Contents

State of the Art ........................................................................................................................................ 2
ACT News .................................................................................................................................................. 2
   Heritage Division, Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) .................................................................................................................. 2
   ACT Heritage Unit ................................................................................................................................ 4
   National Trust of Australia (ACT) ......................................................................................................... 5
NSW News .................................................................................................................................................. 6
   Macadamised Road Fragment, Tenterfield ............................................................................................... 6
   Fort Phillip Archaeological Excavation ................................................................................................... 7
   Lower Prospect Canal Archaeological Excavation ................................................................................ 10
   Modified Clay Pipes from the Hyde Park Barracks, Sydney ................................................................. 11
New Zealand News .................................................................................................................................. 13
   Ockleston House Investigation, 130 Hobsonville Road: a Preliminary Report ...................................... 13
Northern Territory News .......................................................................................................................... 18
   Archaeological Dig in Vacant Lot Behind the 19th Century Heritage Listed Sue Wah Chin Stone Building in Darwin ................................................................................. 18
South Australia News ................................................................................................................................ 23
Victoria News ........................................................................................................................................... 23
   Coch’s / Koke’s Shipbuilding Yard Survey ............................................................................................ 23
Western Australia News ............................................................................................................................. 26
   Peel Town’s Site 3 Continues to Produce More Archaeological Evidence of the Swan River Colony’s First Few Months .................................................................................. 26
Queensland News ..................................................................................................................................... 28
   Caboonbah Homestead Archaeological Project 2008 Field Season ..................................................... 28
Tasmania News .......................................................................................................................................... 29
   ASHA / AIMA Annual Conference 2009 Update .............................................................................. 29
   Important Publication Announcement ................................................................................................. 29
ASHA CONFERENCE 2008 ...................................................................................................................... 30
   President’s Report 2007-2008 [Martin Gibbs] ...................................................................................... 30
   Vice-President’s Report [Maclaren North] ............................................................................................... 32
   Secretary’s Report [Katrina Stankowski] ............................................................................................... 35
   Treasurer’s Report [Sue Singleton] ........................................................................................................ 40
   Newsletter Editor’s Report [Rick McGovern-Wilson] .......................................................................... 43
   ASHA Award Winners 2008 .................................................................................................................. 43
Announcements and Notices ..................................................................................................................... 44
   ASHA / AIMA Annual Conference 2009 Update .............................................................................. 44
STATE OF THE ART

ACT NEWS

Compiled by Richard Morrison

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

Heritage Working Group – The Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, the Hon Peter Garrett AM MP, whilst acknowledging its contribution over the years on a range of heritage matters, has decided to discontinue the National Cultural Heritage Forum (NCHF). This was a non-government body of cultural heritage organisations, including ASHA, formed to advise the DEWHA Minister. He has decided to establish a new body, the Heritage Working Group, to assist the Minister address various issues related to establishing a stronger economic case for heritage protection in Australia. This includes enhancing and creating a greater awareness of the significant contribution that Australia’s unique heritage places make to local and national economies, particularly as a result of tourism. The Group will comprise individuals experienced in economics, tourism and business in addition to having expertise in natural, indigenous and historic heritage. Notwithstanding the discontinuation of the NCHF, the Minister has indicated an expectation that the Government will draw upon the experience of Forum members, individually and collectively, over time.

Commemoration of Historic Events and Famous Persons (CHEFP) – The 2008-09 round of this grants program has been announced recently. The program is designed to commemorate people, events and places of national historical significance. This program provides financial assistance to maintain the graves of former Prime Ministers and Governors-General and other projects that commemorate people, events and places of national historical significance. Eligible projects may include: the conservation of graves of people of national historic significance; and the construction and conservation of monuments, plaques and statues that commemorate people, events and places of national
historical significance. It is a modest program with many projects receiving around $5,000 each. To be eligible you must be, at the closing date for applications: a not-for-profit body that is legally incorporated in Australia; an individual person of Australian Citizenship; or a local government authority. 2008-09 applications and guidelines have been revised and they can be found on the DEWHA website at http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/programs/chefp/index.html Applications closed COB Friday 12 December 2008.

The Australian National University (ANU) Institute for Professional Practice in Heritage and the Arts (IPPHA) – This new heritage institute was launched by the Federal Minister for Heritage on 22 October 2008. Based in the ANU’s Research School of Humanities, this national organisation will link professional practice to private enterprise, the public sector and academia. The Board of nine eminent heritage and arts professionals to oversee the Institute’s activities includes five archaeologists, including historical archaeologist Dr Mike Pearson.

The Institute aims to advance professional practice in the heritage and arts sectors. It seeks to improve approaches to professional practice that can flow back into industry performance, public sector programme delivery, and enhance academic teaching and research.

Professional practice in the heritage and arts sectors increasingly involves individuals pursuing flexible career options, including private consultancy practice and mobility within and across industry, academic and government environments. The Institute will concentrate on targeted activities that support the interaction of heritage and arts professionals across these environments. The Institute will concentrate on three core areas of interest:

1. Networking and Communication
   - Stimulate interaction across universities, government and private practice
   - Communicate examples of best practice through associated key projects.

2. Professional Development
   - Workshops
   - Short course professional development suitable for workplace and practising professional training
   - Links with accredited postgraduate programs.

3. Expert Advice
   - Workshops on key issues
   - Technical advice on issues informing policy and program development
   - Consultancies.

The IPPHA’s focus will reflect and benefit from its location in the national capital. The national and international scope of the Institute will harness the considerable expertise of heritage and arts professionals working in and visiting Canberra. This includes a major focus on collaborative projects within Australia, in North Asia, South Asia and in the Pacific.
The Institute will take a leadership role in engaging with the professional development and professional practice support needs for heritage and arts in the Asia – Pacific Region.

See the ANU Website at http://rsh.anu.edu.au/ippha/index.php for further information on IPPHA.

ACT HERITAGE UNIT

Canberra and Region Heritage Festival – This has been reinstated into April to line up with World Heritage Day of 18 April 2009. If there are any events: talks, open days etc that occur 9-19 April 2009 they would be happy to include this in their program and promotional activity. Please contact Linda Roberts on ph 02 6205 0255 for further information.

ACT Heritage Grants Program 2008-2009 – These were announced in August 2008. Mention was made in the last newsletter of a relevant successful project, the Archaeological Heritage Advisory Service project. Another relevant project announced (for $40,000) was the joint Conservation Council of the South East Region, Canberra Inc and the Canberra Archaeological Society project to produce a colour booklet on Gungahlin's natural, historical, cultural, Indigenous and environmental heritage.

Woolshed Creek Development - Canberra residents and visitors to the regions will have noticed the substantial roadworks around the airport and approaching Canberra. At Woolshed Creek a new bridge will span a registered site containing the remains of Silurian fossils.

The first Silurian fossils recorded in Australia were collected from Woolshed Creek in 1844 by the Reverend W B Clarke. The site is rich in fossiliferous biota and has been used to interpret both time scales and the environment of the geological past, and is a valuable educational aid for geology.

Although works approval for this development comes under the control of the Commonwealth through the National Capital Authority, ACT Heritage has liaised closely with the developers, and provided advice on the protection of the key heritage values of the site.

Advice from expert palaeontologists has been that the site is significant as the first Australian evidence from the Silurian period, and that the fossils themselves are relatively unremarkable. Scientists have visited the site in conjunction with ACT Heritage officers, and are using the opportunity of the newly exposed beds to examine relics of life laid down over 425 million years ago, and to get a better understanding of this interesting site. It is anticipated that interpretative signage and information about the site will be upgraded for better public information as a result of the development and the close collaborative effort.
Heritage Officers and Geologist at Woolshed Creek

NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (ACT)

Pialligo Heritage Survey – The ACT National Trust will be conducting a comprehensive heritage assets survey of land sections in Pialligo lying between the Canberra Airport and the Molonglo River.

The Pialligo area was part of Campbell’s Duntroon Station established in 1825 (in fact Duntroon was initially called ‘Pialligo’ a name derived from the Aboriginal word for the area). Since European settlement the Pialligo sections have been largely used for agrarian purposes. Prior to European colonisation the area was intensively used by Aboriginal groups extracting food resources from the river and flood plain. Today, the area is mainly made up of commercial nurseries, associated buildings and open fields. Recent airport upgrading, large office complex construction and major road duplications have been developing on the eastern side of Pialligo Avenue and may in the future impinge upon the sections west of Pialligo Avenue.

Identifying, researching, documenting and assessing heritage assets in the Pialligo area can be seen as a preliminary step to understanding the Pialligo area and the role it has played in the changing economies of the central Canberra area. Identifying sites and assessing their heritage values will be a valuable tool in protecting such sites if and when the area is subject to development change.

The project will also add to a better historical understanding of the area which, despite almost 200 years of European influence, still maintains a rural character on the very edge of modern development.

The area is often visited by Canberrans, many of whom are not aware of its historical context to the rural period of Canberra. Interpretation of the area would be a logical step following an initial heritage assets assessment of the selected area.

Dr Peter Dowling, Heritage Officer, Archaeology & History, NT of Aust (ACT)
MACADAMISED ROAD FRAGMENT, TENTERFIELD

The Heritage Concepts team recently had opportunity to prepare a Conservation Management Plan for the RTA on a section of macadamised road adjacent to the Bruxner Highway, west of Tenterfield. Surviving macadamised roads in NSW are rare, and this one proved to be both well preserved and of significant size, extending a total of 500m in length.

This section of historic macadamised road was originally a part of the Tenterfield to Bonshaw Road, established through the slow linking of early tracks and the paths of travellers and explorers. It was first marked on a map as one consistent road in 1858. Upgrading of this road through the macadam process occurred after Government funding in 1878, with work continuing until 1886. It was regularly maintained until 1912 when the realignment of the highway saw this 500m section bypassed. The development of the macadamised road building process was a significant step forward in technology with large implications for transport and, as a result, for commerce, communication and trade. The macadam road building techniques, pioneered in Scotland, came to be used extensively in England, America and Australia. The technique of road construction placed a large amount of importance on sufficient drainage for the road, working into its design side ditches running along the edges of a shaped foundation. The technique involves two or three courses of stones layered on top of each other with the voids between filled with loose stones and these layers rolled with water, causing the mechanical locking of the stones. The Tenterfield road section provides an excellent example of this process, with the compressed layers clearly visible, giving insight into the use of macadamisation on NSW roads.
All data, research and recordings taken of and relating to the road were incorporated into the Conservation Management Plan.

Darran Jordan, Heritage Concepts Pty Ltd

FORT PHILLIP ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

The archaeological investigation of Fort Phillip was undertaken by the Government Architect’s Office and Casey & Lowe Pty Ltd for the Powerhouse Museum, as part of a programme of conservation works to mark the Observatory’s 150th Anniversary.

The archaeological work was aimed at furthering our understanding of this important site and Sydney’s early history, so that it can be permanently displayed, interpreted to the public and protected for future generations.

Background

Observatory Hill, as the highest point in central Sydney, has always been an important site and a strategic defence position. The site was originally known as Windmill Hill due to the presence of Australia’s first windmill, built there by the government in 1797. Remains of this windmill should still exist in the grounds of the Observatory but have not yet been excavated.

Fort Phillip was built on Windmill Hill (now Observatory Hill) in 1804-6 and was the first major permanent public work to be built by the Colonial government. It was designed to be completely enclosed, with six faces and a surrounding ditch, and was intended to serve as a fortified point from which the Garrison could protect the town of Sydney, particularly in the event of a siege. In this respect Fort Phillip differed from the other fortifications built around the harbour throughout the nineteenth century, which were largely batteries.

