

## THESIS ABSTRACTS

### **Opium pipe bowls from the Lawrence Chinese Camps (H44/1012)**

**Lana Arun:** BA (Hons), Dept. of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Otago, 2012

This dissertation focuses on one aspect of Chinese material culture, opium from the Lawrence Chinese Camp. Opium was used for a number of reasons and was embedded within the social, physical, and psychological aspects of Chinese culture. Opium smoking was a complex process, which required specialised smoking paraphernalia, importation of opium, and was sold by Chinese merchants in Chinese communities and work camps (Wylie and Higgins 1987:317). This dissertation had three main aims including examining the role of opium in the LCC, classification of the pipe bowls and comparison of the LCC assemblage to other sites in New Zealand, Australia, and America. Similar patterns were found in Chinese sites in Australia and America. For example, New Zealand and Australia had similar pipe bowls types, suggesting similar trade and exchange movements. America slightly differed in pipe bowl types, but basically opium was important in Chinese sites, regardless of country. The opium pipe bowls in the Lawrence Chinese Camps played an important role within the social community of the Chinese sojourners.

### **The archaeology of early post-colonial settlements: a re-evaluation of the William Cook shipbuilding site**

**Kimberley Bone:** BA (Hons), Dept. of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Otago, 2012

Investigations on early post-contact sites have, until recently, been a largely neglected area of research in New Zealand archaeology. The William Cook Shipbuilding site, occupied between 1826 and 1833, provides one of the most unique opportunities for understanding this period. Despite its importance, investigations of the site are almost absent from the archaeological literature. This study reanalysed the William Cook assemblage and discovered that it represented a distinct cultural tradition which reflected the integrated nature of the community. Interpretation of the assemblage recorded a hybrid identity adopted by the settlers with the incorporation of European and Maori architecture and traditional Maori subsistence strategies. The artefacts demonstrated that a failing economy of the site eventually led to its abandonment in 1833. The investigations of two comparative case studies revealed several distinct cultural patterns during this period, identifying a marked contrast between European mission settlements in the north and the integrated communities of the south. These contrasts were identified in architecture, fauna and material culture.

### **Improving historic archaeological site management in New Zealand using GIS technology: analysis of the Preservation Inlet gold mining settlements**

**Shirley Brenden:** BA (Hons), Dept. of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Otago, 2011

This dissertation examines the ways in which historic archaeological sites are recorded and presented in New Zealand and how this could be improved with the addition of GIS tech-

nology. In particular, it addresses the New Zealand Archaeological Association Site Recording Scheme known as ArchSite. The way the records are presented and what material is included is of particular interest. It was decided the simplest and most straightforward way was to examine a small area with a variety of sites that is poorly represented in the ArchSite database. It is for this reason that the mining township sites at Preservation Inlet were chosen as the basis for this research. Through the use of GIS technology, a database was developed based on the feature level of the site. This allowed for a wide ranging and comprehensive understanding of these sites to be developed in a way that was not available or possible in previous databases. Through the use of this feature level database, it is hoped that the significance and integrity of these under represented sites can be fully appreciated and help contribute to the wider ranging subject of gold mining in nineteenth-century New Zealand.

### **People, place and space: the maritime cultural landscape of Otago Harbour**

**Matthew J. Carter:** MA, Dept. of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Otago, 2011

The relationship between human culture and the environment is an area of fundamental importance to modern archaeological enquiry. The investigation of this relationship led researchers to develop what has become known as the landscape approach, which focuses on the archaeological and environmental evidence of the interactions between people and the environment. Over the last two decades this approach has been utilised to investigate maritime cultural landscapes, with considerable success – albeit internationally. In New Zealand, landscape archaeology has been practised since the late 1970s. However, the investigation of maritime cultural landscapes has yet to be explored, resulting in considerable gaps in our understanding of the past.

This study applied the maritime cultural landscape approach to Otago Harbour in order to investigate the relationships between the harbour's inhabitants and the marine environment. Evidence of this interaction was investigated through archaeological records of sites with maritime associations, targeted site survey of areas of foreshore and historical research.

