



# NEWSLETTER

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# STATE OF THE ART

## ACT NEWS

### HERITAGE DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE (DEH)

*Productivity Commission Inquiry* – In 2005 the Commission commenced a public inquiry into the policy framework and incentives for the conservation of Australia's historic built heritage places. (For information on the Productivity Commission, the inquiries Terms of Reference, timetable, viewing submissions and its draft report see [www.pc.gov.au](http://www.pc.gov.au)). 377 submissions have been made so far with 185 since the release of the draft report, and DEH has made three, as has the Australian Heritage Council. In late January and early February 2006 there was a round of public hearings in relation to the draft report. The final report is due on 6 April 2006. Once complete, the final report is forwarded to the Government and awaits release by Parliament. There is too little space here for a discussion of the very significant issues that are relevant for ASHA members but it is suggested that you access the PC's website and read submissions such as those of ASHA, DEH, the AHC, your respective State/Territory heritage agency, and those personal submissions prepared by members and other fellow travellers.

*Integrated National Heritage Policy* – The Environment Protection and Heritage Council, an Australian Governments ministerial council, made a decision in 2002 to develop an integrated national heritage policy. A working group of Commonwealth/state/territory representatives met in Canberra in February 2006, and another meeting is being planned for April 2006, to progress the policy development.

*National urban and town planning study* - The next historic heritage thematic study, in this case on urban and town planning, will soon commence. The consultancy will involve the preparation of a contextual history, development of a National Heritage values assessment methodology, a list of potentially significant places, assessment of 4-6 places, and the preparation of a creative communications strategy.

*Australian Alps historic heritage assessment study* - A consultancy has been commissioned for the Cultural Heritage Assessment (non-Indigenous) of the Australian Alps involving the research and preliminary assessment work of cultural (historic) values to contribute to three Alpine National Park assessments for the National Heritage List. The area covers Australian Alps – Great Divide Parks and Reserves, the Australian Alps – Mt Buffalo NP and the Australian Alps – Mt Baw Baw NP.

### ACT HERITAGE UNIT

*Kingston Powerhouse conversion* – The Powerhouse sited on the southern shore of what became Lake Burley Griffin was designed by John Smith Murdoch, who was also responsible for such Canberra icons as Old Parliament House, the Hotel Canberra and East and West Blocks. It is the oldest public building in the ACT and began supplying electricity to Canberra in 1915. Ironically, it was intended as a temporary structure. It has recently been announced that it will be adapted as the Canberra Glassworks and this will

open to the public in December 2006. Visitors will be able to observe the glass blowing from a raised observation platform, take guided tours of the facility, participate in glass-making workshops, participate in educational programs, meet artists, attend exhibitions and buy local glass art.

**Richard Morrison**

## **QUEENSLAND NEWS**

No News

## **NEW SOUTH WALES NEWS**

### **EVENTS**

A brief ceremony was held in Pymont, on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2005, to unveil a plaque dedicated to “The Saunders – quarrymasters of Pymont”. The plaque is mounted on the residual sandstone quarry face, near Saunder Street, Pymont.

A brief history was supplied to attendees which read:

“Charles Saunders established ‘Yellowblock’ sandstone quarries in Pymont and Ultimo from 1856. The quarry here was known as *Paradise* and other to the south as *Purgatory* and *Hell Hole*. The operation was continued by Robert his sone and Robert his grandson until c1931. For the first time in Australia, the Saunders used steam powered machinery in quarrying, lifting, cutting and dressing stone. Yellowblock was used to build Sydney’s most important Victorian and Federation public buildings and, a century later, in their restoration.”

The short event was supported by the Institution of Engineers Australia, the City of Sydney and Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, and featured presentations by Linda Newton, Clover Moore, Robert Irving and Norman Himsley.

**Tim Owen**

### **OMISSIONS**

The last ASHA newsletter contained a review of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sydney Historical Archaeological Workshop. The authors of said article inadvertently omitted one of the presenters from the review.

In the afternoon session Nadia Iacono discussed findings from her recently submitted PhD that related to the use of Archaeological Management Plans and her subsequent engagement by the NSW Heritage Office to produce a set of AMP Guidelines to assist in the revision of the 1996 Archaeological Assessment Guidelines.

