



NEWSLETTER

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STATE OF THE ART

ACT NEWS

Compiled by Richard Morrison

HERITAGE AND WILDLIFE DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY, ENVIRONMENT, WATER, POPULATION AND COMMUNITIES (DSEWPAC)

Your Community Heritage Grants – On 22/5/12, Minister Tony Burke announced more than \$9.8 million in funding for 237 *Your Community Heritage* projects. These projects will assist communities across Australia to share and celebrate their heritage, protect historic sites, commemorate the graves and monuments of eminent people and restore heritage places damaged by natural disasters. The press release notes that the first round of *Your Community Heritage* funding includes:

- 153 innovative projects to share community heritage stories that have strong community support
- 39 projects to celebrate community heritage
- 6 projects to commemorate the graves and monuments of eminent Australians
- 6 projects to help communities restore heritage places damaged by natural disasters
- 33 projects to protect national historic sites including sites on the National Heritage List.

Further information about the *Your Community Heritage* program is available online at www.environment.gov.au/heritage/programs/ych

Australian Heritage Strategy – In 2010 the Australian Government decided to develop the Australian Heritage Strategy. The intention of the Strategy will be to highlight the importance of heritage to all Australians and provide a common direction for the recognition, protection, commemoration and celebration of heritage across Australia over the next decade. The Strategy seeks to coordinate the significant efforts of government and the private sector in order to build upon achievements over the past few decades.

The Strategy is being prepared in consultation with all state and territory governments, and key stakeholder groups and has the support of the Australian Heritage Council, the Heritage Chairs and Officials of Australia and New Zealand, and the Australian Council of National Trusts.

A public consultation paper has been released which outlines some of the current challenges and opportunities in the heritage sector. Public comment is invited (comments received up to 15/6/12) from the community on how we can best recognise, manage, and interpret our heritage. Comments received will help guide the development of the Australian Heritage Strategy. See <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/strategy/index.html>

The Australian Archaeological Association has encouraged its members to make submissions.

Australian Heritage Week – A successful Australian Heritage Week ran from Saturday 14 April to Sunday 22 April. This was a national celebration of Australia's unique historic, Indigenous and natural heritage with almost 400 individual heritage events taking place across all Australian states and territories around the time of Australian Heritage Week. The Australian Heritage Week website is at: <http://heritage-week.govspace.gov.au>

2012 Federal Budget – The Department will have a net loss of about 50 staff as a result of the Budget. Some of these losses could be felt in the heritage branches either directly, or from contingent, internal staff movements. The way the Department responds internally to changes in its budget, in its allocation of the available funds to the various areas of the Department, could also impact on the heritage area and the delivery of current programmes. The precise nature of impacts on heritage staff and the priorities for work delivery have yet to be made clear.

Council of Australian Governments (COAG) – COAG met in early April 2012 and decided, in response to the discussions at the Business Advisory Forum, to progress major reforms in various areas, such as in the reduction of environment regulation and the fast-tracking of the movement of assessments and approval processes to the states, whilst still maintaining high environmental standards.

These decisions may impact on heritage, although the intention appears not to reduce standards, and also have implications for the future work of Commonwealth environment and heritage staff when current work moves to the states. For instance, in the future more emphasis may be placed at the Commonwealth level on monitoring approval standards rather than on doing development assessments. However, it will be interesting to watch how these highly significant and challenging changes to environment and heritage processes, in both Federal and state/territory jurisdictions, play out.

ANU CENTRE FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH (CAR)

CAR Lecture Series - Dr Mike Pearson, Heritage Management Consultants, is to deliver a lecture on Japan's industrial revolution - 1850-1910: Archaeology, history and cultural meaning at 3:30 PM on Friday 1/6/12, Hedley Bull Theatre 1, Australian National University.

NEW ZEALAND NEWS

Compiled by Rick McGovern-Wilson

WELLINGTON EXCAVATIONS

Mary O'Keeffe investigated a site in Newtown, Wellington, where archaeological material was revealed during construction of a Countdown Supermarket. Newtown is an original suburb of Wellington, established in the 1840s, and has always been characterised as a "working class" end of town. One rubbish pit yielded a small array of ceramics, bottles and leather shoes, and a brick well was disappointingly shallow and empty.

Mary has also recently undertaken an archaeological investigation, on a voluntary basis, of a 1920s dairy farm at Houghton Valley, a suburb in southern Wellington City. This was undertaken as a community event for the local Houghton Valley community, and whilst purity of archaeological technique may have been sacrificed for community enthusiasm, it was massively successful day. A rubbish pit and water tank yielded bottles, ceramics, shoes, large platters, and a huge array of other metal domestic items. A more novel item located was a set of dentures in near perfect condition. Mary is working with a PhD student who is researching the valley, and they plan to map other historic features located along the valley.





