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Contents

State of the Art	2
ACT News	2
<i>Heritage Division, Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA)</i>	2
<i>ACT Historical Archaeology Workshop 2 - Fenced and Forgotten (History, Heritage and Hackneyed Approaches) - Report on the Workshop held at the University of Canberra on 31 October 2009</i>	3
NSW News	5
<i>Mice in a Matchbox</i>	5
<i>Two New Books</i>	7
New Zealand News	8
Northern Territory News	8
<i>Cobourg Peninsula and Victoria Settlement</i>	8
<i>Report on an Expedition to Raffles Bay, July 2009</i>	10
South Australia News	12
<i>A Grand Old Dame: Preliminary Investigations into the Construction of the Randell Dry Dock at Mannum, South Australia</i>	12
Victoria News.....	15
Western Australia News	15
<i>Archaeology Honours Dissertation submitted at the University of Notre Dame Australia Fremantle</i>	15
Queensland News	15
<i>New Archaeological Places on the Queensland Heritage Register</i>	15
<i>Brisbane City Central Business District Archaeological Plan</i>	19
<i>Cameron Harvey</i>	20
<i>Release of the Queensland Heritage Strategy</i>	20
<i>Redcliffe First Settlement Archaeological Project</i>	21
Tasmania News.....	24
<i>Heritage Tasmania</i>	24
<i>ASHA/AIMA National Conference 'In a Global Context'</i>	25
<i>ARCTAS Pty Ltd</i>	26
<i>Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority</i>	26
ASHA Conference 2009	27
<i>President's Report 2008-2009 [Martin Gibbs]</i>	27
<i>Vice President's Report 2008-2009 [Penny Crook]</i>	29
<i>Secretary's Report 2008-2009 [Katrina Stankowski]</i>	32
<i>Treasurer's Report 2008-2009 [Kylie Seretis]</i>	36
<i>ASHA Award Winners 2009</i>	38
Announcements and Notices	39
<i>ASHA Conference 2010</i>	39

<i>ASHA Awards Program 2010</i>	39
<i>Editor's Comments</i>	40
Society Contacts	42
<i>2009–2010 Committee</i>	42
<i>State Representatives</i>	42
Forthcoming Newsletters	43

STATE OF THE ART

ACT NEWS

Compiled by Richard Morrison

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

Environment Protection and Heritage Council (EPHC) – The Council of all Australian Environment and Heritage Ministers met in Perth on 5 November 2009 and made a number of decisions of relevance to heritage matters that are the responsibility of the Heritage Division:

World Heritage Intergovernmental Agreement - Council agreed to an Australian World Heritage Intergovernmental Agreement which sets out arrangements between the Commonwealth and the States for the management of Australia's World Heritage properties. The Intergovernmental Agreement outlines agreed approaches to management, funding, nomination, listing, monitoring and promotion of Australia's World Heritage properties.

Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee - Council commended the recently established Australian World Heritage Advisory Committee (AWHAC) for its prompt action in identifying areas of high priority common to Australia's World Heritage properties. Council requested that EPHC Standing Committee report back in early 2010 with advice on AWHAC's recommendations.

Underwater Cultural Heritage Convention - Council endorsed Australia pursuing ratification of the UNESCO 2001 Convention for the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, subject to Australia's normal treaty making processes. Council will consider a draft Australian Underwater Cultural Heritage Intergovernmental Agreement in early 2010. The agreement will outline agreed approaches to the identification, protection, management, conservation and interpretation of Australia's underwater cultural heritage.

Historic Shipwreck National Collaborative Research Project - Council endorsed the inclusion of the Historic Shipwrecks *in situ* preservation and reburial research project in the Cooperative National Heritage Agenda.

Heritage and Sustainability Project - Council noted the progress towards completing the ground-breaking research into heritage buildings and environmental sustainability. It commended the extension of this project to include commercial building types, and welcomed the active involvement of a number of Australasian jurisdictions in this project. Council requested a report at the conclusion of the heritage and sustainability projects.

Geoparks - Environment and Heritage Ministers contributed to the development of an Australian Government national position on UNESCO Geoparks. They decided, after consultation with Resource Management Ministers, that whilst Australian governments support geological heritage, they have significant concerns with the application of the UNESCO Geoparks concept in Australia, especially without government endorsement. Existing mechanisms are considered sufficient to protect geoheritage in Australia. Council requested that the Australian Government advise UNESCO that Australia would not recognise the Kanawinka Geopark because of the deficient UNESCO process in declaring it. Council also requested the Australian Government ask UNESCO to take no further action to recognise any future proposals for Australian members of the Global Geoparks Network, or to further progress Geoparks initiatives within Australia, including that for the Kanawinka Geopark, unless the formal agreement of the Australian Government has first been provided.

ACT HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY WORKSHOP 2 - FENCED AND FORGOTTEN (HISTORY, HERITAGE AND HACKNEYED APPROACHES) - REPORT ON THE WORKSHOP HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA ON 31 OCTOBER 2009

Dr Tracy Ireland, Donald Horne Institute and Helen Cooke, President of the Canberra Archaeology Society welcomed attendees and organised the program. Other sponsors were the National Trust (ACT), the ACT Heritage Unit, the Centre for Archaeological Research, the ACT Heritage Unit and the Research School of the Humanities – IPPHA.

The presentations were outstanding, including the *Molonglo Mystery* an almost forgotten World War I internment camp which was originally built for German nationals held in China but ended up holding civilian males, females and children who had connections to Germany. After the camp was closed at the end of the War many structures were dismantled and removed, but some were used for workers who were building Canberra – it became known as the Molonglo Workers Settlement.

The Valley Homestead, Gungahlin, was built by Thomas Gribble in the 1860s. Several additional structures were added before it was abandoned in the mid 1970s. Today it is a ruin, but a valuable reminder of the past rural lifestyles and economies of the district. Although heritage listed with the ACT Government, little conservation work has been done on the remaining structures despite several conservation and management plans being completed.

The Ginninderra Blacksmith Shop was first constructed around 1860 and served as a privately owned and managed blacksmith, farrier, cartwright and wheelwright establishment until it ceased operations in the late 1940s. The National Trust applied for and received three grants from the government to protect and conserve the building and a preliminary archaeological survey was conducted jointly by the Trust and CAS. Like The Valley ruin nearby, the blacksmith shop is heritage listed but is still fenced in and needs a revised conservation and management plan which would lead to the place being made more accessible to the public.

Rural, Ruin and Reuse: the dilemma. 'Fenced and Forgotten' is not the best solution for our rural heritage. Local examples illustrated the dilemmas of funding, reuse, loss of rural context and setting of buildings, management and adaptive reuse, and the problem of protection and conservation of a place which has not reached the criteria for heritage listing even though there is a degree of historic importance to the place. An interest from the Government in partnering and partly funding agreements with developers to conserve these places and use them in the lives of the new generations to continue the tradition of settlement is crucial.

The importance of the Nolan Gallery. Sidney Nolan was one of Australia's most prolific and well known artists. The Nolan Gallery building at Lanyon was purpose built to house a collection of his paintings bequeathed to Australia. The paintings have been removed from the gallery and are now housed in Civic at the Canberra Museum and Gallery. This move has been done without the approval or support of Lady Nolan who has frequently expressed her great disappointment that the paintings have been removed from the rural setting of Lanyon where the artist requested they be housed. At last check, of the 24 works bequeathed to Australia for housing at the Lanyon gallery only 9 are now showing for public display at CMAG. This presentation received a great deal of comment from the floor.

Adelong Falls Gold Mill Ruins. Alluvial gold was discovered at Adelong in 1850 and reef gold in 1856. The existing Reefer Battery built in 1890 was one of the most efficient of its time and operated up to 1914. The Gold Mill ruins are now no longer forgotten. A committee has been created to research and look after the site, to promote the site to the local and wider communities and to make recommendations to the local council for its continued protection. This is one of the successful stories of conservation which was largely made possible by a dedicated and professional team from the community working with the local council.

Captain's Flat Cemetery. Captain's Flat was surveyed in 1882 as a mining town which initially flourished. In 1962 the mines closed and much of the associated structures and machinery were sold at auction. 190 houses went up for sale. The cemetery is an important element and reminder of this past era. Like many such cemeteries many of the headstones and grave furniture has deteriorated making some plots unidentifiable. Once somewhat forgotten the cemetery is now being studied by a local group who hope to conserve the site.

Cultural Heritage and Conservation at the University of Canberra. Tracy Ireland, a senior lecturer at the Donald Horne Institute for Cultural Heritage outlined the role of this institute which began teaching this year. Their charter is largely to reinvigorate cultural heritage studies in Canberra and to foster and integrate with other institutions and organizations concerned with cultural heritage. The Cultural Heritage course is multidisciplinary, drawing on the theory and methods of history, archaeology, anthropology and other cultural and technical studies.

The Archaeology at HQ Joint Operations Command, Dairy Station Creek, between Queanbeyan and Bungendore. In the process of constructing the HQ Joint Operations Command centre, an archaeological survey revealed a few Indigenous and historic artefacts on the surface but subsequent planned excavations revealed an enormous wealth of subsurface cultural material. For example, 22 Indigenous sites revealed 40,000 stone artefacts; 10 historical sites found over 20,000 separate items. Further excavations on stone footings revealed the floor plan of the former Hibernian Hotel which was rediscovered and briefly recorded in 1990 as a two-room stone rubble structure. Excavations revealed the structure to be a six-room complex. The lesson for all archaeologists is that where major development is going to take place, surface surveying is often an inadequate method of assessing the indigenous and historic occupations of the sites.