The evidence of these interactions were discussed in relation to the themes of marine resource exploitation, navigation and landing places, hulks and abandoned watercraft, shipbuilding and repair, shipwrecks, harbour warfare and defence, and anthropogenic change to the harbour.

The application of the maritime cultural landscape approach to Otago Harbour revealed a great deal of information about the ways in which the inhabitants of Otago Harbour have interacted with the marine environment over time. This study also showed the considerable strength of this framework as a tool for heritage management and the need to investigate the maritime cultural landscapes of the other major harbours of New Zealand.

### **Ceramic from Lawrence Chinese Camp: preliminary study of ceramic remains excavated from the house lot of Sam Chew Lain**

**Laura Davis:** BA (Hons), Dept. of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Otago, 2012

This dissertation focuses on the ceramic remains from the house of Sam Chew Lain, and his European wife, once located

at the Lawrence Chinese Camp. The site dates from the late 1860s to the early twentieth century and provides a unique study for the overseas Chinese. A comprehensive descriptive study was undertaken of the 2,346 sherds of ceramics to understand the dynamics within the house lot and to produce a set of testable hypotheses to create investigative directions for the study of Chinese in New Zealand. The hypotheses proposed involve the potential presence of a distinctive New Zealand Chinese assemblage, the reiteration of Chinese New Zealand trade networks and the difficulties around identifying gender and ethnicity at Chinese sites.

### **A landscape of races and dams: a case study of the impact of a water-race on the Creswick alluvial goldfield, utilising landscape theory in an archaeological analysis**

**Rowan Frawley:** BA (Hons), La Trobe University, 2013

A reliable source of water was vital for alluvial mining operations to be successful in the colonial period of Australia, but not enough research has currently been conducted in the understanding of how the systems that supplied the alluvial goldfields worked. Theories of landscape learning are utilised to analyse the nineteenth-century Robertson's/St. George's water race located on the alluvial goldfields of Creswick in Victoria. Providing a case study of the complexity of a water race system that began as a supply for alluvial mining operations, but ended as part of the Creswick municipal water supply, this race contains remarkably well-preserved evidence of the construction techniques of the system as well as extant features of water catchment and distribution.

### **Medicating miners: the historical archaeology of the St Bathans Cottage Hospital**

**Jessie Garland:** MA, Dept. of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Otago, 2012

This thesis examines the nature of health care provision in Central Otago during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century through an archaeological and historical investigation of the St Bathans cottage hospital. Material excavated from a cesspit on the hospital site has provided the basis for a detailed investigation of the practice and provision of medical care in the settlement and surrounding district from the early 1890s until the 1920s. The information derived from analysis of the archaeological assemblage has been combined with documentary sources to provide a comprehensive illustration of medical and domestic life at the cottage hospital, with an emphasis on the relationship between the dual function of the building as both a domestic residence and medical institution. This has, in turn, been used to explore the way in which the cottage hospital interacted with its wider social and geographical context on a local, national and international scale, including how that context influenced and was adapted to the day to day operation of a small health care institution in rural New Zealand.

### **Pyle's Cottage, St Bathans and vernacular architecture in the goldfields**

**Julia Hughes:** BA (Hons), Dept. of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Otago, 2011

Vernacular architecture of the historic period in New Zealand can be characterised by the technological innovations of the

nineteenth century. Materials such as corrugated iron were adopted rapidly in New Zealand as a way of quickly establishing towns and cities. The use of corrugated iron and timber framed building can be seen as a result of and catalyst for the rapid development of feeder towns of the gold rushes in Central Otago. The methods of construction and nature of building materials of the mining settlements of the gold rushes in Otago are not well known. This report focuses on a mid-nineteenth-century cottage in St Bathans, Central Otago. The cottage was owned by William Pyle, a merchant in the town. It is believed that the cottage was built in the formative years of the settlement in the mid to late 1860s. The investigation of the building, aims to provide a date of construction for the building and to provide information on the building traditions which characterise the changing nature of vernacular architecture in the nineteenth century.