Mary O’Keeffe, Heritage Solutions

TAWHIAO COTTAGE

The 4-room wooden cottage at 31 Wallace Road, Mangere Bridge, on the west side of Mangere Mountain, was built on land granted to Tawhiao (the second Maori king) in 1891, after his return from the King Country. The cottage is presumed to date from this time. The land fell out of Maori ownership in the mid-1920s and the cottage ceased to be occupied in 1947. A preliminary analysis of construction techniques and material culture supports this chronology. At the time of excavation in 2012 it was in a ruinous state. It has been moved to the other side of the mountain where it will be restored and incorporated into the Mangere Mountain Education Centre.

The majority of features recorded were within the footprint of the cottage, and consisted of foundation postholes, a chimney base (the brick chimney was deconstructed and will be re-assembled on the new site) and shell midden. The midden consisted of shell, primarily oyster and cockle, which would have been available nearby in the Manukau Harbour, along with fish bone and sawn mammal bone. The chimney was constructed of irregular basalt-scoria blocks, unmortared. Over this a levelling fill of oyster midden had been laid, then a layer of lime and a cement hearth. The midden, then, probably relates to the builders of the house but this had all been thoroughly turned over by rat burrowing so it will probably be impossible to distinguish any differences between midden deposited by the builders of the house and by its subsequent occupants, both within and outside the cottage footprint. The majority of artefacts were also found under the cottage, often mixed into the midden layer by rats.

Outside the cottage footprint a few postholes, small rubbish pits and a probable long-drop toilet were found, along with some shell and scoria paths. This lack of features is not unexpected in what would have been a rural context, with the occupants disposing of waste and rubbish at some distance from the dwelling.



Mat Campbell, CFG Heritage Ltd

NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWS

Compiled by Ilka Schacht

THE DEFENCE OF DARWIN EXPERIENCE

The \$10 million Defence of Darwin Experience (DDE) facility opened at Darwin's East Point on 18th February, 2012. The aim of the DDE is to tell the story of the WWII bombing of Darwin from the point of view of the people who were there, who experienced what few of us ever have, and hopefully none of us ever will. It is also a hub where visitors can come to get a basic understanding of the bombing of Darwin in February 1942, but then go out and visit the nine related WWII military heritage sites distributed around the Darwin area – the “distributed experience”. This gives visitors an elevated level of understanding of how Darwin (and its environs) were a vital part of the war effort, how it was changed forever by it, and an insight into the lives that were changed also.

Normally, an exhibition project of this size would allow approximately three years for the research and development of storylines, galleries, and object and artefact preparation. The Defence of Darwin Experience facility was however developed and built over a period of ten months, between May 2011 and 18th February 2012 – making it an exciting but stressful project of extremely high workloads and compressed deadlines.

I was seconded from Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) as a Project Officer on the DDE project, and worked closely for five months with the MAGNT Curator of Territory History, Michelle Smith. Between us we researched all content for the displays, identified and worked with MAGNT conservators and collection managers to prepare and install objects, and sifted through enormous numbers of oral histories and documentary archives to try and tease out a selection of individuals that would help tell the story for us. We eventually identified 41 people from all walks of life whose stories we could use to explain why Darwin is where it is, the defence build-up in the late 1930s, pre- and post-Pearl Harbor, the bombing and its aftermath, the offensive waged from Darwin, and how Darwin fared post-war. These people included a nurse, a ship captain, a policeman, Japanese, US and RAAF pilots, sailors, soldiers, typists, an Administrator, an intelligence officer, a Tiwi man, evacuees, gunners, a chaplain, labourers, and a mechanic.

We used a variety of techniques to tell these stories at the DDE. Foremost among these is the intense use of multimedia technology. By using databases incorporating touch screens we are able to give visitors access to huge amounts of data if they choose to access it. Digital projectors allow us to have large numbers (25-30) of captioned, still images projected in large size and high resolution onto walls, and other technology has enabled us to digitally display highly fragile material, such as the Burstow Diary, without physically impacting the object. A ‘StoryShare’ space provides the opportunity for visitors to the DDE to record their WWII stories, feelings, and experiences or their reactions to the DDE.



The Interactive Table at the DDE



Multimedia databases and digital projections at the DDE

Two major pieces of multimedia are the crowning achievement of the DDE: the Bombing of Darwin Experience Gallery, and the Interactive Table. The first is a twelve minute sound and light production that attempts to give the visitor an impression of what it may have been like to be in Darwin during four hours of the bombing on the 19th Feb 1942. Through quotes, photographs, sound effects, and CGI, the emotional and social impacts of the bombing are explored. The Interactive Table was the most challenging concept to achieve. The large table features a projected aerial view of the Darwin peninsula as it was on the morning of the 19th February, 1942. Four touch screens around the table allow visitors to choose from 28 individuals, exploring who they were, where they were and what happened to them on the day of the bombing.