Tralee Homestead. The Morrison family settled at Springbank in the late 1850s then moved to Bulga Creek, Angle Crossing on the Murrumbidgee, and then to Tralee, now situated on the southern edge of Hume industrial suburb, ACT. The initial structure at Tralee was a slab house constructed in 1905 that may have been relocated from another property (possibly Angle Crossing). Today Tralee consists of a series of slab buildings in ruins and a weatherboard house know as 'Couranga'. Tralee is the story of a poor Irish immigrant family making a home in Australia; living roughly at first but prospering through hard work to finally own a substantial amount of property. The fate of Tralee today is uncertain as it is not heritage listed and the land

has been ear-marked for industrial development, but there may be a happy ending as interest in the site has been displayed by the Chief Minister.

Archives ACT. The Archives holds ACT records over 20 years old and is now accessible through www.archives.act.gov.au The records include papers, audio recordings, ACT/NSW border survey books, photos, maps, plans, building files, leasing files and more. Search and request facilities are on the web site where researchers can find the document they need and request a copy. The reading room for the archives is at the ACT Heritage Library at the Woden public library.

Those attending the Workshop chose two items most deserving of alerting the authorities about their plight. Letters will be sent to the Prime Minister about the Nolan Art Collection and to the ACT Chief Minister about "The Valley" ruin.

The next Historical Archaeology Workshop will be in May 2010.

Helen Cooke and Tracy Ireland

NSW NEWS

Compiled by Tim Owen

MICE IN A MATCHBOX

Recent work on material from the Hyde Park Barracks in Sydney has revealed a matchbox containing the skeletal remains of several mice (*Mus musculus*). The matchbox was recovered from an underfloor space just inside a doorway on Level 3 of the building, and appears to represent some kind of superstitious or ritual item, relating to the traditional practice of placing an old boot or a dead cat in building cavities as protection against evil influences (e.g. Evans 2009; Hoggard 2009; Merrifield 1987:128-136; Scharfenberger 2009:17-18; Swann 1996). This find is important for extending the known range of objects and animals used as ritual protection, as well as indicating that these items were placed not only in domestic dwellings, but in institutional contexts as well.

The Hyde Park Barracks was built in 1819 to provide accommodation for convicts working on government projects around Sydney. From 1862 to 1886, however, the top floor (Level 3) of the building was used as an asylum for infirm and destitute women. The inmates occupied two dormitories and two wards on this floor, and entered from an external stairway leading to a rear yard. The matchbox was deposited beneath the floorboards just inside the threshold, and was found in association with large quantities of debris including clay tobacco pipes, sewing pins, matches and nails, material which is repeated throughout the building's underfloor spaces. Although more than 400 matchbox tray and cover fragments have been recorded in the Hyde Park Barracks assemblage, these are all empty or contain only a few matches. The threshold location of the matchbox and mice may also be significant, on the boundary between inside and outside, perhaps intended as a spiritual barrier.

The matchbox contains the skulls of two mice, two complete mouse pelvi, three partial pelvi and parts of five articulated vertebral columns. A small scrap of newsprint (undated) and two wooden match fragments below the bones show no sign of staining, which suggests that the skeletal material was placed carefully and deliberately within the matchbox after the bodies had

decomposed and dried out. The matchbox itself is made of wood and includes both the tray and cover. It is 57 mm long x 37 mm wide and 20 mm deep. A fragmentary label includes reference to *Lemminkainen*, a Finnish match manufacturer. Matches in later colonial Australia were often imported from Scandinavia, and this is a common example from the period (Bell 2008:19).

This artefact appears to belong to a long tradition of objects concealed within inaccessible cavities of buildings, often during construction, to protect against evil spirits. The practice was widespread in Europe, Britain and Sweden from the thirteenth to the twentieth century. These deposits, however, are rarely, if ever, documented in written sources, and must be understood within the wider context of folk ritual. Typical locations within buildings are in or near chimneys, under the floor or in the roof cavity, or in other sealed voids within the building. Shoes and boots were the most commonly concealed objects. Examples are usually well worn and in most cases only a single shoe was deposited. Many belonged to children. Dried cats were sometimes used, perhaps after some effort had been made to preserve them by drying or smoking. In some cases cats were undoubtedly trapped by accident during building construction or had crawled away to die, while others may have been used deliberately to scare away real or spiritual vermin, or to protect against magic or pestilence (Howard 1951). Other concealed items that have been recorded include dead chickens, and personal items such as gloves, old clothing and clay pipes. The precise meanings of these concealed objects remains unclear, and may have varied widely through time and space, but the generally inaccessible positions of most documented examples supports a superstitious dimension of some kind (Merrifield 1987:133). The careful concealment of mice skeletons in a matchbox, and their placement below the floor just inside a threshold, appears to be part of this folk tradition.

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Peter Davies

TWO NEW BOOKS

"The burning mists of time: a technological and social history of mining in Katoomba". 2009. Philip J. Pells and Philip J. Hammon (eds), with contributions from Amanda Mackie, Karen Carlson and Brian Fox. ISBN 9780977563968 (hbk.) WriteLight, 30 Wills Lane Blackheath NSW 2785.

This is the story of the establishment of the town of Katoomba in the Blue Mountains of NSW, including the history of the Scenic Railway. The book can be purchased from Scenic World at Katoomba for \$A59.95 plus postage (email Skyway souvenirs jeanette@scenicworld.com.au for details).

"Mining in NSW: History and Heritage". 2009. I&I NSW (Minerals) bookshop on 1300 736 122 or email orders@minerals.nsw.gov.au (\$60.00 + p&h).

The history of mining in NSW from the first workings at Newcastle to the end of the boom days of mining in the early 1900s.

Tim Owen

NEW ZEALAND NEWS

NO REPORT FROM NEW ZEALAND

NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWS

Compiled by Ilka Schacht

COBOURG PENINSULA AND VICTORIA SETTLEMENT

The Cobourg Peninsula of the Northern Territory is a remarkable part of Australia with a rich history and archaeological resource. The area includes archaeological evidence of Aboriginal occupation, visitation from Macassans, historic shipwrecks and the remains of the failed British outposts Fort Wellington (1827-1829) and Victoria Settlement (1838-1849).

Staff of the Heritage Branch of the Northern Territory have been closely assisting those charged with revising the management plan for this significant part of the Northern Territory coast. Cobourg has been the focus of other activities this year with a visit to Fort Wellington by the Historical Society of the Northern Territory and a visit to Victoria Settlement in June by the Heritage Advisory Council.

Victoria Settlement was the third attempt at British settlement in the Northern Territory and was founded on revived fears of the expanding interests of others, and the belief that the right location for a trading port was finally discovered. It has been argued by historians that again a poor location was chosen, with the interest of defence far exceeding choice based on good soil, fresh water and proximity to good shipping lanes. There was also considerable confusion over the model for settlement. Many argued for liberal land sales and grants to promote settlers to arrive, but this was only supported years into the settlement's existence, and was poorly managed. Also, poor soils and a harsh climate assured that the community did not expand in size considerably, and made any commercial agriculture seem unfeasible. The residents also suffered waves of malaria.

Victoria Settlement lasted 11 years. It initially attracted Macassan visitation, but on the whole it failed as a port of call and trading port, with, for example, steamship companies refusing to add the settlement on its itinerary.

The existing ruins of this settlement are unequalled as an example of early attempts at colonisation in the Northern Territory. The site is also famous as the subject of Jim Allen's PhD, which was the first PhD dissertation in Australasian Historical Archaeology.



The chimneys marking the location of officer's quarters



Structural remains of what was the hospital kitchen



The Northern Territory Heritage Advisory Council

David Steinberg

**Heritage Branch, Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport,
Northern Territory Government**

REPORT ON AN EXPEDITION TO RAFFLES BAY, JULY 2009

By 1826 it had become clear that the first British attempt to establish a base in northern Australia had little chance of success. Fort Dundas was simply in the wrong location to serve as either the foundation of a successful trading post, or a convenient naval port. The British turned their attention eastward to their originally preferred location at the northern tip of Arnhem Land, and a site was chosen for a new settlement on the western shore of Raffles Bay. Between mid-1827 and 1829 personnel, livestock and transportable buildings were relocated from Fort Dundas to the new outpost, named Fort Wellington. Yet in spite of its strategic location, particularly in respect of tapping trade opportunities from the yearly influx of Maccasan trepang fishers, Fort Wellington was to receive only token support from the British and New South Wales governments. Largely misleading adverse reports from the settlement's first Commandant sealed Fort Wellington's fate. In August 1829, barely two years after its establishment, Fort Wellington was abandoned.

At the time of evacuation, the settlement was inhabited by only 96 people. Most buildings were rudimentary and upon abandonment were burnt or simply left to rot. The few substantial buildings were also destroyed or dismantled for shipment to the new Swan River colony. The removal and deliberate destruction of buildings, coupled with the rudimentary nature of many, meant that within a few years of evacuation little was left of Fort Wellington. Nevertheless, vestiges of original fabric have survived. The remains were first formally investigated in 1966 by an expedition organised by the Historical Society of the Northern Territory. A dispersed settlement, identified by two main concentrations of features, was found. On the headland at the northwestern end of Raffles Bay an extensive coral rock floor was discovered, along with the remains of brick features. A number of features were also found in the southeast part of the site distributed along a ridge behind the beach. These included floors of rubble, coral and brick; a

walled structure of cut coral rock; wells; and cisterns or pits. A passage cut or blasted through the coral reef, presumably to allow small craft to be drawn up onto the beach, was also identified.

