



ASHA

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STATE OF THE ART

ACT NEWS

Compiled by Richard Morrison

HERITAGE BRANCH, DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT (CWTH)

The Hon Greg Hunt MP, Minister for the Environment, announced in March 2015, the appointment of five new Australian Heritage Council members including two responsible for historic heritage environment advice on the Council: Dr Jane Harrington, Director Conservation and Infrastructure, Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority and Associate Professor Don Garden, President of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies.

CANBERRA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (CAS) AND ANU

Springbank Archaeology Project

Reported in the previous newsletter, a preliminary Ground Penetrating Radar survey was undertaken on Springbank Island, in the middle of Lake Burley Griffin in December 2014. The next stage of excavation was undertaken in April 2015 and concluded on the 18th of April with a large open day (105 people including students/ volunteers) attending.

The excavations revealed the predicted evidence of European settlement and a larger number of Aboriginal artefacts than was expected. Project leader, Dr Duncan Wright, from the ANU School of Archaeology and Anthropology, said the results showed that Indigenous people were still active in the area after the first European settlers arrived. The stone was noted to have derived from many sources around Canberra. There has been considerable positive feedback about both the field-school and the open day.

ACT and Region Annual Australian Heritage Partnership Symposium 2015 – Sharing Heritage: Create, change, cherish

Hosted by CAS, the National Trust of Australia (ACT), Canberra and District Historical Society, and Australia ICOMOS, the symposium will be held in the Sir Roland Wilson Building Theatre, ANU, on Saturday 18/7/15. Cost: \$70 full, \$50 members of the host organisations, \$30 concessions, full-time students and speakers. Further details and registrations will be available soon. See <http://www.cas.asn.au/>

NEW SOUTH WALES NEWS

Compiled by David Marcus

SOME PAST & UPCOMING EVENTS

The Big Dig Archaeology Weekend

Sydney Harbour YHA, in collaboration with Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, is offering a residential weekend program giving you the chance to learn more about archaeology by immersing yourself in a hands-on excavation of a section of The Big Dig. Places are strictly limited and are offered by competition only.

Date: Friday 15 May to Sunday 17 May

Venue: Sydney Harbour YHA, 110 Cumberland Street, The Rocks

More information at www.thebigdig.com.au/weekend/ or by email thebigdig@yha.com.au

Sydney Historical Archaeology Practitioners Workshop

This year the Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology is hosting the Sydney Historical Archaeology Practitioners Workshop (SHAP), as part of National Archaeology Week. The SHAP Workshop is an annual, one day mini-conference, which allows those working in historical archaeology and heritage in Sydney to meet each other and hear a series of short presentations, discussions and Q&As. This year's program has an interesting mix of various topics including:

- Applications of digital technology in the field
- Approaches to research
- Current projects in NSW

Date: 9am – 5pm, Friday 15 May 2015

Venue: The Big Dig Centre, 110 Cumberland Street, The Rocks

Cost: \$80, \$60 (ASHA members) – includes morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea

More info and bookings: <http://www.asha.org.au/events/shap-2015/>

The Sherds of Thomas Ball, Convict Potter, c.1804-1823

The National Museum of Australian Pottery exhibition includes a number of fragmented pottery objects made by the convict potter, Thomas Ball, at his workshop in Brickfield Hill, Sydney. Most of the pieces in the exhibition come from an excavation carried out by Casey and Lowe at 710-722 George Street, Haymarket, in Sydney.

Thomas Ball, a trained Staffordshire potter, was found guilty of Highway robbery in 1797, and transported to Australia, where around 1801 he set up a pottery and produced a variety of simple hand-painted decorated dishes, bowls, pans, chamber pots, cups and saucers etc., most of which were utilitarian vessels for everyday use in homes in Sydney and Parramatta.

The exhibition will run until the end of May 2015. For the Museum's opening hours, please contact Kerry and Geoff Ford on 02 6036 3464.

RIP The Oxford Tavern: What Lay Beneath?

The National Trust of Australia (Illawarra Shoalhaven Branch) presents a National Archaeology Week event.