### **'Watched over and guarded day and night': archaeology and institutions of confinement in Australia**

**Edwina Kay:** BA (Hons), La Trobe University, Melbourne, 2012

This thesis explores how the archaeology of institutions of confinement can provide important and unique insights into society. Institutions of confinement are the material manifestation of an attempt to control particular groups of people in society. The role material culture plays in achieving the aims of institutions places historical archaeology in an excellent position to examine the nature of this form of social control and how it has changed over time.

This thesis establishes a framework for the archaeological study of institutions that places society rather than the individual or the institution at the centre of the research. The framework is applied to a case study of the buildings occupied by children at Abbotsford Convent in the second half of the nineteenth century. The buildings of the convent are examined using child welfare, reform and education legislation in Victoria as a framework. The development of the convent is examined using documentary evidence, maps and photographs, and the extant buildings. The convent is regarded here as an expression of both the changing governmental and social attitudes to child welfare, reform and education, as well as the agenda of the Catholic Church. The structures of Abbotsford Convent reveal differences in the buildings provided for different groups of working-class Catholic girls in the institution.

The practice of removing particular groups of people from society by confining them within institutions is a continuing practice in our society. The reasons behind this practice and how it has changed over time can be explored through the examination of the materiality of institutions. A focus on the society that creates these institutions of confinement can provide insights into the role of institutions in controlling particular groups of people. There is significant potential for further research at Abbotsford Convent, and the extension of this framework to other institutions of confinement.

### **Beyond separate spheres: acknowledging the agency of nineteenth-century corsetieres**

**Rosemary Knight:** PhD, School of Social Science, The University of Queensland, 2013

The popular image of the archetypal nineteenth-century middle-class woman is that of consummate homemaker who

was denied access to the public sphere. Since the mid-twentieth century, the separate spheres paradigm has underpinned inquiry contending that middle-class women were relegated to the domestic sphere. According to the doctrine of separate spheres middle-class women were denied access to the economic world of production; however, this reified image has meant that the activities of middle-class business women have tended to be overlooked. This thesis adds to the body of work that critiques the notion that nineteenth-century middle-class women were confined to the domestic sphere by examining some of the women who made corsets in England and Australia during the long nineteenth century.

A number of influential feminist corsetry studies are also informed by the notion of separate spheres. These works focus on the subordination of women, and contend that corsetry was implicated in the maintenance of patriarchal domination. The conflation of corsetry and subordination results in an image of middle-class women as submissive and quite literally bound, not only within the home, but by their clothing.

The presence of successful corsetiers in the business world negates this hypothesis that middle-class women were confined to the home. Scholarship contending that women were denied access to the economic world of production focuses on structural constraints resulting from patriarchy. This concentration on the restrictions placed on women is problematic as it casts them as victims and denies their agency. I propose practice theory as an alternative conceptual tool for the investigation of nineteenth-century middle-class women because it allows for the acknowledgement of agency. Rather than concentrating on the structures of society alone, practice theory addresses the articulation of social structures and human action. In particular, Ortner's (1996) concept of "subaltern practice theory" in which actors play a serious game of life that is pervaded by power and inequality, provides an opportunity to acknowledge the agency of nineteenth-century corsetiers.

This anthropological investigation of the lived experience of corsetiers examines the activities of women who appropriated the corset as a means of entering the male dominated world of business. It contests the idea that corsetry signified the subordination of women and highlights what nineteenth-century middle-class women were able to do rather than what they were not able to do.

I have found that although the corset is often thought to be a quintessentially nineteenth-century item of material culture, it actually originated at a much earlier period, and is a multifaceted item with diverse meanings for different individuals. While the corset is obviously a device designed to create a fashionable shape, it was also considered by some corsetiers to be of benefit to women's health. In fact, a significant number of corsetiers, who availed themselves of popular notions of science, were engaged in the manufacture of "hygienic" corsetry which was intended for bodily support. Some of these women sought to promote themselves as health care professionals rather than simply identifying with the fashion industry.