In amongst all of this multimedia at the DDE are real objects which assist in telling the stories of the individuals involved in the events portrayed. When planning the galleries and their content, we very quickly found that there is a dearth of objects that can be traced back to 19 February 1942, particularly ones that would complement the stories of our 41 individuals. The majority of the objects eventually selected, however, were 'souvenirs' picked up or acquired at the time of the bombing of Darwin. Unlike artefacts recovered from archaeological contexts, all of our objects had been removed from their original context and we had to use a variety of methods to prove or disprove the stories that came with them.

We researched each and every object and image, and had a lot of surprises along the way. Some objects proved not to be quite what they had been portrayed, while others represented very interesting stories that are little known. A few examples are shown below.



Northern Territory Telephone Directory

(Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory collection)

This telephone directory proved to have been found by Mr. Ray Ryan on the afternoon of 19 February 1942 lying in the gutter in front of the newly destroyed Darwin Post Office.



Japanese Flying Goggles

(Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory collection)

Our research showed that these goggles were found in 1981 by Mr. Mike Foley in a tree near Blackfellow Creek on the Cox Peninsula – where they had hung since the owner had crash-landed in February 1942.



Mae West life vest

(Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory collection)

A lot of research showed that Mr. George Whitely had acquired this vest whilst on the hospital ship *Manunda* with the owner, the pilot Lt Glover, who had been shot down on 19 February 1942. The life vest still bears his blood stains from the crash event.



War Damage Commission Arm Band

(Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory collection)

An extremely rare piece of ephemera worn by the donor's grandfather who was one of those appointed by the Government after the bombing to assess damage sustained, in order to compensate civilian losses due to war damage or enemy action.



Don Isidro platter

(Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory collection)

This platter was recovered from the wreck of the *Don Isidro* off Bathurst Island by the husband of the donor. We noted that the platter has a small crest of the company (Del A Rama Steamship Co.) that owned the *Don Isidro*, thus proving its authenticity.

The Defence of Darwin Experience project has been a very valuable initiative. The facility draws attention to the social history of World War II and the Territory's role in Australia's defence strategy. As the focus of Australia's newest National Day of Observance, the story

of the bombing of Darwin is now a part of the new national history curriculum and a key piece of history hitherto unknown by much of the Australian population. The facility has achieved its purpose in fostering an increased awareness of the bombing of Darwin and the Territory's involvement in World War II, as well as attracting locals wanting to learn more about this important time in our history. Importantly it also provides a significant new attraction increasing the Territory's tourism appeal. The facility will continue to develop new stories and provide a focus for further research into the history, heritage and archaeology of the Territory's World War II experience.

For more information about the DDE, please visit: <http://www.defenceofdarwin.nt.gov.au/>

Download the DDE app here: <http://itunes.apple.com/app/defence-of-darwin-experience/id500623218?mt=8>

Jared Archibald, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory

DEVELOPMENT OF THE 17½ MILE CAMP HERITAGE SITE

The 17½ Mile site was first occupied in February 1942 by US troops in the wake of the Japanese bombing raids on Darwin on 19 February 1942. It was so-named because it was established 17½ miles from Darwin on the North-South Road, now known as the Stuart Highway.

The 17½ Mile Camp site is the 'jewel in the crown' of the nine military heritage sites in the Darwin region which are connected to the new Defence of Darwin Experience facility at East Point in Darwin. Work has recently been completed at 17½ Mile Camp, which is designed to facilitate access to, and interpret the history of the site.

The site has a unique capacity to help explain what it was like in Darwin in the desperate days following the Bombing of Darwin. Sgt William Daly from the 147 US Field Regiment based at 17½ Mile Camp recorded the passing of civilians walking down the road as they evacuated Darwin following the Japanese attacks: *"The road past the camp was almost continually filled with refugees, driving cars, walking with a few personal belongings packed with them. A pitiful site. However most of the women and all the children had been evacuated before the war. We fed several negroes who escaped from the ships destroyed at the dock"*¹ Subsequently Australian troops moved to 17½ Mile Camp under the command of Major General Herring. The establishment of the camp was part of a move by Herring to take troops away from the coast to a series of fortified camps along the North-South Road.

Orders that were issued to allied troops in the Darwin area on 27 March 1942, including those at the 17½ Mile Camp, state: "It is expected that the enemy will attempt to land in the Darwin area in the next few days". Troops are ordered to take up a series of positions and in capital letters the order states: "THE AREAS WILL BE HELD TO THE VERY END." However it is important to note that the camps were also intended to be used as a base for counter attacks against the Japanese, in the event of a land invasion. Rayner describes the camps as forming the basis for "vigorous counter attack and aggressive fighting patrols."²

In 2011, the Northern Territory Heritage Branch began working with archaeologists, interpretation specialists, and a graphic artist, to research the history of the site and develop a strategy for conserving the site, with a heavy emphasis on interpretation. The material remains at the site were not exhaustively examined, since the aim for the Heritage

Branch was only to learn enough about the site to enable good decisions to be made about its conservation, and to provide a valuable learning experience for the public. Pathways have been built through the site, and an interpretive shelter has been constructed, and there are a number of interpretive panels scattered through the site. A multi-media experience is available using Smartphone technology.