Presenters: Dr Iain Stuart (JCIS) and Alex Beben (Biosis Research)

Supported by singer/songwriter Peter Langstaff

The redevelopment of the Oxford Tavern site opened a window into the history of downtown Wollongong, with a view back to the 1830s. Archaeological excavation of the site revealed a series of footings belonging to earlier phases of hotel buildings, and the wall of the temperance hall next door, along with a mysterious nineteenth century drain. Now, eight months after the dig, the finds have been analysed and archaeologists Dr Iain Stuart and Alex Beben are ready to tell their part of the Oxford Tavern story.

Date: 5.30 for 6pm, Monday 18 May 2015

Venue: Old Court House, 1 Harbour Street, Wollongong

Free event, \$5 light supper

Bookings: 02 4227 4614 or nt_oldcourthouse@bigpond.com

Archaeology of the Second World War in Papua New Guinea

The Royal Australian Historical Society presents a National Archaeology Week Event

Presenter: Dr Matthew Kelly

The Second World War has left a lasting impression in Papua New Guinea, and forms a crucial part in the relationship between PNG and Australia. Matthew Kelly is leading the archaeological investigation of a number of WWII sites in PNG, including Eora Creek, a battlefield on the Kokoda Track; and 'Blamey's Garden', an intricate horticultural folly near Owers' Corner. These sites are well known to the local landowners and villagers, but not to the wider community, and the evidence has much to add to the history of the Pacific War. Matthew's projects also involve recording the stories of the locals, sometimes with very different results from the archaeological interpretation.

About the presenter: Matthew is an archaeologist, specialising in the historical archaeology of Australia. Previously he has worked on Australian colonial sites such as the Mint and the Big Dig site in the Rocks Sydney and the Government Cottage, Newcastle. The PNG projects have drawn on Matthew's interest in and knowledge of military heritage, and given him a deeper appreciation of near vertical ascents to site.

Date: 6.00pm, Tuesday 19 May 2015

Venue: History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney

Cost: \$12 (\$10 RAHS members)

Bookings: 02 9247 8001 or history@rahs.org.au

Written in Stone: Stone Tools

In this workshop, curator Matt Poll reveals the breadth and scope of the Macleay Museum's stone tool collection that will feature in a new exhibition called 'Written in Stone', set to open at the Macleay in August 2015.

Date: 5-6pm, Wednesday 20 May 2015

Venue: Fisher Library, The University of Sydney

Bookings: museums.education@sydney.edu.au

If these Walls Could Talk: An Archaeological Walking Tour of Newtown

The Royal Australian Historical Society presents a National Archaeology Week Event
Presenter: Andrew Crisp

Scribbling, scratching, spraying and stencilling; public walls and spaces are irresistible targets. Graffiti artists are keen to make their point ... but what exactly are they saying? Newtown local Andrew Crisp couldn't leave work behind, and decided to take an archaeological approach. He found a complex interplay of influences and intentions behind the ever-changing local street gallery. Join Andrew (and a street artist if we're lucky) on a walking tour of Newtown, and take a fresh look at the writing on the wall.

About the presenter: Andrew is a Sydney-based archaeologist. His interest in mark-making was piqued by his work on The Quarantine Project, a multi-disciplinary investigation of rock carvings and other markings at the former North Head Quarantine Station.

Date: 10am, Sunday 24 May 2015

Meeting place: Outside The Hub, junction King Street and Enmore Road, Newtown

Cost: \$12 (\$10 RAHS members)

Bookings: 02 9247 8001 or history@rahs.org.au

RAHS/State Records NSW Seminar: Public Service / War Service

Organisation Name: Royal Australian Historical Society

When: Thursday, 21 May 2015 from 10:00 am to 03:30 pm

Where: History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney

Cost: RAHS Members \$20/Non-Members \$25

Contact: Royal Australian Historical Society, 02 9247 8001, history@rahs.org.au,

<http://www.rahs.org.au/event/rahsstate-records-nsw-seminar-public-service-war-service/>

During WWI, 10,000 NSW government employees volunteered for service and many gave their lives for our country. Others fulfilled essential services at home, and government departments were transformed to perform wartime roles. This event, hosted jointly with State Records NSW and RAHS showcases the rich array of records to be found in the State and National archives that reveal stories from that time. Topics covered by various speakers include patriotic funds, enemy aliens in the NSW public service, WWI in the NSW State archives, repatriation records and WWI dossiers.

