



# NEWSLETTER

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## STATE OF THE ART

### ACT NEWS

#### **HERITAGE DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE (DEH)**

National Heritage Investment Initiative (NHII) - A total of 18 projects have been awarded funding under the first round of the Australian Government's new \$10.5 million program to protect and conserve the nation's most historic places, the NHII, in June 2006 by the

Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Senator Ian Campbell. The projects are sharing \$3.6 million from this round of the funding.

The projects funded under this round include more than \$270,000 to restore the original 1911 scoreboard of the Adelaide oval, which recorded Don Bradman's historic runs, and more than \$310,000 to assist works to the interior of Sydney's Great Synagogue. Fremantle Prison, one of Australia's most important convict sites, which was included in the National Heritage List last year, received \$450,000 to conserve and restore the main cell block.

Some other projects that received funding were:

- \$454,545 for conservation works on the National Heritage-listed Newman College, Melbourne, which was designed by Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahoney Griffin
- \$45,000 for works to the former St Matthews Church, Glenorchy, Tas, designed by noted convict architect James Blackburn
- \$500,000 for works to Brush Farm House, Eastwood, NSW, an early colonial mansion built for the 19th century explorer Gregory Blaxland
- \$26,550 for works to the Great North Road, Wiseman's Ferry/Mangrove Mt to Bucketty, NSW, constructed by convict gangs between 1826 and 1836 and was the first constructed road north of the Hawkesbury
- \$49,885 for works to the Superintendents House, Saltwater River Probation Station, Tas, was the first convict probation station established on the Tasman Peninsula and has direct association with Tasmania's place in Australia's 19th century penal history

Further information on these and the other approved projects can be at <http://www.deh.gov.au/heritage/programs/nhii/projects05-06.html>

Applications for the next funding round are expected to be called for within the coming months. If you wish to receive information on the next round of funding once it is announced, please email your postal address to [heritagegrants@deh.gov.au](mailto:heritagegrants@deh.gov.au), or call free call 1800 653 004.

The program guidelines may be revised for the 2006/2007 round of funding. The updated Guide for Applicants and Application Cover will be available at <http://www.deh.gov.au/heritage/programs/index.html> once the next round of applications opens.

**National Heritage List (NHL) nominations:** The National Heritage List is Australia's list of places or groups of places with outstanding heritage value to the nation – whether natural, Indigenous or historic or a combination of these. Places on this list are protected to the full extent of Federal government powers.

A number of recent nominations to the NHL may be of interest to ASHA members. These nominations include: Wireless Hill Park, Canning Hwy, Ardross, WA; Risdon Cove Public Access Area, Tas; Coal Mines Historic Site, Tasman Peninsula, Tas; Cascades Female Factory – Yards 1, 3 and Yard 4 South, South Hobart, Tas; Kingston and Arthurs Vale Historic Area and its Setting including Longridge, Kingston, Norfolk Island; and the Polly Woodside, Southbank, Vic. Further details on these nominations can be found within the DEH website at [http://www.deh.gov.au/cgi-bin/epbc/heritage\\_ap.pl](http://www.deh.gov.au/cgi-bin/epbc/heritage_ap.pl).

**National Cultural Heritage Forum (NCHF) Meeting:** The NCHF advises the two Australian Government Ministers who have cultural heritage responsibilities - the Minister for the Environment and Heritage and the Minister for the Arts and Sport. Representatives of the NCHF met on 15–16 August 2006 with Minister Campbell, the DEH Secretary and other DEH representatives. Matters discussed included a number that were of relevance to ASHA members (see below for a more detailed report on the NCHF Meeting). ASHA was represented at the briefing by Dr Tracy Ireland with Penny Crook as observer.

