OBITUARIES

Vale Angela Middleton¹ (1953–2019)

Angela Middleton was born in Auckland in 1953 and died recently in Dunedin, aged 65, after a short battle with motor neurone disease. Her childhood was spent in Auckland, Taranaki and Puhoe, and for most of secondary school she boarded at New Plymouth Girls High School, forging friendships that persisted through the rest of her life. In her late teens Angela lived for a time in the Jerusalem commune on the Wanganui river, beginning her lifelong interest in and engagement with Māori communities.

Angela was a relative late-comer to archaeology. She had earlier careers in photography, book publishing and retailing, silk-screen printing, and as coordinator of the Ponsonby Community Centre. She was also the solo parent to son Joss, born in 1982. In 1990 Angela trained as a Social Worker, beginning yet another career, but also stimulating her interest in further academic study, which she pursued part time. In 1997 she graduated from the University of Auckland with a BA in Anthropology. Her MA thesis, Reading Landscapes for Meaning at Tataraimaka, Taranaki, completed with First Class honours in 1999, established one of the primary themes of Angela’s research, locating physical remnants in New Zealand’s landscapes of the dynamic interplay and overlay of Māori and Pākehā cultures.

Missionaries played a significant part in early nineteenth century cross-cultural encounters in New Zealand, but prior to 2002 there had been no research-focused excavations at any mission station sites. Angela’s excavations at Te Puna mission station in the Bay of Islands changed that, providing the evidential base for her University of Auckland PhD, Te Puna: the Archaeology and History of a New Zealand Mission Station, 1832–1874, completed in 2005. This won the Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology’s Maureen Byrne Award for best MA or PhD thesis. A revised version was published as the 2008 book Te Puna: A New Zealand Mission Station as part of Springer’s Contributions to Global Historical Archaeology series. More than half of the 27 books, chapters and articles that Angela went on to publish concerned aspects of missionization, both in New Zealand and globally, and she was widely acknowledged as one of the leading archaeological scholars in the field.

Angela shifted to Dunedin in 2003 and was a part-time Teaching Fellow (2003–2006) and Lecturer (2006–2011) in archaeology at the University of Otago. She also worked briefly for NZHPT, before establishing an archaeological consulting company, Arch Hill Heritage in 2005. Her work focused primarily on assessment, monitoring and excavation of historic period sites in Dunedin, Oamaru, Central Otago and Southland. Through this she became expert in the archaeology of mining landscapes, nineteenth century urban backyards, and relict rural landscapes, such as that now preserved around Harbour Cone on Otago Peninsula partly as a result of Angela’s research and advocacy. Arch Hill Heritage also provided work experience for a steady stream of Otago archaeology students, many of whom have continued in archaeology. The company produced some 200 reports, copies of which are now held by the Hocken Library.

Although engaged in the commercial side of archaeology, Angela maintained an active research career, both through her own research initiatives and collaborations. Among the latter was the Department of Conservation’s Codfish Island/Whenua Hou Archaeological Project, which combined Angela’s historical research with excavations led by Atholl Anderson and Ian Smith. Angela’s (2007) Two Hundred Years on Codfish Island (Whenua Hou): From Cultural Encounter to Nature Conservation has become an essential source of authoritative historical information for the many Ngāi Tahu descendants of the early 19th-century ‘mixed-race’ community there. Angela and Ian Smith also collaborated with DoC in archaeological and historical research on the first permanent settlement by Pākehā, at Hoki mission station in the Bay of Islands. This provided a detailed picture of mission life and interactions with Māori during the 18 years preceding the Te Puna mission, located just over a kilometre distant.

Alongside her long-term research focus on mission archaeology, Angela also maintained a broader interest in the history and archaeology of the Bay of Islands. She worked alongside Manuka Henare and Adrienne Puckey to compile a summary report for the Waitangi Tribunal on the oral and traditional history for the Te Aho claims alliance. Two further books followed, Kerikeri Mission and Kororipo Pā: an Entwined History (2013) and Pewhairangi: Bay of Islands Missions and Māori 1814–1845 (2014). The latter provides a comprehensive and highly readable account of three dynamic decades that helped to shape the future course of New Zealand’s history.

Much of Angela’s work highlighted the lives of women in the historical contexts that she studied. This included not only missionary women, but also those from the Māori world. Her final sole-authored paper, published in the New Zealand Journal of History (2018), concerned Hariata Hongi, who played a significant but poorly known role in important events in northern New Zealand throughout the 19th century.

Angela was a regular participant in annual conferences of the New Zealand Archaeological Association and Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology, presenting on an aspect of her research or consultancy activity, and served on the ASHA Committee from 2014 to 2018. She leaves behind many friends throughout the New Zealand and Australian archaeological communities.

Ian W.G. Smith

Angela Middleton’s publications


2007 ‘Potatoes and muskets: Māori gardening at Kerikeri’, in

¹ A previous version of this obituary appeared in Archaeology in New Zealand 62(2):5–7. Reproduced with permission from the New Zealand Archaeological Association.


