



NEWSLETTER

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Box 220, Holme Building

University of Sydney NSW 2006

Secretary: secretary@asha.org.au

Website: www.asha.org.au

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STATE OF THE ART

ACT NEWS

Compiled & written by Richard Morrison

HERITAGE DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, WATER, HERITAGE AND THE ARTS (DEWHA)

Heritage Chairs and Officials of Australia and New Zealand (HCOANZ) Meeting – this was held in Canberra on 7/8/08 and was co-hosted by DEWHA and ACT Heritage. A major business item was to develop a HCOANZ Strategic Plan. Various local heritage places were visited as part of the event.

National Heritage Place Manager newsletter – a link to the recently produced first issue (September 2008) of this e-newsletter, created jointly by HD and DEWHA's Public Affairs, follows. This will be a regular newsletter to Place Managers of National Heritage listed places keeping them up to date on National Heritage activities being undertaken by the Department. <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/publications/e-news/issue1.html>

Working Together: Managing National Heritage Places – DEWHA will soon release (as referred to in the new National Heritage Place Manager e-newsletter) a new management guide designed to help managers maximise the benefits of National Heritage Listing and explain the National Heritage management process. This is a user-friendly guide that will assist managers in the day-to-day management of National Heritage sites, including preparing management plans and referrals. The *National Heritage Brand Guide* is a practical tool to help managers leverage the promotional opportunities of the National Heritage List. Each place on the National Heritage List will receive a hard copy of the guide in the coming weeks. Both documents will also be available online.

Movable Cultural Heritage – the responsibility for the administration of the *Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act (PMCH Act)* 1986, the National Cultural Heritage Account, the National Cultural Heritage Committee, export permits for cultural heritage objects, and compliance and enforcement of the *PMCH Act*, moved out of HD on 13 June 2008 as part of the recent HD restructure, and also because we now have the Arts and Culture Divisions within the portfolio following the change in Government. Movable Cultural Heritage is now located in the Cultural Property Section, Collections Branch, Culture Division of DEWHA. Contact details are:

Cultural Property Section
Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
GPO Box 787
Canberra ACT 2601
Email: movable.heritage@environment.gov.au
Tel: 02 6274 1810
Fax: 02 6274 2731

ACT HERITAGE UNIT

ACT Heritage Grants Program 2008-2009 - successful projects were announced on 26 August 2008. The program aims to assist the community in conserving and promoting the ACT's heritage. Individuals, community groups, and any incorporated non-profit or private organisation may apply for an ACT Heritage Grant. An allocation of \$278,729 was made available for the 2008-2009 round. A proportion of funding is allocated to Community Heritage Partnership Projects that involve providing community services (e.g. the free Heritage Advisory Services and the annual Celebrate Heritage Festival). Generally, funded projects are under \$10,000 and have some financial or in-kind support from applicants as a demonstration of their commitment to the project. Where a gain may be made from a project, the applicant is expected to provide matching funding. The Minister for Heritage makes the final decision on the grants funded, based on advice from the ACT Heritage Council.

One funded project in particular may be of interest to readers:

A Community Partnership Project of an Archaeological Heritage Advisory Service was funded (\$12,000) to provide expert advice on a range of archaeological cultural heritage issues, and to complement the skills and experience within the Heritage Unit. The service will assist in streamlining advice to developers and Aboriginal communities on the identification of the heritage significance of sites, and the development of pragmatic and effective archaeological mitigation strategies. The Advisory service will also be used as a form of professional peer review panel to review and comment on Heritage Council policies as they relate to the protection of archaeological heritage, in particular in the development of the Aboriginal Heritage Guidelines which will provide greater certainty and more consistent policies in this area.

Information on the grants program, with the full list of successful grants, and the next round (including how to apply) to be announced in March 2009, can be found at:
http://www.tams.act.gov.au/live/heritage/act_heritage_grants_program

Heritage Talks, bringing the past into the present – a new ACT Heritage newsletter was launched with an August 2008 issue. It is described as being one way of providing Canberra residents with ongoing information about ACT Heritage Council and ACT Heritage projects to identify and protect heritage places. Heritage Talks can be found at
http://www.tams.act.gov.au/live/heritage/heritage_reports_projects_and_publications#publications

NSW NEWS

There is no NSW state report in this issue, but Sue Singleton has provided the following article:

UNIQUE ICON FACES EXTINCTION

In the last century the old Phoenix foundry in Uralla, NSW, survived some tough times, but, like its namesake, it just kept on rising from the ashes.

Two world wars and a depression forced the business to adapt and reinvent itself many times in order to survive.

The manufacture of iron lace, which had sustained the Phoenix Foundry from its early days, came to an abrupt halt with the advent of the First World War. The war effort needed iron for munitions and heavy armaments. The call was put out, and much of Australia's iron lace was ripped from buildings and "handed in". These were dark days, and the demand for the relative frivolity of iron lace was at low ebb. So the foundry turned its hand to the more mundane and practical, making cogs and bearings, slow combustion stoves and fire grates.

During World War 1, many foundries sprang up to aid the war effort. At the end of the war, they found themselves competing with each other in a shrinking market, resulting in widespread shutdowns. Faced with a similar fate, the owners of Phoenix Foundry needed to adapt to survive.

Undeterred, the Phoenix rose again. The pouring floor was boarded over and the foundry was transformed into a showroom for the latest Chrysler, Nash and Standard cars. Complete with a petrol bowser and a workshop, CA Young & Co. Engineers had seized the opportunity to profit from the burgeoning motor industry.

It was to be a brief respite. Disaster loomed once more as the Great Depression swept the country and the business suffered, almost to the point of ruin. The Phoenix would not be defeated however, and with the help of £100 that Mum had squirreled away, the Youngs took to milling timber to survive.

Survive they did, and in 1937 the foundry gained the contract to cast iron pipes for the rising main of Uralla's first water works. Business was booming even in the face of a looming war. The business changed hands and in 1982 began making bronze memorial plaques. In 1988 the business moved to new premises and grew to become an international success story, leaving the original foundry, complete with its amazing historical collection in the East Street premises.



Now known as the New England Brass and Iron Lace Foundry, this iconic piece of Uralla's history again faces the threat of extinction. To lose such an important part of Uralla's history, along with its irreplaceable collection, would be a tragedy. The Old Phoenix foundry epitomises the gritty spirit of our pioneers – creative and determined in the face of adversity.

Now in 2008, over one hundred years after the first molten metal was poured within its weatherboard walls, Australia's oldest, functioning foundry needs friends. This time it will take the creativity and determination of concerned individuals to ensure that the old phoenix rises one more time. A group has been formed, named Friends of the Foundry, with a hope of purchasing the property, restoring it to a functioning museum with the possibilities of offering a community workshop and training facilities in the future. It's a small group and they need all the help they can get!



