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NEWSLETTER

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STATE OF THE ART

ACT NEWS

Heritage Division, Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH)

Australian Government heritage legislation amendments saga – The new legislation and supporting regulations is now in place.

The members of the new Australian Heritage Council were announced on 18 February 2004 so that nominations for the new lists, the National Heritage List and the Commonwealth Heritage List, can begin to be assessed. The Chair is Tom Harley, former Chair of the Australian Heritage Commission, and the other Council members are Mr Roger Beale AM, former Secretary of DEH and an ex-Commissioner of the Commission, three other former Commissioners, Ms Jane Lennon AM, Dr Denis Saunders, and Dr Gaye Sculthorpe, and also Mr Michael Kennedy and Dr Richard Walley OAM.

Information Sheets covering over 20 topics connected with the new heritage system are available at http://www.deh.gov.au/heritage/publications/factsheets/index.html.

Australia ICOMOS is running a series of one-day seminars/workshops on the new legislation in February/March/April 2004. This service is specifically targeted at cultural heritage conservation practitioners and managers, who will need to be familiar with the implications of the new legislation for their work with their clients and communities. The seminars will concentrate on those elements of the legislation most relevant to cultural heritage identification and conservation. These will be one-day seminars, from nine till five. Speakers and facilitators for the seminars will include members of Australia ICOMOS' National Committee, senior officials from DEH who are involved in implementing the legislation, and relevant State agencies.

The cost will be \$100 for Australia ICOMOS members, \$130 for non-members, and \$50 for unwaged ICOMOS members.

Further information and a registration form can be found at http://www.icomos.org/australia/ under News.

National Cultural Heritage Forum – The NCHF was established in 1996 to advise the two Federal Ministers who have cultural heritage responsibilities and is comprised primarily of those non-government organisations interested in cultural heritage issues. Membership of the NCHF includes organisations representing interests such as engineering heritage, history, archaeology, architecture, museums and shipwrecks. The Forum will be meeting in Canberra, 3-4 February 2004. ASHA will be represented by Dr Tracy Ireland.

Historic themes research work – This has been underway for some time to provide a solid basis for the assessment of historic environment places at the national level of significance and ultimately for the National Heritage List. A series of projects have been completed or underway which each provide a thematic research essay related to a particular national theme, a methodology for assessing related places, including advice on threshold setting at this high level of significance, possible places for consideration, and, in some cases, a strategy for promotion. Completed are Linking the Nation, concerned with a national overview of transport and communication, and Creating an Australian Democracy, and the first stage of Inspirational Landscapes. The overview contextual essay from the Linking the Nation project is on the web at:

http://www.ahc.gov.au/infores/publications/national-stories/transport/index.html. The next to be loaded on the web will be *Creating a Democracy*. Other thematic projects in progress are *Mapping the Coastline* (consultants selected), *Australians at War* (consultants selected) and *Migration* (to focus on the forced migration of the convict era and Post WWII migration).

ACT Heritage Unit

Legislation - After many months of consultation with professional interest groups, government agencies, and the community, new heritage legislation has been proposed for the ACT. The heritage provisions currently in the Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991 are badly in need of updating to reflect contemporary heritage practice in other States. An indicator of this is that after 13 years, there are only 71 registered places in the ACT and many backlogs and bottlenecks in the system. This means that many places of potential heritage significance have uncertain protection.

Major reforms proposed include a separate Heritage Act covering the identification and protection of natural and cultural heritage places and objects, with streamlined and improved heritage processes, a strong role for the independent Heritage Council and much tougher offence and enforcement provisions.

The Bill will be drafted over the next few months and will be put before the ACT Legislative Assembly in June or July this year. A further update will be provided at that time.

Canberra Archaeological Society (CAS)

The National Trust of Australia (ACT) received a 2003 Heritage Grant to conduct a ground survey of the 1886 'Ashbrook' homestead site in Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve (TNR) in conjunction with CAS. Located in a remote part of TNR, Ashbrook was almost forgotten until it was visited after the January 2003 fires by staff of the ACT Heritage Unit and the ACT Parks and Conservation Service to assess its condition. The increased surface visibility has afforded an excellent opportunity to record the site in its entirety, hence the Heritage Grant application.

John Staunton arrived in Tidbinbilla in 1885 and established Ashbrook on Portion 31 which he later selected in 1895. The site consisted of a homestead and separate cultivation paddock. The site was visited by Dave Bulbeck and Phil Boot who undertook a cultural resource survey of TNR in 1991. Although no site plans were drawn, this brief survey noted the existence of three fireplace ruins and a low distinct mound of the building platform. The cultivation plot was noted to have been bounded by a ditch and bank. The home paddock appears to have been laid out in a square grid pattern, which is unusual for this area. Bulbeck and Boot assessed the significance of Ashbrook as High, based on Kerr's criteria.

CAS will begin the surface recording of Ashbrook in April/May 2004 and welcomes additional volunteers for either the survey/recording and/or the historical background research. Interested parties can contact the Project Officer, Sam McKay on ph 0401 361099 or email to sam.mckay@act.gov.au

The CAS 2004 Lecture Series has many topics of interest to ASHA members:

- 17 March Marc Oxenham ~ Archaeology in Vietnam
- 21 April Peter Dowling ~ Ginninderra Blacksmith's Shop: historical, archaeological and conservation perspectives
- 19 May Linda Young ~ Under Control: correct taste at the dining table in the long nineteenth century
- 16 June Karen Williams ~ Constructing a sense of place: linking the past to the present
- 21 July Lynley Wallis ~ Archaeology and cultural heritage in Wanamara Country, NW Queensland
- 18 Aug David Pearson ~ Archaeology of War: reconstructing the history of a gun
- 15 Sep Vic Taylor ~ An archaeological study of a tin mining town in Far North Queensland
- 20 Oct Kimberley Owens ~ Farmers, fishers and whalemen: the settlement of Lord Howe Island
- 17 Nov Sylvia Scaffarczyk ~ Sir Hubert Murray and the Official Papuan Collection

All lectures will be held in the Manning Clark Theatre Six at the ANU, EXCEPT for SEPTEMBER, which will be held in The Tank at the ANU. Entry is by gold coin donation at the door. Nibbles and drinks provided afterwards, so come and meet the speaker!

