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STATE OF THE ART

ACT NEWS

Compiled by Richard Morrison

School of Archaeology & Anthropology, Research School of Humanities & the Arts, ANU College of Arts and the Social Sciences, ANU

Dr Ash Lenton (School Visitor) is running an Archaeological Field School (Short Course ARCH2055) for ANU undergraduates, from 15 January to 6 February at Triabunna (formerly Spring Bay), Tasmania. This field school will focus on the investigation of a military barracks – the base of the 51st Regiment (1843-50), which serviced the adjacent Maria Island convict settlement. It will include a geophysical survey, archaeological structure recording, and archaeological excavation of the remains of the nineteenth-century buildings “to tell the stories of the soldiers and convicts of the east coast”.

NEW SOUTH WALES NEWS

Compiled by David Marcus

Carlton and United Brewery, Broadway – Central Park Redevelopment

The former Carlton and United Brewery site, Broadway in Sydney (the brewery site) has been in the process of redevelopment as a major project governed by Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EPA Act) since 2008. The redevelopment, known as Central Park, is a \$2 billion dollar urban village that includes a spacious park at its heart. With 11 buildings, around 2000 apartments and a lively collection of shops, cafes, restaurants, laneways, terraces and offices, Central Park will transform the site of the former Kent Brewery in Chippendale into a sustainable fusion of heritage and new buildings with public spaces filled with landscaped gardens.

The history of the brewery began in 1834 when Charles Newnham and John Tooth, brewer and merchant, purchased four and half acres of Major Druitt’s estate with the intention of building a brewery. The foundation stone of the Kent Brewery was laid towards the end of 1834 on land located approximately 260 feet (80m) back from Parramatta Road, and the first carts loaded with beer casks were delivered by October 1835. The brewery complex generated further development in the area, attracting residences, shops, industry and hotels. Eventually it owned many of the shops and houses, later demolishing them for its expansion across the site.

In 1853, a fire swept through the brewery and destroyed the engine house, malt kilns, beer vaults and steam engine shafts as well as stores and barrels. Despite the destruction, the brewery rebuilt and over the next 140 years grew into one of the major industrial sites in the inner city Sydney area.

In addition to the extant built heritage resource, the brewery site has been identified as having potential to contain historical archaeological remains associated with the development and occupation of the site throughout the nineteenth and twentieth century.

As part of mitigation of archaeological impacts, the redevelopment program included a program of archaeological investigations and recording to ensure that the research potential of the site's significant archaeological resource is realised.

In 2008, Frasers Property Australia Pty Ltd engaged GML Heritage (GML) to provide archaeological services in accordance with the relevant conditions of development consent for the site and the applicable and relevant statements of commitment that relate to that consent. The conditions pertaining to archaeology were informed by an 'Archaeological Assessment and Research Design' prepared by GML in October 2006. The report outlined a strategy for both archaeological monitoring and excavation during the redevelopment to ensure that the research potential of the site was realised.

Since the beginning of 2009, GML has undertaken a series of archaeological investigations across the brewery site. The archaeological works have been associated with Stage 1 remediation and transitional works.

The results of the investigations undertaken between 2009 and 2012 are presented in two interim archaeological excavation reports titled the 'Former Carlton and United Brewery Site Chippendale, Sydney—Interim Archaeological Excavation Report (Volumes 1 and 2)' (GML February 2010) and the 'Former Carlton and United Brewery Site Chippendale, Sydney—Second Interim Archaeological Excavation Report (GML March 2014).

The archaeological investigations to date uncovered a wide range of archaeological features and deposits that provide evidence of domestic and commercial occupation across the former Carlton United Brewery during the early to mid-nineteenth century and early twentieth century. Although the archaeological remains have been compromised across all excavation areas, there is still sufficient information to reconstruct aspects of the site's history and development throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

GML is currently in the final days of archaeological works at the site and after six years of investigations, evidence of a structure that could be associated with John Tooth's and Charles Newnham's original Kent Brewery complex (1835–1853) has been unearthed. A substantial footprint of the former brewery stables has been exposed during the most recent ground disturbance works in the area of new Block 11 (Figure 1). The footprint consists of solid sandstone footings and measures approximately 78m long and 7.5m wide. Two sandstone box drains, discharging into the nearby Blackwattle stormwater drain, were also identified. Historical plans and records from 1844 show a substantial stables building on the south boundary of the Kent brewery complex.



Figure 1. Overhead view of the former Kent Brewery stables dated to pre-1844. View looking south (Source: GML 2015).

In addition to the stables building, Block 11 also provided evidence of a number of cesspits and wells located in close proximity to the south stables wall. They are the remnants of the backyards of the cramped workers' terraces along Wellington Street. A sandstock-brick cesspit of unusual oval shape provided a copious amount of domestic refuse (Figure 2), mainly glass and stoneware alcohol bottles and domestic artefacts. Amongst the variety of ceramic tableware and glass objects was found a black transfer-printed jug decorated with a classical Greek design (Figure 3). The Scottish-style of the jug, characterised by an elevated spout and handle and bulbous body with no foot ring, was popular during the early Victorian Era (1830s–1860s).