If you haven't seen the treasures within those russet weatherboard walls lately, check out the inspiring photographs on the new website www.friendsofthefoundry.com or for further information email ask@friendsofthefoundry.com

Sue Singleton

NEW ZEALAND NEWS

Compiled by Rick McGovern-Wilson

PIPITEA STREET, WELLINGTON

CFG Heritage were in Wellington in June excavating at 1–15 Pipitea St, Thorndon, which was often cold and occasionally very damp. This was close by Pipitea Pa, which was occupied at the time of the settlement of Wellington by the New Zealand Company in 1840. Possible gardening evidence related to this contact period site was found, though this has yet to be confirmed. 'Pipitea Redoubt', dating to 1843, was also said to have been located on these properties, but no evidence of it was found. Although the lots were subdivided in 1840, the first house was not built until about 1863, on 3 Pipitea St. The lots had been used for rubbish dumping before then, as some pits were located beneath the overburden of house site levelling, while further pits relating to the occupation of the house were found cut into this fill in the backyards of both Nos 3 and 9. Further houses were built on 11–15 Pipitea St in 1881, and the owner or occupants of these houses, which were rental properties, also seem to have used No 9 as a dumping ground, even building fences 1.5 m inside the lot boundary of No 9, which was not built on until 1936. Prior to our investigation the three houses at Nos 11–15 and the later house at No 5 were removed for re-use elsewhere.

Matthew Campbell, CFG Heritage Ltd

CANTERBURY / WEST COAST PROJECTS

Katharine Watson has surveyed what is known as the **electric loco line at Stockton**, north of Westport on the West Coast of the South Island. This line, completed in 1908, was New Zealand's first electric railway line and the only electric railway line built for industry in New

Zealand. Unfortunately, the remains have suffered with the passage of time and ongoing coal mining on the Stockton Plateau, in particular through the widening of the modern mine's haul road in recent years. Nonetheless, much of the line remains in situ, including bridges, tunnels, the site of an electric loco workshop and two of the four substations.

Demolition of 1920s buildings on Manchester Street in Christchurch revealed the façade of the **St Augustine Masonic Hall**. The left and right wings of the lodge, built in 1869 in a Classical style, had survived the demolition of the rest of the lodge and been incorporated into the subsequent buildings on the site, although hidden behind interior cladding. Due to a sympathetic developer, the remaining façade is likely to be incorporated into the new building. Archaeological work during the earthworks for the development will hopefully locate further remains of the St Augustine Masonic Hall.



The south wing of the old St Augustine Masonic Hall.

Matthew Carter and Katharine Watson have carried out an archaeological survey of the **Eight Mile Creek** area, near the settlement of Lyell. Lyell was an important area of hard rock mining on the West Coast of the South Island in the nineteenth century, with hard rock mining commencing in the area in the late 1860s. The Eight Mile area became a focus of interest in around 1873, with the discovery of a number of quartz leaders in the area. With the exception of one or two mines, the numerous claims taken up in this area were not particularly successful, in spite of some spectacular early results.

Katharine Watson, Underground Overground Archaeology Limited

CHATHAM APARTMENT WELLS

Recent earthworks for a redevelopment of a CBD site in Auckland, led to the discovery of two wells. The Chatham Apartments site is located near the top of the valley overlooking Auckland's CBD, an area that did not see European development until the mid 1850s. No preliminary assessment was made of the archaeological potential of the site before construction started, and it is thought that much of the archaeology would have been destroyed during the construction of the 1915 Chatham building. Little was known of the site until the wells were discovered, but the rescue excavation and background research has revealed some interesting ties to several prominent Auckland settlers, particularly the Nathan family who went on to establish a number of successful businesses throughout New Zealand.

The facade from an earlier 1915 building has been retained and incorporated into the new apartment block. The building is being constructed as a 'reverse' earthwork where the subfloor levels were excavated after the piles have been driven, which meant that the wells were excavated each time the subfloor was lowered. The first well was damaged by bottle-diggers before the authorities were notified of its presence, and a large amount of material lost as approximately 6.5m of well fill was removed. However, a number of significant artefacts were recovered from the remaining spoil. The second well was uncovered close to the first but 2m below the level of the other well. Preliminary analysis indicates an assemblage dating from the 1860s through to the early 1900s and the second well appears to be the later of the two.



The Chatham Building façade: Well #1 is located in the foreground covered by the white board.



Well #1 following excavation of the surrounding clay showing damage done by bottle diggers.



Well #1 following partial excavation.

Russell Gibb, Geometria Limited

GEOMETRIA – HISTORIC EXCAVATIONS AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

Huatoki project

A joint project between Geometria Ltd and Ivan Bruce revealed early European structures along the Huatoki stream in the middle of New Plymouth. The Huatoki stream was used in the middle of the 19th century as a landing place by ships' boats before works on an artificial harbour for New Plymouth was finished.

Until reclamation works in the 1890s the Huatoki stream was about 10 metres wider than it is today. On this old stream edge a wooden retaining wall interrupted by a small deep gully and a couple of massive post foundations were found. It is most likely that along the steep stream edge the retaining wall created a narrow platform to unload the boats and the post foundation could have been used as foundations for some heavy lifting gear. Parts of a high quality early Spode service were found inside the retaining fill.

This precise spot is of considerable historical interest as historical documents point towards it possibly being the original landing place of the first European settlers of New Plymouth in 1842. The New Plymouth Company was a brain child of Edward Gibbons Wakefield, similar to the settlement of Adelaide. Their stores were directly behind the development area and the landing place was used by the Company for at least a decade.

The results of the excavation were quite astonishing considering that the area was impacted by a 1940s building with a deep concrete basement. It highlights the possibility of intact archaeological features surviving in the inner city of New Plymouth – a fact often disputed in the past.

It also highlights the potential of archaeological excavations to challenge historical interpretations. In this case a painting of the 1840s to advertise the New Plymouth settlements amongst potential settlers in the UK, shows the area as a sedate stream edge joined by a meadow between the stream edge and the first houses. In reality the steep stream banks were cut by deep gullies creating a slippery muddy area with every light rain shower. At least two narrow terraces were created along the stream edge to facilitate the unloading of ships boats supported by heavy lifting gear. Instead of the romantic rural scene shown in the painting, the area would have had a much more industrial feel and function.

The Old New Lynn Hotel

Currently underway are excavations by Geometria Ltd of the Old New Lynn Hotel. In 1882 a hotel was built in the middle of a farming area along a dirt track linking Auckland to the West with its brickworks, kauri gum industry and the logging industry in the Waitakere Ranges. The hotel was built with home made bricks and sub standard mortar. After 120 years and many repairs over the years, the hotel had to be demolished earlier this year as a threat to public safety. The building archaeological investigations of the remaining structure revealed interesting subfloor find distributions. One major find was a layer of bottle glass and ceramic mortared to the bottom of the concrete base of the fire place in the kitchen area (overturned feature in the photograph).