These general patterns of the settlement's layout were confirmed in subsequent expeditions in 1979, the late 1980s and 1990s, and in 2003. The difficulty that all these expeditions faced was that written historical records are vague on the exact location of buildings, and in particular the hexagonal wooden stockade that formed the command centre for the settlement. By good fortune, in early 2009 an 1829 plan of the layout of Fort Wellington was uncovered that depicted all the major buildings, including the stockade itself. This vital piece of information prompted the Historical Society of the Northern Territory to organise another expedition. The primary objective of this trip was to ground truth the stockade's location, while secondary objectives involved gathering more data on features recorded in earlier surveys as well as attempting to find hitherto undiscovered elements of the settlement mentioned in historical sources. The site lies in Garig Gunak Barlu National Park and access to this remote location is controlled by the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory and by Traditional Owners of the land, represented on the Cobourg Peninsula Sanctuary and Marine Park Board. The Traditional Owners and the Parks and Wildlife Commission received the idea of another survey with enthusiasm. Permission for access was not only given but camping fees were generously waived and the rangers from Black Point kindly agreed to provide transport across the bay for the two days available for the investigation.

Early on the morning of 24 July 2009 the expedition departed Darwin for the road trip through Kakadu National Park and north to Raffles Bay. Camp was made on the western side of Raffles Bay on the late afternoon of that day. The following morning the boat from Black Point ranger station arrived and, in three boatloads, Historical Society members and accompanying archaeologists were deposited at the site on the eastern side of the bay. The expedition was divided into three teams, with team one charged with correlating the location of the stockade in the nineteenth century settlement plan with a physical location on the ground; team two with relocating previously recorded features to attempt more definite identification; while team three set out to roam beyond the previously surveyed areas in attempting to find unlocated features, particularly the settlement's cemetery. Unfortunately, the site had not been burnt prior to the survey so vegetation cover hindered the identification of surface evidence. By the end of the first day, team three reported that their search for further evidence of the settlement had been unsuccessful. Team two had relocated many previously recorded features and reached a decision to focus the next day's investigation on clearing, and minor test excavation, of a brick feature (Feature H of the 1966 survey) and a structure composed of four low walls made of coral rock carefully mortared into place (Feature J). Team one, after spending many hours attempting to ascertain the stockade's location, concluded that this was likely to have been erected below and on the seaward side of the ridge, where much of the remaining physical fabric of the settlement is located.

On the second day of the survey, 26 July, effort was placed on determining the location of the stockade with greater precision and investigating Features H and J. Surface clearing and limited excavation revealed Feature H as a U-shaped feature around 110 x 155 cm in size. It was found to be composed of two courses of bricks of two definite types - poorly fired of approximately 18 x 12 cm and more competently made and fired of 23 x 12 cm. Inside the U-shaped feature coral rock had been laid up to the top of the lower course of bricks, obviously to form a level stone surface. Some members of the team considered this was a hearth associated with the hospital, shown in this approximate location on the 1829 plan. Feature J does not appear on the 1829 plan, which presents something of a mystery. A 1.0 x 0.5 m test pit was excavated by trowel in

one corner of this walled structure to glean information on the sequences of occupation or construction. Excavation proceeded through a deposit of crushed shell and mortar that forms a raised floor within the structure. At 14 cm depth, excavation ceased when a buried paving of stone was encountered. Whether or not this paving extends across the entire interior of the walled structure as an earlier phase of occupation is a question that begs further investigation.

One question that was possibly answered is the location of the stockade. After measuring and remeasuring the stockade location and the beachline on the 1829 plan, investigators concluded with more certainty that the fortification was incongruously built below the ridge on a low foredune immediately behind the beach. Transects walked in this area later in the day revealed glass, ceramic sherds, bricks, placed coral and a brass item from a military uniform. Although clearly disturbed by 180 years of storm surges, this evidence was sufficient to indicate the former presence of substantial occupation, and accords with the 1829 plan's depiction of the stockade and other major buildings immediately above high water mark.

All too soon time was up. On the morning of 27 July the expedition broke camp and departed for home. Discussion has since turned to further investigation of the site. If the funding gods are willing, it is hoped that within the next two years another expedition will embark on a more intensive and better resourced investigation of this significant site.

Clayton Fredericksen

Heritage Division, Department of the Environment and Water Resources, Canberra, ACT

SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWS

Compiled by Adam Patterson

A GRAND OLD DAME: PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RANDELL DRY DOCK AT MANNUM, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

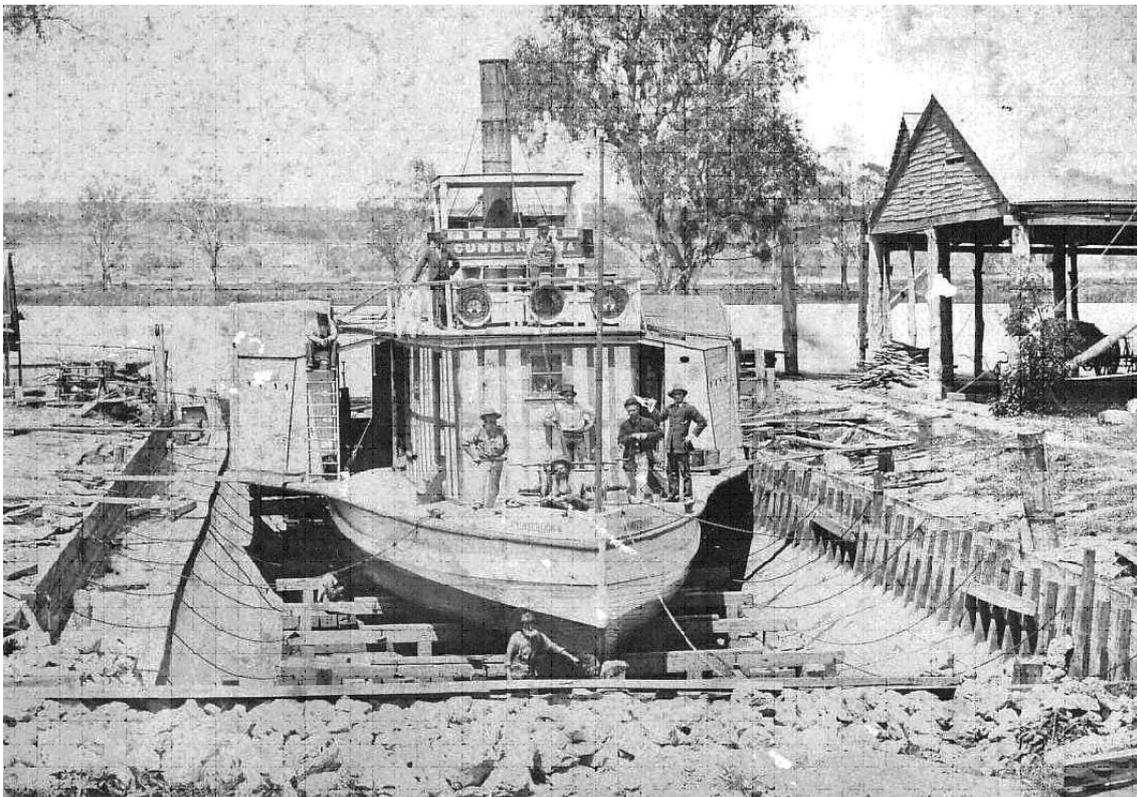
This report is part of an ongoing conservation and management project for the Randell Dry Dock: a culturally significant site of considerable importance to the town of Mannum and River Murray history.

Built for A.H. Landseer, a shipping customs and commission agent in Milang, the timber dock was originally constructed as a floating dry dock for use on Lake Alexandrina (Swanbury Penglase Architects, 2006). The *Southern Argus* newspaper (Friday, 19th September, 1873) referred to the structure as "the largest floating dock ever built in the Southern Hemisphere" (Jeffery, n.d., p.1). It is the only graving dock on the Murray-Darling river system. The dock was built of red gum and contains framing and a single layer of planking very similar to the structure of a wooden vessel. Historical sources assert that the original length of the dock was 144ft long, 40ft wide, 9ft deep and was estimated to carry 1000 tons (Kenderdine, 1993, p.97).

The dock was deemed a failure due to the limited water depth in the lake (Kenderdine, 1993) and was sold soon after to Captain William Richard Randell (a prominent figure in pioneer river navigation and steamboats). Using the PS *Nil Desperandum* to tow the dock up to Mannum, he converted it into a graving dock (Klenke & Penglase, 2002). After Randell's death in 1911, Captain J.G. Arnold took over the dock. Its last commercial use was repairing the PS *Marion* in 1927 and was officially closed with the introduction of a new slip at Morgan.

The Randell Dry Dock is the only facility of its kind on the Murray. Listed on the South Australian State Heritage Register and the Register of the National Estate, the dock is the only surviving example in Australia and one of only a handful existing internationally. It is extremely significant as information on the construction and evolution of timber dry docks is virtually non-existent. Initial site and GPR surveys by the Flinders University Maritime Archaeology Department in June and October revealed a number of structural oddities which will be investigated further during an excavation in mid December.

An assessment by conservationists at ArtLab has revealed that the dock is in poor condition and is continuing to deteriorate. If no conservation strategy is put in place, the dock may have just twenty years before it completely deteriorates. In conjunction with the Mannum Dock Museum, further research into the construction of the vessel will be undertaken by the Maritime Archaeology team and comparisons made with other wooden dry docks from around the world. The final report will assist in the development of a conservation and management action plan to be implemented as soon as possible and all relevant results added to the Randell Dry Dock's National Heritage Register application.



Early days of the Dry Dock (Image courtesy of Swanbury Penglase Architects, 2002)



Dock sump cap (2009)



The Randell Dry Dock today (2009)

Britt Burton, Masters of Maritime Archaeology student, Flinders University

VICTORIA NEWS

NO REPORT FROM VICTORIA

WESTERN AUSTRALIA NEWS

Compiled by Shane Burke

ARCHAEOLOGY HONOURS DISSERTATION SUBMITTED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME AUSTRALIA FREMANTLE

The Archaeology of Foreign and Defence Policy

Rhett Mitchell

This thesis examines the Princess Royal Fortress in Albany, Western Australia, from an archaeological and political perspective. The site is on Mt Adelaide overlooking Ataturk Pass and King George Sound. The thesis examines why the fort was built in 1893, how it changed physically over time, and how State and Federal government policies affected the appearance and function of the fort until its closure in 1956. Strategic culture is used as an underlying political theory to examine how Australia's history, geography and culture influenced government policy makers. The theories of strategic culture and historical context in the scheme of local and larger British Empire defence planning allow an understanding of the site's copious material remains.