Work at the 17½ Mile Camp was completed in February 2012, and the site is now open to the public. The project has been a success in a number of areas. As a result of the research conducted into the site, we have greatly increased our understanding of the site and its WWII history. Importantly, the 17½ Mile Camp now has clear public value. The site appeals to a variety of visitors; not only providing a learning experience through the engaging interpretation, but also providing recreational opportunities for those who seek to enjoy the new walking trails at the site.



17½ Mile Camp, location and layout.



Interpretative signage at the 17½ Mile Camp site

¹ Rayner, R. 1995, *The army and the defence of Darwin Fortress: exploding the myths of the critical phase, til September 1942*. Rudder Press, Sydney, p. 224

² Ibid, p. 267

Michael Wells, Director, Heritage Branch, Northern Territory Government

DARWIN NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK 2012 SEMINAR

As a result of the collaboration between the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) and the Northern Territory Heritage Branch, the third NAW Seminar in Darwin was a great success. As in previous years, the programme was divided into three sessions themed as Indigenous history, the colonial period, and WWII.

Daryl Wesley (ANU) kicked off the first session with a presentation about the complexity of cultural change during the contact period in north western Arnhem Land. Examining evidence from the Anuru Bay Macassan trepang processing site and nearby Wellington Range Indigenous archaeological sites, Daryl demonstrated the significant phases of change he has been able to identify in Indigenous mobility before European settlement, which he attributes to the impact of Indonesian seafarer contact on the coasts and islands of northern Australia.

Following on from some of Daryl's themes, Paul Clark (MAGNT) examined recently published images of watercraft from Indigenous rock art in the Wellington Range in Arnhem Land, arguing that one of these may be a European steamship from the mid to late 19th century rather than the suggested Dutch tall ship dating to 1700-1813. Fortuitously, the audience for Paul's talk contained some of the authors of the originally published image,

which resulted in a very interesting and engaging discussion about the portrayal of maritime technology in rock art and the merits of various methods for dating such rock art depictions.

After morning tea, Richard Woolfe (Earthsea Heritage Surveys) and Stephen Sutton (Bushfires NT) gave talks on two important early British settlements in the Top End; Fort Wellington and Victoria Settlement (Port Essington). Richard presented the results of an archaeological survey and excavation aimed at identifying the location of the Fort Wellington stockade. Combining the archaeological evidence with that from historical maps and artwork at the time, Richard was able to show that the Fort was most likely intended to be used as a trading post rather than as an imposing symbol of British colonial Power.

Beginning his highly entertaining talk with a comparison of Sherlock Holmes' skills of deduction with those required to be an archaeologist, Stephen Sutton discussed a variety of issues including the nature of archaeology as a discipline and the broader bartering value of the skills of its members in the 'mates rates' system! The real focus of Stephen's talk however, was the recent work undertaken at Victoria Settlement and the examination of an extant kiln at the site in order to determine whether it had been a lime or charcoal kiln.

Finally, after a light lunch, the audience returned to their seats for the final session which focussed on the World War II history of the Territory and recent initiatives to interpret related sites and events. Jared Archibald (MAGNT) took us on a journey through the development and construction of the Defence of Darwin Experience (DDE) facility, the hub of nine military heritage sites in the Darwin area. Jared outlined the extensive research conducted, the collation of oral histories, photographs and other archival material, the selection and preparation of objects for display, and the sophisticated use of multimedia technology in the development of the interactive displays.

Michael Wells (NT Heritage Branch) moved the focus from Jared's presentation to one of the military sites that make up the 'distributed' DDE experience, 17½ Mile Camp. Michael talked about the work of the NT Heritage Branch in researching the site in order to develop and implement a strategy for conserving and interpreting the site. Taking us visually through the site along the newly constructed walking paths, Michael explained the place's significance, how it has been conserved, and showed us the interpretation shelter and other interpretive panels installed at the site. The work of this project has greatly increased our understanding of the WWII history of the site and has created an engaging place of learning that also provides recreational opportunities for a range of visitors.

The aim of the 2012 Darwin NAW Seminar was to raise awareness of the significant archaeology and heritage of the Northern Territory and to draw attention to the excellent work being carried out in the Top End. This aim was clearly met - all of the presentations during the day were very well attended and generated interesting questions and discussions, most of which continued into the tea and lunch breaks. The MAGNT and the Heritage Branch would like to thank all the speakers (two of whom travelled interstate to present) for being involved in the event, and also the very engaged audience that attended. We look forward to presenting a similar event in 2013.

