Port Essington: The historical archaeology of a north Australian nineteenth-century military outpost

Studies in Australasian Historical Archaeology 1

Jim Allen
Published by Sydney University Press, 2007

In 1966 Jim Allen undertook the first professional archaeological excavation of a European site in Australia, investigating the 1840s military settlement of Victoria, established at Port Essington. explored the history and archaeology of the short-lived settlement, tackling for the first time many of the themes which continue to underlie historical archaeological research – isolation, the responses of poorly equipped and inexperienced colonists, material culture and trade networks, the impact of inept government bureaucracies, disease and health, and relations with the Indigenous population. Allen’s main theoretical thrust concerned the problems of integrating written and archaeological data, which remains a central issue in the discipline of historical archaeology in Australasia.

Recognised for 40 years as a pivotal study in Australian historical and contact archaeology, ASHA’s publication of Port Essington makes this important and still highly relevant work widely available for the first time. The volume is published complete with the original data tables and graphs and is lavishly illustrated, with a retrospective by Jim Allen (now Emeritus Professor in the School of Historical & European Studies in La Trobe University). Port Essington will appeal as a reference book to both students and professional archaeologists.

Member’s price: $AUD 40 + p&h

The Shore Whalers of Western Australia: Historical Archaeology of a Maritime Frontier

Studies in Australasian Historical Archaeology 2

Martin Gibbs
Published by Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology and Sydney University Press, 2010

Every winter between 1836 to 1879 small wooden boats left the bays of southwest Western Australia to hunt for migrating Humpback and Right whales. In the early years of European settlement these small shore whaling parties and the whale oil they produced were an important part of the colonial economy, yet over time their significance diminished until they virtually vanished from the documentary record.

The Shore Whalers of Western Australia uses archival research and archaeological evidence to examine the history and operation of this almost forgotten industry on the remote maritime frontier of the British Empire, and the role of the whalers in the history of early contact between Europeans and Aboriginal people.

Member’s price: $AUD35 + p&h
Archaeology of the Chinese Fishing industry in Colonial Victoria
Studies in Australasian Historical Archaeology 3
Alister M Bowen
To be published 2013

The arrival of some 35,000 Chinese gold miners to Victoria during the 1850s increased demand for fish, a Chinese dietary staple. By the mid-1850s, some overseas Chinese people in Australia were pursuing a livelihood from fish. They fished, purchased great quantities of fish from European fishermen, cured fish on a large scale, constructed infrastructure, and made sums of money far greater than any European fishing operation. Until now, nobody really knew anything about the fish-curers; it seems to have been a forgotten part of Australia’s history.

The focus of this monograph is the Chinese involvement in Victoria’s colonial Fishing Industry. The aims are to establish if archaeological sites representing a Chinese fishing industry exist, to identify and interpret what artefacts such sites contain, and to better understand the complex social and cultural systems by which they operated. Whilst operating within a European based society, Chinese people in colonial Australia maintained a highly secretive, tightly woven, self-sufficient style of social organisation that enabled them to successfully turn economic opportunities into capital. Documentary evidence for Chinese involvement in Victoria’s fishing industry is very limited. In order to explore and describe aspects of their activities, and to construct and test related hypotheses, historical archaeological investigation proved to be a most rewarding avenue.

Members price: $AUD 35 + p&h

The Archaeology of Whaling in Southern Australia and New Zealand
Susan Lawrence and Mark Staniforth (eds)
Joint publication of the Australian Society for Historical Archaeology and Australian Institute for Maritime Archaeology 1998

“These are … fascinating and historically significant topics addressed in a collection of papers dealing with the archaeology of shore-based whaling stations in southern Australia and New Zealand. The papers were presented at a two-day whaling conference hosted by La Trobe University in 1997 [and are] organised under three sections: regional overviews of whaling research, case studies and thematic studies. Although pelagic whaling was of greater importance to the early colonies, the majority of the archaeological residues associated with whaling are to be found at the shore-based whaling stations and it is on these that the volume focuses … I highly recommend this volume to all archaeologists with an interest in early colonial maritime systems.” (Book Review by Peter Veth, Australian Archaeology 1999 No 48 pp. 60–61)