In addition to the investigation of the remaining structures a geomagnetic survey of the surrounding area indicated rubbish pits and further building structures. The brick floor of a stable structure replaced by a smaller brick building indicates the use of the hotel as a staging post for travel on horse. This function ceased to a large degree with the opening of

a train line in the late 19th century. A still working well and an outhouse linked to the main structure by a brick laid path are part of the precinct of the hotel.

We hope that we can research the multiple functions of the hotel as accommodation, pub and local meeting place through the recovered material culture. The hotel probably provided a social meeting arena where the newly arrived settlers could mix with local Maori and established groups in the area. We will investigate how far this place contributed also to the self awareness of distinctive settler groups, of which in West Auckland the most prominent were the so-called Dalmatians from the area of the former Yugoslavia.



The bottom of the overturned mortared base of the kitchen fireplace of the New Lynn Hotel.

Hans Bader, Geometria Limited

NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWS

Compiled by Colin De la Rue

The Dry in the north of Australia has been accompanied by a lengthy news drought in the NT. No exciting new archaeological projects have been recorded for the ASHA – or any projects at all.

Now, with an early Wet upon us, and field work in danger of becoming swamp work, how about using the lull to write up some material for the next issue good colleagues!

The following reports on one project of note:

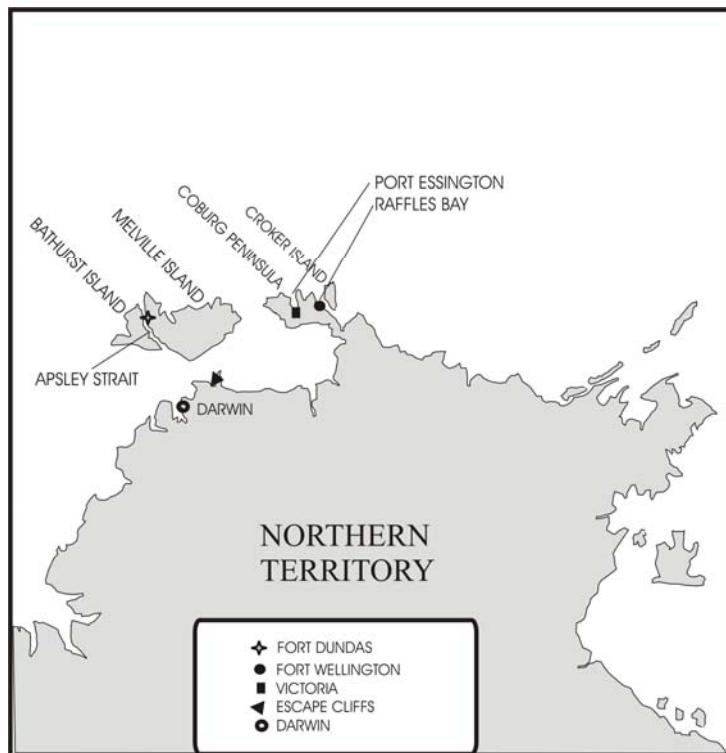
RAFFLES BAY, SEPT 08

In September 2008 there was an expedition to view Fort Wellington organised by the Historical Society of the NT. Fort Wellington is the site of the second European attempt at settlement in the Top End. Fort Dundas (1824 - 1829), on Melville Island, and Fort Wellington (1827 - 1829), on Raffles Bay, were related, short-lived pioneer settlements. Subsequently, Victoria (1838 - 1849), on Port Essington, and Escape Cliffs (1864 - 1867), on Adam Bay, were also settled temporarily before the final successful development of Darwin Harbour in 1869. Fort Wellington is the most difficult of access of all the early sites. It lies within the Garig Gunak Barlu National Park on Cobourg Peninsula and is only accessible by boat.

Fort Wellington had been surveyed by a team from the Northern Territory University in 2003, and the latest expedition provided an opportunity to confirm some points of the survey and extend the earlier search for settlement features. Three archaeologists, Richard Woolfe, Julie Mastin and Colin De La Rue, accompanied the Historical Society party and were able to gather useful information during this short visit.

The following photos show a few of the features on the site, which we hope to investigate more fully in time to come. One puzzle to be resolved is whether there was later use of the site in the 1870s by a group of buffalo shooters, who held a lease over much of Cobourg Peninsula. This will probably require excavation as well as further archival searches.

Much remains to be done to uncover the development of this site, which may contribute to our knowledge of both the earliest European settlement and also the origins of the pastoral industry in the Top End.





Coral conglomerate & mortar building footing



Hearth / chimney base

Colin De La Rue

SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWS

There is no South Australia state report in this issue.

VICTORIA NEWS

There is no Victoria state report in this issue.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA NEWS

Compiled by Shane Burke

NATIONAL TRUST (WESTERN AUSTRALIA BRANCH) FUNDING APPEAL

The National Trust (Western Australia Branch) has established a funding appeal specifically for the archaeological research into the 1830-dated Peel town in Henderson. The appeal is for donations to support the archaeological investigation of Thomas Peel's 1830 camp site, with donations contributing to ongoing conservation and interpretation of the site's cultural heritage values. Funds will be used for the purchase of essential equipment and consumable items to assist in a number of archaeological digs over the next few years. The University of Notre Dame Australia in Fremantle will manage and own the equipment purchased.

An appeal under the National Trust's auspice was considered essential after members of the public wishing to donate money contacted the research's supervisor after visiting the excavations during one of the many public tours or lectures. One person has donated money specifically for a Ground Penetrating Radar survey to find the camp's graveyard containing about 30 people.

Shane Burke

QUEENSLAND NEWS

There is no Queensland state report in this issue, but Karen Murphy has contributed to an article on WAC-6 (see below).

TASMANIA NEWS

Compiled by Greg Jackman

TASMANIAN HISTORIC HERITAGE LEGISLATION REVIEW UPDATE

The future direction of Tasmania's historic heritage management system was outlined on Thursday September 4 at a seminar run by Heritage Tasmania entitled 'Testing the

Waters', the first in a series of forums being held to extend previous consultation and explore the details of the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995*.

The main focus of the seminar was the presentation of discussion papers on revised criteria for assessing the historic cultural heritage significance of places, and proposed threshold guidelines for assessing significance at local and state levels. Many of the proposed reforms are in response to recommendations made within a formal review of Tasmania's historic heritage legislation by Richard MacKay in 2005. Other aspects of the review break new ground. Foremost among these are proposals to reduce the assessment criteria from the current seven to five by relegating criterion b (rare, uncommon or endangered aspects), and criterion d (characteristic of a broader class of cultural places (ie, representativeness)). Formal aesthetic (i.e. design) qualities get a boost by being incorporated into criterion e (creative or technical achievement), while 'community perceptions of taste/beauty' (i.e. social aesthetics) are proposed to be included under criterion f (group/community values).