National Archaeology Week

To be held 16-23 May 2004, planning for the ACT component is well advanced with a number of items on the tentative program that should be of interest to historical archaeologists, including lectures, a forum, tours and site visits, and other activities. When finalized the program will be found at www.archaeologyweek.com.

Richard Morrison

Department of Defence Works to Manage its Heritage Places

What's new about Defence's Heritage? Where did we come from?

We have come from a time of necessary, but considerable, reform and rationalisation. One unintended victim of continual cost cutting have occasionally been our proud heritage assets, and these losses can sometimes have a significant impact on morale, esprit de corps, retention and even recruitment.

But how do old buildings and historic site relate to today's ADF? They relate by providing a tangible reminder of the stories, and the qualities that distinguish the ADF are traced back to its beginnings, are timeless and have little to do with advanced military methodology of technology – they are apparent in the our basic tradition of professionalism, loyalty and pride.

We will never be able to retain everything, Defence is not a Museum and nor can it be, however, balanced management decisions that incorporate all competing factors, including heritage, must be made in an informed and reasonable way to ensure we don't lose more than we bargain for.

New focus

Defence's heritage isn't just old news. In fact right now there is a lot going on because Defence has completely transformed its approach to managing our important heritage places. There are a few very good reasons for this transformation.

The Government requires it: The Australian Government needs to be reassured that Australia's heritage is cared for by agencies which is reflected in the Heritage Amendments to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation* (EPBC) *Act 1999*.

The community expects it: In this climate of increased transparency and accountability, and increasing value being placed on our country's rich heritage, the Australian people want to be reassured too.

It makes good sense for Defence: Recent world events have also limited Defence's ability to open the doors of some of our most special Military establishments to the public to give Defence an accessible face, and to share the stories of our Defence forces that are often intrinsically linked to the development of our Nation. Caring for Defence's heritage properties and providing access to some of these places can improve Defence's public relations and provides links into the community.

Finally, Defence needed to take advantage of the often-intangible benefits of caring for our Service personnel's history and their important and proud heritage.

New ways of doing business

Defence has been aware of the proposed legislative change for a while now and has taken considerable steps to ensure we are well placed for the implementation of these new obligations. Defence Heritage Management (DHM) is a relatively new Directorate within Defence's Corporate Services and Infrastructure Group. DHM is responsible for the strategic management of Defence's heritage opportunities and obligations, including:

- Supporting the implementation of the new Commonwealth Heritage Amendments;
- Promoting Defence heritage to the community;
- Providing advice and guidance to Defence personnel and heritage authorities;
- Working on a range of heritage projects;
- Influencing heritage industry products within the context of Defence 'business'; and
- Maintaining effective relationships with Heritage Authorities.

Heritage obligations are often seen as inflexible, but this is actually not the case. Much flexibility exists as long as an appropriate and balanced approach is taken, and if heritage principles are genuinely considered. With this in mind, DHM's primary themes and challenges are:

- Developing a balanced approach to heritage management which results in good heritage outcomes, but which are achievable within Defence capability requirements and budgetary constraints;
- Maintaining focus on the stories and the people and not a purely academic interest in old and pretty places, giving Defence the opportunity to promote heritage to the broader audience in an accessible and understandable manner;
- Creating opportunities for adaptive re-use of its heritage places to keep the heritage alive;
- Providing a window to the community;
- Changing negative perceptions to heritage management; and
- Incorporating heritage management into Defence business process to make it a legitimate maintenance and management issue rather than being seen as 'separate' and 'special'.

How are we doing?

Did you know that we now:

• Have a good understanding of how many places we own or control that are heritage listed; and have this information in the Defence Estate Management System (DEMS), a Defence wide tool.

- We now have a healthy relationship with the Heritage Division of the Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH), state heritage authorities and NGOs. And that the Heritage Division of DEH is now using Defence's heritage management regime as a benchmark and model for all other Commonwealth Departments, despite our relatively new implementation.
- We have a Defence Heritage Management Manual to assist and guide managers and users of our infrastructure.
- We have a Heritage Panel consisting of three consultancies assisting in heritage projects and driving forward Defence's new heritage agenda.
- We have a three faceted Defence Heritage strategy:
 - To increase the Department's awareness of its heritage obligations and opportunities;
 - To determine the extent of our heritage assets;
 - And to identify Defence activities that may impact on our heritage and to identify ways to improve our heritage management.
- We developed a heritage web site and a 2003 Defence Heritage Calendar to increase awareness throughout Defence and externally.
- A range of new initiatives are planned, including a national 'Opening the Doors' program that will be developed in consultation with the Services, tourism authorities and 'NRMA' equivalents in each state. This will offer many opportunities to promote Defence's living heritage.

See below for information about some of the projects which are currently active and shaping the way we manage and promote heritage items and their management and check out the web site on www.defence.gov.au/environment&heritage.

Brian Grandin – DHM Susan Elekessy – DHM

QUEENSLAND NEWS

A suspected arson attack in Far North Queensland has destroyed a rare heritage site. Yungaburra Mill contained what is believed to have been the only remaining example of a timber butter box factory. The building contained the machines, and partially finished butter boxes, as they were left when the factory closed in the early 1960s. Gordon Grimwade and Martin Rowney will set about recording the site and recovering archaeological evidence. Ironically, the butter box factory was to have been the focus of a more detailed survey in the year.

Gordon Grimwade

James Cook University

James Cook University is about to start its long-term study of the effectiveness of remote sensing in northern Australian conditions. Students will be applying the GPR, magnetometer and resistivity meter to the supposed 'Asiatic' section of the 1870s-1920s West End Cemetery in Townsville at regular intervals over the next 10 months, comparing how results on the same grid are influenced by the often dramatic seasonal variations experienced in the tropics. With the wet season currently upon us, the first set of results will document the saturation on the clay soils of the site, whereas by June-July the ground should be nicely baked to the consistency of a brick. The Asiatic section of the graveyard may contain as many as several hundred burials, although only a single headstone of a Japanese pearler and several of Jewish families survive in what otherwise looks like an open paddock. The results of the surveys will be written up by Honours student Ross Stanger.