The development of Fort Phillip is an interesting case study in Colonial perceptions about threats to the Colony, many of which were more a product of fear and isolation than reality. The Fort was proposed in response to fears about an uprising of Irish Nationals within the Colony. In 1804 Australia had not long been settled by the British. Communication with the ‘civilised’ world was difficult and infrequent and there was a great deal of French and Spanish activity occurring in the Pacific region, leading to a general level of nervousness and paranoia in the colony. Between 1801 and 1804 a number of ships carrying transported Irish Nationals had arrived, heightening the number of perceived threats against British rule in the still fledgling colony. These fears are revealed in dispatches from Governor King to London. In 1801 he noted:

Our exertions must soon be turned to securing ourselves from any attempt by the troublesome Irish Republicans, of which so many have lately arrived here and there being no internal defence whatever.

In 1804, following construction of the Fort, King noted:

I have great pleasure in informing your Lordship that the United Irish remain very quiet and I have no doubt but a continuation of the same precautions that have been made to counteract their ridiculous schemes will ensure the present tranquillity. The citadel is far advanced and will afford the greatest advantages in resisting any attempt that may be made in the settlement.
Building of the Fort commenced in 1804, during which time the Irish still posed a threat to internal security. King’s fears of insurrection were justified, for in February 1804, a mere six weeks after the commencement of work at Fort Phillip, an uprising of Irish Nationals took place at Castle Hill.

It is not clear who designed the Fort, as the original architectural drawings have been lost, however the construction was supervised by a Lieutenant Minchin, right-hand man to Governor King and a key figure in the Rum Rebellion.

Construction on Fort Phillip continued until early 1806, when work appears to have stopped with the Fort only partially complete. The recently constructed merlons (parts of the battlement on top of the fort walls) were reportedly then removed under instruction from Governor Bligh, possibly as a slight to Governor Hunter. The return of work dated 12th August 1806, provides a summary of work that had been successfully completed thus far:

The ditch dug round and the foundation stone of the outer wall of the rampart laid 13th September 1804 and then received the name of "Fort Phillip" in honor (sic) of the first Governor of the territory…The rampart, merlons and embrasures of the three sides completed… A bomb-proof under the rampart of one side finished.

It is not clear whether construction on the Fort was stopped because the Irish were no longer a threat, if other priorities in the colony had taken over, or if it was Governor Bligh’s way of downgrading the plans of his predecessor. It is clear however, that Fort Phillip never fulfilled its proposed role as a defensive citadel and was used largely for signalling from 1806 until it was partially demolished to make way for the construction of Sydney Observatory in 1857.

In ca. 1815 a large powder magazine was added, possibly designed by Francis Greenway under instruction from Governor Macquarie, as part of a grand plan to make Sydney a fortified city. Evidence of this magazine should survive in the lawn at the front of the current Observatory building, but has not yet been excavated. The magazine was operating as a powder store in 1821, when it was advertised in the Sydney Gazette for public use as a public gunpowder storage facility.

The Excavation Program

The excavation program revealed substantial, intact foundations of the Fort (built in 1804-1806) and its bomb-proof chamber, as well as military-related artefacts such as gun shot, gun or cannon flints, and buttons. Other domestic artefacts included bones, ceramics and pieces of fine glass ware.

The remnant stonework blocks from the walls of the bomb-proof chamber have slightly curved faces, indicating the room had a barrel roof within the fort wall. Remnants of the bomb-proof chamber’s plaster floor also survive. A fireplace was found in the northern wall of the room, containing a substantial charcoal deposit with a range of artefacts in it including the flints. Possible evidence of the Fort’s ditch was found in a test trench sunk adjacent to the exterior rampart footings. A flagged floor found adjacent to the bomb-proof chamber, appears to be from a small structure that sat inside the courtyard of the Fort. It seems to be contemporary with the original Fort construction.

Other finds included: an area of sandstone paving at the ground floor entrance to the Signal Master’s Station, and another next to the Messenger’s Cottage; a section of brick drainage
next to the Signal Master’s Cottage annex; and, an original anchor point for the northern flagstaff.

The archaeological findings provide information that is not available in any written records about the original design and construction of the fort, its adaptation as a signal station or the lives of the people stationed there. The bomb-proof chamber and fort footings appear to be the earliest of their kind to be found in Australia.

There was both media and public interest in the site. Over 1,000 people visited during the field season and the Sydney Morning Herald and 2UE both provided coverage. The Sydney Morning Herald’s multimedia piece can be accessed at http://www.smh.com.au/interactive/2008/national/fort-phillip-dig/index.html

The Powerhouse Museum is currently developing a landscape design to allow the remains to be retained and interpreted permanently.

*Caitlin Allen (Conservation Archaeologist and Heritage Specialist NSW Government Architect's Office)*
LOWER PROSPECT CANAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

An archaeological excavation was undertaken on a short section of the Prospect Canal, Sydney, prior to the construction of a new cycleway and access road.

The Lower Canal was constructed in 1888 as part of the Upper Nepean Scheme for the purpose of supplying water to Sydney. The Lower Canal was an open, gravity fed canal, which was originally constructed from sandstone masonry (1888) but relined with Monier concrete panels (1902 to 1912).

Archaeological excavation, guided by research questions in the Canal’s CMP and under a Section 63 NSW Heritage Act approval, aimed to investigate the fabric of the canal and its construction methods.

Excavation showed that the Monier concrete panels had been set on a bed of packing gravel, against horizontal concrete support blocks. Each panel removed was inscribed on the reverse with ‘JB 10.10.04’.

Removal of the packing material revealed faced sandstone masonry comprising the former water channel, with a narrow sandstone walkway adjacent to the top of the canal. Removal of the sandstone blocks defined that they were set into thick clay, which interfaced sharply with the natural gravels beneath.

Representative portions of the Monier panels and sandstone have been retained for future interpretation and possible repair work. An interpretation sign will be installed at the location of the new cycleway to provide information relating to the excavation.

Completed excavation showing the original sandstone lined canal.
MODIFIED CLAY PIPES FROM THE HYDE PARK BARRACKS, SYDNEY

The Archaeology Program at La Trobe University and the Historic Houses Trust of NSW have recently begun a major collaborative ARC-funded study of material from the Hyde Park Barracks (HPB), Sydney. The project aims to upgrade the existing artefact database and analyse the collection, with particular reference to the underfloor deposits associated with the occupation by immigrant women and destitute women. This collection is one of the largest and most diverse assemblages recovered from a nineteenth-century institution anywhere in the world. It includes a vast array of textiles and leather fragments, sewing equipment, medicine bottles, religious paraphernalia, and large quantities of paper, including newspapers, letters and religious tracts (Crook and Murray 2006). One of the first parts of the collection studied in detail has been the clay tobacco pipes.

Governor Macquarie ordered the construction of the barracks, which opened in 1819 in Macquarie Street, as accommodation for convicts working on government gangs in and around Sydney. Convict transportation to New South Wales ended in 1840, and by 1848 the remaining convicts were transferred to Cockatoo Island in Sydney Harbour. The barracks then became a depot for immigrant women from Britain and Ireland, a function that continued until 1886. From 1862 the top floor (Level 3) of the barracks was used as an asylum for infirm and destitute women. In 1886 the immigration depot was closed, and the asylum women were relocated to Newington, near Parramatta. Thereafter the barracks was occupied by various elements of the Justice Department until the 1970s. The site became a museum in 1984, and came under the management of the Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales in 1990.
A total of 4105 clay pipe fragments were recovered from the Hyde Park Barracks. This included 1013 fragments from underfloor deposits on Level 3, associated with the occupation of the asylum women. A detailed analysis of this material has been prepared (Davies forthcoming). A small subset of the pipes, however, is of interest because they show evidence of having been modified and reused. At least 20 stem fragments from Level 3 show evidence of shortening and regrinding. Several of these examples also have heavy tooth marks on the shortened stem (Figure 1). A common pattern was for the original pipe stem to have been broken, either accidentally or deliberately, leaving a very short stem attached to the bowl. The tip of the stem was then ground smooth to form a new mouthpiece, with either a rounded or straight finish. These short stems were generally less than 40 mm in length, which meant holding and smoking the pipe very close to the mouth.

The asylum women were essentially confined to the barracks, and were allowed to make outside visits only on rare occasions. They were supplied with a small amount of tobacco every month by the Matron, Lucy Hicks. The reuse of short-stemmed pipes, however, indicates the women placed a high value on these objects, perhaps because replacement pipes were hard to come by in the event of loss or breakage. Alternatively, some may have simply preferred to smoke pipes reshaped in this way. Lauren Cook (1997:26) has noted a similar preference for shortened pipes among working-class smokers at the Boott Cotton Mills in Lowell, Massachusetts, in the late nineteenth century. In some cases, the adoption of short-stemmed pipes in colonial Sydney may also have been associated with the preference for heavily blackened pipes, which some smokers bought ready stained, to create the impression of being accomplished smokers (Fowler 1975 [1859]:10; Gojak and Stuart 1999:40). A large proportion (64%) of pipe bowls lost or discarded by the asylum women on Level 3 was heavily discoloured.

There were also at least four examples of shortened pipes with bandaged stems, consisting of coarse thread wrapped around a layer of paper, cardboard or resin. In addition, two stem fragments were identified from the barracks which had been reground leaving facets around one end of the stem (Figure 2). Graham Wilson (1999:325) identified 18 stems from the Cumberland/Gloucester Streets site in The Rocks which had been modified in a similar way, either with one or both ends ground flat, to a point, or to an angle. He suggests that they may have been used as a durable kind of chalk, used for marking masonry or brickwork, and such a use is also plausible for those examples from the Hyde Park Barracks.

References


Davies, P. forthcoming, "The poor old creatures": Destitute women and smoking at the Hyde Park Barracks, Sydney, submitted to International Journal of Historical Archaeology.


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**NEW ZEALAND NEWS**

*Compiled by Rick McGovern-Wilson*

**OCKLESTON HOUSE INVESTIGATION, 130 HOBSONVILLE ROAD: A PRELIMINARY REPORT**

**Introduction**

This report deals with the deconstruction of Ockleston House at 130 Hobsonville Road, West Auckland (Figure 1). The front of the house was in the style of an undistinguished 1920s bungalow, but was clearly an addition to an earlier building. It was not certain how old the remainder of the house was, but parts were suspected of dating back to the mid-to-late 19th century. The NZ Transport Agency (formerly Transit NZ) was constructing a new motorway alignment for SH 18 at Hobsonville, and Ockleston House lay in its path. Originally it had been intended to move the house to a new location as it was thought to be, at least in part, one of the oldest houses remaining in Hobsonville, but the poor condition of the house made this impracticable, leaving demolition as the only alternative.

In 2002 the NZ Historic Places Trust issued an Authority to Modify an archaeological site under the provisions of the *Historic Places Act* 1993 (NZHPT 2002/121) for the construction of the section of the new road through Hobsonville. This Authority was renewed in 2005 (NZHPT 2005/22) and included conditions relating to the re-location of Ockleston House.
Following the decision in early 2008 to demolish the building rather than to relocate it, the NZ Historic Places Trust reviewed the Authority and issued revised conditions relating to the house demolition.

