar social and physical environment of Western Australia affected British settlers and how their innovative and autonomous responses in the face of such hardships were manifest in a material way. Archaeological evidence recovered at the site by excavations forms the basis for the study, but primary documents and oral histories will also provide an important database about the Meares' adaptation to their new home. Historical records give a well-defined beginning and

end date for the site's occupation (1829 – 1832), as well as a description of the site's inhabitants. Excavation of the site is expected to begin in July.

Simon Meath

Update on the BA (Hons) research on Blackboy Hill Military Training Camp

Blackboy Hill, the First AIF military training camp at Greenmount, Western Australia, was established on 17 August 1914. The camp housed over 32,000 men between 1914 and 1918, and is imperative to the history and understanding of Western Australia's involvement in the supply and training of troops for the First World War.

Since the last newsletter, my research has progressed well. Historical information has been compiled to provide a historical account of the camp, the men that served within and their corresponding lifestyles whilst training at Blackboy Hill. Furthermore, fieldwork including a surface survey and artefact collection and test-pit excavations, have been completed with artefacts now in the accessioning and conservation stages. From the artefacts found, a great deal of information and context was provided in terms of the soldiers' lifestyles, including their training, spare time activities, their meals and cutlery. There has been an interesting progression in comparing the archaeological and historical records and, at initial inspection, there seems to be irregularities present. It is expected that accessioning and conservation stages will be finished within the next 2 weeks, allowing the interpretation to progress further within the weeks to come.

Daniel Gerson

Update on the BA (Hons) research on the 1829 dated Garden Island settlement

Since November 2010, the area occupied by the Swan River's first British settlement group has been the focus of archaeological surveys. Near Cliff Head, on Garden Island, about 20 kilometres south west of present day Fremantle, the area's importance to Western Australia's history has always been known but little archaeological work has occurred in the area. According to the Heritage Council of Western Australia's database, the area of heritage significance is a small locale near Cliff Head, in which two drawings dating to 1829 depict huts, sheds and flag staffs.

The surveys have found much evidence associated with the 1829 camp, in areas outside of the heritage boundary, expanding the area substantially. Scatters of black bottle glass and earthenware, structural remains, and wells and soaks are some of the artefacts recorded. The finds assist in the research topic that examines the use of the island's naturally undulating landscape and the placement of habitation sites to achieve a cultural landscape, with the scatters and features suggesting the placement of groups of settlers of different social classes, relative to the location of the governor's site on one of the highest points in the Cliff Head area. The dissertation's submission is October.

Trent Hamersley