### **Tracks and traces: an archaeological survey of railway construction related sites on the Otago central railway**

**Peter Mitchell:** MA, Dept. of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Otago, 2012

The focus of this thesis is the archaeology of workers' camps associated with the Otago Central Railway. The railway was

begun in 1880 and completed in 1920. Using the historical record in conjunction with remote sensing and site survey, this thesis separates sites related to the construction of the Otago Central Railway from those involved with the everyday operation and maintenance of the line. Eight sites are investigated using a two site type model to determine whether a site was a Public Works Department site or that of a private contractor. The research has shown that Public Works Department camps were situated in the most favourable locations while those of the private contractors were located as near to the work at hand as possible.

### **An exploration of the EAMC database: the assessment of a potential tool for developing the practice of historical archaeology within New Zealand**

**Jeremy Moyle:** BA (Hons), Dept. of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Otago, 2012

As it stands, the practice of historical archaeology in New Zealand is less than desirable. Much legislatively mandated investigation in historic sites has the potential to produce only a description of a site and its artefacts. A widely used historical archaeology database has the potential to help remedy this situation through the ability to make historical archaeological information widely accessible and facilitate large scale artefact comparisons between multiple sites. The EAMC Database exemplifies a program designed to achieve such a goal, and is explored and assessed through a case study artefact comparison in order to gain practical insight into the actual potential of a database. From this study five key aspects were identified as influencing the functionality of the database, and these were able to inform suggestions for the design of a similar type of program for New Zealand.

### **Health appropriation: a comparative study of patent medicines and orthodox medical practice, using colonial Queensland as a case study**

**Noel H Sprenger:** PhD, School of Social Science, The University of Queensland, 2012

In this thesis, I present a comparative study of orthodox medical practice and patent medicines during the nineteenth century. Paradigm changes in English society following the Industrial Revolution heralded the beginning of the end to an obsolete science, and of what can be regarded by modern standards as primitive and brutal medical treatment. Histories of the period indicate that premature death was likely to be caused by the early nineteenth-century doctor's practices, and also was the likely outcome of the choice of the public to purchase and consume various concoctions, known as patent medicines. Two of these medicines, abortifacients to terminate unwanted pregnancy as well as opiate-based concoctions, are featured in this work as causal of much suffering, addiction, and even death.

Contemporaneous with the rise of patent medicines, orthodox medical authorities attempted to modernise medical provision through professionalisation. However, throughout the nineteenth century, they were constantly frustrated in this endeavour. Despite attempts to change the competitive market economy for medical services, the dominant section of the profession was plagued by competition from within its own ranks, and from those from beyond the pale of orthodoxy, including the patent medicine industry. Doctors sought to

control medicine and to enforce a power structure that placed them, without interference, in authority over other health providers. The provision of health became the object of an intense political struggle, and evidence presented here suggests that medical professionalisation occurred prior to the development of a coherent knowledge base, and that social acceptance of orthodox medical practice was characterised by a long period of resistance by the public because of a lack of confidence in the ability of doctors to successfully treat disease and illness. The narrative that unfolds represents a complex series of societal and medical threads that are joined in the history of medicine in Queensland. The development of this British colony, subordinate to the authority of New South Wales, then a separate State in the Commonwealth of Australia, mirrored the political, social and medical activities that occurred throughout the Western world. Queensland represents a micro-scale version of these societal changes, thus allowing a detailed explanation to be presented. Through historical documentation and a detailed analysis of a common form of material culture (patent medicine bottles as represented in the historical and archaeological record), this work provides some understanding of the health concerns and use of medicines by the public during this period, and the manner in which orthodox medical practitioners finally became ascendant early in the 20th century.

### **Reconstructing Russell: evaluating the archaeological record of one of New Zealand's earliest towns**

**Luke Tremlett:** BA (Hons), Dept. of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Otago, 2011

The historical archaeology of the Russell area will be the focus for this study. Located at the Southern end of the Bay of Islands, Russell is one of the first European settlements in New Zealand. Consequently the Russell area is of archaeological interest and has been the subject of many investigations, nearly all of which are stored on grey literature databases. This literature is difficult to access and has contributed very little to our understanding of New Zealand archaeology. Primarily this dissertation will synthesise grey literature to access the extent to which archaeological site contexts can be dated, and what these dates can reveal about change over time in Russell. It is

intended that this research will synthesise past archaeological investigations to form new understanding of the dating of historical sites in Russell, and the reconstruction of human activity in Russell from archaeological evidence.