QUEENSLAND NEWS

Compiled by Karen Murphy

NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL PLACES ON THE QUEENSLAND HERITAGE REGISTER

Seven new Archaeological Places have been entered on the Queensland Heritage Register. All of the places have opportunities for further archaeological research to realise their potential to contribute important information about Queensland's history.

In the far northwest, two early mining places have been recognised for their archaeological potential and importance. The **Golden Gate Mining and Town Complex**, near Croydon, was established in 1891 and contains remnants of gold mine workings, battery, cyanide plant, township and cemetery. It has the potential to provide information on early gold mining practices and treatment processes, and patterns of settlement in North Queensland. The Golden Gate Reef was the most productive on the Croydon goldfield and the complex demonstrates the pattern and development of gold mining on this important field.



Battery boiler and engine house, Golden Gate



Cyanide plant, Golden Gate

Copper mining and processing has also been recognised in the listing of the **Kuridala Township, Hampden Smelter and Mining Complex**, south of Cloncurry. Commenced in the 1890s, it has the potential to provide a better understanding of copper mining practices and the pattern of settlement in North Queensland. The Kuridala complex was one of the first of a cluster of significant copper mining interests in the rich mineral field near Cloncurry.



Hampden Smelter and chimneys, Kuridala



Kuridala cemetery

Also in North Queensland, the **Range Hotel, Burial Ground and Camping Reserve**, on the old Hervey Range Road, west of Townsville, includes a section of the original road to Thornton's Gap, the initial route inland from the port of Townsville to the hinterland areas. The site also includes the remains of the former Range Hotel, one of the earliest hotels and inns established in the region (c.1866), and an historical burial ground.



Headstone of John Henry Bell at the Range Hotel site (Photo courtesy of JCU)



Examples of bottle glass found at Range Hotel site (Photo courtesy of JCU)

Places related to timber, sugar and wool have been entered on the register in the south east of the state. The **Lahey's Canungra Sawmill Site** contains remnant evidence of an early, substantial and enduring timber processing operation which ran between 1884 and 1921, and again from 1933 until c.1935, in the Gold Coast hinterland. The sawmill site is important in demonstrating the pattern of settlement and land use in south-east Queensland. During its peak period of operation after 1913, the mill was the largest softwood mill in Queensland and the largest processor of softwood timber in Australia.



Building and machinery foundations adjacent to former Lahey's Siding, Canungra Sawmill



Tramway line terminus, main sawmill site, Canungra Sawmill



Canungra Sawmill ca.1918 (Photo courtesy of State Library of Queensland)

The **Oaklands Sugar Mill Remnants**, near Caboolture, north of Brisbane, provide evidence of one of the earliest developments in Queensland's influential sugar industry. The Oaklands sugar mill operated between 1865 and 1872. The mill was built and operated by Claudius Buchanan Whish, the first sugar producer to market his produce in Queensland in commercial quantities.



Close-up of exposed bricks, possible mill foundations, Oakland Sugar Mill site

In the bayside area of Brisbane, the remains of the **Ormiston Fellmongery** provide evidence of the important secondary industry of wool processing, operating between the 1850s to 1860s and then again between 1894 and the 1920s. Physical evidence of wool scouring, fellmongering and tanning is today rare, despite the importance of the wool industry and the processing of wool to Queensland's history. The processing of wool was commonly undertaken in and around Brisbane in locations conveniently situated to fresh water sources and transport networks yet the remains of the Ormiston Fellmongery are the only known surviving elements in the region.

The **Cleveland No.1 Cemetery** was listed as the site of the first cemetery established in this region, one of the earliest areas in Queensland to be opened to free settlement following the closure of the Moreton Bay Penal Settlement in 1842. The cemetery was surveyed in 1858 and used until 1873 when it was deemed to be unsuitable due to the swampy nature of the soil. The exact number of burials and whether those burials were moved to the new cemetery is not known.



Brick foundations of Ormiston fellmongery



Parkland, site of the Cleveland No. 1 Cemetery

For full details of all of the Archaeological Places, visit

<http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/heritage/index.html>

Cameron Harvey and Karen Murphy

BRISBANE CITY CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL PLAN

In 2008, the Heritage Branch of the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM), the University of Queensland Culture and Heritage Unit, and the Brisbane City Council Heritage Unit commenced a joint project to develop an archaeological plan for Brisbane's central business district. The objectives of the project were to identify important historical archaeological places with a view to entering these in the Queensland Heritage Register and to develop an inventory of potential archaeological sites for use in planning and development assessment by both DERM and Brisbane City Council. The project has also been an opportunity for post-graduate students in heritage and archaeology to gain some practical experience in research and analysis of local heritage resources.

All properties within the study area were assessed for their associations with the key phases in Brisbane's history and development, and were visually inspected and ranked based on assessments of ground disturbance using criteria established specifically for the project.

The project is nearing completion, with research being undertaken for several important historical archaeological places which will be recommended for entry in the Queensland Heritage Register. A map detailing the project results is also being prepared by DERM. It is anticipated that the final plan will be launched in early 2010 and the map will be available for download from the DERM website for use by planners, developers and archaeologists.



Preliminary results of the Brisbane City Central Business District Archaeological Plan, overlaid on an 1843 survey plan of Brisbane Town which highlights convict-era infrastructure

Cameron Harvey

RELEASE OF THE QUEENSLAND HERITAGE STRATEGY

The Department of Environment and Resource Management and the Queensland Heritage Council have jointly developed a Heritage Strategy for Queensland. The Strategy establishes a framework for managing Queensland's historical heritage over the next 10 years. It allows for growth and development of the State while also conserving its valuable heritage places.

The Queensland Heritage Strategy is built around five key directions:

- improving the way Queensland understands and values its heritage
- embedding heritage in mainstream policy and planning
- strengthening Queensland's investment in managing and conserving its heritage

- leading and partnering with government, community and industry to conserve Queensland's heritage
- building the capacity of government, community and industry to conserve Queensland's heritage.

The strategy is available at <http://www.qldheritage.org.au/heritage-strategy.php>

Cameron Harvey

REDCLIFFE FIRST SETTLEMENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT

The Redcliffe First Settlement Archaeological Project is a collaborative archaeological project between the School of Social Science at The University of Queensland, Moreton Bay Regional Council, Redcliffe City Library and Redcliffe Museum, that aims to identify archaeological evidence of the first British settlement at Redcliffe, just north of present-day Brisbane. It is a multi-stage project jointly funded by Moreton Bay Regional Council and The Queensland State Government through the Q150 (Queensland's sesquicentenary) Grant program.

The convict settlement at Redcliffe represents the first official British presence in Queensland. It resulted from the 1822 Inquiry into the State of the Colony of New South Wales in which Commissioner Bigge recommended that settlements be established north of Port Macquarie to contain reoffending and recidivist convicts from Sydney Town. Following exploration of the suggested sites, Moreton Bay, Point Curtis and Point Bowen in 1823, surveyor John Oxley recommended Moreton Bay as the most suitable site for the establishment of the new penal colony. On Monday 13 September 1824 a small convict settlement under the control of Lieutenant Henry Miller was established at Redcliffe. The settlement was extremely short-lived and in May 1825 Miller relocated the settlement, including the buildings, to the present-day location of Brisbane.

In 1972, historian John Steele published a conjectural map of the Redcliffe settlement based on the records kept by John Oxley and oral history from local residents (Figure 1). Steele overlaid his plan of the settlement over a current street map of Redcliffe so as to identify the locations of the various elements of the settlement. His map included, amongst other things, the locations of the commissariat stores, the soldier's barracks, the prisoners' barracks, the commandant's house and a brick kiln.

The first stage in the Redcliffe First Settlement Archaeological Project involved the use of ground penetrating radar and magnetic gradiometry studies to investigate a number of the locations identified by Steele. In May 2008, studies were undertaken in the car park of the Peninsula Eye Hospital (Prisoners' Barracks), Corscadden Park (Kiln) and 46 Anzac Avenue (Commandant's House). The investigations provided two possible positive results; one from the magnetometry in the parkland and one from the ground penetrating radar at 46 Anzac Avenue. Figure 2 shows the results of the GPR at the 46 Anzac Avenue site. The stippled area was interpreted by the geophysicists as a 'floor' and the blue rectangles were interpreted as the remains of 'walls'. No interpretation was provided for the discontinuity in the floor located near the shed.

Because of the strong indication of remnants of the Commandant's House at 46 Anzac Avenue archaeological excavations were undertaken at the site in December 2008 as Stage 2 of the project. Unfortunately the feature in the GPR interpreted as a 'floor' was, on archaeological investigation, found to be the watertable. Likewise the features interpreted as 'walls' were on excavation found to be drains (Figure 3).