Member’s price: $AUD 30 + p&h.
Information for Contributors

General
In general, papers are expected to be 6000–7000 words in length (including references), with up to 8 illustrations (including tables). Research notes are expected to be less than 4000 words in length (including references) with 4–5 illustrations (including tables).
All submissions must also include the following:
– a 150-word abstract;
– a 50-word biographical statement including current affiliation; and
– contact information provided on a separate sheet, including address, phone, fax and email.
A digital copy of the paper is to be provided, in the following format:
– double-spaced;
– with wide margins on either side;
– with page numbers; and
– acknowledgements (if included) at the end of the paper, before references.
The manuscript should be submitted electronically via email (preferred) or mailed on a disc. Please note:
– text files should be in MS Word and figures as jpeg or similar; and
– any discs submitted to the Editor should be labelled with author’s name as well as the filename(s).

Text
Referencing is to follow the Harvard convention of in-text referencing, for example (Smith 1997:12). No footnotes will be accepted and endnotes are to be used only where absolutely necessary.
Examples of the bibliographic format follow (note the full-stops, commas and capitalisation of authors’ names):
British spelling is to be used throughout.
In general, follow the guidelines set out in the Australian Government Style Manual, especially as regards numeric and metric conventions. In particular, the following formats are used by AHA:
– numbers over 10,000 with commas
– numbers up to ten spelt, e.g. two; 11 and above as numerals
– numbers with decimal places given as numerals, e.g. 8.4
– dates as 1978–1979 not 1978–79 or 1978–9
– spell out per cent in text, abbreviate to % in tables
– measurements should be given in metric, unless taken from a primary source
– if necessary, the Imperial measurement can follow in brackets, e.g. 0.9 m (three feet)
– where measurements are given in Imperial, the metric conversion should follow in brackets
– metric units should be abbreviated, without a full stop, e.g. 9 m not 9 m. or nine metres
– Imperial measurements should be spelt out, e.g. feet not ’ (except in the case of currency where £ should be used)
– hyphenate compound adjectives, e.g. nineteenth-century housing not nineteenth century housing

Figures and Charts
Where historical artwork or photographs are used, the source should be clearly cited in the caption.
Tables should be in the format shown in the sample table below (consult back issues for variations of this style; note that the table will be stretched across the column or page).

Table 1: Artefact types at Sites 1–4.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Site 1</th>
<th>Site 2</th>
<th>Site 3</th>
<th>Site 4</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each table or chart should be on a separate page.
A separate page listing captions for figures and tables must be provided.

The Editing Process
Papers submitted to the Editor will be sent to two independent referees for review. The Editor will undertake to ensure that both author and referee remain anonymous. The referee will be asked to provide comments on the scholarly quality of the content of the paper, and on its suitability for publication in AHA. If necessary, they will be asked to recommend revisions required to make the paper acceptable for publication. The Editor will then forward these comments to the author.
Once the author has addressed these comments, they will submit an electronic version of the final. The manuscript will be checked for stylistic consistency before being sent to the graphic designer.
Authors will receive page proofs of their articles to check for errors, and are asked to return the corrected proofs promptly. No substantive changes can be made at that time.
Authors will receive an electronic copy of the published article.

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The Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology was founded in 1970 to promote the study of historical
archaeology in Australia. Two decades later with the formal
incorporation of New Zealand into the Society the name was
to Australasian. The Society encourages archaeo-
logical research on historical sites, buildings, artefacts, and
relics by appropriate means including historical research,
survey, recording, excavation and analysis and the publication
of results of such research. The Society supports the
conservation of sites and relics that are part of the Australian
and New Zealand heritage.

The interests of the Society include historical sites,
buildings and relics reflecting all aspects of life in Australia
and New Zealand from European contact until the present.

The Society aims to promote the exchange of information,
research and reference material relating to historical
archaeology within Australia, New Zealand and overseas. The
wide range of historical archaeology in which it is interested
is reflected in ASHA’s publications: Studies in Historical
Archaeology, a series of Occasional Papers, volumes based on
the papers from the annual Conference, the quarterly News-
letter and the Australasian Historical Archaeology journal.

The Society’s activities include public lectures and an
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format, and members will need to supply an email address to
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Membership is open to all those interested in historical
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