## **FROM THE NSW HERITAGE OFFICE**

The *Strategic Review of Archaeological Heritage Management in the NSW Heritage Office*, prepared by Dr Tracy Ireland, is now expected to be available as a final version by March 2006. The report will be available on the Heritage Office website for comment by professional archaeologists and others. As part of the implementation of findings arising from the strategic review process, the NSW Heritage Office recently engaged archaeologist, Nadia Iacono, to assist in the establishment of Archaeological Management Plan Guidelines. Nadia's recently submitted doctoral dissertation, *Managing the Archaeology of the Modern World*, provides the first rigorous assessment of the approach, structure and application of AMPs as a broad-scale planning mechanism, with a focus on how to facilitate their management and improve the integration of archaeological requirements into everyday, "over the counter" planning and development processes. The NSW Heritage Office was one of the major industry partners supporting Nadia's doctoral research to assess the outcomes arising from AMPs in New South Wales and suggest future approaches or refinements for these strategic planning documents. The Heritage Office would also welcome feedback from practitioners on the use and effectiveness of AMPs.

Nadia will also be assisting the Heritage Office archaeologists with the long planned revision of the 1996 *Archaeological Assessment Guidelines*. The Archaeological Advisory Panel is also assisting the Office with the revision of the 1993 *Code of Practice* document (which has been available as a scan of the 1993 version on the web since 2005). A new S140 Application form and checklist are expected to be gazetted in 2006.

The Heritage Office continues to have substantial involvement in discussions about the future management and in-situ conservation of several sites in Parramatta. The Office has also been discussing archaeological heritage management issues with Port Macquarie-Hastings Council and with Newcastle City Council. A future seminar or workshop for Hunter/New England region based archaeologists may be held in association with Newcastle Council during 2006.

**Siobhan Lavelle**

## **NEW ZEALAND NEWS**

No News

## **NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWS**

No News

## **SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWS**

No News

## TASMANIA NEWS

*Archaeological Services Tasmania (Parry Kostoglou)* – Parry is currently finishing the report on the recent Cascades Female factory excavation. The report will be completed by the end of February. Contact Heritage Tasmania for details.

*Anne McConnell* - Cultural Heritage, Archaeology & Quaternary Geoscience

### RECHERCHE BAY – STILL A WAY TO GO

As ASHA members are doubtlessly aware, the North East Peninsula of Recherche Bay was added to the National Heritage List in late 2005, having been found to have a range of heritage values with significance at the national level, including associative cultural landscape values, associational values with the French botanists and for historical activities of high scientific significance. This is a victory for the recognition of the significance of early exploration, scientific and Aboriginal contact sites in Australia, particularly those relating to activities by nations other than Britain (which tend to get less attention than British activities).

The assessment and listing was on the basis of John Mulvaney's nomination of the North East Peninsula. In early February 2006 a land purchase of area was negotiated led by Bob Brown and with Dick Smith putting up a significant part of the funding and providing interim funds (as logging was still allowed to go ahead in spite of the listing on the National Heritage List - the Minister's view was that the proposed logging would not affect the values). The area will be managed by the Tasmanian Land Conservancy. To ensure that the historic heritage values are protected there will need to be a conservation policy and management guidelines that provide for this. This is likely to require a more intensive analysis of values than has occurred to date, including further research to separate the French expedition sites from later period, primarily timber getting and coal mining, sites.

More research is needed on the southern peninsula (Cockle Creek East/Rocky Bay) which was the focus of the 1793 French expedition in the area and the same range activities were carried out in this area. In addition, one of the expedition members were buried here, making it one of the earliest known non-Aboriginal burials in Australia. The French values of this area have not been previously assessed. Action is needed urgently in this area to protect the potential values as, although it is in National Park (and to become part of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area in the next Management Plan review) the government have approved a resort development within the National Park in the area of the French expedition activities. Unfortunately the French expedition heritage values were not assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment although other historic heritage values were well assessed.

Concern with the fate of potential sites and broader values in the Cockle Creek East area have resulted in a local historian Greg Hogg having submitted a nomination for key sites to be listed on the Tasmanian Heritage Register, and for the area generally to be listed on the National Heritage List. The THR nomination is being actively assessed by Heritage Tasmania. In August 2005, because of concern that the development may impact on potential French values before the nominations are assessed, the Tasmanian National Parks Association requested the Minister for Heritage (and the Parks & Wildlife Service) to declare the Cockle Creek East area a Heritage Area under the *Historical Cultural Heritage Act 1995*. Declaration as Heritage Area provides between 2 and 5 years moratorium on

development that may impact on potential historic heritage values of state significance until the necessary research is done. More than seven months later the Minister has not responded and no interim protection measures have been put in place.

Meanwhile it has been acknowledged at a range of levels that the whole area of Recherche Bay may have significant historic heritage values as the locale of the 1792-93 French Expedition visits. It appears however that this is not being considered. Rather the Australian Heritage Council and Federal Minister for Environment & Heritage and the Tasmanian Heritage Council sadly appear to be taking a highly reactive approach, only assessing nominations that are submitted externally.