### **Lawrence Chinese Camp: a taphonomic analysis of the phase one sample assemblage**

**Jess Waterworth:** BA (Hons), Dept. of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Otago, 2012

This is a study of a sample of the faunal assemblage from the Lawrence Chinese Camp, the only solely-Chinese community within the pioneer era of New Zealand settler society. By looking at the proportions of butchery practices and range of taxa present in the Lawrence Chinese Camp Phase One sample assemblage, in comparison to three other sites – Baird's Hotel (a rural, New Zealand-European site located in Central Otago), Carlaw Park (a suburban, overseas Chinese site located in the North Island of New Zealand), and Pierce (a mining camp occupied by both Euroamerican and overseas Chinese settlers in North-Western America) – we can see that there are differences in culture between the overseas Chinese and the European settlers in both North America and New Zealand, which are evident through the diet and the butchery practices used.

### **Pakeha ceramics as dating tools: creating a chronology for the Te Hoe whaling station**

**Naomi Woods:** BA (Hons), Dept. of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Otago, 2011

Very little is known about the chronology of the whaling station of Te Hoe in the Hawkes Bay region of New Zealand. This dissertation aims to shed some light on the sequence of historic occupation there through an analysis of the ceramic assemblage. To facilitate this analysis, a model was developed which characterises the typical "Pakeha" period (1792–1860) ceramic assemblage and identifies which attributes of the ceramics are useful for dating purposes. The results not only provide some much needed evidence for the occupation period for the station but prove the applicability of the created model for other, similar archaeological problems.

## Notes on Contributors

**Alister Bowen** completed an Honours degree in archaeology in 1999 at the Australian National University and a PhD in Historical Archaeology in 2007 at La Trobe University ('a power of money' The Chinese Involvement in Victoria's Early Fishing Industry). He has a long held interest in Australian prehistory and history. His current research includes archaeological heritage management, issues of site conservation and the archaeology of culture contact. Alister is affiliated with La Trobe University and can be contacted at [alister.bowen@internode.on.net](mailto:alister.bowen@internode.on.net)

**James L. Flexner** is an ARC Postdoctoral Fellow at the Australian National University. He has worked in historical archaeology and landscape archaeology in North America, Eastern Africa, and the South Pacific. His doctoral research at UC Berkeley was on the leprosarium at Kalawao, Molokai. He is currently working on a multi-year survey of mission sites on Erromango, Tanna, and Aniwa in southern Vanuatu.

**Peter Davies** is a research assistant in the Archaeology Program at La Trobe University. He is the author of *Henry's Mill: The Historical Archaeology of a Forest Community* (Archaeopress, 2006), co-author (with Susan Lawrence) of *An Archaeology of Australia Since 1788* (Springer, 2011), and co-author (with Penny Crook and Tim Murray) of *An Archaeology of Institutional Confinement: The Hyde Park Barracks, 1848–1886* (Sydney University Press, in press). He also co-edits the monograph series *Studies in Australasian Historical Archaeology*. [peter.davies@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:peter.davies@latrobe.edu.au)

**Tracy Ireland** is a lecturer in heritage and conservation and Head of the Discipline of Humanities in the Faculty of Arts and Design, University of Canberra. She has a PhD in archaeology from the University of Sydney and has also worked for government and in the private sector. She has prepared heritage management plans for nationally significant places such as the Australian War Memorial and the Old Great North Road and publishes on historical archaeology and heritage management, the conservation and interpretation of archaeological sites, heritage ethics and the cultural politics of the past.

**Amy Guthrie** is the Heritage Officer at the ANU, and was formerly a Heritage Consultant with Godden Mackay Logan. Amy graduated with honours from the University of Canberra's cultural heritage program in 2007. Amy has worked on a wide variety of heritage conservation and management projects all over Australia and beyond.