Of particular interest to ASHA members is the proposal, thankfully abandoned, to also drop criterion c (potential to yield information) from the Act on the argument that archaeological potential is speculative in nature, and not factually based like other values. Many archaeologists would take issue with this view. While criterion c, which is traditionally interpreted as acknowledging research potential as a value, has been spared it is still proposed to be qualified by having to be 'demonstrable'. The views of the ASHA membership on the desirability of including a statutory demonstrability test for archaeological potential are sought.

Also potentially problematic is the proposal to recast criterion c as essentially a gateway for other criteria, i.e. that to be considered important, archaeology must engage with a topic of historical importance, provide evidence of design innovation, creative or technical achievement, or demonstrate an association with the life or work of a notable person, group or organisation. Once archaeology has identified or confirmed other values at a site, the place ceases to have archaeological value.

While Heritage Tasmania staff have evidently put a lot of work into the discussion papers, and on the whole Heritage Tasmania is to be commended for the level of commitment it is showing to reforming the 1995 Act, the proposed reforms have significant implications for future archaeology in Tasmania.

ASHA members who wish to find out more and contribute to a formal ASHA response to the discussion papers on Tasmanian historic heritage criteria and thresholds are encouraged to contact Heritage Tasmania to request a copy of the documents (www.heritage.tas.gov.au). All comments should be directed to the ASHA President by 30 September 2008.

Greg Jackman

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK MAWSONS HUTS, CAPE DENISON, 2007-2008

It must be the Tasmanian – Antarctic connection, but invited to join the Mawson's Huts Foundation summer 2007-8 expedition to Cape Denison as the archaeologist – I went! Unsurprisingly it was a great experience – I'm not sure I am ever going to get over the bizarre experience of excavating snow and ice, but using the traditional tools of the trade!

The 2007-8 heritage program comprised a raft of small projects under three main objectives – re-survey of the archaeology of Cape Denison, including the artefact scatters around Mawson's Hut; limited snow and ice excavation within Mawson's Hut, primarily to recover and assess (with materials conservator Michelle Berry) the condition of previously excavated artefacts; and a review of the present program. Most aspects of the program were able to be completed given the excellent weather conditions we had over December and early January. A report on the survey and excavation has been written for the Mawson's Huts Foundation Expedition Report, and a joint report with Michelle Berry for the Australian Antarctic Division on the review of the current heritage conservation program and recommendations for future directions is in preparation.

From an archaeological perspective, the most rewarding part of the summer fieldwork was the archaeological re-survey (following surveys by Angie McGowan, Estelle Lazer and Mike Staples). This field survey was not a 100% systematic survey, as time and snow conditions did not allow for this. Those areas not surveyed were essentially those areas under snow/ice (i.e. the valley floors) and the major penguin rookery areas at Lands End and John O'Groats. The survey identified approximately 60 features and a small number of isolated artefacts. Most, although not all, of the features and artefacts identified and recorded in the previous two surveys by McGowan (1986) and Lazer and Staples (Lazer 2003) were relocated in the 2007-8 archaeological survey. A number of previously unrecorded features and artefacts were also identified and documented in the 2007-8 archaeological survey.

Of particular interest were: 1) the series of AAE survey cairns and marker posts scattered across the Cape Denison area, some of which were previously unrecorded and which the survey was able to differentiate from later cairns; and, 2) possible geological sampling sites (note – the AAE included two geologists, Douglas Mawson and Frank Stilwell), a site type not previously considered at Cape Denison. Using the same types of evidence as found at Aboriginal quarry sites (eg, conchoidally flaked rock and scatters of debitage) ten probable geological sampling sites were located. Subsequent archival research of Mawson's and Frank Stilwell's diaries has enabled two of the ten probable sites to be unequivocally associated with the AAE geological sampling. The survey has allowed a greater understanding of the scientific work of the Mawson led Australasian Antarctic Expedition (AAE) of 1911-13 through the identification of new sites and features related to the scientific work. These provide additional physical evidence of the scientific work that was the rationale and core activity of Mawson's expedition, hence they contribute to, and enhance, the cultural heritage significance of the Site.

My thanks to the Mawsons Hut Foundation for the invitation; Bruce Hull at the Australian Antarctic Division for briefings and a comprehensive collection of background documents; Jody Steele of the Tasmanian Parks & Wildlife Service for a generous loan of archaeological field equipment; and to those archaeologists and conservators who have previously worked at Cape Denison and who provided me with advice and information – in particular Angie McGowan, Estelle Lazer, Elspeth Wishart, Linda Clark, Ian Godfrey and Janet Hughes.

Anne McConnell



AAE geological sampling site matched to a specimen in Stillwell's rock catalogue.



AAE survey/marker cairn (note weathered exposed timber)

NEW HISTORIC HERITAGE INITIATIVES FOR WELLINGTON PARK

A small number of new initiatives have been developed to progress the management of historic heritage in Wellington Park, an 18,250ha conservation reserve on Hobart's back doorstep, which includes Mt Wellington – the dramatic backdrop to Hobart. The approximately 350 historic sites in Wellington Park are predominantly archaeological sites.

With its network of historic and new walking tracks, the Park is an important area for walking, and this is recognised by the managers who are upgrading and building new tracks. New works on historic tracks has the potential to destroy historic fabric and so a program of historic track survey and recoding is about to begin. This will be complemented by a state and national review of historic recreational tracks to assist in determining the significance of the park's tracks. Because the track network in its largely natural setting is considered to comprise an historical landscape, these landscape values will also be assessed as part of a larger landscape assessment project.

Because of the visual dominance of Mt Wellington and the Wellington Range the landscape of Wellington Park has been a major and permanent visual landmark over time for those who live nearby, including the ca. 250,000 Hobart residents. In the next 2-3 years a landscape assessment project will be undertaken which looks at the historical landscape values of the Park, the visual character, and present day social values that attach to landscape. The project is also important in helping understand the landscape and social values of the historic sites within the Park.

An historic heritage GIS layer is also being developed for the Park to assist management and planning. The Wellington Park Management Trust has also recently started an occasional paper series, *Wellington Park Papers*, which is seen as a way of publishing histories and personal recollections and understandings of the Park, as well as research reports, which help celebrate the Park and document the social values of the Park.

Some of the above initiatives are relatively new approaches for non-urban land, and the approaches have to be developed or tailored for application to Wellington Park. I would be interested in hearing from ASHA members who have some experience with these types of initiatives, particularly the historic track assessment and comprehensive landscape values assessment (see email contact at end of Newsletter).