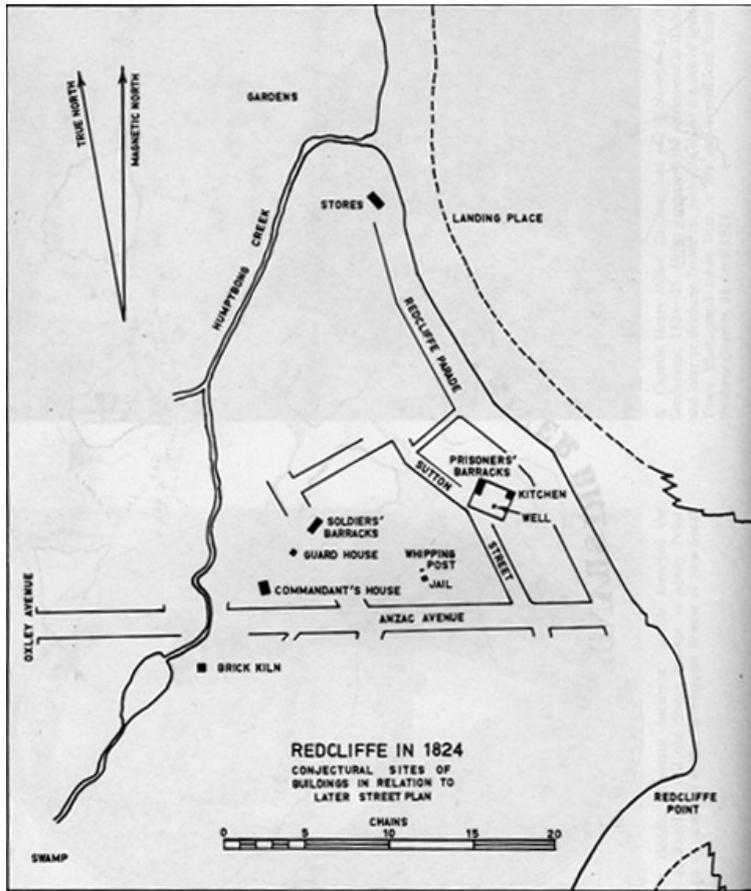


Figure 1: Steele's conjectural map (J. Steele, *Redcliffe in 1824*, 1972)

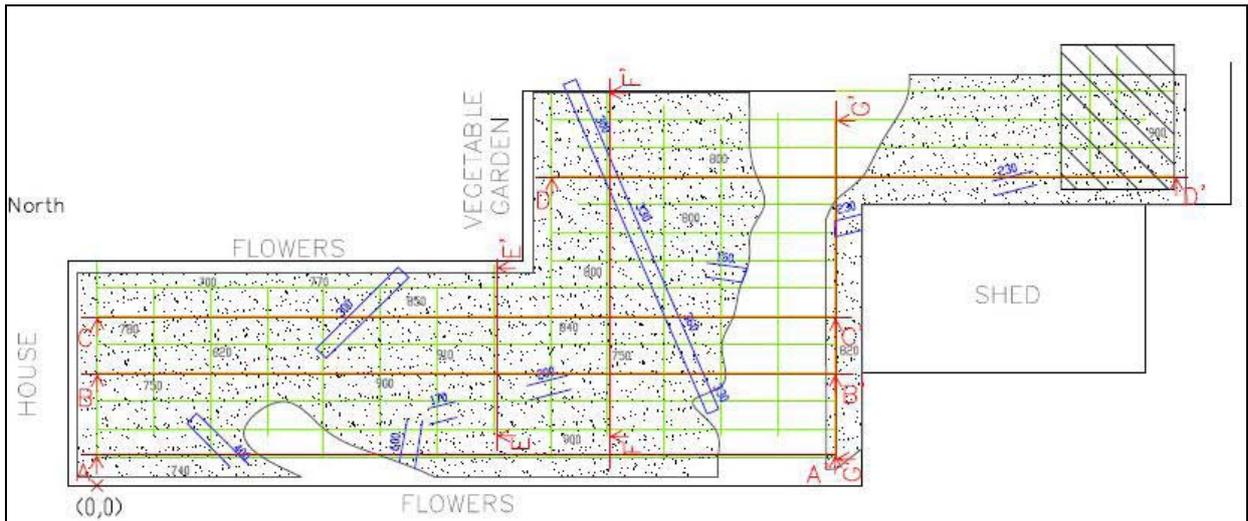


Figure 2: GPR result at 46 Anzac Avenue, Redcliffe



Figure 3: Drain resting on the watertable

Stage 3 of the project involved archaeological excavation at the site identified by Steele as the possible location of the brick kiln, in Corscadden Park Redcliffe to the east of Humpybong Creek. The excavation was timed to coincide with the annual Redcliffe First Settlement Festival and was conducted as a public excavation, with 41 members of the public, 74 local primary and high school students, and 39 undergraduate archaeology students from The University of Queensland taking part.



Figure 4: Artificially fashioned timber

Trenches were laid out according to the findings of the magnetic gradiometry study conducted previously. The stratigraphy of the site was complex with evidence of a number of fill layers above the original creek bank. No features were identified, however a piece of artificially fashioned timber (Figure 4) measuring 32cm long by 7cm square was located 7cm below the interface of the fill and the creek bank. The timber was associated with charcoal and small clumps of burnt earth and clay with small rounded pebble inclusions. Small burnt pebbles were concreted into the nodules of burnt earth and this 'slag'-like material was all found within 25cm of the timber artefact in the same stratigraphic unit.

As per Section 89 of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* the Heritage Branch of the Department of Environment and Resource Management was notified of the find. The timber is currently undergoing conservation at the Queensland Museum.

It is possible that the wood and burnt material derive from a First Settlement era kiln located on the creek bank. It is unlikely that they were deposited in this location by the action of the creek waters. No other wood (artefactual or otherwise) was identified in any stratigraphic unit along the creek bank and it is unlikely that the concreted, burnt earth would have floated. A working hypothesis is that the timber and the burnt earth derive from activities associated with a kiln such as the cleaning out of the kiln and depositing the material on the creek bank.

Stage 4 of the project will involve further excavation of the parkland in an attempt to identify more material that may originate from the kiln. This excavation will take place in early 2010.

Jonathan Prangnell and Linda Terry

TASMANIA NEWS

Compiled by Greg Jackman

HERITAGE TASMANIA

Predevelopment Guidelines

Heritage Tasmania has released draft Guidelines to guide proponents and consultants, and to help to establish a clearer bench mark for the identification, protection and management of historic heritage places when new infrastructure or developments are being considered or assessed that are: i) listed in one form or another; ii) known but not listed or iii) discovered during the course of a development. The link to the Guidelines is: www.heritage.tas.gov.au/showItem.php?id=1629

The Guidelines reflect current industry and best practice, and aim to ensure that Heritage Tasmania's position and stance on consultant's briefs is clear and consistent when advice is given on such work to Government, developers and investors. Heritage Tasmania aims for this to be a useful resource in developing briefs for consultants and ensuring consultants are clear about the recommended standards in Tasmania.

The Guidelines are subject to review. Heritage Tasmania's intention is to trial them and review them in mid-2010. If ASHA members wish to provide feedback on them, please direct enquiries to Angela McGowan Angela.McGowan@heritage.tas.gov.au

Legislative Review

ASHA members were invited to a recent forum to assist the Tasmanian State Government explore the best ways by which local and state heritage significance thresholds might be applied in Tasmania.

The forum included presentations from three practitioners. Heritage Tasmania also presented an overview of their discussion paper. Individual Tasmanian ASHA members who attended the forum will be providing feedback to the paper. If members in other states wish to participate, copies of the discussion paper are available by emailing ester.guerzoni@heritage.tas.gov.au. Any comments on the paper should be emailed to Ester by 15 December 2009.

Ester Guerzoni

ASHA/AIMA NATIONAL CONFERENCE 'IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT'

September is a special time of year. The onset of spring sees the winter blues left behind, the daylight hours getting gradually longer, allowing us to enjoy the clear, crisp days and revel in the emergence of new life around us. Birds fill the air with song and fluffy animals loll around in postcoital bliss. Ah yes, September.

September is also known for a couple of inconsequential sporting events.

It is actually best known for its conferences. September 2009 hosted – amongst many others – the Queensland Rural Women's Network State Conference, the Anglicare Conference and the 7th Australasian Conference on Safety and Quality in Health Care. Interesting stuff. September also hosted the joint-ASHA/AIMA annual conference. As most of you were there, I don't really need to go into much detail.

It was held at Launceston, Tasmania, Australia, between the 24th – 26th of that magic month. The venue of choice was the Tramsheds, attached to the historic Inveresk railyards. A most excellent venue it turned out to be, the auditorium and breakout spaces of perfect dimensions to accommodate the 100+ archaeologists and assorted hangers-on who had flooded into Launceston by transatmospheric orbiter and water-based transports. The food, by all accounts, was top-notch, providing energy for flagging delegates and placating the nerves of those about to mount the stage. Over 60 papers were presented, each and every one assisted ably by the volunteer technical expertise of Liz Fitzgerald. Nothing broke, nothing exploded, which was a major achievement.

Of events there were plenty. The whole shebang kicked off with tours of Brickendon and Woolmers by Jody Steele, running concurrently with tours of Low Head and the Bass & Flinders Centre by Peta Knott. The night of the 23rd witnessed the Reception drinks at the Phenomenon Factory, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, where fine Tasmanian fare was served by fine Tasmanian people to archaeologists. A short rest on the 24th, before the conference dinner at The Pavilion and the final drinks at Blue Café on the 26th. As a mark of sure success, litres of booze were drunk at all events, with various cabals of merry archaeologists wending their way through the friendly streets of Launceston to further establishments, where they could all sit down and discuss matters of import over a sherry.

The whole event was a massive success, with the hard-working committee receiving many emails and pigeon-borne missives congratulating them upon one of the best conferences in the whole history of the World. Launceston is, apparently, still recovering, with the proprietors of a number

of public houses having shut their doors and moved to Jamaica on the strength of their September takings.

In closing, it is fit and proper to list all the sponsors who made this conference possible: Parks & Wildlife Service, Tasmania, Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, Port Arthur Historic Sites, Godden Mackay Logan, Forest Practices Authority, Heritage Tasmania, Austral Tasmania and Flinders University.