Evan McHugh — Bushrangers: Murderers, Thieves and Rebels

When: Tuesday, 19 May 2015 from 12:30 pm to 01:30 pm

Where: Mitchell Theatre – Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, Level 1, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney

Cost: General Free

Contact: 02 9262 7300

<http://smsa.org.au/events/event/evan-mchugh-bushrangers-murderers-thieves-and-rebels/>

Evan McHugh explores Australia's fascination with bushrangers, the men — and women — who blazed their place into Australian history with daring exploits and audacious deeds.

Bushrangers stand alongside pirates as a group whose other qualities transcend their core criminal activities. They have become self-made heroes of the underclass, the subject of artworks that accord them mythical status and champions of an anti-authoritarian larrikin streak that is still a valued part of the Australian character. While bushrangers stole and sometimes killed, they also stood for a proud independence that would rather die than give up their cherished freedom. Rebels they may have been, but the bushranger motto of 'liberty or death' speaks directly to our willingness to defend the freedoms we cherish today.

Evan McHugh is a journalist who has written for newspapers, television and radio. His previous books include the bestsellers *The Drivers*, *Shipwrecks: Australia's Greatest Maritime Disasters*, *Outback Heroes*, *Outback Pioneers*, *Birdsville* and *Outback Stations*. Evan's book about true crime in the outback, *Red Centre, Dark Heart*, won the Ned Kelly Award for best non-fiction in 2008. In *Bushrangers: Australia's Greatest Self-made Heroes*, Evan brings a fresh perspective to a turbulent era of crime, defiance and emerging Australia identity. His forthcoming book, *The Shearers* (due for release in July by Penguin Books) presents the definitive history of these men, bringing to life the toil, tumult and toughness of the shearing life, and the effect it has had on Australia's national character.

A forger's progress – Francis Greenway

When: Wednesday, 3 June 2015 from 01:00 pm to 02:00 pm

Where: History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney

Cost: General Free

Contact: Royal Australian Historical Society, (02) 9247 8001, history@rahs.org.au,

http://www.rahs.org.au/ai1ec_event/rahs-day-lecture-a-forgers-progress-francis-greenway/?instance_id=846

A forger's progress tells of the incredible fall, rise and demise of Francis Greenway, Australia's first government architect. Sentenced to death for forgery, reprieved and transported to Australia, he arrived in 1814. Within a decade Greenway and Governor Lachlan Macquarie began to transform the ramshackle convict garrison that was early Sydney into an ordered town with aspirations of culture and refinement. Alasdair McGregor is an architect by profession, but much of his career has been spent as a writer and painter. He has written nine books, his 2009 publication *Grand Obsessions: the life and work of Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahoney Griffin* winning the 2011 National Biography Award. This event is free, but bookings are requested for catering purposes.

TASMANIA NEWS

Compiled by Annita Waghorn

MONTPELIER PROJECT ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

Austral Tasmania was engaged by Sultan Holdings to complete a 16-week archaeological investigation on the site of the Montpelier Retreat car park within the Salamanca precinct of Hobart, commencing mid-January this year.

The archaeological works have revealed significant new information about Hobart's indigenous and European history and heritage. The Hobart area formed part of the country of the South East Nation and was home to the Mouheneener people. Originally waterfront land, the coastal fringe provided rich food resources, with two freshwater streams running nearby. Evidence of Aboriginal life on the site has been recovered from both disturbed and in situ contexts. This includes shell midden material, over 250 stone tools and items such as particles of pigment, or ochre and a grinding stone. The number of stone tools represents what we understand to be the largest single recovery of Aboriginal heritage items within Hobart's CBD. Consultation with the Aboriginal community and Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania has been ongoing since the discovery of the cultural material. An Aboriginal Site Officer was engaged and consultation to determine the future of the midden material and artefacts is underway.