Martin Gibbs

Heritage Concept Study and Implementation Plan – RAAF Base Townsville

Environmental Resources Management (ERM) are a member of Defence's Heritage Panel. ERM have been working with Defence on a Heritage Concept Strategy for RAAF Base Townsville. RAAF Townsville has its origins in the late 1930s with the onset of World War II providing the impetus for the site's core development in 1939 and into the early 1940s. There was rapid development in 1942 following the onset of the war in the Pacific. The site was gradually developed over the subsequent 60 years in response to the particular needs of the time. The site is listed on the Register of the National Estate as an Indicative Place.

RAAF Townsville (RAAF TVL) is currently subject to redevelopment plans approved by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC). The Concept Study identified opportunities and developed a stepped action plan for implementation for:

- heritage management options such as the support of a core heritage precinct area,
- retention and adaptive re-use of buildings within the heritage precinct,
- long term retention (or 'mothballing') buildings which are redundant, but which may provide reuse opportunities in the future

The key focus was on working with the site management teams, Defence Heritage Management (DHM) and the redevelopment team to develop management tasks, which do not prohibitively constrain ADF capability, which are manageable from a site maintenance perspective but which also represents the best heritage outcome.

A consultative forum has been implemented with representatives of all key stakeholders and an action plan for the immediate management of the heritage precinct has commenced. Heritage buildings outside the core heritage precinct area will be the subject of ongoing assessment.

Ruth Kelly - ERM

NEW SOUTH WALES NEWS

Siobhan Lavelle has joined the NSW Heritage Office for 12 months. She is occupying a new position which has been created to assess and process the approvals necessary for the implementation phases of major projects scheduled to commence during 2004. These include the Quarantine Station at North Head, Manly, which after a Commission of Inquiry is to be leased to Mawland Hotel Management; the Parramatta Rail Link; and some other major infrastructure projects in Western Sydney.

2003 was a busy year for Godden Mackay Logan with fieldwork projects and post-excavation analysis. Among these projects have been Casselden Place, Prince Henry Hospital, the Newtown Silos site and 157 Canterbury Road, Canterbury. Throughout November and December 2003, the lower basement of Scots Church, Margaret Street Sydney was monitored during deep excavation works in preparation for redevelopment of the site. The Church building is to remain, however, the lower level is being excavated to provide car parking facilities. The site of Scots Church site had been occupied by the Marine Encampment, the Lieutenant Governor's garden and part of leasehold granted to John Macarthur. An earlier Scots Church was demolished in 1926 to facilitate the construction of the Presbyterian Hall that currently occupies the site. The aim of the monitoring works was to identify

deposits and features relating to the occupation of the site prior to the construction of Scots Church. As yet no features and deposits associated with the earlier phases of occupation at the site have not been identified

Concurrent with the monitoring of the Scots Church, a site at Argyle Street, Parramatta (bounded by Argyle, Church and Fitzwilliam Streets) was also being monitored. The site was assessed as potentially containing archaeological material associated with the residential and commercial development of the area, including a blacksmith, and horse and livery stables. The monitoring revealed the foundations of structures dating from the 1870s to early 1900s across the site. A number of deeper subsurface features associated with these structures were also identified, including cesspits and beehive cisterns, as well as some landscaping features in the front and rear yards of the properties. However, little remained in the way of occupation deposits and portions of the site had been substantially disturbed by subsequent development. The site is part of the Parramatta Rail Link project, which is to be redeveloped as part of the Parramatta Transport Interchange.

Jennie Lindbergh

Heritage Assessment and Management Plan for the Mulwala Explosives Facility – Environmental Resources Management (ERM)

Approval was given for the construction of an Explosives Manufacturing Facility at Mulwala on 6 May 1942. The production equipment was almost completely US in origin, as was the bulk stainless steel. Construction continued during 1943, employing nearly 3000 Civilian Construction Corps workers at its peak, plus the assistance of NSW and Victorian state agencies. Despite the tight deadline and the need for more than ordinary care in the construction of the buildings the factory began production on 1 December 1943, which had been the original planned operating date. The first smokeless powder was produced early the following year.

Mulwala is still an operational facility. The original buildings still stand and most of the structures (and the original equipment and machinery) is still in use. The Prime Minister had given a commitment to modernise the Mulwala facility, for which an Environmental Impact Statement was prepared in 2002. Given this context for the site, and the fact that it is still operational (and therefore would represent no public access), long term heritage management for the site represented some interesting issues.

A Heritage Assessment was conducted to support a Statement of Significance for the site. On this basis, management recommendations and maintenance policies were developed including:

- Development Control Recommendations for the company developing the modernisation program;
- Immediate management and maintenance issues for those conducting work on site on a day-to-day basis;
- Secondary conservation initiatives to record the history of Mulwala and provide interpretive and research materials for a broader audience.

Ruth Kelly - ERM

Upper Hunter Valley Aboriginal Heritage Baseline Study

ERM have recently been commissioned by the Upper Hunter Aboriginal Heritage Trust to undertake a baseline study of the Upper Hunter Valley. This study is the first step in the planned number of

studies, which will result in a Regional Aboriginal Heritage Study for the Upper Hunter. The Upper Hunter Aboriginal Heritage Trust was formed through the efforts of Aboriginal stakeholders, mining interests and regulatory authorities to better inform Aboriginal heritage and development planning in the Upper Hunter Valley.

The aims of the Baseline study include:

- A landscape history of the Upper Hunter Valley throughout the period of Aboriginal occupation, during early European settlement and up to the present.
- An overview of the ethnographic and historic information and compilation of an annotated bibliography for the Upper Hunter Valley.
- Gap analysis of the Aboriginal heritage research (particularly archaeological and historical) undertaken in the Upper Hunter valley and desktop mapping of information arising from the overviews described above

Neville Baker (Manager, Cultural Heritage – ERM) is directing all elements of the project. Andrew Collis (Senior Archaeologist) and Aara Welz (Graduate Archaeologist) of ERM's Hunter Valley office are currently working on the archaeological review. Dr Phillip Hughes is writing the landscape history review and analysis.