These conditions were that the house could be demolished subject to the building being recorded, at a minimum, to the standard of Level 3 as defined in the *Guidelines for the Investigation and Recording of Buildings and Standing Structures* (NZHPT 2006) and an archaeological investigation of any demolished ancillary structures, rubbish dumps and other aspects of use. The main aims of the investigation were to establish the original construction date, and the sequence of later house alterations, with a view to expanding knowledge of construction techniques and materials and the late 19th century development of Hobsonville.

**Historical Background**

The land where Ockleston House was situated (currently Lot 12 DP 89678) formed part of Allotment 2, Parish of Waipareira. A Crown Grant for this 355 acre property was issued to Messrs Bain and Burtt in 1854. They sold the allotment to a Peter Robertson in the same year. He owned the property for over ten years, subdividing it and selling Lot 45 (which included the property on which the Ockleston house stood) to James Coupland, a settler, in 1865. Robertson was a baker, and his sons were grain merchants. The Coupland family operated a grain and produce business in Auckland from 1862 to 1872. Coupland sold the property in 1885 to George Field, a miller. Records show that Field was on the local school committee in 1885-6 and that his children were at school in Hobsonville, and “Field, George, Farmer” is listed in Wise’s directory for 1896-7.

Field subsequently bought the adjacent Lot 46 from Joshua Carder in 1895 and sold both lots 45 and 46 to John William Knight, foreman of works, Auckland City Council, in that same year. Knight sold both properties to George Baker, Farmer, at a loss, in the same year. Baker sold both lots to James Ockleston, son of Joshua Ockleston who owned an adjacent property, Lot 44. Lot 45 remained in the ownership of the Ockleston family until acquired by the Waitakere City Council in the 1970s.

The date of original construction of a house on Lot 45 was uncertain. Coupland had owned the property for twenty years before he sold it to Field in 1885 “with all buildings thereon
erected”. This could indicate that Coupland built on the property, although there is no record of him ever living in the area. One month after his purchase Field took out a mortgage for double what he had paid for the property (Holman 2004).

**Archaeological Investigations**

Investigations at Ockleston House were undertaken in July and August, 2008. Prior to that, in June, a geophysical survey of the property was undertaken by Geometria Ltd to determine the most likely areas where subsurface archaeological evidence might be found in the area around the house. The results of this survey showed most evidence of disturbance on the eastern side of the house, where there was a concentration of possible features relatively close to the house. The lack of features potential features on the western side, on the next door property, was noticeable.

**Buildings Archaeology**

Recording of the structure was undertaken using a Sokkia reflectorless total station theodolite. This enabled detailed recording to be undertaken with greater accuracy and more efficiently than traditional measured drawing techniques.

The archaeological investigation of the building indicated that the first structure was a small, four-roomed cottage built on a brick foundation, including a brick-lined and rat-proofed cellar. There was a verandah at the front (south) and external steps at the rear. Much of this original cottage survived either *in situ* or as materials reused in later construction, although this was not clearly evident until the house was deconstructed. The east elevation of the house framing (Figure 2) shows how the original structure was incorporated into the final plan.

![Figure 2: Ockleston House: east elevation framing plan. The original cottage framing is filled](image)

Figure 3 is a floor plan of the entire house. The outline of the first cottage is show shaded and the outline of the original verandah (Figure 4) is dotted. Preliminary indications are that this building was constructed between 1885 and 1887. The original windows appear to
have been small casement windows but all were subsequently replaced by larger sash windows, but one was blocked off and retained its original form.

In later construction phases the ceilings were raised from 8' to 11'. An additional room was built on the north east corner (Figure 3: B). Two small cottage buildings, brought to the site either complete or in sections, were added to the western side of the house (Figure 3: C, D) and a large living room constructed between what was now the east and west wings of the building (Figure 3: E). The southern art of the original living room was subdivided into two small cupboards (Figure 3: E₁, E₂); the original back-to-back fireplaces and chimney were removed, and the original living room window boarded over. In 1920-1 a living room, hallway and porch and were added to the south (front) side of the house (Figure 3: F, G, H). The exact chronology of these various additions and alterations may be deduced from the detailed analysis of the structural materials in the next phase of the investigation.

Figure 3: Ockleston House: floor plan  Figure 4: Postholes of original verandah, south side of original cottage, western end. Note the ceramic piles of the 1920-21 addition (right) and the original brick foundation wall (left)

Samples of building joists, floor boards, ceiling boards and battens, studs, rafters, top and bottom plates, wall linings, fastenings and mouldings were collected from all the component rooms/spaces of the building for further detailed analysis and comparison. This includes a range of nails from all phases of the house’s construction and wallpapers from all periods of the house’s occupation. There is also a comprehensive collection of wood samples for dendrochronological analysis.
Subfloor

After the removal of the main structure of the building the subfloor area of the building was investigated. The main structural features were the original cellar, built as an integral part of the foundations of the first cottage and the palimpsest of the original cottage chimney foundations (Fig. 5.). Few artefacts were found beneath the house and many of these were of mid-20th century origin.

Figure 5: Ockleston House: palimpsest of original back-to-back chimney. Note the west cellar wall (right) and the brick foundation wall of the north wall of the original cottage (rear). The chimney base (left) belongs to a later phase of the building. The brick piles on either side of the original chimney base are subfloor supports placed when the chimney was removed and the floor above blanked off.

Curtilage

The geophysical survey had indicated that most subsurface evidence was to be found on the eastern side of the house. Consequently, topsoil stripping and hand excavation of features was concentrated in this area (Figure 6).

Some 80 round and rectangular postholes were found. Some of the postholes were aligned and contained the remains of modern fence posts. The few artefacts found in the fill of some of the postholes appeared relatively modern, including nylon stockings, tins and sweet wrappers. There were also two small rubbish pits and a glazed clay pipe drain linking into the house septic tank system. At this stage there is nothing to indicate any clear 19th century associations with these features. Further analysis and historical research may elucidate this matter.

On the western side of the house there were two ditches along the property boundary. These were still in use, providing field drainage for the bowling greens on the adjoining property. They were partially filled and contained discarded household artefacts that appeared to relate mainly to occupation in the 1920s. To the north the current house sewer ran into a modern septic tank. A branch of the sewer extended to whatever structure(s) lay to the east of the house. A buried brick path also ran to the north of the house. It was thought this might have gone to a toilet building pre-dating the installation of the septic tank.
Unfortunately the end of this path was cut by modern disturbance and a rubbish dump and no structure could be identified.

![Figure 6: Ockleston House: Plan of house and features excavated](image_url)

Overall, the project will provide previously unavailable information about late 19th century house construction methods and materials. The final report will make a valuable contribution to the archaeological record of European settlement the latter part of the 19th century in the Auckland region.

**References**


*Russell Foster and Matthew Felgate*

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**NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWS**

*Compiled by Colin De La Rue*

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG IN VACANT LOT BEHIND THE 19TH CENTURY HERITAGE LISTED SUE WAH CHIN STONE BUILDING IN DARWIN**
Introduction

The stone Sue Wah Chin building was built in the 1880s and is the only surviving structure associated with nineteenth century Chinatown in Darwin's Central Business District. A test trench dug on the vacant lot behind the Sue Wah Chin building found pre-World War II bottle-glass and ceramics, as well as a large trumpet shell, bone and charcoal. Analysis of this material showed that it represents a period of early Darwin settlement that is little known and would therefore be of great public interest (Table 1). As it is likely that more material exists on this site, the Heritage Branch is undertaking an archaeological excavation behind the building, with support from the owner/developer. The archaeological dig began on 22 September 2008 and will continue until the end of 2008, with off-site analysis continuing after fieldwork.

There are three aims of the archaeological investigation:

Documentation - Uncover and document any evidence of past occupation
Investigation - Enhance our understanding of Darwin’s early development.
Interpretation - Use the information to add to interpretations of the history of the Darwin CBD and Sue Wah Chin Building, making the new building a continuation of the history of this place.

Initial Work

The first section of the block to be further investigated was the SE corner of the lot immediately adjacent to the SWC building and Spain Place (Figure 1). After flagging off this 12m x 17m survey area, work began by breaking up cement platforms and digging a trench along the fence-line, by mechanical excavator. No archaeological material was observed in this trench. This was followed by mechanical digging of wider, shallower trenches parallel to the first trench, in order to observe a larger area. Four Features (A to D), defined as areas of ash, shell, glass and metal, were evident on the exposed surface after removal of approximately 30-40cm of reddish clay topsoil deposit by this technique, were then manually excavated. A Magnetometer survey conducted over the area (by Flinders University staff Jennifer McKinnon and Jason Raup, and Archae-Aus and Flinders Honours graduate Toni Massey) located two anomalous areas (Figure 3). One anomaly coinciding with Feature B was manually excavated.

Analysis

Analysis shows that the archaeological material excavated from the trench and from each of these features dates predominantly from the late 19th – early 20th century period. This material includes shells, bone, olive green, brown, blue and clear bottle glass, ceramics and metal pieces, different types of nails, charcoal, and porcelainite stone. A number of isolated artefacts were also recovered, including a Chinese coin from Feature B (Table 1, Figure 4).

Table 1. Sorted excavated material from trench and Features.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excavated material</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Olive green champagne bottle</td>
<td>Bottle hand-blown with applied lip and base, no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olive green bottle glass pieces</td>
<td>Large proportion are bases, some pieces show seams – machine made with seam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olive green bottle glass top and neck</td>
<td>Part of a whisky bottle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dark green bottle glass pieces</td>
<td>Thick angular base – part of gin bottle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown beer bottle glass pieces</td>
<td>Early 20thC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clear thick glass pieces</td>
<td>Glass tumbler – typical late 19thC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clear thin glass pieces</td>
<td>Windowpane glass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese ceramic pieces</td>
<td>Glazed red ware pot; light blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English ceramic pieces</td>
<td>White with unidentified floral design; White with blue band – banded whiteware plate rim; Glazed white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metal pieces</td>
<td>? bucket handle, packaging straps, assorted nails, pre WW2 alloy lid, zip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bone pieces</td>
<td>Some fish, other animal, some burnt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shell</td>
<td>1 whole broken trumpet shell (<em>Syrinx aruanus</em>), large piece pearl shell, <em>Volema cochlidium</em>, cockle (<em>Anadara granosa</em>, <em>Oyster</em>, <em>periwinkle</em> (<em>Nerita</em> sp.).)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coral pieces</td>
<td>May have been used for making lime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intrusive Stone</td>
<td>4 non-diagnostic quartzite pieces, two stones that appear to have orthoclase and biotite, possibly Mt Bundy Granodioriote used for rear pylons of building verandah.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese medicine vials (4)</td>
<td>Mouth-blown bottles with sheared lip – pre 1870s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Penny</td>
<td>1921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese coin</td>
<td>Ch’ing Dynasty (1644-1911)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buttons (3)</td>
<td>One pearlshell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beads (2)</td>
<td>One light blue, one dark blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shell</td>
<td>Pearl shell (<em>Pinctada</em>), <em>Volema cochlidium</em>, cockle (<em>Anadara granosa</em>, <em>Oyster</em>, <em>periwinkle</em> (<em>Nerita</em> sp.).)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metal pieces</td>
<td>Part of an early 20thC phonograph stylus, WW2 soldier’s buckles, metal casing for bomb storage (Plate 2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Future Work

A 19th century well was located based on information from one of the previous owners of the property and this was also dug out by mechanical excavator. A variety of whole bottles, bottle glass, ceramics, metal, shells and bone were recovered from the well. Future work will analyse these items and any other material sieved from the remaining spoil piles.