The site formed part of a 30-acre property granted to the Reverend Robert Knopwood in 1804. Knopwood arrived on board the *Ocean* with the first Lieutenant Governor David Collins and was the first chaplain and magistrate in Van Diemen's Land. Few figures from this period loom so large in Tasmania's history as Knopwood. His house, called Cottage Green, used some of the first bricks and tiles ever made in Tasmania and originally had a thatched roof, which was soon replaced with clay tiles. Knopwood was a prolific diarist and he describes the day-to-day existence of the early settlers. Significantly, Cottage Green was a place of friendly contact between Europeans and Aboriginal people, with Knopwood recording Aboriginal people visiting, camping and collecting food at Cottage Green on six occasions between 1805 and 1818. Whilst friendly contact most likely occurred at other places in Hobart during this period, the Montpelier Retreat site is the only place known to us where this contact is documented and can be connected to a specific place. The archaeology also confirms these ongoing relationships, with glass tools discovered during works. Contact artefacts are very rare in Tasmania and only one other glass tool has been previously recorded in urban Hobart.

Knopwood's house and outbuildings were set within a show-piece productive and ornamental garden. Due to continued financial problems however, he was forced to sell Cottage Green in 1830. No substantial evidence of his house or outbuildings was located during excavations although demolition material including early bricks and roof tiles were found. Contained within this demolition rubble were diffuse artefact scatters including plain earthenware, unmarked clay pipes, gunflint, Chinese porcelain and alcohol bottles which have been initially dated to the early 1800s. Some post-holes were found in the northwestern corner of the site, some of which partially match the dimensions of the barn that once stood to the rear of Knopwood's cottage.

Later development commencing in the 1840s substantially impacted on the archaeological resource from Knopwood's period. It is likely that the house was removed by later housing development, and/or possibly by quarrying works to create Salamanca Place and its wharf front warehouses. More substantial structural evidence of the later phases of development have been located as part of the works. This began in 1845 with the construction of a two-storey ashlar sandstone villa by successful merchant Alexander Orr, built alongside his Salamanca Place warehouse, which still exists. A range of outbuildings were located to the rear.

Commencing during the mid-nineteenth century, the remainder of the site was subdivided and progressively developed with small rental houses, terraces and two shops, forming part of the waterside community. Four of these places have been investigated. Like many inner city areas, the reputation and standard of housing declined during the twentieth century, and the site was progressively cleared from the late 1960s for conversion to an open-air car park. Whilst substantial structural remains were found still in situ, when compared with other similar large urban sites in Australia, relatively little artefactual evidence has been found in subfloor areas, yard spaces or cesspits of the post 1850 buildings. The demolition and site clearance processes appear to have removed much of this evidence.

The developer, Sultan Holdings, has supported the increased public interest in the site by publishing regular updates on the archaeological findings on the project's website and inviting media access throughout the duration of the investigations. Recently a public open day was held where over 360 people were given guided site tours by the archaeologists. Tours were booked out within nine hours of being published and the day was a resounding success. Interest is now turning towards the information gathered by the investigations, which will contribute towards meaningful interpretation of the site's history within the development.





Material supplied by Sarah Wilcox-Standing, Austral Tasmania

WESTERN AUSTRALIA NEWS

Compiled by Jillian Barteaux

No submissions provided for this newsletter [Ed.]

NEW ZEALAND NEWS

Compiled by Rick McGovern-Wilson

No submissions provided for this newsletter [Ed.]

NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWS

Compiled by Malcolm Connolly

No submissions provided for this newsletter [Ed.]

SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWS

Compiled by Cameron Hartnell

No submissions provided for this newsletter [Ed.]

VICTORIA NEWS

Compiled by Andrea Murphy

No submissions provided for this newsletter [Ed.]

QUEENSLAND NEWS

Compiled by Paddy Waterson

No submissions provided for this newsletter [Ed.]

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

No announcements or notices submitted for this newsletter [Ed.]

SOCIETY CONTACTS

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FORTHCOMING NEWSLETTERS

The ASHA Newsletter is produced quarterly with the assistance of the State Reps. In order to facilitate efficient newsletter production, all contributions should be forwarded to your State Rep (refer to table above for email addresses) by the below dates:

March issue:	15 February
June issue:	15 May
September issue:	15 August
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.

Aleisha Buckler
General Editor
ASHA Newsletter

Email: newsletter@asha.org.au