2007 Two hundred years on Codfish Island (Whenuahou): from cultural encounter to nature conservation, Dept of Conservation, Southland Conservancy, Invercargill, NZ.


2014 *Pēwhairangi: Bay of Islands missions and Māori 1814 to 1845*, Otago University Press, Dunedin, New Zealand.


Robert Ian Jack was born in Dumfries, Scotland. His interest in history and in music were clear from an early age. He was awarded an MA from the University of Glasgow in 1957, a PhD from the University of London in 1961 and became a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society in 1969.

In 1961 he was appointed a lecturer in history at Sydney University. He became a senior lecturer in 1965 and was appointed associate professor in 1970. He served two consecutive terms as Dean of the Faculty of Arts, from 1974 to 1977, and was Head of the Department of History from 1979 to 1982, and from 1992 to 1995. He was chair of the University’s Board of Music for 14 years. After retiring, he became an honorary research associate in 2002 and in 2016 was awarded an Honorary Fellowship.

He first became a Councillor of the Royal Australian Historical Society in 1990 and became the society’s longest-serving president from 2003 to 2010. He was elected a fellow in 2004.

He was the Australian representative on the International Committee for Conservation of Industrial Heritage from 1986 to 1994 and a long-term member of the Heritage Council of NSW (representing the National Trust and the Royal Australian Historical Society) and a Professional Member of ICOMOS.
At a local level he was a member of the Hawkesbury City Council Heritage Advisory Committee, and president of the Hawkesbury Historical Society, vice-president of the Friends of the Paragon and the Blue Mountains Association of Cultural Heritage Organisations, which elected him president in March 2019.

Ian took up residence in St Andrew’s College when appointed the Wilson Fellow in 1979, was Senior Tutor from 1982 to 1988, became the Hunter Baillie Fellow in Oriental and Polynesian Languages in 1988, and held the Woodhouse Fellowship from 1992 to 1998 when he became Senior Fellow. In addition to these responsibilities he maintained a deep commitment as a mentor to thousands of college students, across all faculties and disciplines. The importance now placed on music and the performing arts in the college is seen to be in large part a result of his seemingly endless enthusiasm and encouragement towards excellence and fulfilment of potential in these areas.

Ian joined the ASHA committee in 1971 and served on the committee throughout the following decade as a member, vice-president and president.

In September 1973 Ian, as Dean of the Arts Faculty, orchestrated the creation of a second-year course in Historical Archaeology in the face of significant opposition, most notably from Alexander Cambitoglou. This course was established outside the Department of Archaeology and administered by an interdepartmental faculty committee, of which he chaired. The course was first offered in 1974 and included a significant component of Medieval history and archaeology taught by him. This went some way to deflecting accusations that the course would be parochial but was not continued in later years.

The establishment of this course was extremely significant. While historical archaeological investigations had been underway for some years this course established it in Australia as an academic discipline. It was a radical departure as a pioneering, explicitly cross-disciplinary course that stood in direct opposition to the focus on old world archaeology and the then commonly held belief that the contribution of archaeology to an understanding of Australia’s past would expire at the time of the European invasion.

The course was created in response to the needs of students, researchers and communities who were actively concerned with Australia’s recent past and the growing interest in heritage generally. Ian was dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and felt that traditional administrative and disciplinary boundaries should not be allowed to limit that pursuit.

Ian was an assiduous scholar and researcher, but he did not see the study of the past as a rarefied academic pursuit, he regarded it as something that was open to all. His involvement in and contribution to global, national and local heritage organisations, and his own research and many collaborations, attest to this. His enduring interest was in industrial archaeology, whether in Wales, Portugal or the Hawkesbury valley.

Ian’s sense of humour was never far from the surface. There are not many mediaeval history lecturers who would begin a lecture on Magna Carta with a quote from A.A. Milne: ‘King John was not a good man—/ He had his little ways...’; or return a student’s essay with the comment, ‘You picked your way through the evidence with the sureness of a Cambrian goat—middling distinction’. In later years when people commented on his relatively youthful appearance, he would respond by pointing out that he grew up in the house where J.M. Barrie wrote part of Peter Pan.

With Ian’s passing we have lost a founder, supporter, advocate and exemplary practitioner of historical archaeology, for those who had the privilege to know him, study and work with him we have lost a treasured colleague, mentor and friend...

atque in perpetuum, frater, ave atque vale

Judy Birmingham and Andrew Wilson with the assistance of Wayne Erickson, Chris Jack and Jan Barkley-Jack

Ian Jack’s Historical Archaeology publications

1980 Andrew Brown’s Woollen Mill at Lithgow, Lithgow District Historical Society, Lithgow.
1981 Historic sites of the Hawkesbury [8 sound recordings] University of Sydney Department of Adult Education; Sound Information, Sydney.


1991 [with C. Liston] From Frogmore Farm to Werrington Park: A history of the Warringah site, University of Western Sydney, University of Western Sydney, Kingswood, NSW.