### **ACT HERITAGE UNIT – NATIONAL TRUST OF AUST (ACT)**

The National Trust (ACT) was fortunate in their grant applications this year, being awarded funding for several projects from the ACT Government's Heritage Grants Program for 2006-2007. They include:

- An examination of the Riverside Cemetery, Queanbeyan, identifying the graves of early pioneers who lived in what is now the ACT. The project will assess the physical condition of the graves and make recommendations on their future conservation.
- Four of the funded projects will provide interpretive signage at heritage listed sites in the suburban regions. The sites include two ruined homesteads, an Aboriginal stone procurement site, and the ruins of a former school house and coach road. Two of these projects will be done in joint partnership with the Canberra Archaeological Society.
- A third project in joint partnership with the Canberra Archaeological Society will involve curation of the ACT Heritage Unit store. The store contains cultural material removed from Aboriginal and early European rural sites.
- Another project in joint partnership with local Aboriginal groups will involve the manufacture of two possum-skin cloaks by elders. The aim of the project is to educate the younger Aboriginal generations in the traditional methods used to make these cloaks and to display the finished cloaks for public viewing. As possums are protected species in Australia the skins will be imported from New Zealand.

***Richard Morrison***

## **NEW SOUTH WALES NEWS**

### **NEWS FROM AINSWORTH HERITAGE**

We have now been operating for 8 months and have been kept exceptionally busy! Ainsworth Heritage is based on the Far North Coast of NSW and we have been undertaking numerous projects at Evans Head Memorial Aerodrome for Richmond Valley Council, including an Archaeological Assessment, Zoning and Management Plan for the entire site, a Conservation Management Plan for the surviving Bellman Hangar and an investigation of the surviving Machine-Gun Pit.

#### **History**

The machine gun pit, built in 1940/1941, formed part of the aerodrome's defences during World War II. Originally there appear to have been 11 machine gun pits at Evans Head Memorial Aerodrome, which together with several rifle emplacements formed the

antiaircraft and ground defence for the aerodrome. Only 2 of the 11 machine gun pits are still present (only one is owned by RVC) and no physical evidence or further documentary information for the rifle emplacements has been located.

### **Description**

The surviving machine gun pit appears to be an example of a rare type of machine-gun pit used for light machine-guns. The machine gun pit is built into a small man-made raised earthen bank, approximately 10m long by 5m wide. The pit itself comprises a galvanised corrugated iron cylinder, approximately 1900mm wide and 2000mm deep. It has galvanised corrugated iron walls which extend approximately 300mm above the level of the surrounding earthen bank. The floor of the pit is a raised ring of concrete, approximately 600mm deep.

Sited in the centre of the pit is the gun pivot, which supported the pits' machine-gun (Lewis and Vickers machine guns were used at Evans Head). The pivot is central within the pit to allow the gunner to fire from a standing position and turn at 360 degrees. The pit was formerly lined with timber sleepers, none of which survive. The sleepers would have been placed vertically within the pit and secured with steel ties.

The collapsed remains of a 24 gauge galvanised iron lid cover one side of the pit; this lid would have been used when the pit was not in use. The lid is severely rusted and corroded, and is in very poor condition. The lid is tent shaped and had 2 handles to remove/replace it. It was secured to the ground in 3 places by a halter snap connected to a tension spring (illustrated on the archival plans).

Archival plans indicate that the external lip of the pit was reinforced by sandbags, camouflaged with painted render. In addition, the plans indicate that the lid would have been painted with camouflage paint.

### **Comparative Significance**

The research undertaken for this investigation indicated that surviving examples of light machine gun pits in Australia are rare and further, that survival of machine-gun pits on Australian aerodromes is very rare. In addition, only one site containing machine-gun pits constructed with a lid has been established, at Nabiac airfield on the mid north coast of NSW. However, it is not known if any of the pits at the Nabiac airfield survive.

### **Future Plans**

A Stabilisation Options report has been prepared for Richmond Valley Council, who are now considering the best short and long term stabilisation options for the pit. Stay tuned...!

***Jane Ainsworth***

## **NEW ZEALAND NEWS**

***Compiled by Rick McGovern-Wilson***

Kevin Jones has carried out aerial photography across Cook Strait and outer Queen Charlotte Sound (images for the new Polynesian explorers, Kupe and James Cook, interpretation at Ship Cove). Thence to Molesworth Station, a 180, 000 ha Crown Land area newly classified as a recreation reserve, in the mountain country between

Marlborough, Nelson and Canterbury. This provided some rather challenging exercises in picking up huts, yards, sod-hut foundations, sheep dips, cattle-worn passes, bridge abutments and some general scenics from 9 000 feet. Further ground work on the archaeology of the station area is planned with Steve Bagley. Dr Peter Clayworth has been conducting oral traditional interviews with Maori concerning Ruapekapeka, the Northland pa which has been prominent in the historiographic meanings of the New Zealand Wars. As if that were not challenging enough, Peter is about to launch out on a labour history of the goldfields and coalfields of the West Coast, now mostly reserves.