Figure 1: Excavator next to flagged-off survey area at rear of Sue Wah Chin building.

Figure 2: Metal casing for WW2 bomb storage revealed after topsoil layer removed.
Figure 3: Magnetometer survey by Flinders University staff, in process.

Figure 4: Excavated items recovered from Features A-D.

Dr Patricia Bourke, Heritage Officer
Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport
Northern Territory Government
SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWS
Still no life in South Australia – or no work being done

VICTORIA NEWS

COCH’S / KOKE’S SHIPBUILDING YARD SURVEY

In November 2008, Brad Duncan led a small team of volunteers to record the remains of a small ship-breaking yard at Port Lillias, near Geelong, Victoria. The area was previously used as an opportunistic commercial venture to break up ex-dredging vessels from the Geelong Harbour Trust Fleet for scrap metal. Little is known historically about the site, and therefore oral histories are being used to inform about the processes being undertaken at the former camp. The former ship-breaker (identified either as Coch or Koke) operated in the area from at least the early 1960s until the mid 80s.

The survey is part of a wider research project being conducted by Brad and Martin Gibbs (University of Sydney) which is investigating the archaeological nature and characteristics of shipwreck salvage camps. The similarity between shipwreck salvage and ship-breaking processes provides an opportunity to potentially identify the archaeological characteristics of ship dismantling methods. The remote location of this site (located on a small peninsula, Port Lillias, north of Geelong on Crown land) has ensured that it has remained relatively undisturbed since its abandonment.

The archaeological survey has revealed several initial insights into how a boat-breaking yard operated. The yard was located on the edge of a small, gently sloping cove fronting Corio Bay, with a maximum offshore depth of around 5m (approx 15ft). Vessels were beached close to shore, and then dismantled into larger pieces, which then appear to have been pulled ashore with wire ropes (hawsers), using either a truck mounted winch and/or possibly a system of derrick cranes (supported by wire stays embedded into concrete mooring points which were evident around the site). Sections of twisted hull plating, pipes and frames evident both above and below water suggest that the hull was wrenched apart with tackle and oxy-acetylene equipment (see Figures).

The location of the cove is significant, as the southerly peninsula provided some shelter from prevailing south-westerly winds. This small peninsula, and the reef top on the northern extremity of the cove, were further reinforced with locally quarried bluestone (as evidenced by feather and plug quarrying marks nearby) to form groyne that protected the site from the predominant winds. The groynes created relatively calm waters inside the cove, even during high velocity onshore winds (as witnessed during the survey). A “hard” area was constructed of brick landfill on the southern groyne to provide further flat working space close to the vessel. The vessels were tethered to concrete mooring blocks to prevent them breaking loose in adverse weather.

Remains of the breaking area were evident approximately 10m from the shore, where dense concentrations of small pieces of hull plating, machinery, floor ceramics and rubble were located in an excavated area of the shoreline (Figures 1, 2 and 4). An extremely dense cluster nearby of rivets (used to secure hull plating sections together), suggested
that the vessels were dismantled by breaking the metal along the format rivet lines (Figure 3).

Bluestone blocks and landfill have also been used as a retaining wall to construct a large flat area, to facilitate a further loading or works area. Brick and slate scattered in this area suggest that a house may have once stood in this location. Large sections of hull plating (Figures 1 and 2) and a rudder located offshore have provided indications of the types and size of the vessels being broken up. Underwater remains are scattered up to 20m offshore and up to 50m along the shoreline. There is a marked lack of any personal rubbish around the site.

Further, more detailed, work is planned to plot the site in greater detail with the assistance of members of the Maritime Archaeological Association of Victoria. I would like to thank John Patrick, Jason Santospirito and Lisa Coleman for their assistance during the survey, and Noel Taylor of Cheethams Salt Pty Ltd for granting access to the site.
Figure 3: Jason Santospirito measuring the rivet area

Figure 4: Underwater section of hull plating

Figure 5: View south along foreshore of iron hull remains and southern groyne

*Brad Duncan*
PEEL TOWN’S SITE 3 CONTINUES TO PRODUCE MORE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE OF THE SWAN RIVER COLONY’S FIRST FEW MONTHS

Over the last year, I have described the archaeological research occurring at Peel town, the 1830 dated camp occupied by Thomas Peel and about 500 settlers in the present day suburb of Henderson. The various articles concentrate on the finds unearthed at Sites 1 and 2, comprising two tent structures with hearths and other building material. Presently, another site – Site 3 – is also producing a remarkable range of artefacts. This report’s purpose is to describe the work occurring at Site 3 and some of the finds unearthed. In addition, it will compare and contrast Site 3 with the other sites, with the aim of devising a preliminary interpretation of who might have lived at the site, and some of their social characteristics.

Site 3 is the most byzantine of the three Peel town sites. It continues to throw up complexities that have baffled and tested the excavation team’s interpretation skills since work began on it in January 2008. The structure’s shape is difficult to interpret – unlike Site 1 with its distinct rectangular limestone tent base, and Site 2’s less distinct, but no less easily interpreted soil colour changes signifying the structure’s ‘inside’ and ‘outside’. Only in the last few weeks have we been able to determine the shape of Site 3’s structure. It contains a hearth of local limestone and English yellow brick with a small bread oven on the hearth’s south end; eight carbonised rectangular and circular post remains; and an ‘L’ shaped linear feature of limestone boulders and cobbles.

The carbonised post remains – in the sand after 178 years, due to preservation caused by burning and conversion to inorganic carbon – suggest a canvas structure. They also give a clue to the structure’s shape. Seven of the eight carbonised post remains are in a ten-metre long line from the limestone and brick hearth. They most likely formed the structure’s rear (north facing) wall with the hearth forming part of the structure’s west wall, with one carbonised post at right angles to the others most likely signifying the beginning of the structure’s west facing wall. The excavation team plan to expose more of the posts to determine tent dimensions.

The purpose for the ‘L’ shaped linear limestone feature against the structure’s rear wall is unclear, but patches of charcoal amongst the limestone could be the remains of more posts or stakes to hold further canvas walls or an annex for protecting stores or other belongings. A sewing thimble of a copper-based material and many iron nails where found in the area.

Site 3’s artefact collection, like all the Peel town sites so far excavated, is very rich. Slate pencils and slate board fragments, still with writing preserved, strongly suggest the literate skills of the family or group residing in the structure. Near these objects was the Peel town excavation’s first palpable child’s artefact – a ceramic marble with a faint red line. The ceramic collection comprise tureen lids in blue underglaze transfer-print; large, thick-sectioned gilded serving dishes; tea cup handles (but few tea cup body or base fragments); a complete stoneware bottle made by Burtons in London and other ceramic food preparation and serving items. Glass ware also contains a large range of items, from complete and fragmented black glass alcohol bottles, clear glass drinking tumblers, lantern and window glass and what appear to be glass vials with turned lips. Brass pins, the
thimble and a brass and iron pocket knife are the tip of Site 3’s ‘artefact iceberg’ that has so far added about 5000 artefacts to the 20,000 found at Sites 1 and 2.

Expensive components amongst Site 3’s ceramic collection, like gilded white ware and handled tea cups, imply the site’s occupants were one of the middle class families Peel brought to the new colony. The slate pencils and slate board show that some of Site 3’s people were literate and suggest the teaching of reading and writing – most likely to young children. The marble strongly suggests a child’s presence, while its loss in the sand shows that no matter the period or the context, some children’s behaviour just does not change.

Site 3’s archaeology allows comparison with the material remains unearthed at Sites 2 and 3. High quality belongings, combined with possessions showing skills like literacy, places Site 3 closer to Site 1 in a scale of similar settler social standing, disposable income and material tastes. Sites 1 and 3 are 30m apart, while the materially different Site 2 is about 400 metres south. The result points, for the first time, to the separation of various groups that Peel town determined possibly by social standing or leadership position in the camp. The inference is presently based on the small site sample size (three) and incomplete artefact accessioning, but the recognition of the possible clustering of families from similar social backgrounds in the 40.5 hectare area containing Peel town’s archaeological remains allows the research team for the first time to formulate behaviour patterns for Peel town’s ca. 500 people. The excavation of more sites, of which there are many, will verify or disprove the claim.

Site 3 passes clues to us over time about the occupants’ social standing, their skills and their tastes in material culture. However, the archaeology is presently insufficient to reveal who lived in Site 3’s structure. The historical record about the camp is rich with general descriptions of camp life but poor regarding where people and families resided, with George Smythe’s 1830 large-scale map the only document giving a clue to areas occupied by families and individuals. Site 3 was possibly occupied by one of Peel’s camp foreman or John Lyttleton, one of the camp’s surgeons, and wife his Sarah and children Sarah and Edward, but apart from objects showing literacy expected from a foreman or surgeon, few other artefacts point to a specific occupation for the site’s owner. The fragments of lipped glass vials, similar to bottles for holding potions, appear only at Site 3, but their presence, their statistically insignificant number and the fact that Lyttleton was a surgeon and not a doctor (the two medical sub-disciplines were separate during the early 1800s, with surgeons sometimes referred to as ‘mister’ and not ‘doctor’) means that the site’s archaeology cannot presently assist with identifying the structure’s occupants.

Excavations of Peel town began in April 2007, with many artefacts found dating from Western Australia’s first few months of European occupation. Sites 1 through 3 are just a few of many areas with obvious 1830 habitation in the 40.5 hectares covered by a Heritage Council of Western Australia conservation order. Other sites, like a low mound of limestone and sand associated with ceramic and glass fragments, a line of limestone cobbles and 1830 artefacts, and a limestone and yellow English brick feature will, in the future, give further evidence of the camp members’ lifeways in 1830. However, an area south of the Mt Brown car park will most likely be the next area of analysis. Here, many 1830 dated artefacts have already been collected that have eroded from firebreaks. However, the area’s potential destruction by the building of a road/rail link associated with Fremantle Ports’ Kwinana Quays project is the major reason for this area’s urgent analysis. It is possible that this area housed Thomas Peel’s first settler group from the Gilmore that
arrived in December 1829. I am hopeful that recent meetings with Western Australia’s Heritage Minister and advisors will stop the area’s potential destruction, but full-scale research and the discovery of further evidence of 1829 – 1830 use will strengthen the case for the area’s preservation.

QUEENSLAND NEWS
Compiled by Karen Murphy

CABOONBAH HOMESTEAD ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT 2008 FIELD SEASON

For the week between 29 September and 3 October the University of Queensland conducted the third field season of the Caboonbah Homestead Archaeological Project (CHAP). Caboonbah Homestead is located 15km northeast of Esk in the Brisbane River Valley. CHAP has been conducting excavations at the site since August 2006, with the full collaboration and support of the Brisbane Valley Historical Society who manage the homestead and the surrounding site. The main focus of the excavations is to examine the social and domestic arrangements of the Somerset household. Henry Plantagenet Somerset and Katharine Rose Somerset built the house in 1890 and lived there with their family until 1935. The Somersets were important local landowners and identities, with Henry being the MLA for Stanley, and Katharine being the driving force behind the establishment of the Esk hospital and the Undenominational Church.

Using postgraduate and undergraduate volunteers from the School of Social Science, The University of Queensland, an additional three 1 metre by 1 metre trenches were excavated in the gully line located on the southern (Brisbane River) side of the main house bringing the total excavated within the gully to 8m². The current excavations were designed to obtain data for Linda Terry’s PhD thesis examining the role and identity of women on the pastoral landscape. The excavations resulted in a greater understanding of the taphonomic processes at play in the gully and increased the range and variety of the
artefact assemblage. Although the artefacts are yet to be fully analysed there is now enough skeletal material to undertake a zooarchaeological study. Bulk sediment samples were also collected for flotation and macrobotanical analysis. Taken together this should supply a fuller interpretation of the dietary and consumption practices of the family.