So Recherche Bay is far from being 'saved'! Research is urgently needed to ascertain what the range of values associated with the French expeditions are (very little systematic non-historical heritage research has been carried out in any part of Recherche Bay to date in this respect). Interim protection is needed for areas subject to development until this research can be undertaken, and an assessment of the full area of Recherche Bay is needed. Although, this is a view that has been espoused and communicated to government for the last one and a half years by a number of heritage practitioners in Tasmania, government has taken very little action to address these needs, and the research and protection that has been achieved to date has been largely through the efforts of unpaid individuals concerned to see the heritage values of Recherche Bay fully recognised and protected.

## **PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**

The Tasmanian Wool Centre was recently awarded funding from the Tasmanian Community Fund for the re-interpretation of the Ross Female Factory Site (of which they are caretakers), in the Northern Midlands of Tasmania. The site is owned and managed by the Parks and Wildlife Service, Tasmania. Many may remember the site as the location of the excavations carried out by the now Manchester University based Dr. Eleanor Casella. This year will see new interpretation of the site installed to incorporate the site's archaeological features and findings with its complex convict past. Dr. Casella is planning to return to Ross next summer to continue her research. This research will form part of a broader archaeological study of Australia's past to be jointly conducted by Dr. Casella and her Sydney University colleague, Dr. Martin Gibbs. The Ross Female Factory Interpretation project will be managed by PWS Historic Heritage archaeologist, Jody Steele.

Other archaeological activity happening within Tasmania's parks at the moment is the work of LaTrobe University PhD candidate Adrienne Ellis at Yorktown. Mike Nash and Jody Steele visited Adrienne and her crew in early February and were impressed to see what was emerging from beneath the sparse open paddocks and amongst the trees. But we'll leave the rest of the tale up to Adrienne.

On the Maritime front, Mike Nash & Mark Staniforth's Publication *Maritime Archaeology: Australian Approaches*, was released recently. It forms part of the Plenum Series in Underwater Archaeology and contains contributions from Maritime Archaeologists from Australasia and beyond. For more information on this publication contact Mike [mike.nash@parks.tas.gov.au](mailto:mike.nash@parks.tas.gov.au) or Mark [mark.staniforth@flinders.edu.au](mailto:mark.staniforth@flinders.edu.au).

**Jody Steele**

## **PORT ARTHUR HISTORIC SITE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**

### **2006 Summer Archaeology program report**

The 2006 summer archaeology program, run between Jan 10-Feb 9, has been successfully concluded. The program focused primarily on archaeological collections, resulting in over 3000 new catalogue entries and the pre-processing of many times that number for future cataloguing. The collections component was supervised by consultants Catherine Tucker and Anthony Bagshaw and took place in a temporary lab set up in the former Police Station in the middle of the site.

Field works attended to during the program included major trenches on the sites of the Commissariat Officer's and Chaplain's quarters on Settlement Hill, minor trenching on Church Avenue, and sub-surface surveying at the Dockyards.

The summer program drew together a committed bunch of 14 young proto-professionals from Victoria, South Australia, Queensland and Tasmania (come on NSW/WA/NT and NZ!!), who eagerly grasped toothbrush and trowel and set the dirt and mud flying.

The Public Archeology component of the summer program was supervised by Dr. Tim Owen. Centred around the Commissariat Officers' trench, the public program attracted over 450 children and thousands of adults for the daily 'kids dig' and regular tours of the diggings and field laboratory.

Sincere thanks to the supervisors and volunteers who participated in yet another successful archaeology season.

***Greg Jackman***

### **PAHS Conservation plans online**

Key planning documents for the Port Arthur Historic Site are now available online as free .pdf downloads. **New New New !!!** The revised edition of the Port Arthur Archaeological Procedures Manual is now available. Follow the link and check it out.

[http://www.portarthur.org.au/pashow.php?ACTION=Public&menu\\_code=500.475](http://www.portarthur.org.au/pashow.php?ACTION=Public&menu_code=500.475)

## **HERITAGE TASMANIA**

### **New appointments to Tasmanian Heritage Council**

David Parham, Tasmanian manager of Austral Archaeology, has been appointed to replace Denise Gaughwin, senior archaeologist with Forest Practices Board, as the archaeology expert on the Heritage Council. Well known Hobart-based historian Lindy Scripps has been appointed to replace outgoing history expert and interim Chair Dr. Dianne Snowden. Thanks to both Denise and Dianne for all their excellent work, and best wishes to David and Lindy in their new roles, commencing March 1 2006.