Ilka Schacht, Senior Collections Manager, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory

WESTERN AUSTRALIA NEWS

Compiled by Gaye Nayton

DIG DEEP FOR NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK

To open National Archaeology Week in WA, the WA Museum – Perth hosted *Dig Deep!*, an event celebrating the fascinating work of archaeologists. The event combined an archaeological dig on the Perth Old Gaol and Victoria Library site with an archaeological expo of display stalls and posters and archaeological fun day activities for kids.

The event ran over the Mother's Day weekend and was well attended by family groups delighted to find so much happening in one location. It is estimated that 200 people passed through the event over the weekend.

The dig was a hit with the public, who were allowed close in order to view proceedings and even lend a hand with the sieving. But the aim of the dig was serious. WA Museum Head of Archaeology and Anthropology, Dr Moya Smith, said the Museum Grounds had a long and fascinating history in the development of the city and the State.

"The aim of the dig is to investigate two important past uses of the Museum Grounds site; the Perth Old Gaol and the Victoria Library.

"As our archaeologists, led by Alice Beale, excavate the area visitors will be able to see how an archaeological dig is carried out. It's often dusty, time consuming and meticulous – but to uncover artefacts that tell fascinating stories from our history is a real thrill," Dr Smith said.

The Old Gaol was built in 1855 and was used as a convict labour depot and housed the State's prisoners, until they were moved to Fremantle Prison in 1888. The Gaol then became home to the Geological Museum, which would later become the WA Museum.

The Victoria Library was built in 1903 and served as the State Library until 1985. It stood for more than 80 years and was demolished when the Library moved to its present Perth Cultural site.

The archaeological expo displayed a wonderful array of posters showing land based archaeology from most parts of the state, but with an emphasis on the northwest as well. The posters covered both prehistoric heritage and historical heritage sites and showcased the work of the University of Western Australia and archaeological consultants and the support for archaeology by business, local governments and heritage organisations such as Heritage Perth. There was also a great array of posters from the WA Maritime Museum showcasing maritime archaeology.

Display stalls were set up showcasing the archaeology of Government House, Cossack, the Peel region, the York Museum heritage collection (the site of Sean Winter's PhD research) and the wonderful archaeology and heritage of St Mary's Cathedral and the work of my archaeological consultancy. The Archaeology Society of WA also set up a stall showcasing the society and how to join.

Displays included artefact collections, objects from museum collections, historical and archaeological site information displays, and flyers and brochures which visitors could take away. Robert Cross provided a real treat from the St Mary's collection, a wooden coffin

which visitors could watch being conserved and talk to the conservator about that aspect of archaeological and museum work.





QUEENSLAND NEWS

Compiled by Cameron Harvey

NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK AT TOOWONG CEMETERY: 24 – 26 MAY 2012

Fingers and toes were crossed for fine weather for National Archaeology Week 2012. After our foray into marine archaeology last year, when our site dig site flooded, another location was selected on higher ground within the cemetery. Nicknamed 'The Gully', this was the site of the disposal of unclaimed headstones which were removed when the North Brisbane Burial Ground (now Suncorp Stadium) at Milton was redeveloped in 1914.

Broken up and used as fill, the vital statistics inscribed on these headstones were not recorded before they were dumped. The monumental inscriptions recovered in this excavation provided additional information absent from the public record. Pre-civil registration birth dates and places, employers and friendships recorded over the three days, will be preserved and made available as part of Brisbane's social and historical record.

Staff and students from the University of Queensland and Kenmore High School combined with the members of the Friends of Toowong Cemetery and the general public, to excavate and record over 100 inscribed headstone fragments and piece them together like an oversized (and heavy) jigsaw puzzle. The material recovered is known to be only a small portion of the over 500 headstones disposed of in the early 1930s. 'The Gully' will be the site of NAW 2013, an event already being eagerly anticipated by many of this year's participants.



Vital Statistics – Janet McCoy and Hilda Maclean recording the inscriptions and measurements of recovered headstones. (Photo: Egil Gausel)



Many Hands – Staff and students of the University of Queensland, Friends of Toowong Cemetery and the general public combined to make National Archaeology Week 2012 a great success. (Photo: Egil Gausel)

This year's excavation was funded by the Brisbane City Council's Suburban Initiative Fund, supported by the councillor for Toowong, Peter Matic.

Any enquiries can be directed to the Friends of Toowong Cemetery toowong@cemetery.org.au

Hilda Maclean

TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS HERITAGE CENTRE DIGS DEEP TO FIND INNOVATIVE DESIGNS THROUGH THE YEARS

The Transport and Main Roads Heritage Centre, in Toowoomba houses a unique collection of industrial heritage and tells a significant Queensland story.

One of only a handful of museums world-wide dedicated to road construction, it explores the culture and achievements surrounding the development of the state's vast road network. The story is cleverly told through the multi-layered use of texts, images, machines, artefacts and oral histories.