**Kevin Jones**

I have been working on a site in Christchurch known as “Nancy’s Hotel” (its trading name for most of the twentieth century). This site was a hotel from 1851 through until 2003. Organised European settlement of Christchurch began late in 1850, making this the site of one of the earliest hotels in the city, as well as being one of the longest running. The original hotel building was replaced in 1876, when a nineteen-bedroom hotel was built. Various alterations to the hotel took place throughout the twentieth century, most notably in the 1920s and 1950s, before it was pulled down in 2003.

The archaeological work that took place on the site was a monitoring exercise. Wooden and stone foundation piles were found, and four rubbish pits were found. Three of the rubbish pits were located in close proximity to each other and were very close to one of the roads that runs passed the site (it is on a corner section). These rubbish pits were dominated by bottle remains. Preliminary analysis suggests that one pit dates to the 1870s, but the others are likely to be slightly. One pit contained a large number of corks and complete black beer bottles, some of which still bore traces of their paper labels. The fourth rubbish pit was towards the centre of the site and its contents were more varied, but there were few animal bones or metal remains. A variety of ‘gold fields’ pickle, oil and sauce bottles were recovered from this pit, as well as a complete stoneware bottle made by T. Field in Sydney in 1849. An interesting array of ceramic forms and patterns were also recovered.

**Katharine Watson**

## NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWS

Planning and organising commitments for the ASHA / AIMA annual conference being held in Darwin this September 2006 means that newsletter submissions from the Territory were not forthcoming.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWS

Dr Susan Briggs, who recently graduated from Flinders University, has joined the NSW Heritage Office.

The book *Valley of Stone: The Archaeology and History of Adelaide's Hills Face* was launched at Flinders University on 16 July. The book edited by Pam Smith, Donald Pate

and Robert Martin is the product of a three year ARC Linkage Project which investigated the archaeology of the Adelaide Hills Face Zone. The book draws on the work of local historians and archaeologists to explore the cultural landscape of the Adelaide Hills which prove to be one of the best preserved historic landscapes representing the era of eighteenth and nineteenth century European global expansion and colonisation. Details of the book can be obtained from Pam Smith ([smithric@tpg.com.au](mailto:smithric@tpg.com.au)).

Dr Susan Piddock continues to undertake research into Australia's convict lunatic asylums and is currently looking at Fremantle Asylum in Western Australia. She is also currently working on turning her PhD thesis on the archaeology of lunatic asylums into a book having signed a contract with Springer.

## VICTORIA NEWS

### HERITAGE VICTORIA

The new strategy, Victoria's Heritage: strengthening our communities has recently been launched. The strategy has funding of \$20.5 million over the next four years. Importantly, it identifies a number of new initiatives that directly relate to archaeology. Some of these programmes include the introduction of a network of Regional Archaeology Advisors, to complement the existing Heritage Advisor system, and the commissioning of studies to identify archaeological places. Another initiative will focus on the improvement of archaeological site management processes at local government level.

In other news Heritage Victoria is currently liaising with the Rural City of Wangaratta to prepare the brief for an excavation of the Ann Jones Inn site, Glenrowan. It is likely that this project will be undertaken late this year, or early in 2007.

***Jeremy Smith***

### NEWS FROM ERM AUSTRALIA PTY LTD

Brad Duncan has recently joined the Melbourne Office of the ERM Heritage Team. Brad will complete his PhD dissertation by the end of September. His thesis has explored the maritime cultural landscapes of Queenscliff and Southern Port Phillip Bay, and has investigated different maritime thematic activities in the area. The research has also specifically explored new types of maritime archaeological sites both underwater and in the intertidal zone for different maritime thematic landscapes, and their subsequent archaeological site characterisations. Before joining ERM Brad worked part-time with Heritage Victoria for four years, and in that time he coordinated the maritime infrastructure archaeological and heritage project. As part of the project Brad extensively documented and assessed the significance of a wide range of new maritime infrastructure heritage sites around Victoria, and designed and implemented the associated GIS site database. Brad will add his extensive experience and knowledge of maritime archaeology to the national ERM Heritage Team.