Linda Terry and John Prangnell

TASMANIA NEWS
Compiled by Greg Jackman

ASHA / AIMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2009 UPDATE

See details below

IMPORTANT PUBLICATION ANNOUNCEMENT


The long-awaited second edition of the journals and papers of George Augustus Robinson's 'Friendly Mission' was released on 26 November.

Launching the book, the Minister for Environment, Parks, Heritage and the Arts, Michelle O'Byrne, said it was one of the most important documents of Australian colonial history. “This book is a unique record of the lives and customs of Tasmania’s Aboriginal peoples at the time of European settlement, and it is also a record of tragedy,” Ms O'Byrne said.

Ms O'Byrne said Friendly Mission: The Tasmanian Journals and Papers of George Augustus Robinson, 1829-1834 documented Robinson's 'conciliation' efforts to relocate Tasmanian Aborigines to Flinders Island. “George Augustus Robinson is considered complicit in the tragedies suffered by the Tasmanian Aborigines, through his endeavours to round up remnant groups and relocate them to Flinders Island.”

"It is important that we all engage with our past, and in doing so make our own decisions and interpretations of what has occurred before us – including the impact of George Augustus Robinson. That is why Friendly Mission is an important work, as it provides insights into the tragedies (and sometimes triumphs) of our colonial past.”

Friendly Mission was first published in 1966 by the Tasmanian Historical Research Association. The 2008 edition contains new material omitted from the first edition, as well as a comprehensive new index.

The new edition is co-published by QVMAG and Quintus Publishing, an imprint of the University of Tasmania.

To coincide with its publication, Quintus Publishing has also released Reading Robinson: Companion Essay to Friendly Mission, a collection of essays by leading Australian and international historians.
PRESIDENT’S REPORT 2007-2008 [MARTIN GIBBS]

Before starting this year’s report I would like to thank my predecessor Susan Lawrence and the previous Exec and committees for passing on a healthy and growing society. My thanks to previous committee members and to this year’s committee members for all their hard work, especially Katrina Stankowski who as Secretary has maintained the diary, organised meetings, and dealt with many of the administrative details for the society.

Executive and Committee Meetings

During 2007 the Executive formally convened 6 times in face-to-face meetings in Sydney. Having the core Executive in one place has been of great benefit for ensuring frequent and valuable discussion and coordination, while also saving the Society the expense of teleconferencing, or extended bouts of emailing. In addition there were 2 teleconferences with the General Committee, in October 2007 and June 2008.

Submissions and Reviews

2007-2008 has been an interesting year, in that ASHA has been called on to respond to a series of changes which have direct impact upon historical archaeological sites and practice, as well as aspects of how ASHA is perceived and represented. This has taken up much of the time and energy and meant that some of intended works had to be put aside.

Since the last AGM in 2007, ASHA has made two major submissions to reviews of the heritage systems in NSW and Tasmania, with thanks to the members who put in the hard work ferreting out information and formulating responses. In many respects the NSW review was the most dramatic in that it re-cast the relationship between heritage (including archaeological) assessment and management, and the planning processes in NSW. This has had consequences on the staffing, structure and operations of the NSW Heritage Office. ASHA met and collaborated with other NSW and National heritage organisations to petition the NSW Planning Minister; although not surprisingly (given his existing strategy of simply shutting off heritage and environmental protections to facilitate development) the response has been negligible. One alarming aspect that emerged from the meeting of heritage organisations, are reports that the relevant Ministers in several other states are looking on the NSW process of bypassing heritage oversight with great interest. In Tasmania the results of their review are still pending.

At a Federal level there is a similarly alarming scenario, with the Minister for the Environment and Heritage failing for many months to meet with the National Cultural Heritage Forum (NCHF), the national heritage umbrella group of which ASHA is a part (represented by Dr Tracy Ireland). The Minister has made it clear by various means that he has little interest in cultural heritage, with the most obvious statement being the slashing of the national budget for heritage projects down to a paltry $200,000. Very recently he met with the Chair of the NCHF (rather than the usual committee meeting) and there is real possibility that the forum will either be disbanded or reduced to those one or two groups (such as the National Trust and Federation of Australian Historical Societies) with memberships in the many thousands. Even with the proposed Council for Australian Archaeology creating a combined representation of the societies (which would still mean less than a thousand persons) we have no hope of direct representation for archaeological
concerns. A worst-case scenario is that archaeology may once again be forced into having to work via other sympathetic bodies to gain a voice. ASHA has recently signed a petition with the other members of the NCHF, and major heritage organisations, support groups calling on the Minister to provide greater Federal support for cultural heritage.

ASHA has also been forced to make a submission to the Australian Research Council’s latest exercise in quantification of intellectual output. The quality of an academic journal is to be ranked at ‘A’, ‘B’ or ‘C’ value on the basis of a range of criteria; including its editorial and review processes, the quality of content, national and international intellectual ‘impact’, and so on. For non-academic contributors there will be virtually no difference as to where they publish, but for academic staff whose publication output is considered an integral part of their productivity, as well as students and researchers ultimately seeking for grants, the pressure to publish only in high-impact ‘A’ journals will be immense. Australasian Historical Archaeology, along with most of the other Australian archaeological journals, has received a ‘B’ ranking. Although formal appeals for re-assessment are only being received via the university system (which has also made a case for ASHA being upgraded), Dr Mary Casey has coordinated a separate response from the Society itself, presenting evidence for the quality of our journal.

Conferences

Given that over the last six years a combined ASHA-AIMA conference has almost become the norm, discussions are underway to work out a set of standard agreements between the societies on issues such as providing floats, conferences prizes, profit sharing, representation on committees, progress reporting, financial reporting, and so on. While does this not mean that ASHA intends to have a joint (or concurrent) conference every year, it is recognition that currently a lot of time is being spent renegotiating basic agreements on an annual basis.

It has been agreed that the float provided to the conference organisers should be raised to $2000, reflecting the increasing cost of deposits for venues and basic operating expenses. However, the floats are still to be repaid in full before any profit is declared.

Denise Gaughwin has confirmed that Tasmania will host ASHA 2009, probably in Launceston. AIMA is also heading to Tasmania for 2009, but it has not been confirmed that they will be combining with ASHA again.

Planning & Finances

Other than crisis management, the Exec has spent most of its time trying to map out the current operations of the society and move towards several strategic changes.

Committee size and structure: A review has shown that ASHA currently has at least 32 positions including Exec and General committee members, state reps, reps to other organisations, and so on. This makes communication and coordination very difficult and it would appear that many of these positions are either redundant or no longer have clear purposes and lines of reporting or responsibility. All ASHA positions are being reviewed and greater efforts made to consolidate them, such as by requesting General committee members to also nominate to take up one or more of these roles.

Finances: Financially the shift to a June membership year (which effectively meant that membership was extended an additional 6 months and renewals called for some months later than usual) has shifted our financial structure somewhat, so the income and
expenditure figures have been a little different to previous years. There were also several larger expenses, such as the new monograph publication and the need to renew our public liability insurance after a several year gap. The latter is essential as it covers the Society in the event of any accident during conferences or ASHA events such as ‘hosting’ National Archaeology Week functions. The www.asha.com.org domain name also had to be renewed this year. Mac North has been investigating the possibility of ASHA becoming a charitable organisation able to receive bequests and donations, although it appears that this is currently not possible without a major change in the nature and operations of the society. Otherwise ASHA is in a healthy financial position and thanks to Sue Singleton and Cynthia Patterson.

Publications: ASHA’s General Editor, Dr Mary Casey, has now been invited to be a regular participant in Exec Committee discussion, recognising that the journal is the Society’s major vehicle by which the Society represents itself and is its major financial outlay. The cost of developing the format and typesetting of the Port Essington volume was higher than expected, but covered in part by a better than usual conference profit and a $1000 donation from the author. With the design now established the cost of future volumes will be much reduced. Rick McGovern-Wilson has done a sterling job of ensuring that the Newsletters continue to come out, with thanks to the many contributors.

Website: Penny Crook has been investigating new hosts for a much expanded ASHA website capable of doing automated membership renewals, publication sales, mounting of scanned copies of older publications, integrated email discussion list, as well as a possible members section with electronic copies of the journal and new electronic publications. Although this is likely to be an additional cost for the society, it will increase our potential to use the website effectively and reduce or potentially eliminate the need to pay an Administrative Officer to manually undertake many of these tasks. Penny has narrowed it down to two possible options and Brad Duncan has offered to assist with writing text for the new website. With luck we will shift to this new site sometime in the next 12 months.

Council for Australian Archaeology: The planned discussions with the AAA, AACAI and AIMA presidents regarding the Council for Australian Archaeology were somewhat overtaken by events this year, although hopefully we will be back on track in the next few months.

VICE-PRESIDENT’S REPORT [MACLAREN NORTH]

An adventure in tax rules...

As a part of trying to do some longer-range planning for ASHA, I investigated the possibility of getting the Society registered as a 'tax-deductible gift recipient'. Tax-deductible gift recipient status means that donations to the organisation are tax deductible. Presently while members can claim their membership dues and conference fees as deductible expenses against their personal tax (if appropriate - consult your accountant!), it is not possible to make a donation or bequest to ASHA in a manner which would be tax-deductible.

A change in tax status would allow ASHA to raise funds above and beyond membership, publication and conference revenue, to put towards specific projects or into longer-term investment. The wilds of the Australian tax law in this area are hairier than I had expected, and unfortunately it seems unlikely ASHA could become registered as a tax-deductible gift
recipient without some professional assistance and potentially some constitutional restructuring.

In order to become a tax-deductible gift recipient, an organisation must become registered on the Register of Cultural Organisations, which is kept by the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. An organisation must fit into one of several pre-defined categories, with there only being a category for 'moveable cultural heritage', no category for 'history' or 'cultural heritage'. It would be perhaps an arguable case that ASHA is an organisation concerned with 'moveable cultural heritage' but it is by no means certain that we would be considered to fit in that category. Furthermore, we would have to set up a special panel of 'responsible persons' to manage any funds, essentially like a Board of Trustees separate from the Executive. This would be a challenge for ASHA administratively and might require constitutional change.

My experience with investigating this is that the categories are extremely restrictive and seem to be designed to exclude cultural heritage organisations. The rules for becoming registered as an 'environmental organisation' for tax-deductible status, for example, specifically exclude cultural heritage. The only other potential option for ASHA in this regard would be to seek tax-deductible status as a research organisation, but that requires the organisation to be permanently attached to a university AND must be approved by the CSIRO.

This is all rather disheartening, particularly in a climate where governments at all level seem to be allocating less and less funding towards any type of cultural heritage work, let alone archaeology specifically. The present structure of the tax rules make it extremely difficult, if not impossible, for an organisation like ours to step into the breach left by the retraction of government funding, as there is no tax-effective way to conduct fundraising.

If individual members are so minded, you might consider writing to Peter Garrett, the relevant Commonwealth Minister, and suggest that he look at reviewing the rules on tax-deductible status for cultural heritage organisations, to create opportunities for groups like ASHA to raise funds for cultural heritage activities which would otherwise not be undertaken.