### **York Town archaeological survey just the beginning**

Archaeological work at the historic York Town site on the West Tamar during February 2006 has uncovered the tip of a potentially large deposit of colonial artefacts.

York Town, dating from 1804, is one of Tasmania's - and Australia's - earliest European settlements. The archaeological work was conducted as part of a research project being

undertaken by La Trobe University in collaboration with the West Tamar Historical Society. Latrobe PhD Student Adrienne Ellis and her colleagues spent four weeks camping and surveying the original settlement site. Supported by the interest and generosity of local West Tamar residents, the La Trobe students relived the difficulties the original settlers had with poor soil in the area, finding it difficult to excavate the hardened clay.

York Town was originally chosen as a settlement site because of its water supply. However the hard clay soil proved unsuitable for grazing. Only two years after being established, it was clear that relocation would be necessary. By 1811 York Town was virtually deserted. Governor Macquarie described the settlement as a “miserable barren spot”. While many of the building materials were removed and recycled, there is a rich deposit left at the site because of the limited development in the area.

Ms Ellis and colleagues excavated three primary sites: Riley’s cottage, a building at the Soldier’s camp, and Government House.

Alexander Riley was the storekeeper. He lived with his wife and children at the settlement from 1805 to 1808. This site revealed most personal artefacts, including buttons and Chinese export porcelain. The architectural deposits also reveal substantial use of brick and painted wall plaster.

In contrast, the site excavated in the Soldier’s Camp revealed the post holes and brick chimney remains of a wattle and daub building – one of the most common and inexpensive building techniques used during the early days of settlement.

Government House, the residence of Lt Col William Patterson and his wife Elizabeth, requires more excavation work. From the deposits uncovered it is clear that, as expected, this would have been the most significant structure at the settlement. Although local lore has it that a cellar existed at Government House, no evidence of such a structure was found. Thin glass fragments, clay pipes, buttons and other artefacts indicate a lifestyle in keeping with Lt Col Pateron’s status and the importance of Government House.

There are many other visible, shallow deposits of other settlement buildings in the York Town area. Ms Ellis knows that what she has uncovered is only the beginning and is hoping to return in the future for another archaeology season.

***Ester Guerzoni***

## **VICTORIA NEWS**

### **LIFE ON THE EDGE: THE PRE-GOLD RUSH SETTLEMENT OF SOUTH GIPPSLAND, VICTORIA**

Four sites were surveyed this past February as part of this ARC-funded, La Trobe University-based research project on the early settlement of regional Victoria. The survey was undertaken by a team consisting of La Trobe’s Alasdair Brooks, Rudy Frank, Zvonka Stanin, and undergraduate volunteers. Hans-Dieter Bader of New Zealand consultancy firm Geometria was hired to undertake the more specialised remote sensing.





*Hans Bader undertaking the remote sensing at Bean's Parsonage*

Four sites were surveyed:

- 28–32 Wellington Street, Port Albert: One of the earliest areas of residential occupation in the Port. While the precise year of initial occupation is unknown, Port Albert was founded in 1843, and four cottages are shown along Wellington Street on an 1848 survey map, two in the same plot. Numbers 28–32 are currently an open undeveloped grassy plot.
- Willoughby Bean's Parsonage: Located between the townships of Alberton and Tarraville, this was the site of the residence of the first permanent Anglican minister in Gippsland. Rev. Bean (who was also the uncle of Australian historian C.E.W Bean) arrived in Gippsland in 1848, and left in 1858. The house burned down in 1860, and the site is now used for cattle grazing; no surface evidence survives of the site except an artefact scatter. The short occupation period with an initial pre-gold rush element potentially make this an ideal site for the project.
- Greenmount: Initially the site of the failed attempt by the 16<sup>th</sup> Lord Glengarry (Aeneas McDonnell) to introduce a Highland Clan settlement to Gippsland in 1841–1842, Greenmount was one of the earliest agricultural runs in south Gippsland. It was the property of the Buckley family from c.1844 to 1906, and the Buckley homestead was in the area surveyed. The site is east of Yarram, and today is used for cattle grazing.
- Buntine's Bush Inn: Site of one of the earliest hotels in south Gippsland (north of the township of Woodside), located where the original road from Port Albert to the interior crossed Bruthen Creek. First licensed in either 1844 or 1846 (sources disagree), the Buntines sold the inn in the late 1850s, and the original building burned down c.1860. Sources disagree as to the extent of rebuilding after that date, though the site of the inn had been by-passed when the main road to the interior was shifted south to Woodside in the 1850s. The site is now an open paddock used for livestock grazing.

The survey was highly successful, and demonstrated the potential for significant archaeological remains at three of the four sites, though inevitably not all of this evidence dates from the pre-gold rush period central to the project.