A large component of this project is based on the review and analysis of historical and ethnographic records about Aboriginal peoples in the Upper Hunter. The co-ordination of this component is by Dr Aedeen Cremin working with Mary-Jean Sutton (Archaeologist, ERM). Both Renee Regal (student, Sydney University) and Tudur Davies (newly appointed Graduate Archaeologist, ERM) have been carrying out historical research in various archives throughout Sydney on a voluntary basis with myself.

Any information that anyone may have which may assist in this project, especially the historical component, or would like to volunteer their services in the historical research, please direct their enquiries to me at Mary-Jean.Sutton@erm.com.

The final report for this study will be prepared in late June, 2004 and we hope to make a presentation about the results of this work at ASHA's conference in New Zealand later in 2004.

Mary-Jean Sutton – ERM

It is most upsetting when editing a newsletter with a proud tradition such as the ASHA Newsletter, when the guest editor has the proofs to me on time and I find that no less than <u>five</u> of the States are very conspicuous by their absence. No disrespects to the guest editor as she kept me abreast of progress during the past quarter. It is only through many emails and phone calls have I built this newsletter from a dozen pages to what it has ended up. Thank you for the support and the two States that came to the party. But with a quarterly newsletter that requires the effort that this one has at the moment for getting material out of people is like pulling teeth. Come on fellow archaeologists put pen to paper, let us know what it is you do justify those grants or existence, it is not fair the regular contributors. Please, if you have any suggestions on how to rectify this serious matter, contact me personally or your State Rep or committee member.

Ross Gam
General Editor
agam@ceinternet.com.au

VICTORIA NEWS

No news was received for this issue.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA NEWS

Shane Burke had no news for this issue.

NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWS

Colin De La Rue has no news from the Northern Territory for this issue.

In an effort to allow new blood into the columns of our newsletter I have approached willing and not so willing volunteers for articles. Professor Iain Davidson, UNE, whilst declining for this year at least, has given me Pam Watson's name as a prospect and her very prompt reply is reproduced below. Thanks Pam for an excellent article on short notice.

Ross Gam General Editor.

In **Armidale NSW**, Pam Watson has conducted a number of archaeological projects within the framework of the Heritage Futures Research Centre (HFRC) at the University of New England. The fieldwork has been facilitated by archaeology student volunteers from UNE keen to gain practical experience. A salvage archaeological project in 2001 to rescue significant information on early colonial heritage of the town has led to the *McLean's Corner Conservation Project* to display and interpret the archaeological remains. The excavation had exposed the well-preserved basalt foundations of a 1850s house and large 1870s store as well as remnants of the 1858 flourmill, all established by an early pioneer James McLean. Visual memory of the site had long been erased by the construction of a garage, which in turn has been subsumed by the recent development of a shopping complex. However we were able to preserve a sample of the heritage remains in an exterior pedestrian access zone. A vertical viewing window will look down onto the foundations of the overlapping house and store, a physical reminder of the interrelated early industrial, domestic and retail activities of the town. Interpretive signage and patterns in the pavement showing the original wall lines will accompany the display. Work is proceeding in collaboration with the Armidale Dumaresq Council, the local developer New England Properties Pty. Ltd., and the NSW Heritage Office.

An outcome of this collaboration has been the development of a project to produce an *Archaeological Management Plan for Armidale Dumaresq* in conjunction with the Council and the NSW Heritage Office. Archaeological sites are being systematically identified from historical documentation, recorded, mapped and assessed for their current condition, significance and potential. This information will be integrated with the Local Environmental Plan for reference in strategic planning and development.

The old Store at Saumarez homestead, a National Trust property just outside Armidale, was archaeologically surveyed and sampled for the National Trust of Australia (NSW) prior to urgent renovations to the foundations of the structure. The core of the building may date back to 1835, making it the oldest standing structure in the Armidale region, predating the establishment of the town. Information on subsurface construction and phases of curtilage activities was retrieved

The data from the McLean's Corner Project, the Archaeological Management Plan and Saumarez Store will be placed on a *Heritage Futures Research Centre Database* currently under development in the HFRC. The aim is to provide digital and conceptual links between heritage sites and the sources and stories that give them meaning. It will use GIS facilities to accommodate a cultural mapping component for organising and presenting data. The database will not only be a highly flexible research and management tool, it will form the basis of digital presentations of cultural heritage information that can be accessed by the public through the Web.



McLean's Corner, Armidale: excavating the square retained for a public display window, showing the store foundations abutting the earlier house foundation.



McLean's Corner, Armidale: archaeological excavation of the house frontage proceeding side by side with the demolition work for the development

Dr Pam Watson Adjunct Senior Lecturer School of Human and Environmental Studies; Heritage Futures Research Centre University of New England NEW ZEALAND NEWS

Auckland University Business School and Grafton Gully Motorway upgrade.

These adjacent projects have presented the opportunity to examine an archaeological landscape - often impossible in urban archaeology. Grafton Gully runs down the valley of the former Mechanics Bay, the industrial centre for the developing town of Auckland from 1840. The Business School site is located in Wynyard St, which runs parallel to the gully and was the location of merchant's houses. So the two projects provide both industrial and residential (upper echelons) facets of the 19th town.

Excavation of the gully unearthed many remnants of early industry including breweries, aerated water companies and in particular the remains of Auckland's largest foundry (The Phoenix Foundry). The flues and casting floors of a refining furnace was recovered (the flues have now been reconstructed for display beside the new overbridge). A large cake of slag incorporating parts of many artefacts, including ploughshares, revealed that the furnace was used for recycling of Auckland's waste. Archival evidence for Wynyard St revealed that the manager of the works (George Fraser) occupied one of the houses. The archaeology also indicated that the neighbouring houses also had a close relationship with the foundry. On one allotment, slag had been used to level the site before construction of a new dwelling and elsewhere firebricks and other materials from the foundry had been used in construction of garden features. Of particular interest was the discovery of a 'garden shed laboratory' where numerous crucibles, tongs and quartz fragments suggested that the owner indulged in private assay work. The laboratory had a basalt block floor with a porcelain angel buried upright in the corner of the floor - perhaps reflecting the owners' strong catholic faith.