The journey begins with Aboriginal Pathways before venturing on to early convict roads and the development of the Main Roads Board in 1920. Visitors are treated to an audio-visual presentation that provides a context for the three main exhibition spaces.



(Clockwise L-R from top): Wooden instructional sign from Warra Township; 1947 Jacques Bros Screening Plant with Main Roads Commission number MRC 5032; museum entry.

The diverse collection of surveying, engineering, and construction machinery and tools demonstrate the department's past and present interactions with the environment during each phase of road construction from surveying to quarrying, early construction, bitumen laying and modern planning, design and maintenance.

Exhibits include items that narrate the cultural changes of the department's people as they adapted to new challenges and technologies from the early twentieth century through to today.



Glimpses of the quarrying, bitumen and Nundah Workshop stories in the main gallery.

The rich history of the culture and processes within the department can be further understood by listening to oral histories of workers from the past century.

The museum has a series of public programs including a tailored Education Program aimed at Year's three to seven which supports the New Australian Curriculum and learning in History, Science and Maths.

Children learn about the activities of the department, both past and present, to the importance of roads in society and the complexity and rich history behind the network's development.



Students from Fairview Heights during a school visit, 2011.

Digging deep for this year's National Trust Queensland Heritage Month and as a Public Program feature, the centre developed a special museum trail based on the state-wide theme *Amazing Stories: Innovation and Invention*.

Innovation and Invention – a trail of discovery includes a booklet that identifies collection items throughout the permanent exhibitions that demonstrate the ingenuity and inventiveness of departmental staff when faced with new challenges. The centre also provides a unique forum for the Department to engage with the public on topics of special interest. It was the first of 12 regional museums Australia-wide to host the highly successful *Industrial Desire: Detroit Concept Cars* exhibition in September 2010. Public Programs

included weekend open days, participated in by local car clubs, and interactive public lectures by Emeritus Professor Bryon Fitzpatrick from the Detroit Design School.



(L-R) Citroen 1; Emeritus Professor Bryon Fitzpatrick delivering a lecture at the Heritage Centre, October 2010; Chevy.

“STOP: ROADWORKS AHEAD”: Transport and Main Roads response to the summer of disasters exhibition, opening in June 2012, explores the events of the 2010/11 Queensland floods and the processes Transport and Main Roads undertook to re-connect Queensland and get people and businesses back on their feet.

Following three months at the centre, this specially curated exhibition will travel Queensland.

The Transport and Main Roads Heritage Centre is located opposite the airport in the garden city of Toowoomba, in the Darling downs region.

Please contact Heritage Coordinator Deborah Meyer for further information.

Ph: 0746 332 506, Email: heritage.centre@tmr.qld.gov.au

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Deborah Meyer

TASMANIA NEWS

Compiled by Annita Waghorn

MANAGING LEGACY COLLECTIONS AT PORT ARTHUR HISTORIC SITES

Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority (PASHMA) has embarked upon a major reorganisation and evaluation of the records and artefact collections derived from archaeology projects conducted over the past 35 years at Port Arthur, the Coal Mines and other convict-period sites on the Tasman Peninsula. The preliminary statistics are sobering: almost 600 archaeological “projects” have been identified, of which over 180 are known to have associated artefact assemblages. These projects have produced thousands of images, hard-copy and born-digital documents, hundreds of drawings and reams of field records. Most of these records exist only in their original form and formats, and are largely unindexed. The associated artefact assemblages are largely uncatalogued. Aside from

issues of long-term preservation, accessing these records and collections for management purposes, or to facilitate research, is a frustrating and time-consuming process.

This new collections initiative has a number of short and long-term objectives:

- To improve PAHSMA's management of its archaeology collections (documents, images, artefacts, samples etc.)
- To identify 'at risk' documentary and artefact components of the collections and to institute measures to safeguard such materials
- To identify key collections and their archaeological research potential
- To improve conservation management decisions through better understandings of Port Arthur Historic Sites' archaeological records
- To improve internal and external access to information about PAHSMA's archaeological collection
- To encourage the use of the archaeology collections in research that seeks to improve our knowledge of the Port Arthur Historic sites and the Australian convict system.

In March a relatively informal workshop was held at Port Arthur Historic Site to seek external input about the project's aims and methodologies and to set the work in a broader state-wide context of the management of archaeological collections. The workshop was attended by key PAHSMA staff and participants representing the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (Elspeth Wishart and Kirsten Brett), the Oatlands Heritage Centre and Heritage Tasmania (Brad Williams), independent researcher Jen Jones (Simon Fraser University) and Cameron Harvey (historical archaeologist and database designer/manager with the then Department of the Environment and Resource Management, Queensland). Much valuable comment was provided by the participants at this meeting and it is hoped that further meetings of this group will be possible.