The history of the Wellington Street site proved to be entirely more complex than originally imagined, with at least three phases of structure construction (and two of demolition) over the last 160 years. However, the overlaying of the historical maps, 1940s aerial photographs and geophysical survey clearly demonstrates the survival of sub-surface features directly associated with the location of one of the 1840s cottages.

Particularly good results were obtained from Bean's Parsonage. The surface artefact scatter was mapped and then superimposed over the geophysical results, demonstrating not only a strong level of coherence in the scatter, but that the scatter complemented the sub-surface features. The outlines of two structures were identified, along with what appears to be an adjacent garden itself separated by a central fence. The domestic artefacts are concentrated in the 'garden' area, while the bricks are largely concentrated to the south of the probable structures, with a particular concentration above a sub-surface feature that is most probably the remnant of a chimney. While ploughzone archaeology is not a methodological approach often used (or indeed necessary) in Australia, Bean's Parsonage might be a rare case where this common North American approach is appropriate for an Australasian site.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, no evidence was found at Greenmount of the 1841-1842 Glengarry settlement. Extensive evidence was found, however, of the c.1845-1906 Buckley homestead. The geophysical survey clearly demonstrated the location of the homestead itself along with 3-4 outlying buildings; fence lines are also apparent. An artefact scatter and brick footings are also visible at the surface in the area where the kitchen is believed to have been located.



*The kitchen area at Greenmount*

The most disappointing results were from Buntine's Bush Inn. The site is located on the Bruthen Creek floodplain, and extensive later disturbance from both flooding and the temporary artificial re-routing of the creek bed had occurred. No intact archaeological evidence was detected during the survey, and the geophysical results strongly indicate that those areas that hadn't been point blank destroyed by the creek's re-routing (or other later disturbances) had been swept clean by flooding.

The project team hope to excavate three of the four sites this calendar year (Buntine's is a lost cause), and while many research-based and methodological challenges await, we're optimistic about the way the project is developing. Further updates will be included in future newsletters.

The project team of Alasdair Brooks, Susan Lawrence and Jane Lennon are particularly grateful for the assistance given by the various site owners, the Yarram and District Historical Society and the Port Albert Maritime Museum.

***Alasdair Brooks***

## **WESTERN AUSTRALIA NEWS**

No News

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS / NOTICES**

### **NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK 21–28 MAY 2006**

**National Archaeology Week** aims to increase public awareness of Australian archaeology and the work of Australian archaeologists both at home and abroad, and to promote the importance of protecting Australia's unique archaeological heritage. Held from the 21st to the 28th of May 2006, this exciting nationwide program of events and activities will include public lectures, seminars, exhibits, demonstration excavations and displays.

For events in your local area, see <http://www.archaeologyweek.com/index.php>.

### **NSW NATIONAL TRUST HERITAGE FESTIVAL 1–16 APRIL 2006**

The Festival, now in its 26th year is an annual event traditionally held in April. As a community celebration, it combines everything from discovery tours of architectural and environmental heritage sites to photography competitions, music concerts along with exhibitions, gala events and community fairs. With a program of upwards of 400 events, the Festival continues to play a key role in fostering a further appreciation of our heritage and all it has to offer to the wider community.

The theme of the 2006 Festival is 'Industrial Heritage – Our Working Lives'.

For events taking place in your local area, contact the Festival Organiser (ph 9258 0129) or go to <http://www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au/events/festival/calendar/default.asp>.

**CHINESE MARKET GARDENS OF NSW – A LIVING HERITAGE, 8 APRIL 2006,  
10AM–4PM**

*Alexandria Town Hall, 73 Garden Street Alexandria [UBD Map 14 Q12]*

This first seminar on the history and conservation of Chinese market gardens in NSW recognises their important but very often overlooked presence in our history. Our diverse range of speakers will pursue three important themes - the historical development of Chinese market gardening in NSW, identifying and conserving the historical significance of market gardens as part of the heritage landscape of NSW and managing their continued presence as part of the Sydney scene. As well as speakers we invite the audience to contribute to a workshop session after lunch, to share their own personal history and knowledge of market garden heritage.

Attendance is \$10.00. Prior registration [by Wed 5th] is required to get a light lunch. You can turn up at the door but we cannot cater purely on spec.

To register please either call Denis Gojak on 0413 030 293 or 02 9558 0220 or email at [denis@banksiaheritage.com](mailto:denis@banksiaheritage.com).

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## FORTHCOMING NEWSLETTERS

The ASHA Newsletter is produced quarterly with the assistance of guest editors. The 2006 guest editors are:

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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 your newsletter and your 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

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