Material culture from wells, cellars and garden features indicated a higher standard of living than those of other assemblages excavated from inner city slums. Finds included a bone domino set and numerous bone handled toothbrushes.

Both projects are coming to the end of fieldwork and analysis and write up is well advanced.

Rod Clough

Oashore Whaling Station Excavations

Ian Smith (Otago University) and Nigel Prickett (Auckland Museum) have just completed four weeks excavation at the Oashore whaling station, Banks Peninsula, in the first season of a three-year Marsden funded project investigating *The Emergence of Pakeha Culture: Historical Archaeology of the Shore Whalers*. The Oashore station operated from 1840 to 1849 with a maximum workforce of 35 men, along with several women and children. It is selected for investigation because of its potential to disclose details of domestic life and social organisation in one of the first resident European communities in southern New Zealand.

Oashore is one of the best preserved whaling sites of the mid-nineteenth century, with the try works and other industrial activities located immediately behind the shore, and a distinct residential area further inland. Excavations were confined to the latter area and located five buildings and the whaler's garden. The buildings included a large rectangular stone-walled house; two smaller houses with stone chimneys and probably timber or canvas cladding; another large rectangular building with a fireplace broad enough to suggest that it was the cookhouse; and a timber slab building that an 1849 plan indicates was the boathouse.

Analysis of the excavated assemblages has just begun at Otago University under the direction of Ian Smith, part of which will be incorporated into an MA thesis by Jaden Harris on the material culture of the Oashore whalers. David Haines will soon begin investigating written and oral history sources for an MA thesis on Maori engagement in the Banks Peninsula whaling industry. Nigel Prickett's research will focus upon identifying as many of the Oashore whalers as possible and tracing their lives before and after Oashore, and also setting the operation of this station into its broader commercial and technological context. Planning is currently underway for excavations in early 2005 at a whaling site on the Mahia Peninsula in the North Island.



Whaling Station, Area 5, showing fireplace with whale rib fender.

Beale Cottage, Hamilton

An archaeological assessment of Beale Cottage (Hamilton East) was carried out by Alexy Simmons, Simmons & Assoc Ltd in December. The assessment provided the background for a set of Beale Cottage Archaeological Management Policies prepared for the Waikato Museum of Art and History.

The land associated with the cottage was granted to a soldier settler (Pte Thomas Jackson of Australia) in 1865. It became the residence of military surgeon Dr Bernard Beale and his family in 1872. Dr Beale used the cottage as both a family home and surgery. Dr Beale was the mayor of Hamilton during the time he lived at 11 Beale Street. In 1887 the property became the residence of businessman and land agent John Slopper Edgecumbe. Edgecumbe never married, but newspaper accounts indicate he was a busy socialite. He was involved in music and drama societies, music and sporting activities such as lawn tennis and cricket. Alexy carried out the surface collection and mapping of artefact locations under the cottage floor room by room in 1995 when it was being conserved and piled.

The durability of nineteenth-century rockwork

Otago Harbour is a stormy piece of water, surrounded by 40.2 kilometres of hand-built rock revetments, about 1.5-2.5 metres high, holding up both road edges and rail causeways. The original seawalls on the Otago Peninsula side of the harbour were built in the 1870s and 1880s for dray traffic. They were extensively rebuilt in the 1920s for motorised traffic, and have survived reasonably well, though steady maintenance is needed.

The walls have been classified as a Category I structure under New Zealand's *Historic Places Act* 1993. Dunedin City has slowly evolved a policy of sympathetic and enduring hand-placed rock repairs where the sea has eroded the walls, and this has provided me with the opportunity to continue a 15-year-long involvement with these amazing structures. Long stretches of the sea walls were built by prison labour, though most were built by experienced wallers working under the supervision of the local Roads Board engineers. In the outer harbour the road passed round alternating headlands and along beaches, the latter being used at first as a substitute for the road. To get the drays from the road to the beach, stone ramps were built down on to the low tide beach, with flaring ends where they joined a track on the land. I had noticed the remains of these ramps, especially one at Omate Beach, but had assumed that they were recently built boat ramps. I was surprised when local people explained that the ramps were at least 100 years old, and were built not only at each end of the beaches but also in front of the houses of important people.

I assumed that the ramps had been steadily repaired and rebuilt as the sea tried to remove them, but the Omate Beach one puzzled me. Most unusual, fully trimmed, very large blocks of breccia had been used to build the adjacent sea wall, and the courses of these blocks ran smoothly round along the edges of the ramp. Some of the blocks were nearly a metre long. I had recognised the blocks as matching those on an impressive stone wharf still visible at Taiaroa Heads. Yesterday I came across an account of prisoners building the stone wharf for the Defence Department to get coastal guns up to the fortress on Taiaroa Head in 1897. According to the records, in 1898 the road along Omate Beach, 3 kilometres south of Taiaroa Head, was also built and walled by the prisoners, but the work was poorly done and winter storms damaged it badly. The prisoners had to return in the spring and repair the road, and sure enough the big blocks did look like a repair of a more poorly built wall. The temptation to put the archival and archaeological evidence together and say "Ha!" is considerable. But I am still wary that hand-placed rocks, even ones so large, could have stayed in place 106 years on a beach so exposed to strong nor-wester winds.



Here is a section of the wall close to the ramps showing the large breccia blocks. Photograph by Paul Cahill.

Jill Hamel, Dunedin.

Compiled by Rick McGovern-Wilson, NZ Historic Places Trust

SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWS

Port Adelaide Historical Archaeology Project Update.

In September/October 2003 the second excavation of the project was undertaken in Jane Street, Port Adelaide with some remarkable discoveries. The back yards of two cottages were investigated and revealed how two families dealt with the difficult conditions. Port Adelaide was originally a swamp requiring the town to be raised using river dredgings and fill material from other sources. The Council only took responsibility for public property, leaving owners to raise their own land. As a consequence many houses found themselves up to six feet below the level of the road, which had just been built up around them. The cottages on Jane Street were just two such cottages. The Farrow's were able to deal with the inconvenience by terracing and filling their yard. The McKay's however were not able to bring in large amounts of fill, instead thin layers can be seen as an attempt to deal with the problem. The differential access to material is probably related to John Farrow's connections within the Council where he worked as a ganger, giving him the knowledge and expertise necessary to source the fill.