Life membership

At the last AGM the issue was raised as to whether the category of Life membership of the Society should be abolished, on the basis that it would be financially unsustainable in the long run. I personally spoke against the motion at the AGM and volunteered to undertake a bit more investigation into the potential long-term impact on the Society's finances. As a matter of disclosure I should indicate that I chose to take out Life membership myself this year.

As of July 2008, ASHA has 20 Life members. As the Society has been in existence for nearly 40 years, there has not been a high take-up rate of that type of membership. Life membership is presently $1200, or 20 times the annual subscription rate. This is a typical model for organisations or publications that offer Life membership - pegging the rate to somewhere between 10 and 30 times the annual rate, although I note that the Society for Historical Archaeology seems to have recently dropped its annual subscription rate, meaning that Life membership of SHA is now equivalent to 72 times the annual rate (which seems a bit excessive).
For better or worse, there have not been many people clambering to take out Life membership in ASHA. Given the length of time the Society has been around, it has been about one person every two years, although at least one of those memberships was a gift in recognition of long service to the Society. Therefore it seems unlikely that ASHA is going to be flooded with new Life members.

I have done some basic modelling based on a worst-case scenario of “excessive” Life membership using the following assumptions:

10 new Life members per year @ $1200 each

Loss of an equivalent number of Regular members @ $60 each

No increase in fees – stay at $60 per annum

No increase in overall membership numbers – 360 total members

Does not consider any other income source (publications, conferences, etc)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Regular members (@$60)</th>
<th>New Life Members (@ $1200)</th>
<th>Regular sub fees</th>
<th>Life Sub fees</th>
<th>Regular subs revenue “lost”</th>
<th>Life subs revenue gained</th>
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Total sum revenue with 100 Life members and 300 Regular members after 10 years = $303,000 total subs revenue

Comparison rate: 360 regular members x $60/year x 10 years = $216,000 total subs revenue

As you can see, under this modelling ASHA “loses” $600 per annum for every 10 new Life members, but the net financial gain from that Life membership is well in excess of the “loss” over a ten year projection. Under this model, ASHA would still be $87,000 better off than if
it collected the full subscription amount from all members, which is the equivalent to an extra 1450 regular annual subscriptions over that period, or an extra 145 regular members per annum. Arguably, after roughly 30 years if the increase of 10 Life members per annum was matched by a decline of ten regular memberships then ASHA would lose money on subscriptions, because at that point it would have circa 300 Life members and only 60 regular members.

This is, however, a rather unrealistic scenario. At the present rate of uptake of Life membership, it will be another 50 years before ASHA reaches 100 Life members, however by then it is likely that we will have (unfortunately) lost some of those earlier Life members – most likely including myself! And in that period we would certainly hope that ASHA’s membership base remains steady, if not continuing to grow.

While this modelling shows that the impact of Life membership on ASHA’s financial base does not have a significant negative impact, even on the very unrealistic propositions put here, there is an important principle – that ASHA needs to plan for the future if it wants to remain viable as an organisation. ASHA has sailed quite close to the wind in the not-too-distant past and members should be encouraged to think what they want out of the Society in the medium and longer term, while the Committee must ensure that our financial management is robust and, where we have a bit of a surplus, it is salted away for the future.

Life members have made a bet with the Society – a bet that they will live long enough to enjoy the benefits of Life membership, and that the Society will continue to exist and be of interest to them for the long term. I do not believe there is a case for the elimination of Life membership, but there is a strong case for all members to think about the long-term future of the Society and how we would like to see it develop.

To this end, in discussion with the Executive I would like to put a motion to the AGM, to ensure the bulk of Life Member funds are invested for the longer term:

**Motion**

That in future:

1. 80% of all Life Membership fees are invested in a separate account, to be called the “Life Membership Investment Account”;
2. Only the interest or investment income from the Life Membership Investment Account be used for the purposes of running the Society;
3. This purpose may only be changed through a majority vote of members at an Annual General Meeting.

**SECRETARY’S REPORT [KATRINA STANKOWSKI]**

**Society Administration**

**Secretary Changeover**

This is my first year as Secretary of ASHA and thanks to the previous Secretary, Penny Crook, implementing strong protocols for all the ASHA Secretarial undertakings, it has been a very smooth transition. This year I have focused on organising regular ASHA Exec meetings, which took place approximately every 2 months, taking care of the first
membership renewal since the switch to a membership year to coincide with the financial year, and dealing with the more general duties such as stationary orders and journal mail outs.

Admin Officer

Cynthia Paterson was reinstated in the position of Admin Officer for another year. Cynthia’s tasks include processing all ASHA mailbox correspondence, all banking of membership and book order payments, and processing of all ASHA major mail outs. Having an Admin Officer has remarkably increased the efficiency and time of processing of ASHA membership payments.

Correspondence

Ninety five percent of correspondence with the Society via the post box and email in 2008 concerns membership renewals and publication orders. In addition, we continue to receive information from various other societies reporting on their news and upcoming events, occasionally after the events have been held, as well as requests for ASHA to contribute reviews on various publications which are handled through our Reviews Editor.

The mail box is cleared every Monday by Cynthia.

Recording Keeping

The membership and publications database, all email correspondence and electronic documentation received by or created on behalf of ASHA were backed up monthly throughout 2007-8, more or less.

Membership

The change to a membership year to coincide with the financial year has had several unanticipated side effects with respects to the AGM (which takes place roughly 2.5 months after the membership year begins). The first of which is the fact that approximately 1/3 of regular members have not renewed their memberships when the call for new committee nominations goes out for the AGM, meaning the numbers of people available to nominate themselves or others to the committee has decreased. For the same reason, there are less than the usual number of members who are eligible to vote at the AGM. Unfortunately, this can not be altered without a vote of members due to the timing set forth in the ASHA Constitution for the preparation and mail out of AGM information.

2007–08 Membership Renewals

At the end of the 07-08 membership year (1 Jan 07 to 30 Jun 08), ASHA had 393 members (including 25 Life or non-financial members). This includes 64 new members and 2 new Life Memberships.

These figures are consistent with previous years and no impact of the fee increase approved in 2006 has been noted. In fact there has been a marked increase in the numbers of new members joining ASHA in the past 18 months.
2008–2009 Membership Renewals

As of 6 August, 2008, 230 members have renewed their membership; this includes 1 new life membership and 8 new memberships. Given that the new membership years has only been open for less than two months, this is an excellent renewal rate and ASHA can hope for higher than ever numbers of members in the coming year.

Annual Trends

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Renewals</th>
<th>New</th>
<th>Life (Sub)</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Non-Financial</th>
<th>Total Members</th>
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^ year to date
Committee Meetings

Two teleconferences have been held over the past year.

10 October 2007, 10am–11.00am: Susan Piddock, Mary Casey, Greg Jackman, Penny Crook, Martin Gibbs, Deborah Arthur, John Prangnell, Pam Smith, Rick McGovern-Wilson, Jody Steele, Paul Rheinberger, Mac North & Katrina Stankowski were present, with apologies received from Ross Gam, Susan Lawrence, Sue Singleton & Brad Duncan. Minutes were circulated from this meeting on the 19th of October, 2007. Issues discussed were appointment of committee positions for the coming year, committee position descriptions, publications issues including copyright, EBSCO licensing, scanning of back issues and abstracts for the web site, the ASHA NSW Heritage Act Review submission, the web site and the potential for regular Exec meetings in Sydney.

10 June 2008, 10am–11.00am: Mary Casey, Greg Jackman, Martin Gibbs, Deborah Arthur, Rick McGovern-Wilson, Katrina Stankowski, Sue Singleton, Brad Duncan and Ross Gam were present with apologies received from Paul Rheinberger, Penny Crook, Susan Piddock, Jody Steele, Pam Smith, Jon Prangnell and Mac North. Minutes were circulated from this meeting on the 1st of July 2008. In addition to regular reporting and updates on continuing projects, the following matters were discussed: the compilation of news for the newsletter and the flow of information from the State Reps to the Newsletter Editor, and the possible need for a central state rep coordinator, the numbers of ASHA committees and the need for committee members to take on more central ASHA positions, conference profits, prizes and agreements, author agreements, the Admin Officer position, a new website and the Monograph series.

Publication Sales

As part of the 2008-2009 renewal, members who renewed before the 15th of July were offered special rates to buy publications (excluding the most recent journal). The discount was roughly 20%, in line with discounts offered at conferences. The response was positive and so far we have sold 80.

A stock-take was conducted by the Publications Distributions Officer, Peter Davies, in June (see details below). Copies of some older publications previously believed to have been out of print were discovered during the stocktake.

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*Now out of stock  ^Year to date

**ASHA INVENTORY (June 2008)**

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<td>214</td>
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Member Suggestions and Queries

- ASHA should be able to process EFT payments for members from savings and cheque accounts, as well as from credit card accounts.

TREASURER’S REPORT [SUE SINGLETON]

Overview

ASHA’s financial position remains comfortable with net assets of $48,118.79, slightly lower than that of 2007. This is a good result considering 2008 income was markedly reduced by the 2007 constitutional change of membership period from calendar year (January to December) to financial year (July to June). This change extended the 2007 subscription year for an additional six months to 1 July. In the result, ASHA did not issue membership renewal notices during this financial year. Despite the change of membership period, an amount of $8,965.00 was still received for membership subscriptions (late payments and new memberships).

However, the overall financial result for 2008 is a deficit (where expenses were greater than income) of $6,264.14. This is the combined result of reduced income against general expenditure and additional expenditure for publication costs associated with the first title in the monograph series, Port Essington by Jim Allen.

There is no need for concern at this year’s deficit as subscription income for 2009 is estimated to exceed $24,000 and, along with publication sales and conference revenue, projections indicate a surplus at the end of the 2009 financial year. Income as at 31 July 2008 has already reached $9,200.00 and current bank balances will be provided at the AGM.

GST Reconciliation

Audits for the 2005 and 2006 financial years disclosed outstanding BAS statements and outstanding GST debts dating back to 2003 and 2004. This was resolved with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) this year through submission of all outstanding BAS statements and a net payment of $1,358.00. The ATO also approved ASHA’s application for remission of all general interest charges and penalties. ASHA is no longer registered for GST.

2007 Financial Audit Results

The 2007 audit was undertaken by Acumon Auditing. The Audit concluded that the financial report presented fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology as at 30 June 2007, and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year, in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

The 2008 audit is currently underway and the results should be ready for presentation at the AGM.

Investment Accounts

ASHA established a second investment account this year and now holds two $10,000.00 term deposit accounts with Bendigo Bank. Total interest earned to date is $1,332.36. This money will help to fund the ASHA Awards program.
Sponsorships

ASHA currently has two sponsors for the Awards program to a total amount of $500.00.

Publications

Income from general publication sales was $4,433.00, a slight improvement on 2007 sales of $4,311, and a marked increase from $2,004.00 in 2006.

Income from sales of ASHA’S 2005 publication *An Archaeological Guide to British Ceramics in Australia 1788-1901* amount to an overall total of $10,743.00 generating a net profit to date of $4,600.

Pre-publication orders for the first title in the monograph series, *Port Essington: The historical archaeology of a north Australian nineteenth-century military outpost*, already total $836.00 and the author, Jim Allen, has kindly contributed $1,000.00 towards publication costs.