Anne McConnell

PORt ARTHUR 2009 SUMMER ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAM 'GOING POTTY'

If a hard year beating your head against the proverbial wall of assignments, deadlines and exams has left your brain with the distinct imprint of bricks, then a sojourn at Port Arthur might be just what you need. Yes, come to the place described by Marcus Clarke as '*a hospital for cripples and decrepit bleary eyed convicts basking in the sunshine or warming their maimed limbs by the fire with a senile complacency almost as affecting as is the helplessness of a child.*' If you think this [applies to](#) you then feel free to cast care and caution to the wind and go completely to pot with us during three weeks of glorious Tasmanian summer, autumn, winter and spring – all in the space of January 2009!

From 5-23 January the PAHSMA is seeking volunteers to help investigate the sites of Port Arthur's convict brickworks and potteries (yes it was an obscure segue). Taking in several stunning locations, with magnificent coastal views, the 2009 summer archaeology program will involve surveying, excavation, extant recording and loads of other field fun and frivolities. Yes folks it will be brickbats all round for those who miss this once in a lifetime opportunity (this year) to detox at Port Arthur, Australia's premier archaeology rehabilitation centre.

If you want to find out more contact Greg Jackman at PAHSMA for more details.
Applications close 30 September 2008.

Greg Jackman

OTHER REPORTS

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY (AND ARCHAEOLOGISTS) AT WAC-6, DUBLIN

With some 1700 delegates from 74 different countries, the sixth World Archaeological Congress (WAC-6) was held in Dublin, Ireland from 29 June to 4 July 2008. Held at the campus of the University College of Dublin just south of the city centre, Australians and New Zealanders were well represented with the Aussies making up the third largest country contingent at the congress.

Historical and maritime archaeology from the antipodes was well represented across the four days of papers and 18 daily concurrent sessions. Australians featured in part one of the session 'Archaeologies and colonialism', chaired by James Delle and Pedro Funari. Denise Gaughwin (Forest Practices Authority Tasmania) and Dianne Snowdon (University of Tasmania) presented the archaeology and history of prominent Irish political prisoner Thomas Francis Meagher in Van Diemen's Land. Dean Mullen and Peter Birt (Flinders University) examined the ceramic assemblage from a Cornish mining 'dugout' in Burra,

South Australia. Karen Murphy (University of Queensland) presented a model for examining community at the Cootharaba sawmill settlement in southeast Queensland. Pamela Ricardi's (La Trobe University) research provided a comparison of consumer practice through material culture in working class Melbourne and Buenos Aires.

In the session 'Intimate Encounters: The Historical Archaeology of Domestic Reform', Angela Middleton (University of Otago) presented her research on the Te Puna mission Station and the cult of domesticity. Geraldine Mate (Queensland Museum) presented in the session 'Civic Engagement and Working Communities: Historical Archaeologies of Labour' with her examination of the social influences on the choice and use of technology in gold mining in the 19th century Queensland town of Mount Shamrock.

Other historical and maritime presenters in the program included: Jennifer Rodrigues (University of Western Australia), Bill Jeffery (James Cook University), Jessica Berry (Flinders University), Richenda Prall (WA Museum), Jade Stingemore (University of Western Australia), Stephen Beck (James Cook University), Caroline Phillips (University of Auckland), Moira Jackson and Ian Smith (University of Otago) and Peter Bell (Historical Research Pty Ltd). Apologies to those not mentioned – the programme was over 400 pages long!

Of course the success of any conference is reflected by its social programme, and the organisers of WAC-6 certainly provided a warm and inviting Irish welcome across the entire conference. The Opening Ceremony and Reception was held at the UCD campus to welcome delegates on the Sunday evening before the commencement of papers. This was followed the next evening by a State Reception hosted by the Minister of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, held at the impressive 17th century Royal Hospital Kilmainham which now houses the Irish Museum of Modern Art. Tuesday evening saw a variety of wine receptions held around the city of Dublin with venues from the National Museum of Ireland, and the Dublin City Gallery, to the impressive Chester Beatty Library in Dublin Castle. The incredible collections of manuscripts on display at the Library were opened exclusively to WAC delegates and were accompanied by a delicious range of Mediterranean and Middle Eastern canapés and wine.

The middle day of the conference gave delegates the choice of five different day-tours to explore the rich cultural heritage of Ireland. The tour to the World Heritage Brú na Bóinne site was amazing, with visits to the Neolithic passage tombs at Newgrange and Knowth. Visits to the early medieval monastic site at Monasterboice and 1690 Battle of the Boyne battlefield site provided insights across the time depth of Ireland's history. Other tours took in the rich heritage of Kilkenny, Tara and Navan, the Irish midlands and Dublin itself. Each of the tours ended the day with another fine reception with plenty of Irish welcomes, food and entertainment.

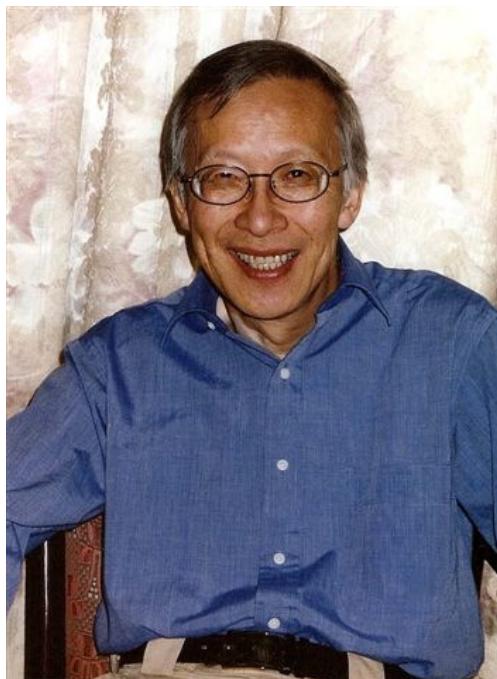
The official Congress Dinner and Party was held at O'Reilly Hall on the UCD campus with a sit-down dinner, followed by traditional Irish music inside the hall, and demonstrations of Bronze Age casting techniques, and a dramatic fire and drumming performance beside the campus lake outside. A choice of late night DJs inside the hall and in the marquee outside saw many revellers dancing well into the early hours of the morning. The Congress was officially closed on the Friday by Mary McAleese, the President of Ireland.

Congratulations and thank you to the organisers of WAC-6; they certainly lived up to the well known phrase "céad míle fáilte" (a hundred thousand welcomes).

Geraldine Mate and Karen Murphy

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

A TRIBUTE TO HENRY MIN-HSI CHAN 1937-2008



Australasian historical archaeology has recently lost one of its greatest supporters with the recent passing of Henry Chan. A dual citizen of New Zealand and Australia, Henry made major contributions to Australasian Chinese history powered by his indefatigable ebullience, drive and desire to promote the past and present achievements of Australasian Chinese, and their on-going connections with their ancestral homes. Henry Chan was a retired history lecturer and honorary fellow of the School of Science and Technology at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia.