The structural evidence of both cottages was good. A foundation wall of the Farrow cottage was uncovered although the interior surprisingly lacked any underfloor deposits. A brick fireplace was found in profile from the McKay's cottage. It appears the cottage was not demolished before the area was filled with beach sand in c. 1895 to bring it close to today's level. The fireplace could indicate more of the cottage is standing to a height of around 1.25 metres on the unexcavated front of the property.

The excavation was used by Flinders University for a Historical Archaeology Field School in which around twenty students participated. The Field School was run by Heather Burke and Pete Birt to give students basic excavation, recording and artefact management skills.

The artefact cataloguing is still continuing, although expected to be completed within the next two to three months with the data being used by Susan Briggs as part of her PhD research into Port Adelaide residents lives and living conditions. Susan can be contacted at susan.briggs@flinders.edu.au

National Archaeology Student Conference Flinders University 28-30 September 2004

Students at Flinders University are again this year holding the National Archaeology Student Conference. The conference is held in order to connect students from universities around Australia and allow them to present their work, often for the first time, in a relaxed, friendly and supportive environment. The conference covers all subsets of archaeology. The committee is calling for abstracts by 30 July with anyone currently studying or whom has left university up to two years ago asked to send abstracts to nascconference@hotmail.com. The same address can also be used for queries.

Susan Briggs

Heritage Management Plan for the Woomera Protected Area

The Woomera area (physically and culturally) is unique. It was established in 1947 as a joint project with the UK for testing experimental rockets and missiles. Woomera village grew in support of the facilities and now consists of approximately 50 households. The Woomera village was also prohibited, but opened in 1982 to open access. The breadth of interest in the area is evident for environmental, historic, archaeological, social and scientific reasons. The HMP will be seeking to capture these issues, assess the place and its significance and develop actions and recommendations for immediate site management, long term opportunities for adaptive re-use and processes for involving the local community and regional tourism initiatives.

The key aims will be to understand the historic resource and to breathe life back into the heritage places through creative and long term business management.

Ruth Kelly - ERM

TASMANIA NEWS

Isle of the Dead - Port Arthur

Tim Owen of ERM (Environmental Resources Management Pty Ltd) and Greg Jackman of the Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority (PAHSMA) have conducted collaborative preliminary research into the future excavations and post excavation chemical analysis of material from the Isle of

the Dead at Port Arthur with the aim of conducting limited test excavation on the isle. This research will be used to aid implementation of the Conservation Plan, as well as answer a fundamental set of research questions.

Tim Owen - ERM

Tasmanian Heritage Office (Angie McGowan)

Review of Cemeteries Practice Note

The Tasmanian Heritage Council has a series of Practice Notes which provide technical advice on a number of topics, including cemeteries. The Cemeteries Practice Note explains the values of these important places, and provides guidelines for conservation works.

In late 2003, the Heritage Council received a works application from the Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority (PAHSMA), to undertake an archaeological investigation of a small sample of gravesites at the convict-period burial ground on the Isle of the Dead for conservation management purposes.

As part of the standard approvals process, the public are invited to comment on any proposed works to a place entered on the Tasmanian Heritage Register. The Heritage Council received several submissions questioning the justification for disturbing human remains. One of the aspects of the heritage significance of a cemetery is the social and spiritual importance of the place. Although attitudes and rituals towards death greatly changed in the twentieth-century, a strong tradition of respect for the dead and cemeteries continues to exist within contemporary society.

PAHSMA have now withdrawn the current application. The issues of this application have prompted the Heritage Council to consider its policy position relating to human remains, scientific significance and the management of historic burials. It was determined that the current Cemeteries Practice Note does not adequately address these issues, and will be reviewed by expert groups in consultation with PAHSMA

Copies of the Heritage Council Practice Notes can be obtained from the Tasmanian Heritage Council's web site:

http://www.tasheritage.tas.gov.au/

Comments or feedback can also be emailed to:

tasheritage@dpiwe.tas.gov.au

Forest Practices Board (Denise Gaughwin)

Excavation of a second late 19th century Chinese tin miner's camp situated in tall forest near Pioneer, Northeast Tasmania, has been completed. Running between Feb. 2nd and 10th, the dig involved the clearance and excavation of two hut sites and ancillary features, including a forge area, in addition to the mapping and collection of several large artefact scatters. The recovered artefacts are now being analysed and a final report summarizing the excavation results and other information will be finalised in forthcoming weeks. The project was undertaken by Parry Kostoglou of Archaeological Services

Tasmania, and funded by Forestry Tasmania with support from the Forest Practices Board and the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery.

A short video of the excavation of the Chinese miners' camp at Greenstone Creek has also been produced. Denise Gaughwin is having additional copies made and can be contacted if anyone would like one. Contact details are:

denise.gaughwin@fpb.tas.gov.au

Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority (Greg Jackman)

The dust has settled on the 2004 summer archaeology programme at the PAHS, and shattered volunteers and supervisors have trudged wearily from the fields of endeavour once again. The project effectively concluded the investigations into the curtilage of Port Arthur's most celebrated icon: the infamous Penitentiary ruin, gathering vast quantities of data relating to the functioning of the convict day room and ablutions areas, and adjacent industrial workshops complex. During February, work focused on the former convict shipbuilding precinct, investigating the sites of the blacksmith shop, timber steamer and sawpit. The latter in particular was a hard-fought battle against the elements and taphonomic disturbance, but in the end perseverance won through, yielding substantial information that will be synthesized within an updated management master plan for this long-neglected precinct. Thanks to all those who participated, your efforts have not been in vain.