Conference Committee:

Denise Gaughwin (Chair)

Angela McGowan

Brad Williams

Elsbeth Wishart

Greg Jackman

Jody Steele

Linda Clark

Peta Knott

Richard Tuffin

Moneyman and Propaganda Chief of the ASHA/AIMA Conference 2009

ARCTAS PTY LTD

Arguably Tasmania's most overworked archaeological consulting firm, ARCTAS has been flat out over recent months on a number of significant infrastructure development projects, including excavations at the site of the Royal Pavilion Inn (1820s – c.1840) and Crooked Billet Inn at Brighton (c.1819 – 1860) as part of the Brighton Bypass project. ARCTAS has also been advising on the finalisation of the innovative archaeological display apertures and showcases at the new Menzies Centre. For a succinct project summary see: www.heritage.tas.gov.au/showItem.php?id=1165

Parry Kostoglou

PORT ARTHUR HISTORIC SITE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Port Arthur Public Archaeology Program – January 2010

Well, it's that time of year again. The Port Arthur Historic Site Summer Archaeology program is gearing up for January 2010. The focus of this year's investigation is an 1850s convict sawpit and tannery complex. Following the closure of the penal settlement in 1877, these sawpits were used for approximately 30 years as a rubbish dump by the local township. The result is a very interesting site that speaks to issues that include convict labour practices, and early twentieth-century rural lifeways. The associated Public Archaeology Program is a great opportunity for visitors to learn more about the Historic Site in a hands-on way. One of the highlights of this year's public program will be the award-winning "Kids Dig Port Arthur" in which younger folk, and the young at heart have the opportunity to get their hands dirty and learn about how archaeologists use sites and artefacts to investigate history. Other activities on offer will include

opportunities for visitors and volunteers to try their hand at excavating, public presentations, and a display on archaeology at Port Arthur. The program will be staffed by Port Arthur staff and contract archaeologists, assisted by twelve student volunteers.

Annita Waghorn

ASHA CONFERENCE 2009

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2008-2009 [MARTIN GIBBS]

Before starting this year's report I would like to thank my two Vice Presidents, Dr Penny Crook and Dr Mac North, who are stepping down to devote more time to their new families. Working with them has been a great pleasure and both have volunteered to continue to direct or assist with specific projects.

Also, I would like to thank Dr Mary Casey, who is stepping down from her position as editor after a number of very productive years. The journal is a particularly difficult and often thankless task that includes not only the editorial aspects, but many of the logistic and other arrangements associated with printing. Mary will now be taking up the role of general editor to guide the expanding portfolio of ASHA publications.

In her place (and now that I have pointed out what a difficult position it is) we welcome Dr Tracy Ireland who has agreed to be our new journal editor. Tracy has been a long-term ASHA member who has served in various roles over the years, and most recently as our representative on the now defunct NCHF. She brings with her a wealth of editorial experience which will ensure the journal continues to be an exciting and relevant forum for historical archaeological research.

Thanks also to Dr Rick McGovern-Wilson for once again editing the Newsletter.

As always thanks to Katrina Stankowski the society's secretary for ensuring that things happen when they are meant to, and to Dr Kylie Seretis for her role as ASHA's Treasurer, as well as Sue Singleton our previous treasurer for kindly assisting with the transfer of duties. Finally, thanks to the rest of the committee for their many contributions throughout the year.

Executive and Committee Meetings

During 2008-2009 the Executive convened six times in face-to-face meetings in Sydney. In addition there were two teleconferences with the General Committee and numerous email exchanges as required.

New ASHA Website

Much of the committee's energies and efforts in the past year (especially on the part of Project Director Penny Crook) have been connected to the development of the new ASHA website, including website design, collection of information on past committees and regional contacts and activities, organising for new on-line payment systems, as well as scanning of past publications. With the shift to a new, significantly enhanced website we hope to shift ASHA into the digital era, meet the expectations of our existing membership by making renewals and purchases easier, and encourage new members by providing incentives such as a members section with electronic versions of the most recent journals.

The website is also part of an intended wider Australasian and international push for greater recognition of the society's activities. After a recent edition of the American SHA journal included

an editorial bemoaning the lack of publication on the Overseas Chinese, despite ASHA having published on this theme regularly, including the whole of Volume 21 (in 2003), we realised that ASHA was not promoting itself widely enough or making its work sufficiently accessible. To that end a decision has been made (after considerable deliberation) to make all but the last 5 years of the journal freely available via the new website. Given that existing hard copy stocks of the earlier journal are almost gone, this seems like one way to get our work out there and recognised. Members will also be able to access the latest five years (with a delay for the current issue) in electronic form via the members section of the website. We are also signing an agreement with *Informat e-Library* (see below) to ensure indexing of our papers so that they appear on Google searches.

On-line membership renewals and new memberships are obviously a far more attractive option to most members and will considerably reduce the administrative workloads of the secretary and administrative assistant (the ever-reliable Cynthia Patterson).

We are also hoping that a more responsive website will also allow us to recast the State Representative roles, originally created to collect regional news but a little irrelevant in the era of email. Although the State Reps will still be ASHA's ear to the ground for any situations needing our response (such as reviews of heritage legislation, etc), we will be now asking them to collect and updating local information; HA sites that interested people can visit, local HA publications, news and events. We would like to see the ASHA website becoming a better resource not just to our members, but also to the general public, educators and administrators wanting to know more about historical archaeology, especially in their own area.

The roll-out of the site will be progressive so watch out for announcements of new features.

Submissions and Reviews

Thanks to an appeal to the Higher Education Research Data Collection group of the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, *Australasian Historical Archaeology* has been granted a level 'A' ranking, placing in the top category of research journals. What this means is that papers published in AHA receive the full accreditation and recognition by the Federal education authorities and the university sector. This was a matter of great concern as particularly our academic members are under great pressure to only publish in 'A' journals and failure to obtain the ranking would have reduced our pool of authors considerably.

Conferences

Thanks to the organisers of the very successful 'Archaeology from Below' combined ASHA/AIMA/AAMH conference held in Adelaide last year. In addition to the fascinating papers and excellent array of international guest speakers the conference also set a new benchmark for excellence in food and especially wine. Our thanks to all of the organisers and sponsors, especially Jennifer McKinnon and Jason Raupp.

Planning & Finances

Finances: ASHA is in a healthy financial position (more in the Treasurer's report), although the shift to the June membership year is still working its way through the system. We also have high hopes that with the change to the on-line secure payment system associated with the new website that we'll have a much better (and faster response) from renewing members, as well as a greater capacity to attract new members).

One very pleasant surprise is that ASHA has been granted \$7000 per year for the next 3 years from the Federal Government's GVEHO (Grants for Volunteer and Environment Heritage Organisations) scheme. Usually we receive \$1500-\$2500 per year after submitting a significant amount of paperwork annually. This has paid for part of the administrative assistant's wages. The extra funding now allows us to pay for the establishment and development of the new website without dipping too hard into the ASHA coffers.

Membership fees: After discussion by the committee it was decided that membership/subscription fees should stay at the same rate, although obviously we will continue to keep a close eye on the subscription rates for comparable Australian and international journals, the global financial situation (which impacts on the costs of producing the journal) and our own coffers. We are still reviewing the current membership structure and will be proposing to eliminate the little-used Household Membership category.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2008-2009 [PENNY CROOK]

Website Upgrade

I reported at the 2008 AGM on investigations into the upgrade of the ASHA website to allow for a range of features to streamline administration and improve member benefits.

The membership voted to support the creation of a new website using an American webhosting and membership management package at a cost of \$2,500 USD with ongoing costs of \$170 USD per month.

Shortly thereafter, the global financial crisis struck and the value of AUD plummeted making this option far too costly and unstable in the long-term.

So it was back to the drawing board and after scoping cheaper overseas and other local options, the Committee decided to contract a Sydney-based web design company called The Web Showroom. While they do not provide a 'membership management' package per se, their content management system offered an excellent basis to adapt our needs to fit an established, user-friendly web hosting package with ongoing support. In this respect, they presented the middle ground between the all-in-one American membership management package and a fully customised, one-off build by an independent web designer.

While the initial cost of \$3,995 was high, the on-going hosting costs are much lower, being \$49.95 per month.

The site build began in March and after many trials and much tribulation, the site was launched on 18 August. I'd like to thank all those who helped with the build by supplying text and images and scanning old documents—in particular Martin Gibbs and Mac North.

The New Site

In addition to an all new look, there is much new content:

- Volumes 1-25 of *Australasian Historical Archaeology* (vols. 21-25 are available to member only)
- A special section for book reviews from *AHA*
- Complete archive of newsletters
- PDFs of out-print publications from the occasional papers and other series

- A news module for current new items
- Updated page content for most pages
- More information about past committees
- New sections on 'What is Historical Archaeology' and 'Historical Archaeology' with information for the general public

New features include:

- Online payments¹ for membership subscriptions and books
- 'My Membership' section for member to check and update their contact details
- Secure pages for members to access protected content

On the administrative side, the benefits include:

- Much more efficient email broadcasting
- Centralised management of members list with 'live' information for the secretary, treasurer and admin officer
- A user-friendly web management system that you don't need to be a web designer to use

Problems

Unsurprisingly, the process of adapting our customised membership database into The Web Showroom's general web-based content management system required some compromises. While they were able to adapt their systems to meet our special needs for most issues, some were not possible. The issue of greatest concern is the management of **Household** memberships. In our own database, we were able to record the individual names and email addresses of both household members. In the new system, this is problematical and only one email address can be stored for both members.

Future opportunities

As with all 'live' content, the website is still a work-in-progress. There are more publications to scan and new content to upload. In addition, The Web Showroom package has other features which will improve other areas of society business, including:

Multiple-year Subscriptions

- Members could have the option to purchase a three-year or five-year membership. This may be attractive to members who don't like the hassle of renewing each year (even though it will be much easier now with online payments!), but aren't up for the life membership
- It may be feasible to offer a small discount (e.g. 5%) to reflect the savings in administration costs—subject to a thorough review by the treasurer

Newsletter

- Online submission of articles and images
- Preparation online (to streamline formatting)

¹ As at 20 August only Paypal payments are accepted. Secure credit-card payments will be available soon.