Henry Min-hsi Chan was born in Sungai, in Zengcheng County, Guangdong province, southern China, shortly before the outbreak of war with Japan; the only son of Chan Runling and his wife, Huang Lixia. Henry's earliest memories were of being protected by his mother from Japanese bombs while fleeing from Canton (now Guangzhou) to Hong Kong, and the long sea voyage from Hong Kong to Auckland via Sydney. It was 1940, and Henry was three years old when he arrived in New Zealand to join his father, who was well established with businesses in Auckland and Wellington. He was the fourth generation of China-born males in the family to live in Australia or New Zealand. The first to leave their ancestral village Sun-gai was his great grandfather who went to Queensland to clear bush in the mid nineteenth century. Later in the same century his son, Henry's grandfather, who took the surname Hunt, moved to Australia and established a country store and import-export business in Wellington, New South Wales where Henry's father grew up. Commerce between Guangzhou and Australia was strong in the 1930s. The business took his father between the two, in the course of which he married in China. In 1933 Henry's father was sent to Auckland to set up a branch of the family green grocery. Henry and his mother,

forced by the vicissitudes of war, joined him there in 1940 as sponsored war refugees, leaving his two older sisters to look after their grandparents in China. There was now a large family on both sides of the Tasman engaged in business and community activities exposing Henry to Chinese networking from an early age. Outside school hours, Henry's life was completely Chinese. His father spoke very little English and would not allow it spoken in their home. For further insights into Henry's often harsh upbringing, which was to influence him for the rest of his days, readers are referred to Henry's autobiography *Ears Attuned to Two Cultures* published in *Cultural Curiosity: Thirteen Stories about the Search for Chinese Roots* (Khu 2001).

Henry was expected to work in the family business, but he wanted to go to university; in part motivated by a desire to get away from his imperious and somewhat tyrannical father. He left home and was fostered by the Reverend Robert McDowall and his wife until he finished high school at Auckland Grammar. While at school, he took New Zealand citizenship. He went on to Canterbury University in Christchurch and later taught in Napier. In 1968, while a junior lecturer in history at Massey University, Palmerston North, he met Mary Joiner, a lecturer in English literature. They married in 1970 and shortly after Henry earned his MA in New Zealand history.

When the junior lectureship came to an end in 1974, and Mary had study leave, they went to London where Henry studied for another MA in Chinese and Japanese history at the School of Oriental and African Studies, part of the University of London. They returned to New Zealand in 1975 and the following year Mary took up a lectureship at the University of NSW, where she stayed until her retirement in 2000. Henry worked for a time in the Rare Book Library at Sydney University and in 1986 took up a lectureship in Chinese history at Newcastle University. He stayed there, commuting to Sydney each week, until he retired in 1998 and the Chans moved to Echo Point near Katoomba in the Blue Mountains.

A most striking thing about Henry Chan was his drive. He was a scholar and historian of international repute, a gifted networker and organiser, an energetic institution builder and a generous teacher. He was passionate about his Chinese ancestry and research. His strong convictions drove him at breakneck speed to achieve specific objectives. He organised conferences and workshops, established or encouraged community and academic networks, set up heritage coalitions, developed digital resources, email lists and websites, won funding for heritage projects, and alerted local community historians and Australian scholars to wider developments in the country and to international developments in the field.

He had a hand in virtually every important event and institutional initiative in Chinese-Australian studies over the past two decades. He strongly supported and promoted research on overseas Chinese sites in Australia and New Zealand and encouraged archaeologists in the field to publish and present their findings.

In 1994 The Museum of Chinese Australian History proposed 'a staged systematic survey of all the sites which illustrate the role of Chinese people and people of Chinese descent in Australia'. The project, overseen by a steering committee, was assigned to Austral Archaeology, in association with historian Peter Bell and archaeologist Gordon Grimwade. Although somewhat cutback from its lofty three stage aspirations, it resulted in a very useful summary volume *A thematic survey of sites of Chinese Australia history* (Austral Archaeology 1999). For various reasons the project took a new turn as the Chinese Australian Cultural Heritage (CACH) project under the auspices of the Australian Heritage

Commission, and under the supervision of a steering committee chaired by Henry Chan. This resulted in *Tracking the Dragon: A guide for finding and assessing Chinese Australian heritage places*, an eye-catching and very practical handbook written by Michael Pearson, (Australian Heritage Commission 2002). The book was produced in time for distribution at the Overseas Chinese archaeology symposium which Henry co-organised at the joint ASHA / AAA / AIMA conference in Townsville that year. Henry went on to tenaciously pursue the implementation of many of the recommendations contained in *Tracking the Dragon*, through his role both as National Coordinator of CACH and as Chair of the New South Wales CACH project, and to doggedly encourage interstate colleagues to do likewise.

Sandwiched between these two projects, there was another seminal event in the development and exposition of Overseas Chinese archaeology in Australasia. In February 2000 Henry Chan, assisted by Kate Bagnall, organised a workshop at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, on "The Chinese in Australian and New Zealand History". The workshop was really a full blown, amazingly successful and productive conference. It attracted just about every key practitioner in the field from New Zealand and Australia, as well as many from around the Pacific Rim. It saw the creation and maintenance of numerous co-operative research networks, albeit born over a beer in two in the time-honoured way of conferences. Besides covering the gamut of historic Chinese migrant issues, the workshop included four sessions of particular interest to those involved and interested in Australasian Chinese historical archaeology, viz. the plenary session which focussed on the 'Thematic Study of Chinese Historic Sites in Australia' (McCarthy et al. 1999), two sessions on the 'Archaeology of Chinese Sites', and a very relevant symposium on 'Temples and Tombstones: The Archaeology of the Chinese Dead'. In addition the public lecture at the Powerhouse Museum on 'Chinese Heritage Tourism: Ideas and Suggestions from the American Northwest' by U.S. guest speakers Priscilla Wegars and Terry Abraham, presented another rich vein of possibilities.

In terms of publication it was proposed to produce two multi-authored volumes, a 'History' and an 'Archaeology' volume based on the papers presented at the workshop. They were to be edited by Henry Chan and Neville Ritchie respectively, and it was hoped that both would be published by the University of New South Wales Press. But things did not work out as planned. Eventually the archaeology papers were offered for inclusion in *Australasian Historical Archaeology*, ASHA's annual journal. They formed the content of a special thematic volume (ASHA Journal 21) titled 'Archaeology of the overseas Chinese' (ASHA 2003). Henry was delighted to see this volume emerge as a major spin-off from the conference and a contribution to the story of the overseas Chinese in Australia. Concurrently Henry was guest editor for 'Locality', a community history magazine produced by the University of Technology, Sydney.