Heritage Management Plan - Harold E Holt Naval Communications Base

ERM have completed a Heritage Management Plan for the Harold E Holt Naval Communications Base, North West Cape, WA. Harold E Holt Naval Communications Base was constructed in 1963 and originally was occupied by over 600 personnel of Australian and American origins. The site is still functioning today as a communications base with a reduced staff of around 165 personnel. The town of Exmouth supports the facility and has a population of approximately 3000. Many of the buildings on the site have become redundant over time. While some are still in use by Defence, others at the site have been leased to local business initiatives

The HMP at Harold E Holt Naval Communications Station represented many interesting issues, including:

- assessment of a working base with a unique national and international history,
- assessment of an area with a unique scientific and technical history;
- intrinsic links to a local community which exists almost entirely with and for the Defence facility;
- identification of opportunities for the enhancement of historic values as well as support for community tourism development, against broader financial and political constraints.

One of the aims of the HMP was to identify long term opportunities for a variety of adaptive re-uses, including an Interpretive Centre, tourist accommodation, conference facilities and recreational amenities. The potential combination of re-uses would breathe life back into redundant buildings, provide much needed facilities in support of tourist initiatives for the local community and broader region, as well as providing a unique opportunity to open the doors on a Defence facility and its history.



Area A VLF Facility (Antenna Farm)



The Control Panel of the Area A VLF Facility

ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

"For the Record: ASHA Conferences 1981-2004"

ASHA Conferences 1981-2005

Year Location	Venue	Comments
1981 Sydney	National Trust Centre, Observatory Hill	first ASHA conference
1982 Sydney	Womens College, Univ. of Sydney	
1983 Sydney	Institute Bldg, Univ. of Sydney	opening evening in Powerhouse Museum
1984 Sydney	Womens College, Univ. of Sydney	
1985 Melbourne	La Trobe University	
1986 Armidale	Mary White College, Univ. of New England	
1987 Sydney	Architecture Faculty, Univ. of Sydney	
1988 Canberra	Australian National University ANU	
1989 Sydney	University of Sydney	
1990 Auckland, NZ	Pembroke House, NZ Institute of Architects HQ	first in NZ
1991 Melbourne	La Trobe University?	
1992 Sydney	National Maritime Museum , Darling Harbour	
1993 Adelaide	University of Adelaide?	
1994 Newcastle	Newcastle Museum	
1995 Hobart	CSIRO Centre on waterfront	first with AIMA
1996 Sydney	University of Sydney	
1997 Queenstown, NZ	Terraces Hotel	
1998 Sydney	Museum of Sydney	
1999 Bendigo	Shamrock Hotel	
2000 Adelaide	University of Adelaide?	2nd with AIMA
2001 Canberra	Australian National University ANU	
2002 Townsville	Townsville Convention Centre	3rd with AIMA, 1st with AAA
2003 Norfolk Island	Colonial of Norfolk Hotel	1st with AAMH
2004 Wellington/Picton, NZ	Turnbull House/Picton Yacht Club	4th with AIMA, first twin venue

Would members please contact the President if they have further information or can confirm the venues where they are marked with a '?'.

The ASHA webmaster (and Treasurer and Vice President) Paul Rheinberger is presently giving priority to getting all the ASHA Journal Table of Contents summaries on the website. At present only Vols 1 to 12 are listed.

ASHA 2005

The 2005 ASHA Conference will be held in Melbourne at La Trobe University's City Campus, adjacent the colourful and vibrant Queen Victoria Market. Field trips will include a walking tour of recent archaeological excavations in Melbourne and their interpretive displays, a visit to Heritage Victoria's new state-of-the-art Archaeological Conservation Laboratory, and a day trip to the Yarra Valley, taking in the National Trust property 'Gulf Station' and some of Victoria's premier vineyards. Dates have yet to be confirmed but will be in the last week of September. For further information contact Dr Susan Lawrence, La Trobe University, ph 03 9479 1790, fax 03 9479 1881, email s.lawrence@latrobe.edu.au.

From the Membership Secretary: Katrina Stankowski **PO Box 220 Holme Building UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY SYDNEY NSW 2006** 0408086113

katstankowski@yahoo.com.au E-mail:

Telephone:

Annual Subscriptions, 2004

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With kind regards

Katrina Stankowski

Membership Secretary

Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology.

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Dear Katrina.

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^{*} The quarterly ASHA newsletters are distributed electronically, via email, in Adobe PDF format, if you do not write your email address clearly, you might not receive your newsletter. Please keep us advised of any email address changes.

FORTHCOMING NEWSLETTERS

The ASHA Newsletter is produced quarterly with the assistance of guest editors. The 2004 guest

editors are:

This issue Mary-Jean Sutton Mary-Jean.Sutton@erm.com

June 2004 Anne McConnell ammcconn@netspace.net,au

September 2004 Jon Prangnell (Please advise general editor newsletter of email address)

Rick Mc Govern-Wilson rmcgwilson@historic.org.nz

In order to facilitate a more efficient newsletter production, all contributions should be forwarded to the e-mail address of your state rep by the second week of the month prior to circulation. See ASHA contacts on last page for address details.

The guest editors are asked to finalise the newsletter in the third week of the month prior to circulation. Final copy must reach the General Editor, (Ross Gam), by the final week of the month prior to circulation.

This is <u>your</u> newsletter and <u>your</u> contributions are vital. Please check deadlines diligently. Your efficiency will be greatly appreciated. I look forward to your forthcoming news of events.

Ross Gam General Editor ASHA Newsletter

email: agam @ceinternet.com.au

Post: "Windemere Cottage" RMB 130R Nundle Road Tamworth NSW 2340 Phone: 02 67694103

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

Call for Papers

"Gold, Wars and Whaling - the trans-Tasman connection"

The Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology (ASHA) and the Australasian Institute of Maritime Archaeology (AIMA) Fourth Joint Conference

Wellington & Picton, New Zealand - Thurs 23 Sept - Monday 27 September 2004

This is a 'new concept' twin venue conference. The conference will begin in Wellington (the capital city located at the southern end of the North Island) on Thursday 23rd September 2004. After two days there the whole conference party will board the inter-island ferry (early evening) and have a sunset cruise to Picton (top end of the South Island, 3 hour voyage) for two more days of conferencing and fieldtrips. At both Wellington and Picton visits to major ship conservation projects are scheduled - the 'Inconstant' and the 'Edwin Fox'. An optional post conference fieldtrip runs Mon 27-Wed 29. It involves train and bus travel from Picton to Christchurch via Kaikoura looking at maritime heritage

and other sites en route. Conference goers may choose to fly into Wellington, and depart from Christchurch.