**Shelley James** is a heritage consultant with Environmental Resources Management based in Canberra. Shelley has a Bachelor Degree in Cultural Heritage Management from the University of Canberra. Her primary areas of historical interest and research are WWII sites across Australia and 19th century Australian history. Shelley has worked in the Australian heritage field for over 14 years and has gained extensive heritage site experience from employment with the National Trust, Department of Defence, Godden Mackay Logan and the former Department of the Environment and Heritage.

**Edwina Kay** is a PhD candidate at La Trobe University, Melbourne. Her interest lies in the materiality of places of

confinement. Her current research explores the relationship between the Industrial Schools and Magdalen Asylums at former convents of the Good Shepherd and wider society.

**Susan Lawrence** teaches historical archaeology at La Trobe University. She is past-president of the Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology, a member of the Heritage Council of Victoria's Archaeology Advisory Committee, and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and the Society of Antiquaries of London. She is the author of several books, including most recently (co-authored with Peter Davies) *An Archaeology of Australia Since 1788* (Springer 2011). [s.lawrence@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:s.lawrence@latrobe.edu.au)

**Richard Mackay** is a Partner of Godden Mackay Logan Pty Ltd Heritage Consultants and an Adjunct Professor in the Archaeology Program at La Trobe University. Richard is a former member of the NSW Heritage Council and Commonwealth 2011 State of the Environment Committee and the current Chair of the Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee.

**Peter Mitchell** completed an MA in archaeology at the University of Otago in 2012. His Master's thesis examined the location of construction camps associated with the Otago Central Railway in Otago New Zealand. He intends to study these sites further by undertaking archaeological excavations to establish the layout and structure of the camps and to determine whether it is possible to distinguish between the different groups of workers (Chinese, Italian, German, British and the local unemployed) who constructed the railway.

**Tim Owen** is a heritage consultant engaged with Godden Mackay Logan based in Sydney. He undertakes research and consultancies in both disciplines of Aboriginal and historical archaeology. His primary areas of historical interest and research are associated with WWII infrastructure across Australia and the NSW former Snowy Scheme sites. He also undertakes public archaeological research and excavation for Port Arthur Historical Site, Tasmania. He holds a PhD in Aboriginal archaeology from Flinders University, where he is an adjunct lecturer.

**John Pickard** describes himself as an eclectic naturalist fascinated by landscapes, and by the impact of Europeans on Australian landscapes. For the past two decades he has studied the role, history and heritage of Australian rural fences, leading to a PhD (Macquarie University 2010).

**Kevin Rains** has worked for the past decade in the fields of archaeology, history and cultural heritage management. The topic of his doctoral thesis is the history and archaeology of the Chinese community of Cooktown and the Palmer River Goldfield. He maintains an active interest in researching the early Chinese community of Queensland, being a founder and organiser of the biennial Rediscovered Past conference in Cairns. Since 2006 he has been working for the Gold Coast City Council, running the heritage unit.

**Anita Smith** is a Research Associate in Archaeology at La Trobe University and Heritage Consultant with extensive experience in World Heritage and cultural heritage education

and training in Australia and internationally. Anita regularly coordinates cultural heritage initiatives in the Pacific in association with UNESCO and Pacific Island governments and communities.

**Laya Zarif Soltani** was a postgraduate student at Massey University Albany Campus during 2010, during which time she completed an Honours-level research project using ArcGIS to calculate historic driving dam volumes. She is now employed as a GIS Analyst by Auckland City Council.

**David Wilton** is a senior lecturer in IT at Massey University Albany Campus, New Zealand. He has been a keen amateur archaeologist for several years, and likes to combine IT research with heritage themes.

**Sean Winter** recently received his PhD from the University of Western Australia. His thesis examined the archaeology of the

Western Australian convict system. He also has research interests in Indigenous archaeology, the Greco-Roman period in Egypt, and industrial archaeology. Sean currently manages the Archaeology Laboratory at the University of Western Australia.

**Naomi Woods** has just completed an MA in Archaeology at the University of Otago. Her research interests include New Zealand urban archaeology and the use of material culture to create meaningful narratives about the past.

**April Youngberry** is an archaeological graduate of The University of Queensland. She is currently undertaking her doctoral research on the Ageston sugar plantation. Her research interests include industrial archaeology, gender, material culture, and Australian colonial experiences.