The collections initiative will initially include an audit, characterisation and indexing of the data and artefact assemblages from each past archaeological project in order to establish a set of project-specific archives. To this end, two new staff members have joined PAHSMA to "kick-start" the project. Jeanne Harris is conducting the artefact assemblage characterisation work and is developing the project's database systems, while Sylvana Szydzik has recently begun work to locate and characterise the non-artefactual components of each archaeological project. One of the work's central goals is to focus on the management of archaeological project data as sets of interlinked resources which comprises both artefact and non-artefact components. To this end, rather than concentrating on cataloguing individual artefacts, a new collections management database has been developed which will collect baseline data on the entirety of the collections, and facilitate an assessment of their research potential.

This project engages with many of the issues involved in the appropriate management of archaeological collections, including the specific issues attached to managing legacy collections. Collection management guidelines will be developed that assist in assessing the research potential of collections, as well as procedures for the acquisition, de-accession, discard and long-term curation of project artefact assemblages and document

archives. Considerable effort is being put into documenting the new systems and adopting appropriate long-term digital storage standards.

STUDENTS AT PORT ARTHUR

PAHSMA has hosted two groups of students who have contributed to the Authority's archaeology programme. A group from the Flinders University Archaeology Society visited in April and assisted with the initial cataloguing and photography of the artefact recoveries from the Hobart Penitentiary Chapel excavations conducted in 2011. As part of this cataloguing exercise PAHSMA staff and students trialled the new artefact inventory and archaeological project management database developed for the archaeological collections management project detailed above. The Flinders students also assisted with the recording of archaeological materials recovered from service trenches associated with the maintenance and repair of the Port Arthur Historic Site's fire suppression system. In May an archaeological geophysics field school was conducted at the Port Arthur and the Coal Mines Historic Sites by Dr Anya Reading of the University of Tasmania (UTas). This school was the continuation of a collaboration between PAHSMA and UTas that is seeking to develop skills and experience in high-resolution geophysical investigations at historical sites in Tasmania and follows a successful joint grant application for new equipment in 2011. The initial results from the most recent work are still being assessed but there are already positive indications that a number of techniques may have applicability for the non-destructive investigation of PAHSMA's sites.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWS

Compiled by Adam Paterson

Nothing to report for this issue – Ed.

VICTORIA NEWS

Compiled by Andrea Murphy

No material supplied for this issue – Ed.

NSW NEWS

Compiled by Tim Owen

No material supplied for this issue – Ed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

ASHA-AIMA CONFERENCE 2012

The 2012 joint ASHA/AIMA conference will be held in Western Australia for the first time at the University of Notre Dame and the Western Australia Maritime Museum from Sunday 30 September to Wednesday 3 October.

This conference aims to draw together the shared interests of researchers in historical and maritime archaeology by linking aspects of land and sea - 'Surf and Turf'. Together, such sites form a holistic landscape that can be documented and interpreted to provide a better understanding of past events, activities and human behaviour. Areas of interest to archaeologists such as exploration, colonisation, trade and communication have similar conjunctions with no distinction between the low tide mark. Papers and posters will explore the networks and connections between land and sea both conceptually and archaeologically.

Call for papers

Papers are invited in themed sessions, details of which can be found at the conference's website at <http://www.ashaaima2012.org/call-for-papers-and-posters.html>

The deadline for the submission of abstracts is 30 June. Abstracts that best fit the session themes will be given preference. Please submit a 250 word abstract for conference papers direct to session chairs. Paper presentations will be 15 minutes in length, followed by a 5 minute question and answer session.

Student researchers are particularly encouraged to submit papers and posters.

Registration

Registration and other conference details can be found on the conference website <http://www.ashaaima2012.org/registration.html>

General queries to:

Ross Anderson, Ross.Anderson@museum.wa.gov.au;

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FELLOWS OF THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES

In recent months several members of ASHA have been elected as Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries:

- Sarah Colley

- Martin Gibbs
- Susan Lawrence
- Mark Staniforth
- Sean Ulm

We congratulate these individuals on their election to such a distinguished Academy, which recognises their outstanding contribution to archaeology.

Peter Davies, La Trobe University

AUSTRALIAN STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT 2011 AND HERITAGE

The Australian State of the Environment 2011 report was tabled in Parliament on 12 December 2011. The report is required to be tabled Parliament every five years under the provisions of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* (1999).

The report presents a review of the state and trends of the environment (including cultural heritage); the pressures on it and the drivers of those pressures; management initiatives in place to address environmental concerns and the impacts of those initiatives; its resilience and the unmitigated risks that threaten it; and provide an overall outlook for the Australian environment. The findings are all the more important as it was written by independent experts including Richard Mackay who dealt with cultural heritage.