- Delivery of the newsletter in html

Email discussion list

- Integration of the email discussion list into the new site to streamline the management of new email addresses
- Alternatively, the email discussion list could be managed as an online blog, accessible to members only

Committee elections

- Online submission of nomination forms for committee positions using the secure members only section of the site
- Online endorsement of nominees using the members only section of the site
- Online submission of proxy forms, again using the members only section of the site

In all cases, the act of logging into the site with the member's unique username and password would be deemed as sufficient proof of a) the member's current status and b) consent to nominate, endorse a nominee or appoint a proxy.

The submission of nomination forms would require a minor amendment to the constitution (see below). The membership supports this motion, the system could be trialled in 2010.

The submission of proxy forms would require a more considered amendment to the constitution and should be reviewed following the trial of the nomination submissions, should it go ahead.

Please note there is no proposal to conduct online elections, which would require a major change to the 'secret ballot' principles contained within the constitution.

Recommendation

That the following motions be put to the 2009 AGM:

1. That ASHA offers multiple year subscriptions, effective from 1 July 2010
2. Subject to 1, that the Treasurer investigates the feasibility of a small discount on multiple-year subscriptions
3. Amend section 9.8 of the constitution from:

9.8 A nomination shall name the candidate and the position for which election is sought and shall be signed by not less than 2 members.

To:

9.8 A nomination shall name the candidate and the position for which election is sought and shall be signed **or otherwise endorsed, to the satisfaction of the Returning Officer,** by not less than 2 members.

4. Subject to 3, trial the online submission of nomination forms for committee positions using the secure members-only section of the website in 2010.

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2008-2009 [KATRINA STANKOWSKI]

Society Administration

Admin Officer

Cynthia Paterson has continued on 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. Since December, Cynthia has been undertaking this role from her base in Adelaide with Martin Gibbs providing additional support in clearing the mailbox and forwarding all correspondence to her on a weekly basis. In the coming months, Cynthia will also begin to process all membership payments made through the new ASHA website.

Correspondence

Ninety five percent of correspondence with the Society arrived via the post box and email in 2009 and relates to membership renewals and publication orders. ASHA continues 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 Martin Gibbs.

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(ish) throughout 2008-9.

Membership

Membership renewals were not mailed out this year in anticipation of the new website coming online in mid August. The new website will contain a 'Members Only' section which will allow members to alter their personal details and facilitate the renewal of memberships in a secure web environment.

Whilst membership renewal forms were sent out with the call for committee nominations, however, the majority of members hadn't renewed their memberships when the call for new committee nominations went out for the AGM, meaning the numbers of people available to nominate themselves or others to the committee has decreased.

With the new website on line, membership renewals began immediately, with over 25 in the first two days, as well as several publication orders.

2008-09 Membership Renewals

At the end of the 08-09 membership year (1 July 08 to 30 Jun 09), ASHA had 384 members (including 23 life or non-financial members). This includes **41** new members and 1 new Life Memberships.

	New Members	Renewals	Total	Fees Due	Operating Total	Cancelled	Revenue for 2008-2009
Individual	21	182	203	64	267	1	\$12,260
Household		7	7	4	11		\$490.00
Corporate	2	29	31	2	33	1	\$3,300
Student	14	16	30	18	48	1	\$1,220
Pensioner/Unwaged	2	8	10	2	12		\$400
Individual (OS)	1	6	7	1	8		\$595
Corporate (OS)	1	2	3	1	4		\$700
Student (OS)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Financial Members		250	291	93	384	3	\$18,965
Life	1	19	20		20		\$1,200
Copyright Deposit/Other		4	4		4		
Corporate – Reciprocal		1	1		1		
Non-Financial Members		25	25		25		\$1,200
Total Members	41	275	316	93	409	3	\$20,165

Annual Trends

	Renewals	New Members	New Life Members	Total Financial	Total members
2003	195	61	1	257	280
2004	222	71	1	294	318
2005	266	40		306	331
2006	295	35	1	331	356
2007	301	63	1	365	390
2008	275	42	1	384	409
2009	18			18	43

Committee Meetings

Two teleconferences have been held over the past year:

29 October 2008, 10am–11.00am: attendees were Susan Piddock, Mary Casey, Greg Jackman, Penny Crook, Martin Gibbs, Kylie Seretis, Rick McGovern-Wilson, Maclaren North & Katrina Stankowski. Apologies were given by Jody Steele & Brad Duncan. Issues discussed were appointment of committee positions for the coming year, problems with the ASHA list moderation delay, newsletter compilation updates and problems with obtaining information through the State Reps, design and finance plans for the new website upgrade, a 2009 conference planning update, potential conference speaker funding from ASHA, lack of student participation in the

conference, publication sales and updates on future monographs. Rick McGovern-Wilson and Greg Jackman left the conference at 10:30. The conference ended at 11am.

20 July 2009, 10am–11.00am: Katrina Stankowski, Jody Steele, Martin Gibbs, Rick McGovern-Wilson, Brad Duncan, Kylie Seretis, Maclaren North & Penny Crook were in attendance, with Greg Jackman, Susan Piddock and Mary Casey presenting their apologies. In addition to regular reporting and updates on continuing projects, the following matters were discussed: the new website upgrade, ASHA conference donations, the ASHA Journal made available using Informit E-Library, next years committee nominations, the compilation of news for the newsletter and lack of state rep participation, GVEHO Grants, the Admin Officer position and future membership prices. The conference ended at 11am.

Publication Sales

A stock-take was conducted by the Publications Distributions Officer, Peter Davies, in June (see details below). The table below details all publications sales throughout the year, with the new Port Essington Monograph being the stand out seller, with over \$2500 generated from sales. The majority of other sales, including journal sales and journal sets took place at last years conference.

PUBLICATION SALES (As at 1 July 2009)

Publication	Number Sold	Sales
An Archaeological Guide to British Ceramics in Australia, 1788–1901	27	\$940
Australasian Historical Archaeology Volume 20	1	\$20
Australasian Historical Archaeology Volume 21	4	\$110
Australasian Historical Archaeology Volume 23	5	\$125
Australasian Historical Archaeology Volume 24	4	\$120
Australasian Historical Archaeology Volume 25	1	\$30
Australasian Historical Archaeology Volume 26	2	\$198
Australasian Historical Archaeology Volume 3	1	\$10
Australasian Historical Archaeology Volume 4	1	\$10
Australasian Historical Archaeology Volume 5	1	\$10
Australasian Historical Archaeology Volume 6	1	\$10
Australasian Historical Archaeology Volume 9	1	\$10
Back-issue set: Special Price for New Members and Students.	11	\$1,100
Nineteenth Century Salt Manufacturing Sites in Tasmania	3	\$21
Port Essington: The historical archaeology of a north Australian nineteenth-century military outpost	64	\$2,875
Printed Ceramics in Australia	3	\$22
The Archaeology of Whaling in Southern Australia and New Zealand	3	\$75

The Marseilles or French Pattern Tile in Australia	5	\$24
Grand Total	138	\$5,710

ASHA PUBLICATIONS INVENTORY (June 2009)

<i>Journals</i>	<i>Qty</i>
Volume 1 **Out of Stock**	0
Volume 2 **Out of Stock**	0
Volume 3	119
Volume 4	23
Volume 5	92
Volume 6	38
Volume 7 **Out of Stock**	0
Volume 8	77
Volume 9	184
Volume 10	100
Volume 11	130
Volume 12 **Out of Stock**	0
Volume 13 **Out of Stock**	0
Volume 14 **Out of Stock**	0
Volume 15 **Out of Stock**	0
Volume 16 **Out of Stock**	0
Volume 17 **Out of Stock**	0
Volume 18 **Out of Stock**	0
Volume 19 **Out of Stock**	0
Volume 20	60
Volume 21	68
Volume 22	97
Volume 23	76
Volume 24	95
Volume 25	79
<i>Monographs</i>	<i>Qty</i>
Port Essington	49
Wybalenna **Out of Stock**	0
Salt Manufacturing	31
Printed Ceramics in Australia	8
Marseilles Tile	14
Whaling	102
Ross Bridge	7
British Ceramics Publication	35
British Ceramics CD	34
1901: Australian Life at Federation	3

TREASURER'S REPORT 2008-2009 [KYLIE SERETIS]

Overview

ASHA's financial position remains comfortable with net assets of \$65,098, significantly higher than that of 2008. An amount of \$16,435 was received for membership subscriptions (late payments and new memberships). The overall financial result for 2009 is a surplus of \$11,665.

An update will be provided at the AGM.

Grants

In May this year ASHA received a three year grant of \$7,000 per annum under the Grants to Voluntary Environment and Heritage Organisations (GVEHO) from the Commonwealth Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.

2008 Financial Audit Results

The 2008 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 2008, and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year, in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

The 2009 audit is underway and the results should be ready for presentation at the AGM.

Investment Accounts

ASHA has two investment accounts this year and now holds two \$10,000 term deposit accounts with Bendigo Bank. Total interest earned to date is \$1,550. This money will help to fund the ASHA Awards program.

Sponsorships

ASHA currently has three sponsors for the Awards program to a total amount of \$5,500.

Publications

Income from general publication sales was \$1,918. Income from sales of ASHA'S 2005 publication *An Archaeological Guide to British Ceramics in Australia 1788-1901* amount to an overall total of \$946. Orders for the first title in the monograph series, *Port Essington: The historical archaeology of a north Australian nineteenth-century military outpost*, amounts to a total \$3,043.