In 2004, he was awarded a fellowship at the National Library in New Zealand (Wellington) where he studied Chinese immigration to New Zealand. A book on immigration from Zengcheng (in Guangdong province), *Zengcheng New Zealanders*, was published in 2006 for the 80th anniversary of the Zengcheng Association in Wellington. He edited the book and wrote a long historical introduction.

Henry's next major project with archaeological connections was the 'Quong Tart and His Times, 1850-1903' international conference which he convened in July 2004. Held in conjunction with a major exhibition on Quong Tart at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney,

the conference revolved around papers on topics related to the life and times of Quong Tart, 1850-1903. Subjects included comparative gold fields history; social, cultural, and economic history of Sydney and NSW, 1850-1903; history of the Chinese communities around the Pacific 1850-1903; race relations and regulatory regimes against Chinese, and Chinese responses 1850-1903. Several of the papers presented at the conference have since been published.

In the final months of his life, Henry celebrated three things: the victory of Labour in the federal election, John Howard losing his seat, and the new Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, speaking fluent Mandarin. He is survived by Mary, their son, Sebastian, daughter-in-law Kerri Cavanagh and grandchildren Grace and Rupert. With his irrepressible style Henry ruffled a few feathers along the way on both sides of the Tasman, but he brought together virtually all the key practitioners in the field in a productive network, left an enduring legacy of published academic research and in so many ways elevated and celebrated the status of the Chinese people in Australia and New Zealand.

Neville Ritchie, September 2008

SOME THANKS TO RETIRING ASHA OFFICE BEARERS

PAUL RHEINBERGER

As the outgoing Treasurer, I have been reflecting on the amount of time and energy that is required to fulfil a committee position, not just within ASHA but within any organisation. It is usually a small group of dedicated people who are relied upon to make all manner of decisions and to act on behalf of many. This year ASHA is losing some long standing committee members with an in-depth understanding of the machinery that is required to keep ASHA running. Paul Rheinberger is one of those long-standing committee members who chose not to nominate this year. This I can understand, after a contribution of nearly 14 years to the committee. Most of this time Paul held the Executive position of Vice President and with his earlier career in Law, he also became ASHA's in-house legal beagle.

Paul was initially recruited to the ASHA committee by Graham Connah in 1995. In the early days he would travel from Newcastle to Sydney on a regular basis to attend committee meetings. Paul was motivated by his concept in Archaeology as a community, and his belief in ASHA as an effective communication link for Historical Archaeologists, both professional and amateur, across Australia and New Zealand.

In his time on the committee, Paul has helped organise conferences (Norfolk Island and Wellington), implemented positive changes in financial arrangements, and instigated reform in the electoral system. During a difficult period in ASHA's history, from 2002 to 2004, Paul took on dual Executive roles as Vice President and Treasurer (in the days before the Admin Assistant). He was also web manager for a time when no one else would take on the responsibility. Paul's lasting dedication to ASHA is the current logo design and I can attest to the time, thought and many versions that created its final form.

Paul has certainly provided generously to ASHA over many years and I am sure the entire membership across Australia and New Zealand will echo a collective thank you.

Sue Singleton, September 2008

ROSS GAM

Ross Gam is more than an ASHA acquaintance. He is a friend and one of those totally reliable and committed friends that one is lucky to make during a lifetime. He is one of the great late vocations in Archaeology bringing with him a good deal of life experience including bush experience, innovation and a substantial electronics background. After completing his tertiary studies Ross joined the Lake Innes Project (LIP), directed by Graham Connah, in 1995 where he made a huge contribution to the logistics of that exercise as well as bringing enthusiasm and dedication to the archaeological undertaking.

At this time ASHA's fortunes were sagging somewhat despite Graham Connah's best endeavours. Appreciating Ross' enthusiasm and commitment, Graham recruited Ross to nominate for a position on the committee. For a couple of years Ross remained an active committee person, participating in committee meetings, on occasion travelling 400km from Tamworth to Sydney, before the inception of committee telephone hook ups, which commenced in about 1997. When Ross joined the committee ASHA was experiencing considerable difficulties with falling membership, falling income and what generally appeared to be a narrowing of interest in the profession. There were probably many reasons for this, one of which being the need for regular informative contact with members. In 1997, Ross stood for the first time for the position of Newsletter Editor in an environment where no one else was willing to take on the responsibility of the position.

He brought to that position over the next ten years a commitment to regular and reliable deadlines, communication and broadly interesting material (reinforced by an authoritarian attitude to guest editors and contributors). Concurrently he attempted to rationalise the communication of the newsletter with cost. In his early years, the newsletter was being printed by a secretarial firm and posted to members. This format involved the dual costs of printing and postage and Ross' first step was to centralise with the firm that carried out both operations. In the long run Ross was able to convert the newsletter into an electronic format for dispatch electronically, saving ASHA valuable dollars. An electronic format also had the advantage of removing limits on space and allowing the economical use of photographs. All of this was made possible by Ross' electronic insights and ability to adapt and evolve the newsletter into the format we have today.

After twelve years of service to ASHA, Ross resigned his position as Newsletter Editor in 2007 and his committee position this year. On behalf of ASHA members past, present and future, we acknowledge and extend our appreciation for your commitment and your contribution. Thanks Rossco.

Paul Rheinberger & Sue Singleton, September 2008

ASHA HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY AWARDS

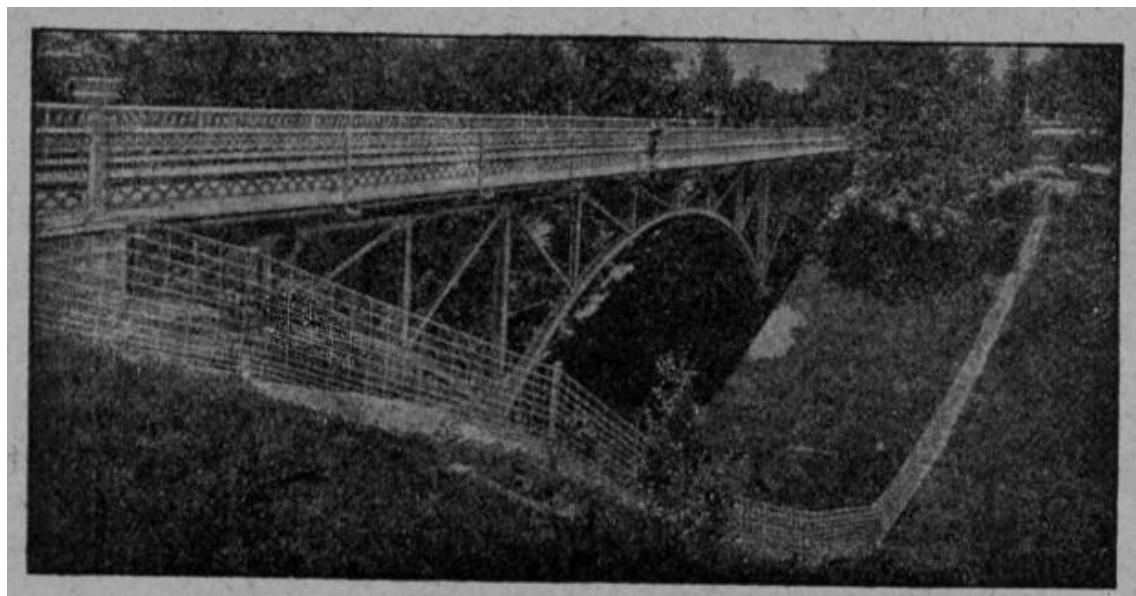
ASHA invites individuals and firms to consider sponsorship of the awards program. Donations of any size are welcome, with substantial donors able to sponsor a specific award. All donors will be acknowledged on the web site and in publicity for the awards program.