1995 St Andrew’s College 1870–1995: The first 125 years in photographs, The Principal and Councillors of St Andrew’s College, Sydney.


2006 ‘Historical archaeology, heritage and the University of Sydney’, Australasian Historical Archaeology 24:19–24.


2010 Macquarie’s Towns, Heritage Council of NSW, Parramatta.

2013 The Andrew’s book: St Andrew’s College within the University of Sydney, The Principal and Councillors of St Andrew’s College, Sydney.


Vale Linda Terry

Linda Terry passed away peacefully at home on 11 September 2019 after a relatively short illness. She was with her family including her dog Chelsea and her cat Abby.

Linda was never one for the spotlight and much preferred to work behind the scenes. I really think she would have hated the idea of having anything published about her, but it is important to recognise Linda’s role in Australian historical archaeology over the past decade or so. In 2010 UQ hosted the ASHA Conference and Linda worked hard as part of the small organising committee to make that conference run smoothly. In a (mostly) Queensland takeover of the ASHA executive at the 2010 AGM she was elected as Vice President. She held this position for two years and then in 2012 switched to be Secretary for a year. While working hard in these committee positions Linda was also ensuring that the journal was produced. For the 2010 and 2011 editions of Australasian Historical Archaeology she acted as an unacknowledged editorial assistant to make certain that the journal made it to press. It became obvious that the journal editorship was too large a job for a single person and so between 2012 and 2016 Linda, Peter Davies and I made up the editorial committee. I think Peter would readily agree with me that it was Linda’s drive and commitment to the journal that ensured its continued high quality and the timeliness of its publication. While she was doing this she was also editorial assistant for the journal Australian Archaeology between 2007 and 2011.

Prior to commencing her archaeological studies Linda was awarded the degrees of Bachelor of Health Science (Management) (CSU) in 1992, Master of Health Planning (UNSW) in 1997, and Master of Health Law (USyd) in 2000. She then gained her BA with 1st class Honours from The University of Queensland in 2007. She loved self-explanatory thesis titles as is evident with her Honours thesis entitled ‘Caboombah Homestead: ‘Big Rock’ or ‘Little Britain’? A study of Britishness in 19th- and early-20th-century rural Queensland’. Linda was awarded ASHA’s R. Ian Jack Award for Best Honours Thesis in 2008. A paper based on the thesis was published in AHA in 2009. In the thesis Linda explores that idea that British ethnicity was as much a construction of the colonial experience as it was of the British homeland.

Her PhD research was an extension of her previous Caboombah-based work. The degree was awarded by The University of Queensland in 2014 for her thesis ‘A Woman’s
Place... An historical archaeological investigation of identity and power on the nineteenth-century pastoral landscape of south east Queensland'. This thesis makes a powerful argument for the agency of identity-making and the reciprocity of human–landscape interaction within complex, relational power structures of which gender is only one of many. Professor Laurie Wilkie, Linda’s international examiner, had nothing but praise for the thesis, commenting that it was the style of work a 21st-century Julian Steward would produce.

Linda loved to travel and worked on many historical archaeological excavations in various countries including at Taranaki, in New Zealand, with Janice Adamson. She often talked about how much fun she had on that excavation. Linda also worked with me on so many projects around southeast Queensland that I am having trouble remembering them all. Probably the most fun (and the most important) was the Brisbane Central Business District Archaeological Zoning Plan. As part of the fieldwork component, Linda and I spent weeks going into the basements and underground carparks of every building in central Brisbane. It would not have been possible without Linda’s ability to disarm (through a smile) security guards and other officious types. Linda talked us into the lowest levels of banks, pubs, private clubs and government buildings, including Parliament House. The only building we didn’t get to the bottom of was the Brisbane Club (self-described as ‘Queensland’s Premier Private Club’). Not even Linda’s skills could manage that one.

Linda was a meticulous researcher who maintained scrupulous standards in the archives, the field and the laboratory. She was both highly organised and highly organising. But, I do remember one day when Linda came flying up the corridor (very un-Linda like) from the Archaeology Labs waving a ceramic sherd calling out ‘we’ve got one’. She had identified a piece of white granite amongst thousands of sherds donated for teaching purposes from a Brisbane CBD site. Although it must have been available in Brisbane no white granite had ever before been recorded archaeologically in Queensland. We thought it was so important we published it.

Linda was a champion of and for historical archaeology. She worked diligently behind the scenes to help achieve the best possible outcomes for ASHA and for historical archaeology more generally.

In addition to Chelsea and Abby, Linda is survived by her husband Boris, her children Rebecca, Nerida and Tim, and four grandsons. In accordance with her wishes, Linda was privately cremated and her ashes scattered at sea along with those of the dearly-loved pets who had predeceased her. She is very deeply missed by all who knew her and all those with whom she worked over the years.

Jonathan Prangnell
With assistance from Tam Smith

Linda Terry’s publications