Conference Finds and Advance

ASHA has provided a float of \$1,000 to the 2009 Conference organisers and this will be recovered from conference profits.

In light of the recent three year grant from GVEHO the ASHA committee agreed to provide \$1,000 towards a guest speaker at this year's conference.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT (*For the year ended 30 June 2009*)

RECEIPTS	2009	2008
Award funding	550.00	0
Sales of publications	1,918.00	4,433.00
Sales of <i>British Ceramics</i>	946.00	792.00
Sales of <i>Port Essington</i>	3,043.80	836.35
Subscriptions	16,435.00	8,965.00
Grant Funding	0	1,500.00
Conference Revenue	0	3,870.02
Investment A/C Interest	1,550.17	1,044.58
Other	4,472.76	2,570.40
TOTAL RECEIPTS	28,915.73	24,011.35

Expenditure	2009	2008
Admin Assistant	5,187.50	4,068.75
Stationery	368.44	200.13
Publication - Journal	0	8,724.10
Publication - Other	2,700.01	7,475.90
Merchant Fees	667.16	444.86
Postage General	1,834.04	1,792.40
Journal Postage	1,349.10	961.85
Printing	1,428.15	448.38
Telephone	140.00	568.10
Internet/Web Page Hosting	1,691.35	0
Newsletter mail out	282.95	669.50
Insurance	575.00	485.00
Audit	660.00	550.00
Conference Advance	0	2,000.00
Refunds	20.00	73.00
Awards	200.00	200.00
Bank Charges	3.00	2.00
Sundry expenses	144.00	1,611.52
EXPENDITURE	17,250.70	30,275.49
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	17,250.70	30,275.49
Operating Surplus	11,665.03	-\$6,264.14

BANK RECONCILIATION*As at 30 June 2009***Operating A/C Card A/C**

Credits	32,317.56	181.55
Debits	16,447.58	613.00
	15,869.98	-431.45
Opening balance	26,106.92	679.95
Balance	41,967.73	248.50
Less U/P chqs	0	0.00
Closing balance	41,967.73	248.50

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET*as at 30 June 2009*

Current Assets	2009	2008
Current Assets per Cash Books		
_ Bendigo Bank Operating A/C	41,967.73	26,106.92
_ Bendigo Bank Card A/C	248.50	679.95
_ Investment A/C (1)	11,978.43	10,924.24
_ Investment A/C (2)	10,903.66	10,407.68
Total current assets	65,098.32	48,118.79
Net Assets	65,098.32	48,118.79

ASHA AWARD WINNERS 2009**R. Ian Jack Award for Best Honours Thesis**

Sarah Kelloway, University of Sydney, *King of Irrawang: Chemical analysis of colonial ceramics*

This project explores the value of chemical characterisation of local colonial ceramics for future studies in their archaeological context. Earthenware sherds from the Irrawang pottery were analysed using a suite of chemical techniques. This created a chemical reference group for future comparative and raw sources research, allowing some insight into manufacturing processes at Irrawang.

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

Anne Mackay, Richard Mackay and Liam Mannix (Godden Mackay Logan) and Liz Holt (International Conservation Services), *The Rocks DIG Site: Sydney Harbour YHA and the Big Dig Education Centre Archaeological Heritage Management Plan*

The AHMP provides a comprehensive guide for the multidisciplinary team involved in the conservation, adaptation and interpretation of the Dig Site in the Rocks, Sydney as a youth hostel and education centre. Drawing on previous work, the AHMP succinctly summarised the nature and significance of the archaeological remains and offers clear guidance for their protection during construction works, plus techniques for ensuring their long-term conservation.

Martin Davies Award for Best Public Archaeology Initiative

Edward Higginbotham, Edward Higginbotham and Associates, in association with Belgenny Farm Trust, Camden Park Environmental Education Centre and Camden High School, *Test-Excavation of "The Small Miserable Hut", Belgenny Farm, Camden, NSW*

The Belgenny Farm Trust commissioned Edward Higginbotham to undertake test excavations in 2008 at the first residence of the Macarthur family at Camden. The excavation located the 3 building shown on the 1840 Estate Plan, of which was identified as the early hut. The dig involved the participation of Year 11 students at Camden Public School who created a website for the project and the excavation results will be used to expand the education programs of the Camden Park Environmental Education Centre.

Ilma Powell Honorary Life Membership Award for Distinguished Service to ASHA

Dr Aedeem Cremin

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

ASHA CONFERENCE 2010

The annual ASHA conference for 2010 is currently being planned to be held in Brisbane from Tuesday 28 September to Saturday 2 October.

Further details will be provided as arrangements are made.

The Conference Organising Committee can be contacted as follows:

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ASHA AWARDS PROGRAM 2010

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 (for theses completed in 2009)

Maureen Byrne Award for Best Post-Graduate Thesis (for theses completed in 2008 or 2009)

Judy Birmingham Award for Best Historical Archaeology Heritage Report (sponsored by Comber Consultants) (for reports completed in 2009)

Martin Davies Award for Best Public Archaeology Initiative (for projects carried out in 2009)

Nominations are due by 31 March 2010. The awards will be announced at the ASHA conference in Brisbane.

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

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

As we come to the end of another year, I just want to record some thoughts about the Newsletter. Four issues of the newsletter were delivered in the past year and I feel that they continue to be of high quality, due to the efforts of the Guest Editors. 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, including New Zealand.

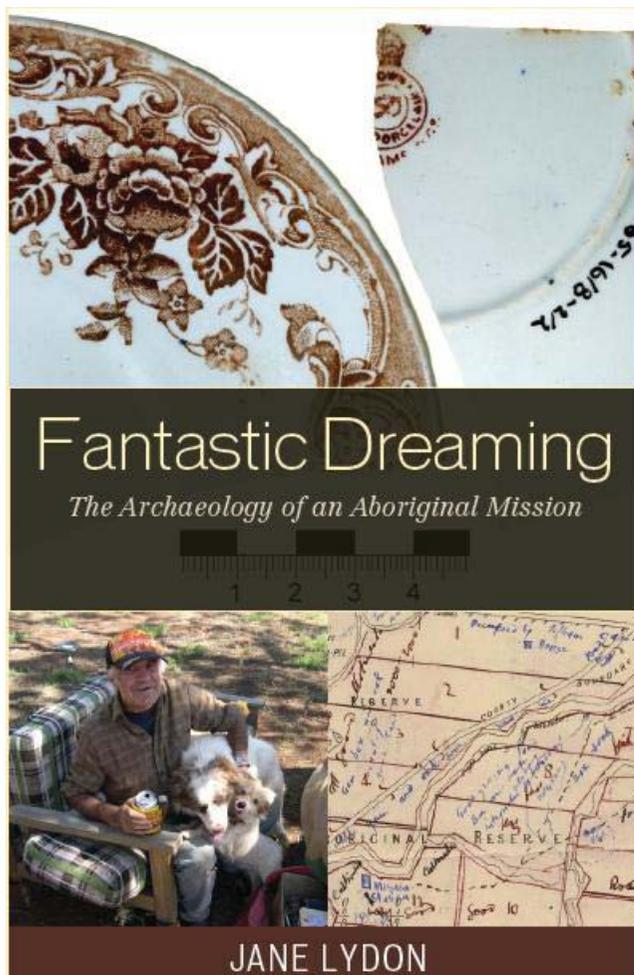
I would particularly like to thank the State reps for all the work they do, and especially those regular contributors who do continue to send in news reports.

As announced at the AGM, I have decided to do the Newsletter myself next year, without the use of Guest Editors, in order to reduce the double-handling of material. I will ask the Secretary to send a group email to all the members when it is time for each issue, requesting they send information back through to their State Reps who will pass it back to the Editor. I will also work more closely with the State Reps to ensure we are picking up material.

All the best for the summer season, and we'll see you all again next year.

Rick McGovern-Wilson

Editor



Paperback \$49.95

ISBN: 9780759111059



From their earliest encounters, European settlers have evaluated Australian Aboriginal people on the basis of their material culture. This book shows how colonial practices of controlling and transforming Indigenous people centred upon material goods and practices, and especially their domestic environment. In this view objects are equated with identity, an essentialising approach that still persists within archaeological analysis. Through the example of Ebenezer Mission in south-eastern Australia, this study explores the complex role of material culture and spatial politics in shaping colonial identities.

Available from:

Readings Carlton
309 Lygon St, Carlton
Victoria 3053
Phone 93476633

"Lydon's *Fantastic Dreaming* represents an important contribution to our understanding of the complexities of cross-cultural exchange in Australian history. Focused on the mission site of Ebenezer in Victoria, Lydon skillfully weaves a story of transformation and persistence that is grounded in a deep

engagement with the place, its people, and material culture recovered through survey and excavation. Significantly, Lydon's story acknowledges the importance of Ebenezer to those whose lives it has touched in so many ways, and it provides an exemplar of how researchers and indigenous people can together create compelling history."

Timothy Murray, La Trobe University

"This book adds another layer to our increasing understanding of the nuances and subtleties of culture contact and colonialism in all its guises. Lydon provides an account of mission society that is rich in detail and profound in sensitivity. Archaeologists would be wise to emulate her ... She sets a high standard for historical archaeology."

Charles E. Orser, Jr., New York State Museum

Jane Lydon is a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Australian Indigenous Studies at Monash University.



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FORTHCOMING NEWSLETTERS

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

<i>Mar 2009 issue</i>	Susan Piddock	spiddock@ozemail.com.au
<i>June 2009 issue</i>	Caitlin Allen	caitlin.allen@commerce.nsw.gov.au
<i>Sept 2009 issue</i>	Linda McCarthy	lmccy@optusnet.com.au
<i>Dec 2009 issue</i>	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
General Editor
ASHA Newsletter

Email: newsletter@asha.org.au

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