

## Editorial

It is a great pleasure to present Volume 37 of *Australasian Historical Archaeology* to our readers. This issue includes another diverse mix of papers showcasing the range and calibre of historical and archaeological research in Australasia.

We begin with a landmark study of Aboriginal-worked flint recovered from recent excavations in Randwick, in the eastern suburbs of Sydney, by Timothy Owen, Beth Hise, Sam Player and Michael Ingrey. Portable x-ray fluorescence (pXRF) analysis of these lithic tools along with examples from First Government House, established the Thames Valley in England as the source of flint. The significance of these findings for our understanding of Aboriginal life in and around the early colony, and the ingenuity of the *gadhungal* people of coastal Sydney, demonstrate the importance of collaborative, multidisciplinary research of artefact collections.

The management of such collections is the focus of Anita Smith, Susan Lawrence, Anne-Louise Muir and Jeremy Smith's presentation of a 'Rapid Assessment System' for establishing the significance of historical-archaeological collections in the care of Heritage Victoria. This paper provides a practical response to the complex challenges of managing large- and smaller-scale collections under heritage legislation.

E. Jeanne Harris provides a fascinating historical context for a collection of glass bottles from six households and one chemist shop in 19th-century Parramatta. By exploring the broader context of healthcare and traditional medical practices in the 19th century, and particularly in Parramatta, Harris expands the interpretive toolbox of historical archaeologists working with patent medicine bottles.

Bronwyn Woff extends the review of the functional classification of glass bottles—medicinal and otherwise—by examining their suitability for reuse. Drawing on a cesspit assemblage from 35–37 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne, she establishes a 'scale of reliability' for bottle forms from low to high.

Peter Hobbins presents a fascinating survey of a less familiar typical class of artefacts, the relics of fighter pilot uniforms, alongside that of World War II radar stations. Exploring these through the lens of phenomenology this has implications for the exploration and interpretation of historical archaeologies of the 20th and earlier centuries.

Terry Kass introduces us to Special Leases: a class of land-title records from New South Wales which promise great potential for historical-archaeological research. These files, prepared for the administration of special uses of Crown land, such as wharfage and stores, provide a rich documentary archive of maps and first-hand descriptions of land ownership and use—if you know how to find them.

D.A. Lenton explores the archaeology of a standing structure, Blundell's Cottage, in Canberra. He considers the motivations of the original owners and builders of this 1850s stone cottage that served as the centre of the working property.

John Pickard extends his contribution to the history of fencing with an analysis of rabbit-proof dry stone walls in the Western District of Victoria. Drawing on rich historical sources from newspaper accounts of 'the rabbit problem', with a close examination of construction techniques of surviving walls.

In the first of two research reports, Felicity Buckingham, describes a fascinating collection of late-19th-century paper

artefacts recovered from the Former Mechanics' Institute, Geelong. The scraps provide insight to the workings of the Institute, its events program and library.

Our final piece is Geoff Hewitt's review of reworked clay tobacco pipes from the Melbourne Gaol. Inspired by Rhian Jones's paper from Volume 36, Hewitt presents a considered reflection on the practices of smoking and workings of a penal institution.

We have four reviews of recent titles including two of the Society's recent publications and five abstracts for recent completions of honours and masters students.

We are saddened to include the obituaries of three of the Society's treasured members this year. Angela Middleton served as co-editor of the monograph series until early this year having spent many years on the Committee and left behind a legacy of published research, including papers in *AHA*. Her work pushed the boundaries of mission studies in New Zealand and made substantive contributions to artefact methodologies and historical research. We are grateful to the New Zealand Archaeological Association for permission to share the obituary published here.

R. Ian Jack is likely known to all ASHA members as one of the pioneers of our field. In addition to authoring papers and books on industrial archaeology, he was a former President of ASHA and the Royal Australian Historical Society. In his role as Dean of the Arts Faculty, he was instrumental in the creation of the historical archaeology program at the University of Sydney in the early 1970s. He continued to support the development of the field and mentored many historical archaeologists.

Linda Terry was co-editor of *AHA* between 2012 and 2016 and her passing is sorely felt by our editorial team. Linda was instrumental in establishing many procedures and was generous with her time assisting us when we took over as editors and stayed in touch, providing advice from time to time. Like many who have contributed to our Society over its 49-year history, she got on with the job in quiet fastidiousness.

All three will be sadly missed. We thank Ian, Judy, Andrew and Jon for preparing tributes for Angela, Ian and Linda.

It would not have been possible to put together this issue without the hard work of our Book Reviews editor, Peta Longhurst; Jessie Garland who assisted with copy editing; the *many* reviewers who carefully critiqued incoming submissions; Natalie Cleary our very patient typesetter; Andy Childs of ACS Print Group; and above all, the 16 authors who worked tirelessly to bring their research to publication.

This year will be the first year that *AHA* is included in the Scopus database of peer-reviewed literature, following review by an independent panel in June 2019. Indexation in Scopus will not only enhance the visibility of our journal but provide us a measure of its impact, in comparison with like journals.

Looking ahead, Volume 38 promises to be another great issue and we have several papers in hand. We are also planning a Special Issue to commemorate the 50th anniversary of ASHA's founding. This will be a fitting way to reflect on key developments in historical archaeological research and practice in Australasia in the past 50 years.

Penny Crook  
James Flexner  
Sarah Hayes  
Annie Clark