

## THESIS ABSTRACTS

### **Experiencing excavations: a model for public archaeology in Victoria**

**Laura Campbell:** BA (Hons), Archaeology and History, La Trobe University, 2014

Archaeology provides a tangible link between the public and highlights aspects of history that may not have previously been known. Archaeology reveals aspects of society which history cannot and in ethical terms this knowledge should be shared with the public. There are many different aspects of public archaeology and this thesis focuses on on-site interpretations and public tours of excavations. In Victoria there have been a limited number of on-site interpretation programs which have included guided tours. The main objective of this thesis is to provide an analysis of Australian on-site interpretation programs and conclude with an outline for a model of public archaeology in Victoria. The case studies used in this thesis include the Mill Point Public Archaeology Project, the Port Arthur Public Archaeology Program of 2002–2003 and the Casselden Place public interpretation program. These have been compared to the Pentridge Public Outreach Program, a contemporary case study, to highlight aspects of programs that may have been previously unobserved. This thesis offers a model to provide insight into how to conduct an on-site public archaeology program in Victoria.

### **Bottling health: patent and proprietary medicine bottles at the old Coach and Horses Hotel, Ringwood, Victoria**

**Dale Clutterbuck:** BA (Hons), Archaeology and History, La Trobe University, 2014

This thesis examines the collection of patent and proprietary medicine bottles recovered at the excavation of the Old Coach and Horses Hotel in Ringwood, which burned down in late 1907. This assemblage is important as it casts light on healthcare strategies of at least one family of hotel managers just after the turn of the 20th century. The majority of bottles recovered are likely to have belonged to the O'Meara family who ran the hotel from 1906 until 1908. The assemblage was remarkably undisturbed and provides a window to illnesses and treatments of that period, which diseases or problems were present, which treatments were most popular, how much money was being spent on medical matters, availability of medical assistance and attitudes toward healthcare of the period. It also offers insight into the general strategies of the O'Mearas toward maintaining their family's physical health.

### **Child's play: an archaeological assessment of nineteenth-century children's toys**

**Kate Eising:** BA (Hons), Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Otago, 2014

Excavations at the Victoria Retail Centre in Whanganui recovered a relatively sizeable assemblage of nineteenth-century children's toys. This dissertation analyses these toys and attempts to determine what kinds of activities these artefacts represent and to what extent these activities are gender specific. A discussion is undertaken on the role these toys played in raising children and how they could be used to

train children for the social and cultural expectations that accompany adulthood. Furthermore this assemblage is compared to the historical record and other assemblages to reveal how representative archaeological remains are of the full range of children's toys available in the nineteenth century.

### **Backyard historical archaeology: unraveling past lives through analyses of the archaeological remains from 26 St. David Street, Dunedin**

**Megan Lawrence:** MA, Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Otago, 2014

This research focused on the archaeological remains from the 26 St. David Street site (I44/548) in Dunedin, New Zealand. Although just one site, analyses illustrated that the archaeological remains represent multiple households and businesses from the second half of the nineteenth century into the early twentieth century. The examination of deposits, artefacts and historical records identified depositional processes and chronological timeframes, narrowing down potential contributors to the assemblage. Further analysis of specific artefact types and functions highlighted domestic and commercial activities that occurred at the site, as well as various relationships that formed and occurred within, between and beyond these residential and business spheres of the local neighbourhood. In these relationships and activities, such themes as sanitation and cleanliness, leisure and entertainment, and consumerism were explored. Moreover these investigations, alongside a brief analysis of artefact quality, elucidated how activities, interactions and individual expressions within a low middle- to working-class environment are positioned in regards to underlying roles, ideals and values associated with aspects of individual, household and community identities. The many private and public social interactions were highlighted as being of great importance for this growing and changing North Dunedin community. Furthermore, while natural and cultural formation processes effect what is represented archaeologically, the deposits and their contents provided a look into the regional, national and international processes and frameworks of an industrial world that have shaped the complex webs of past interactions, consumer choices, and daily practices reflected in the 26 St. David Street assemblage.

### **Stone and iron, space and identity: a landscape archaeology of the Melbourne, Mount Alexander and Murray River railway**

**Allister Mills:** BA (Hons), Archaeology and History, La Trobe University, 2014

This dissertation investigates the material culture and surrounding landscape of the Melbourne, Mount Alexander and Murray River Railway. It utilises analysis of the bridges, viaducts and stations constructed along the railway to consider the use of space and the creation of identity in nineteenth-century Victoria. By creating a preliminary typology by which the features of the railway can be categorised and compared, I develop a framework that can be applied to other railway features, combining historical information with analysis of the material culture of the railway, and using previously established frameworks such as landscape archaeology, to understand the people who used and created it. Through a comparative analysis of bridges and viaducts along the Melbourne, Mount Alexander and Murray River Railway and

other railway features in Britain, I discuss the creation of an identity by engineers in Victoria. Analysis of the use of space in and around railway stations is used to examine the beginnings of the formation of a national identity distinct from the British colonial identity which had previously existed. Additionally, through examining the material culture of the railway and the individuals involved in its design and construction, I explore the potential to understand the transfer of technology from Britain to an Australian setting through the movement and migration of individuals rather than in migratory waves as has often been studied before.

### **The European greenstone industry in Otago: archaeological and historical evidence**

**Victoria Ross:** BA (Hons), Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Otago, 2014

This research dissertation provides a comprehensive history and understanding of the European greenstone industry in

Otago during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Using the *chaîne opératoire* method of lithic reconstruction, this work attempted to reconstruct the manufacturing methods of the lapidary at this time using archaeological material, followed by the introduction of documentary evidence to fill in the gaps. It was found that while the archaeological evidence could show some of the process, there were gaps in the knowledge, and so documentary evidence was essential in some areas. To date no work has been published looking at this industry from an archaeological point of view and all previous work has been from a historical view. In some cases the archaeological material gave evidence contrary to that in the documentation, clearly showing the need for more archaeological investigation into the area. As most sites relating to the period are in urban areas this will most likely only happen through CRM (Cultural Resource Management) work, and as such will occur only as rescue excavations which can miss some of the information. In saying this, any new information that can be added to this part of the country's history is valuable.