***Darren Griffin***

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA NEWS

No news.

## QUEENSLAND NEWS

No news.

## TASMANIA NEWS

No news.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

A full roundup of the Darwin Conference and all the various reports will be in the December issue of the Newsletter.

## SOCIETY NEWS

### THE NATIONAL CULTURAL HERITAGE FORUM

The National Cultural Heritage Forum (NCHF) met with the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Senator The Hon. Ian Campbell on 16 August in Canberra. ASHA was represented at the meeting by Tracy Ireland and Penny Crook.

While much of the most animated discussion concerned the Productivity Commission Findings (see below), several positive initiatives concerning heritage matters were reported. In June, state and commonwealth ministers agreed on a **Co-operative National Heritage Agenda** to improve data collection, integration and information exchange across national, state and local heritage systems.

The importance of heritage places and objects in teaching Australian history was also discussed in relation to recent initiatives to improve the education regarding the natural environment, e.g. *Educating for a Sustainable Future* issued in 2005 and the then-upcoming **Australian History Summit** held on 17 August. The NCHF hopes to take advantage of the Summit's spotlight on the history curriculum to promote the importance of heritage.

Another key discussion point was the composition of Forum members, and the need to include other organisations representative of Indigenous and natural heritage. A special delegation of the Forum will meet with the Department of Environment and Heritage later in the year to discuss the proposed expansion.

**Penny Crook**

## **THE PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION FINDINGS AND CONCERNS RAISED BY THE NCHF**

A key issue for discussion was the recently released Productivity Commission Report, *Conservation of Australia's Historic Heritage Places*, released on 21 July 2006 (<http://www.pc.gov.au/inquiry/heritage/finalreport/index.html>).

All members of the NCHF (including ICOMOS, AIMA, the Australian Local Government Association, Heritage Chairs & Officials of Australia and New Zealand, Australian Council of National Trusts, Museums Australia, among others) were united in their extreme disappointment with the quality of the report, several of its least tenable recommendations and its failure to recommend a strategy for funding them. Of particular concern was the focus on voluntary conservation agreements (with no provision for funding) at the expense of other workable heritage controls and the right to appeal statutory listing on the grounds of unreasonable costs.

The recommendations have the potential for enormous negative impact on archaeological heritage management and heritage management as a whole if taken up by local councils, state governments and other agencies. We were made aware that within the few weeks since the report has been realised, there have been cases of courts, governments and individuals referring to the Commission's recommendations as justification for demolition or neglect of standing heritage obligations.

For the benefit of ASHA members who may encounter such cases in the near future, we draw to their attention the fact that the Commission's recommendations are not Government Policy nor do they have any statutory status.

Members of the Forum and the Minister noted the high quality of submissions made to the Inquiry, and these included ASHA's submission (in addition to others made independently by ASHA members). However, there was a notable disjunction between this body of evidence and the Report's recommendations.

The credibility of the Commission's report, particularly the lack of clear methodological approach to the analysis of the data (largely the submissions) and the general lack of scholarship, has been seriously questioned and this complaint may be raised directly with the Productivity Commission.

The fall out from the Commission's Inquiry will continue over the next few months. ASHA will continue to make representations to government via the NCHF, even though public comment period on the report has closed, in order to ensure that the positive aspects of the submissions are drawn out and built upon in future policy making and the negative recommendations discredited.

***Tracy Ireland and Penny Crook***

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The ASHA Newsletter is produced quarterly with the assistance of guest editors. The 2006–2007 guest editors are:

<i>This issue:</i>	Kevin Hoey	email: kevin.hoey@naa.gov.au
<i>Dec 2006 issue:</i>	Rick McGovern-Wilson	email: rmcgwilson@historic.org.nz
<i>Mar 2007 issue:</i>	Jon Prangnell	email: j.prangnell@uq.edu.au
<i>Jun 2007 issue:</i>	Alasdair Brooks	email: A.Brooks@latrobe.edu.au
<i>Sept 2007 issue:</i>	Clayton Fredericksen	email: clayton.fredericksen@gmail.com
<i>Dec 2007 issue:</i>	Rick McGovern-Wilson	email: 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 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**  
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