For information on Wellington check out: http://www.wellingtonnz.com/

For information on Picton check out www.picton.co.nz

Information on conference fees, early bird discounts (payment by August 31st), accommodation options etc will be posted on the AIMA (http://aima.iinet.net.au/) and ASHA websites (http://www.asha.org.au) within the next month, and in the mid-year Newsletters of both organisations.

The Conference theme will focus on aspects of maritime history and historical archaeology, particularly the trans-Tasman connection (opposite sides of the 'big pond') between Australia and New Zealand and beyond. The theme however takes an inter-disciplinary perspective and encourages participants to consider historical events encompassing Australia and New Zealand as well as the role of the sea in human history in the widest sense. We hope to have sessions on topics such as the contact period, ports and harbours, coastal defences, fishing, sealing, and whaling, and the high level of interaction between Australia and New Zealand during the nineteenth century gold rushes and the New Zealand Wars (between Maori tribes and British & Colonial forces).

Intending participants are encouraged to consider submitting their papers for publication in one of the two Associations fully refereed journals - The AIMA Bulletin or Australasian Historical Archaeology.

Proposals for sessions or individual papers should be sent to the Programme Convenor at the address below by 30 June 2004. Papers will be of 20 minutes duration with 5 minutes question time. Longer or shorter time slots may be possible by arrangement.

Neville Ritchie Programme Convenor 'Trans-Tasman Connections Archaeology Conference' email nritchie@doc.govt.nz 0064 7 8381004 fax phone 0064 7 8383363

Dr Neville Ritchie Conservancy Archaeologist Dept of Conservation Waikato Conservancy Private Bag 3072 Hamilton New Zealand

For information about the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology (ACUA) see: http://www.acuaonline.org/

See the Archaeology of Whaling in Southern Australia and new Zealand (AWSANZ) website at: http://ehlt.flinders.edu.au/archaeology/AWSANZ/index.html

Australian Coastal Fortifications Conference The Gap Bluff Centre, Sydney 28-30th April 2004

In April 2004, the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service will host a conference devoted to the conservation, interpretation and promotion of Australia's historic coastal fortifications.

The objective of the conference is to share conservation management techniques and discuss cross-promotional opportunities with the aim of improving conservation management practices, enhancing cultural tourism experiences and improving our understanding of the wealth of Australia's defence heritage.

The conference will offer the opportunity to hear several speakers with specialist expertise in the conservation of fortifications, join site visits to three fortifications and discuss issues of mutual interest such as conservation techniques, interpretation and promotion.

The conference is aimed at all of those involved in the conservation, management and interpretation of fortifications. Participants from all levels of government will be involved.

The conference will be held at the Gap Bluff Centre at Watson's Bay, overlooking Sydney Harbour and will coincide with the National Trust's 2004 Heritage Festival, celebrating the International Year of the Built Environment.

Invitations and confirmed programs will be sent out in February 2004.

To register your interest in attending or presenting a paper or workshop, or for further information

please contact: Robert Newton

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service PO Box 461 ROSE BAY NSW 2029 e-mail: robert.newton@npws.nsw.gov.au

Australian Coastal Fortifications Conference Preliminary Program

Venue: The Gap Bluff Centre

Military Road Watson's Bay Sydney

Wednesday 28th April (Day 1)

Arrival tea/coffee Welcome Guest speakers Lunch Guest speakers

Thursday 29th April 2004 (Day 2)

Early Morning:

Site Inspection 1: Breakfast on Fort Denison

with Jenny Faddy, former Assets Manager, NPWS Sydney Region

Late Morning:

Site Inspection 2: TBA

Lunch

Afternoon:

Site Inspection 3: Middle Head (Gun emplacements and casemates) with Caroline Lawrence, NPWS Sydney Region Historic Heritage Projects Coordinator

Friday 30th April 2004 (Day 3)

Workshops Lunch Workshops (continued)

Conference Cost (to be confirmed) will include:

- Lunches, 3 days
- Ferry transport and breakfast on Fort Denison

Participant Costs

Participants will be required to cover the following costs:

- accommodation (if required),
- dinner each night



The Table - The Second Course

The material culture and social context of dining in the historical periods

Department of Archaeology
University of Sheffield, UK
23rd- 25th April 2004

'The Table' (Part Two) Conference will move on in time to consider the changes that occurred in dining habits in Britain and the colonial world between the seventeenth century and the end of the nineteenth century. In this period late-medieval and Renaissance social habits were transformed, as manufacturing techniques improved, and the output of mass-produced items increased, fuelling the growth of the first modern consumer society.

A major theme at this Conference will be the responses made by manufacturers to the social changes in eating, dining and food preparation, which took place, not only in the home, but in public places such as hotels, ships and railways. The period saw the widespread acceptance of the fork used in dining, and an increase in peoples' material wealth, with the growth of the middle class and demand for more luxurious items at the table.

Documentary evidence shows both continuity and changes in eating habits in Britain and the colonies. The stylistic changes in objects for the table can be traced from 17th century probate records, through to manufacturers' trade catalogues, which detail the diverse range of items, the stylistic changes, and the materials used. The increasing range of public eating – from lowly eating-houses to the cruise ships, railway dining cars and hotels development – had an effect on the products offered by manufacturers.

Some of the conference speakers include Mary Beaudry and Diana Wall. Further information concerning the conference can be found at: http://www.shef.ac.uk/uni/academic/A-C/ap/conf/dining/index.html

Closing date for registration: Friday 16 April 2004 (subject to availability).



The conference is sponsored by:

- The Department of Archaeology and Prehistory, University of Sheffield
- ARCUS (Archaeological Research and Consultancy at the University of Sheffield)
- The Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire

2004 Committee Members

President: Neville Ritchie (<u>nevalexy@xtra.co.nz</u>)

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