Conference Advance

ASHA provided a float of $2,000.00 to the 2008 Conference organisers and this will be recovered from conference profits.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

*For the year ended 30 June 2008*

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Audit  550.00  880.00
Conference Advance  2,000.00  0.00
Refunds  73.00  0.00
Awards  200.00  n/a
Bank Charges  2.00
Sundry expenses  1,611.52  1,145.20
**TOTAL EXPENDITURE**  30,275.49  30,275.49  32,061.57  32,061.57
Add unpresented chqs  0.00  12.00
  30,275.49  32,073.57
**Operating Surplus/(Deficit)**  $6,264.14  $5,162.77

**BANK RECONCILIATION**

*As at 30 June 2008*

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**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET**

*as at 30 June 2008*

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<th>2008</th>
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<td>Current Assets per Cash Books</td>
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<td>$54,394.93</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
NEWSLETTER EDITOR’S REPORT [RICK MCGOVERN-WILSON]

The Newsletter Editor’s report was given verbally at the meeting by the Editor.

- Four issues of the newsletter were delivered in the past year and they continued to be of high quality.
- However, they are only as good as the copy we receive and it is disappointing to see the number of states who file no reports!
- The Editor would like to thank the State reps for all the work they do, and particularly those regular contributors who do continue to send in news reports, e.g. Richard Morrison, Kat Watson and Hans Bader.
- Due to the concerns about the low responses for information for the newsletter, I will be trialling a new system of gathering data for the December Newsletter. The Secretary will send a group email to all the members requesting they send information back through to their State Reps who will pass it back to the Editor.

ASHA AWARD WINNERS 2008

R. Ian Jack Award for Best Honours Thesis ($200)

Linda Terry, University of Queensland, Caboonbah Homestead: Big Rock or Little Britain

Using the documentary and artefactual resources of the Caboonbah Homestead Archaeological Project the thesis examines the Britishness of the family of Henry and Katherine Somerset in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Situating the study within a comparative theory of ethnicity and employing Bourdieu’s concept of *habitus* Linda establishes that the ethnic construction of Britishness in rural Queensland was as much a product of the colonial experience as it was of the British homeland and demonstrates that the Somerset family were able to accommodate both the competing and complimentary ethnicities of being both British and Australian.

Maureen Byrne Award for Best Postgraduate Thesis

Lindsay Smith, Australian National University, Hidden Dragons: The Archaeology of Mid-to-Late Nineteenth-Century Chinese Communities in South-eastern New South Wales

This PhD thesis investigates and combines all the elements that comprised mid-to-late nineteenth-century overseas Chinese settlements in rural south-eastern NSW, and compares them with each other at sub-regional, regional, national and international levels. It demonstrates that they conformed to a highly codified hierarchical pattern of community organisation in both a physical and perceived landscape. The data collected is unparalleled in its detail and extent, including site survey across south-eastern NSW and numerous excavations at hut, oven and temple sites in settlements throughout the region. The historical research provides relevant information for understanding the nature of the overseas Chinese community in colonial rural Australia, while the theoretical framework reveals new insights into that community.

Judy Birmingham Award for Best Historical Archaeology Heritage Report sponsored by Comber Consultants

No nominees
Martin Davies Award for Best Public Archaeology Initiative

Penny Crook, Laila Ellmoos and Tim Murray, La Trobe University, Exploring The Archaeology Of The Modern City Project Databases

This entry comprises a two-disc set of two databases prepared by the authors while conducting research for the Exploring the Archaeology of the Modern City Project between 2001 and 2005. The database files, artefact images and accompanying guides were also released for download from the project’s website. The databases provide a much-needed tool to link archaeological and historical information in a dynamic, searchable and user-friendly environment. They draw together, for the first time, large datasets including artefact catalogues from some of Sydney’s major urban excavations, an archive of nearly 5000 photographs of artefacts and residency information for four city blocks in the Rocks. This serves the needs of archaeologists, historians, and heritage managers undertaking site-specific or neighbourhood research.

Graham Connah Award for Best Publication

Rodney Harrison, Open University, Shared Landscapes: Archaeologies of Attachment and the Pastoral Industry in New South Wales

This book has two primary concerns: that pastoral heritage and history needs to be understood as shared between Aboriginal and settler Australians; and, the introduction of landscape-based models for understanding, assessing and managing the archaeology and heritage of pastoralism in Australia. Shared Landscapes provides two detailed case-studies that result from a collaborative and multi-disciplinary approach to cultural heritage research in NSW. Working closely with local communities, and drawing on the results of archaeological, historical and anthropological research methods, it presents a new model for understanding historical archaeology and heritage throughout Australia and in other settler societies.

ASHA thanks the Award 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).

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

ASHA / AIMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2009 UPDATE

24th September to 27th September 2009

Venue: Tramshed Convention Centre, Inveresk Precinct, Launceston, Tasmania

Conference Theme: In a Global Context: Australasia’s archaeological evidence in the Globalisation process.

Sessions could include but are not limited to

- Environmental, economic and political change
- Technological developments

ASHA Newsletter December 2008
• Changes in transportation methods and routes
• The progress of industry
• Social changes
• Transporting ideas, cultures and people to and from Australasia.
• Internationalisation of cultural heritage management

Session conveners will be called for in March 2009 so put on your thinking caps!

Registration on the 24th September will be followed by a reception at the Phenomenon Factory at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, which is adjacent to the Inveresk Tram shed complex.

Post conference tours will be available and are yet to be finalised but may well include Tamar Valley attractions including the Low Head Pilot Station and the many wineries.

Tasmanian conference co-convenors Denise.Gaughwin@fpa.tas.gov.au and Peta.Knott@tmag.tas.gov.au can be contacted if additional information is required. They are being assisted by a Committee comprising Linda Clarke, Greg Jackman, Angie McGowan, Richard Tuffin, Jody Steele, Brad Williams and Elspeth Wishart.

ASHA AWARD PROGRAMME 2009

ASHA members are invited to nominate recent work for consideration in the ASHA Awards program. The ASHA Awards program aims to promote excellence in historical archaeology in Australasia by recognising best practice in the heritage management of historical archaeology; promoting the communication of archaeological results to the public; and rewarding outstanding research by students.

Nominations are sought for work in the following categories:

  • R. Ian Jack Award for Best Honours Thesis
  • Judy Birmingham Award for Best Historical Archaeology Heritage Report (sponsored by Comber Consultants)
  • Martin Davies Award for Best Public Archaeology Initiative

Nominations are due by 31 March 2009. The awards will be announced at the ASHA conference in Launceston.

Full details and a Nomination Cover Sheet are available on the ASHA web site, http://www.asha.org.au. For more information please contact awards@asha.org.au or Susan Lawrence, s.lawrence@latrobe.edu.au, 03 9479 1790

THE SYDNEY HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY PROFESSIONAL (SHAP) WORKSHOP

~ Call for Papers ~

Hello everyone –

One last thing to think about before the holidays: The next SHAP Workshop will be held on Friday 27th February 2009. This year we are trying a different venue: the Hall at St
Stephen’s Anglican Church on Church Street, Newtown. However, as tradition dictates, the post-workshop drinks will still be held at the Courthouse Hotel nearby.

The SHAP Workshop is meant to be an informative day which aims to be all-inclusive and welcoming to people from all areas of the archaeological industry and wider community, including practitioners, academics, students and developers.

It is hoped that this workshop will present new and interesting historical sites from in and around Sydney and generate discussion and debate.

As the workshop will take place just before the start of Semester 1, it would be interesting to focus on what archaeologists have been excavating recently: this will appeal to students not yet caught up in their coursework, as well as practitioners and non-archaeologists.

While not set in stone, the following themes might also prompt a few ideas for speakers:

- How to deal with difficult clients
- Cemeteries and archaeology
- Development problems/issues in commercial archaeology
- Archaeology and the media.

Please feel free to suggest anything you wish to present. Talks should be short and concise (about 20 minutes each), aimed at updating people on your work or work-related experiences you wish to share.

It is hoped that by doing this the open communication spirit of the SHAP Workshops will continue.

The Closing Date for papers and discussion topics is Monday 2nd February 2009. Please feel free to contact us on (02) 9568 6701 or by email at krissy@australarchaeology.com.au

Registration forms and an outline of the day will be circulated in the coming weeks.

The Holiday Season is fast approaching and we would love to hear back from you before the Christmas break, so we can get things running smoothly in the New Year. This time round we’d like to encourage you to register and pay for the Workshop prior to the day, because it will help us organise the catering and post-workshop drinks a little more accurately. We anticipate the cost of the workshop to be around $50, which will include lunch and morning and afternoon tea.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,
Pamela Kottaras
NSW Manager
Austral Archaeology

**SPMA 2009 CONFERENCE**

Next year’s SPMA conference will be held at Coalbrookdale in Shropshire as part of the 300th anniversary of coke smelting of iron by Abraham Darby. This is a joint conference with the Association for Industrial Archaeology and the Historical Metallurgy Society, and a conference outline and Call for Papers follows. Whilst the conference will inevitably involve
papers on 'industrial' subjects, they are especially keen to examine the impacts of industrialisation on post-medieval environments and society - hence the subtitle 'Footprints of Industry'. As you will see from the proposed sessions there is considerable scope for interdisciplinary and international studies to be presented and discussed.

**Fe09: Coalbrookdale 300: Footprints of Industry**

**Conference Announcement and Call for Papers**

**3rd-6th June 2009, Coalbrookdale, United Kingdom**

A conference commemorating the 300th anniversary of the first successful commercial use of coke to smelt iron, taking place in the shadow of the very furnace that saw the birth of the industrial revolution.

The 300th anniversary of coke smelting is an appropriate moment to consider the impact of the industrial revolution on the modern world. It will be 50 years since the iconic blast furnace at Coalbrookdale, often called the 'birthplace of industry', was rediscovered. That last half century has seen a dramatic expansion of research into the processes of industrialisation, coupled with overwhelming public support for the conservation of its material remains. The wide range of disciplines involved: archaeology, history, metallurgy and conservation, have themselves developed in response to the challenges of understanding this often fragile heritage. Big themes and issues arise which have tremendous relevance to the world today: environmental change, social transformation, technological progress, leisure as industry and industry as leisure.

This conference provides an exciting opportunity for inter-disciplinary debate, discussion and analysis, in the context of a vibrant new programme of restoration and re-interpretation of the Coalbrookdale site by the Ironbridge Gorge Museum. In 2009 we can find ways to take forward the study of these important processes and bring our findings to bear on the reality of life today.

**Outline Programme**

**Wednesday 3rd June 2009**
Registration : Welcome : Wine Reception

**Thursday 4th June 2009**
Friday 5th June 2009
Saturday 6th June 2009
Papers in plenary sessions (see below); guided tours; dinners and party

**Sunday 7th June 2009**
Optional guided tours of the industrial heritage of the west midlands region

**Overall Thematic Outline**

Please note that for all sessions, papers from the following groups will be particularly welcomed:

- commercial/contracting/consulting archaeologists, at all levels of seniority
- junior academic researchers (masters, doctoral or post-doctoral students)
- independent researchers, including local study groups and community archaeology programmes
• maritime, contemporary, historical and industrial archaeologists of all shapes and sizes
• non-archaeological disciplines, especially those examining similar issues in the contemporary world
• heritage management and conservation professionals.

The overall aim is to try and capture the amazing breadth, diversity and interdisciplinary nature of studies from the fields of the humanities, social sciences and pure science which are investigating the period c.1500 to the present day and the various technological, social, cultural and environmental impacts of industrialisation (by which we include the disciplines of archaeology, history, art history, metallurgy, anthropology, landscape history & archaeology, economic history, sociology, geography, historical geography, historical agronomy, environmental sciences, palaeoenvironmental studies, psychology etc. ... in no particular order and not intentionally excluding anyone who feels their researches are relevant but are not on this list).