ASHA thanks the existing sponsors Comber Consultants (Platinum Sponsor, Judy Birmingham Award for Best Historical Archaeology Heritage Project), Mark Staniforth (Bronze Sponsor), University of Queensland Archaeological Services Unit (General Sponsor).

Further information is available from Susan Lawrence, Chair, Awards Committee (s.lawrence@latrobe.edu.au) or the ASHA Secretary (secretary@asha.org.au).

WHERE IS THIS BRIDGE?

The image below comes from an advertisement in Anon (1912) *The stockowner's guide. Appliances and improvements*. The Pastoralists' Review Pty. Ltd., Sydney. In the foreground and crossing the creek is the rabbit-proof mesh being advertised by Reid Bros. & Russell Pty Ltd of 458-460 Flinders St., Melbourne.



It is not critical to my research on rural fences, but I am curious about the bridge. It appears to be primarily iron (or steel) and rather graceful, but the perspective makes it hard to tell if the bridge is for road, rail or even pedestrians. On looking more closely, the ground on the far side of the creek seems to be cut away almost parallel to the bridge. This is rather odd to say the least, and it may be that the image is a montage put together by the advertising agency (if they had such things in 1912) or the company to provide a more dramatic effect.

Given that Reid Bros. & Russell were a Melbourne company, I would assume that the bridge is somewhere in Victoria, and most likely close to or in Melbourne.

Does anyone know where the bridge is, or was? Hopefully not the latter as it is a very aesthetic design. And, more to the point for my research, is the fence still there?

Any information welcome, and I will report back with a summary.

Dr John Pickard

Department of Physical Geography

Macquarie University NSW 2109

Email john.pickard@bigpond.com

AUSTRALIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 3-6 DECEMBER 2008, NOOSA, QUEENSLAND

The 2008 Australian Archaeology Association Conference will be held over three days from 3 – 6 December in Noosa, at the Australis Noosa Lakes Resort in Noosaville, Queensland.

Online registration is now open at the conference website <http://www.socialscience.uq.edu.au/index.html?page=74856>

The programme covers a wide range of current issues in Australasian archaeology as well as sessions of interest and relevance to Australian Archaeologists more generally.

A welcome evening will be held on Wednesday 3 December, and a post-conference tour is planned for Sunday 7 December.

The airconditioned conference venue boasts three beautiful, centrally located pools, and Noosa is home to some of the best beaches in Australia, so bring your togs. Noosa is also known for excellent dining and its natural beauty, including the nearby World Heritage Fraser Island and Great Sandy Region.

We look forward to seeing you there!

AAA2008 Conference Organising Committee

Chris Clarkson (c.clarkson@uq.edu.au); ***Andrew Fairbairn*** (a.fairbairn@uq.edu.au);
Patrick Faulkner (p.faulkner@uq.edu.au)

SOCIETY CONTACTS

2007–2008 COMMITTEE

President	Martin Gibbs	president@asha.org.au
Vice Presidents	Penny Crook MacLaren North	vicepresidentpc@asha.org.au vicepresidentmn@asha.org.au
Treasurer	Sue Singleton	treasurer@asha.org.au
Secretary Committee	Katrina Stankowski Deborah Arthur Brad Duncan Ross Gam Greg Jackman Rick McGovern-Wilson Susan Piddick Jon Prangnell Paul Rheinberger Pam Smith Jody Steele	secretary@asha.org.au
Immediate past President	Susan Lawrence	

Publications

AHA Editor	Mary Casey	editor@asha.org.au
AHA Reviews Editor	VACANT	reviews@asha.org.au
Newsletter Editor	Rick McGovern-Wilson	newsletter@asha.org.au
Webmasters	VACANT	webmanager@asha.org.au
Publications Officer	Maya Veres	publications@asha.org.au

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

ACT

Richard Morrison
25 Forbes St
Turner ACT 2612
act@asha.org.au

NSW

Tim Owen
Cultural Heritage Services
2009 Locked Bag 24
Broadway NSW 2007
nsw@asha.org.au

NT

Colin De La Rue
11 Bedwell Court
Gray
Palmerston NT 0830
nt@asha.org.au

SA

Robert Stone
Flinders University
GPO Box 2100
Adelaide SA 5001
sa@asha.org.au

QLD

Karen Murphy
School of Social Science
University of Queensland
QLD 4072
qld@asha.org.au

TAS

Greg Jackman
Port Arthur Historic Site
Management Authority
Port Arthur TAS 7182
tas@asha.org.au

WA

Shane Burke
Department of Archaeology
University of Western Australia
Nedlands WA 6907
wa@asha.org.au

NZ

Rick McGovern-Wilson
New Zealand Historic Places
Trust
PO Box 2629
Wellington NZ
nz@asha.org.au

VIC

Darren Griffin
Senior Archaeologist /
Heritage Advisor
ACHM (Vic) Pty Ltd
GPO Box 5112
Melbourne VIC 3000
vic@asha.org.au

FORTHCOMING NEWSLETTERS

The ASHA Newsletter is produced quarterly with the assistance of guest editors. The 2007–2008 guest editors are:

Sept 2008 issue: Anne McConnell email: annemc@aaa.net.au
Dec 2008 issue: Rick McGovern-Wilson email: newsletter@asha.org.au

In order to facilitate a more efficient newsletter production, all contributions should be forwarded to the e-mail address of your state rep (see ASHA contacts on the previous page for address details) by the following dates:

March issue: 15 February *September issue: 15 August*
June issue: 15 May *December issue: 15 November*

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, Rick McGovern-Wilson, 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.

Rick McGovern-Wilson
General Editor
ASHA Newsletter

Email: newsletter@asha.org.au
Post: New Zealand Historic Places Trust
P O Box 2629
Wellington 6004
NEW ZEALAND
Phone: +64 4 470 8055