The aim of the report is to provide relevant and useful information on environmental issues to the public (i.e. ASHA members) and decision-makers to see how well the Commonwealth (and related agencies and State Governments) is performing its functions. For the first time in national environmental reporting, SoE 2011 goes beyond a descriptive summary of evidence to include graded 'report-card' style assessments of environment condition and trends, pressures and management effectiveness. Also new to national State of the environment reporting in 2011 are discussions of the drivers of environmental change, resilience, risks, and future projections or 'outlooks'.

Independent peer review was used to validate and strengthen the content of the report and supplementary technical reports.

The State of Environment Report is a significant benchmarking of heritage conservation and is important to see how well the process of heritage conservation and management is progressing. For historical archaeology this is important, as the conservation of the historical archaeological resources is an important concern. Furthermore the methodology for benchmarking the Commonwealth could be adapted to look at the performance of other Governments (e.g. New Zealand and the Australian States and Territories as well as local Governments).

What are the results?

The overall message is *“Much of Australia's environment and heritage is in good shape, or improving. Other parts are in poor condition or deteriorating. Some of the pressures on our environment arise from past decisions and practices that have left an ongoing legacy of*

impact. Our changing climate, and growing population and economy, are now confronting us with new challenges.”

With regard to heritage, the messages are:

- Our extraordinary and diverse natural and cultural heritage generally remains in good condition.
- Australia is recognised internationally for leadership in heritage management.
- Our heritage is being threatened by natural and human processes and a lack of public sector resourcing that does not reflect the true value of heritage to the Australian community.
- Australians place a high value on our rich natural, Indigenous and historic heritage. However, the nation's protected natural and cultural resource does not include all the places with heritage value, nor is it truly representative. Management and protection of Australia's heritage is under-resourced and, despite our internationally recognised processes, some of the systems used to manage our heritage are cumbersome. This is out of line with community perceptions of heritage value. Consequently, our heritage is at great risk from the impacts of climate change, threats arising from development and pressures that flow from population growth.
- Comprehensive assessments, more flexible approaches and better resourcing are needed to support conservation. The future for Australia's heritage will depend on government leadership in two key areas: undertaking thorough and comprehensive assessments that lead to adequate areas of protected land and comprehensive heritage inventories, and changing heritage management paradigms and resource allocation in response to emerging threats.

In particular the report on Heritage noted that:

“The current condition and integrity of Australia's listed heritage generally appear to be good, with some deterioration evident over recent years. However, it is challenging to draw a single cohesive conclusion about the condition of Australia's natural and cultural heritage, given the diverse and fragmented nature of available information.” The report was particularly concerned about the lack of data about the protection of indigenous heritage sites

“The nation's protected natural and cultural resource does not include all the places with heritage value, nor is it truly representative. Management and protection of Australia's heritage is under-resourced and, despite our internationally recognised processes, the systems used to manage our heritage are cumbersome. This is out of line with community perceptions of heritage value. Consequently, our heritage is at great risk from the impacts of climate change, threats arising from development, and pressures that flow from population growth.”

“The future for Australia's heritage will depend on government leadership in two key areas: undertaking thorough and comprehensive assessments that lead to adequate areas of protected land and comprehensive heritage inventories, and changing heritage management paradigms and resource allocation in response to emerging threats.”

The detail in the chapter on Heritage is well worth reading for its summary of legislation, listings and discussion of heritage management. There is also a supplementary report by Duncan Marshall and Mike Pearson which updates their earlier study of the condition of heritage places.

One item to catch my eye was a summary of places added to heritage lists according to assessment criteria (Figure 9.6, pp708-09) and, although there are obvious problems with the data, the trend is away from criterion F (places that demonstrate creative or technical achievement) and criterion C (places with significant research value), which are the two values mostly associated with historical and industrial archaeological sites, which is a worrying trend.

The report also notes the slow process of adding sites to the National and Commonwealth Registers which has slowed considerably under the Rudd and Gillard governments from the glacially slow progress under the Howard government.

In respect of heritage management the report noted "The majority of participants in the Australian heritage sector readily recognise the threats posed by development. Despite this, regulators fail to enforce protective provisions, even when seemingly obvious breaches of legislation and substantial impacts to highly significant places occur" (p745). The question of the impact of licenced heritage destruction through the permit process and the poor positing of heritage in the EIS process is also discussed (p768).

Overall the report is well worth reading and consideration, especially for groups such as ASHA, ICOMOS and the National Trusts, as there are some obvious directions for lobbying and arguing for improvements to funding and processes of identification and conservation.

Where to find the reports

The reports can be assessed on-line:

Main SoE report page <http://www.environment.gov.au/soe/index.html>

Heritage Report at this page:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/soe/2011/report/heritage/download.html>

Supplementary reports at this page:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/soe/2011/report/heritage/supporting-material.html>

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FORTHCOMING NEWSLETTERS

The ASHA Newsletter is produced quarterly with the assistance of State Reps. 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*

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.

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