There is also extensive space for poster presentations.

This conference is the principal annual conference of the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology, the Historical Metallurgy Society, the Association for Industrial Archaeology and the Newcomen Society.

Keynote presentations will be given by David Crossley, Marilyn Palmer and Sir Neil Cossons.

Publication of the proceedings is anticipated.

Session Outlines

All sessions are plenary, and each session is expected to have thematic and topical overlaps with others. Some papers outlining similar sites, or using similar methodologies, might well fit into different sessions depending on their emphasis. For example papers using osteological evidence may appear in any or all of Sessions 2, 3 and 4. Equally papers on shipbuilding might appear in any or all of Sessions 3, 4 and 5. Depending on the actual papers received, some sessions may be split or merged or otherwise altered. Whilst papers on specific projects will be welcomed, submissions should strive to discuss the work within the broader thematic contexts outlined below.

Session 1: Origins of Industrialisation

Why was north-west Europe the centre of post-medieval industrialisation? How did the process of industrialisation occur, and what were the factors which enabled its rapid development? Why did contemporary societies elsewhere, which were arguably more technically advanced, not develop in the same way? Papers in this session will seek to explore these and other questions. Studies investigating social, cultural, environmental and political issues surrounding the development of industrialisation in various parts of the world are especially encouraged. Papers from ongoing or recent research into the late medieval and post-medieval periods in north-west Europe are particularly welcomed, together with contributions from Africa, China and the Mediterranean.
Session 2: The Inheritance of Abraham Darby

The iron industry was actually the last significant metallurgical industry to adopt mineral fuel. This session will look at the earlier use of peat, coal, coke and other fossil fuels in other industries during the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. Glass, pottery and non-ferrous metallurgy are particularly important, but the ways in which adaptations were made socially and technologically in related industries will also be examined. This session will also endeavour to explore the cultural and environmental consequences of the new technology.

Session 3: Technology, science and religion

Industrialisation took place before and during the Enlightenment. Many aspects of technology were developed as the result of expanding knowledge of the physical universe, conversely new discoveries in science facilitated industrial development. At the same time new notions of how humanity should live were being expounded - sometimes violently. Key themes will include the role of religious outlook in industry, relationships with science, and the broader cultural impact of technological improvement, examining the radical changes in mindset that took place in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries as a result of industrialisation.

Session 4: Britain as an industrial society

The social impact of industrialisation was overwhelming. This session will look very widely at Britain as an industrial society by examining the social and demographic changes wrought by industrialisation, including landscape change and the rural economy as well as urban industrialisation, the adoption of the factory system and the ways in which capitalism was promoted, resisted and adapted.

Session 5: Industrialisation and globalisation

The process of post-medieval industrialisation was a global one, intimately linked with European colonial expansion. This was not simply a one-way process, nor even one of physical interaction; rather the discovery of new worlds provoked new ways of looking at the old world, and new technologies and industries. Papers in this session will deal with the global impact of industrialisation, including the development of international capitalism and its effect on local and regional identities, responses to environmental change and the impact on indigenous peoples.

Session 6: Understanding industrial heritage

The period of industrialisation has left a great physical legacy in terms of buildings, structures, sites and landscapes. In north-western Europe, in particular, this legacy is sometimes overwhelming, and existing mechanisms for the preservation and interpretation of pre-industrial sites and monuments are often inadequate for dealing with the complexity and fragility of industrial heritage. This session will look at the management of industrial heritage sites and landscapes, and issues involved in conserving industrial heritage; in particular it will explore the conflicts and tensions between ensuring wide access and preserving the integrity of sites, monuments and landscapes. This session is being organised by Dr Roger White of the University of Birmingham.

Session 7: The way forward

Understanding the ways in which industrial processes shaped society and the environment during the last 300 years is only the beginning of a much greater contribution to the broader debate of how the world is going to change for the next 300 years. Papers in this session
will examine the ways in which our understanding of the processes of industrialisation can inform new developments in the UK and overseas. This session will not only look at the way in which we deal with the inheritance of industrialisation in the UK, but will also include particular reference to present-day industrialisation in China and the emerging economies of eastern Europe.

Abstracts should be submitted as 'PDF', 'Plain Text' or 'Word 2003' files (or earlier Word versions (no 'docx' files please)) to archaeology@ironbridge.org.uk by 31st December 2008.

If you think you might like to submit a paper, but are unsure as to which session it might fit into, or feel that it fits into the overall conference themes but is not catered for by the structure described above, then please email to the address above with a brief synopsis and a telephone number and we will contact you by telephone before 7th December 2008 to discuss it.

The conference is being organised by Paul Belford on behalf of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust.

Paul Belford, BSc, MA, MIFA
Head of Archaeology and Monuments
Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust
Coalbrookdale
TF8 7DQ
United Kingdom
archaeology@ironbridge.org.uk

FLINDERS UNIVERSITY MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY MONOGRAPH SERIES (MAMS)

Associate Professor Mark Staniforth
School of Humanities/Department of Archaeology
Email: Mark.Staniforth@flinders.edu.au
Phone: 82015195

MAMS Editor Emily Jateff
School of Humanities/Department of Archaeology
Email: Emily.Jateff@flinders.edu.au
Phone: 82015307

Publication Information and Series Titles

ISSN 1832-3545

First published in 2006 by the Department of Archaeology, c/o Flinders University, GPO Box 2100, Adelaide, South Australia, 5001


**Publications in Press**


**Upcoming Publications (scheduled for release in early 2009)**


Associate Professor Mark Staniforth has been a Visiting Professor in the Department of Anthropology at Syracuse University in Syracuse, New York (September to December 2008). While in Syracuse he taught ANT 300 Archaeology under the Sea, supervised graduate students and attended the annual Institute for Nautical Archaeology (INA) meetings in New York City.

ASHA members can buy copies of the Flinders University Maritime Archaeology Monographs Series by contacting Mark or the MAMS editor Emily Jateff (see attached list of MAMS publications).

**USEFUL GUIDELINES FOR ARCHAEOLOGISTS**

Recently released by Heritage Victoria:

Heritage Victoria needs to be notified prior to any archaeological survey work. It is required that a *Notification of Archaeological Survey form be submitted*. Further details on surveys can be found at *Guidelines for Conducting Historical Archaeological Surveys*. These can be downloaded from: [www.heritage.vic.gov.au/admin/file/content2/c7/SurveyGuide.pdf](http://www.heritage.vic.gov.au/admin/file/content2/c7/SurveyGuide.pdf)

**From the September English Heritage eNews:**

*Mineral Extraction and Archaeology: A Practice Guide*

This document has been prepared by the Minerals and Historic Environment Forum as an aid to planning authorities, mineral planners, mineral operators, archaeologists and consultants. It provides guidance specifically for dealing with archaeological remains as part of mineral development through the planning process. View more information on [www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/Mineral-Archaeology.pdf](http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/Mineral-Archaeology.pdf)
Investigative Conservation: Guidelines on how the detailed examination of artefacts from archaeological sites can shed light on their manufacture and use

These guidelines are aimed at archaeologists, finds specialists and museum curators who are involved in the planning and publication of archaeological projects with an expected finds assemblage, as well as finds liaison officers and other museum staff advising metal detectorists. Download www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/Investigative-Conservation.pdf

Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation

Guidelines to help archaeologists, curators, consultants and project managers to better understand techniques of geophysical survey. Download www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/Geophysical_LoRes.pdf

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

PRE-WWII INTERNMENT / POW CAMPS

Dear all

I'm interested in identifying any publications on, or ongoing archaeological research into, concentration camps, labor camps, Prisoner of War Camps, or internment camps of any kind dating to before the Second World War, worldwide. I'm not aware of any publications or projects from this period in Europe. But I am aware of some of the work that has been done on American Civil War PoW camps.

Also, it is my understanding that the first internment camps were instituted by the British during the Boer war. If anyone knows of prior examples I would be interested to hear of them.

Please reply off-list! Thanks in advance, best for now.

Adrian

______________________________

Adrian T. Myers
PhD Student, Department of Anthropology, Stanford University
adrianmyers@stanford.edu

REFERENCE COLLECTIONS

Dear members of the list [ASHA – Ed]

I am eager to find out where there are very good examples of reference collections for histarch materials. We have been chatting about the possibility of establishing such a reference collection at the Queensland Museum. Initially it would be quite small scale, but it is my hope that it could build up into a resource that could be used by students and consultants to assist with research and consultancies. We are also keen to give it a life in school based education programs, and the Strategic Learning Section at the QM are developing a web based archaeological resource designed to promote a clearer
understanding of archaeological collections and the importance of context, so we are trying to get a few things moving in that direction.

I visited Colonial Williamsburg some years ago and saw the collections very briefly but wondered if people were aware of other reference collections, internationally or domestically, that may be relevant models for the QM.

If you could contact me directly that would be very much appreciated as I am not a member of the list.

Thanks very much

Michael

Michael Westaway
Curator (Archaeology)
Cultures and Histories Program
Queensland Museum
PO Box 3300
South Brisbane
Queensland 4101
Australia
t 61 7 3840 7679
f 61 7 38461918
michael.westaway@qm.qld.gov.au
www.qm.qld.gov.au

DOES ANYONE RECOGNISE THESE MINING ARTEFACTS?

Hello all

I was wondering if anyone could help me identify the attached artefacts. They are ferrous or brass, or a combination of both, and come from gold mining settlements (1895-1915) in the Upper Murchison Western Australia. I have a number of them and one has C * B on the brass attachment. I've had at least one suggested ID but have not yet found any supporting evidence so would like to confirm their function.
Cheers,
Kelly Fleming
PhD candidate
Archaeology M405
University of Western Australia
35 Stirling Highway
Crawley WA 6009
AUSTRALIA
Email: flemik01@student.uwa.edu.au

DOES ANYONE RECOGNISE THIS BUTTON?

Posted on behalf of Ines - does anyone recognise the button that this scraper has been manufactured from? Any suggestions, please contact Ines.

Heather Burke
----------
I send you the photo of the scraper.

Thanks!

Ines
Dr. Inés Domingo Sanz
Department of Archaeology
Flinders University
GPO Box 2100,
Adelaide, S.A. 5001
Australia
Ph: (08) 8201 2336
Fx: (08) 8201 2784
CHINESE JUNKS

Dear members,

This is a call out for any reference leads that may assist with my research on the use and construction of Chinese boats (junks) in Australia from the 19th to 20th centuries.

My interest in the topic was sparked through the discovery of images held in the Qld Library's online archive of Chinese boats made in Australia for use in the banana trade and through reading a vague reference to the use of Chinese junks on the Daly River in NT for market garden produce transport to Palmerston in *Citizens* by Eric Rolls.

Any info would be greatly appreciated.

Kind Regards

Renee Gardiner
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FORTHCOMING NEWSLETTERS

The ASHA Newsletter is produced quarterly with the assistance of guest editors. The 2008–2009 guest editors are:

Dec 2008 issue: Rick McGovern-Wilson  email: newsletter@asha.org.au
Mar 2009 issue  Susan Piddock   spiddock@ozemail.com.au
June 2009 issue  Caitlin Allen   caitlin.allen@commerce.nsw.gov.au
Sept 2009 issue  Linda McCarthy  ?
Dec 2009 issue  Tim Owen   tim.owen@erm.com

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
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