Figure 2. An oval brick cesspit has been identified in the backyard of a Wellington Street terrace (Source: GML 2015).



Figure 3. A small jug decorated with a classical Greek design in the black transfer print technique was found in a well of a Wellington Street terrace (Source: GML 2015).

Parramatta Square Redevelopment

Parramatta City Council recently held an extremely successful open day to showcase the archaeological program currently being undertaken by Casey & Lowe at Parramatta Square, with over 450 people attending. The archaeological excavation has identified the remains of an 1810s house occupied by John and Harriet Holland and a convict-built drain.

Further information on the excavation is available from the following sources:

- http://www.parracity.nsw.gov.au/your_council/news/media/2015/november_2015/archaeological_dig_at_parramatta_square_reveals_tale_of_triumph_over_adversity
- <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1189828201031326.1073741847.172381239442699&type=3>
- <http://www.parramattasun.com.au/story/3475357/parramatta-archaeological-dig-unearths-relics/>
- <http://www.parramattasun.com.au/story/3485128/parramatta-council-chatter-old-buttons-tell-a-tale/>
- <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-11-06/house-of-ex-convict-john-holland-found-in-parramatta-centre-dig/6917460>

TASMANIA NEWS

Compiled by Annita Waghorn

Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority – Penitentiary Precinct Excavation, January-March 2016

During January – March 2016, the Port Arthur Historic Site will be undertaking an archaeological excavation within the Penitentiary Precinct. Focussing upon the ablutions and exercise yards to the rear of the Penitentiary, the full extent of this area will be exposed, allowing features associated with the latter phases of the Penitentiary's occupation to be investigated (1856-77). Previous test trenching in the area revealed extensive areas of yard surfacing, drainage systems and a prisoners' day room with intact sub-surface deposits. The excavation also intends to investigate earlier phases of activity in the area, including possible deposits and features associated with the flour mill and granary (1843-56) and the waterfront workshops (1831-56) – the very earliest phase of convict-period occupation.

This excavation will be the largest ever undertaken at the historic site and will employ eight archaeologists full-time. Alongside recent work on the Prisoners' Barracks assemblage, the investigation is part of an ongoing investigation into the convict spaces of Port Arthur, providing opportunities to engage with the institutionalised landscapes negotiated by convict and free alike. These are the spaces where power dynamics were played out between the convicts and the authorities, where the material record can tell us about acts of domination, subversion and collaboration. They are the spaces where convicts worked, exercised and rested, their behaviours moulded by the regimes of control and coercion. What is more, the convicts who used the area during the Penitentiary period form a little-studied group. Serving time at one of the few remaining imperial (British) institutions in Australia, they weren't the assignees of the 1830s, or the probationers of the 1840s: they were the remnant of a system in decline. Anything that we find out about this group will form an important addition to an otherwise little-studied convict population.



Material supplied by Richard Tuffin (PAHSMA)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA NEWS

Compiled by Jillian Barteaux

Shipwreck of the Roaring Forties: A Maritime Archaeological Reassessment of Some of Australia's Earliest Shipwrecks

An Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage-Project (LP130100137, Lead CI: Alistair Paterson)

"Shipwrecks of the Roaring 40s" aims to make a significant contribution to our understanding of Europeans active in the Indian Ocean during the 17th and 18th centuries, through the unique window into the past provided by maritime archaeological sites. To accomplish this, shipwreck sites excavated over 40 years ago will be revisited to examine how approaches to maritime archaeological sites have changed over time in terms of both *new research questions* and *new technologies*. The Roaring Forties team comprises of researchers from the WA Museum, University of Western Australia, Curtin University, Flinders University, Prospero Productions and Tasmania Parks & Wildlife as well as international institutes such as the British Museum, East Carolina University, The Cultural Heritage Agency and the National Archives of the Netherlands.

From 1971–1981, seven European shipwrecks off the Western Australian coast were investigated by a newly formed group of archaeologists and conservators at the Western Australian Museum. These historic events placed Australia at the forefront of maritime archaeology globally, and led to Western Australia enacting the world's first underwater heritage legislation, followed by the Commonwealth legislation in 1976. Even today, the discovery of a new underwater site invites comparison with these significant archaeological events, as an array of initiatives in archaeological survey, excavation, recording, training and conservation were developed and, as a result, Australia remains a significant innovator in maritime archaeology. The project so far...

Batavia and Beacon Island

Fieldwork conducted in the Abrolhos in the Northern Wallabi group of Islands aimed at identifying areas of high cultural significance such as survivors' camps or burials from the *Batavia* mutiny of 1629. The excavations uncovered numerous burials, which were excavated by both archaeologists and forensic anthropologists. Further work on Beacon Island includes the complete survey and photographic recording of fishermen's houses, which is currently being used to create a virtual Beacon Island so that the public can explore the island as it was. Beacon Island has been returned to its natural state, as it was when the Dutch managed to swim ashore. Digital 3D modelling of both the *Batavia* site and the preserved hull remains is an ongoing process that will hopefully be added to the Beacon Island Virtual system. This process involves image-based modelling of legacy and new photographic data as well as laser scanning the hull timbers. The timbers from *Batavia* are also being re-investigated by a dendrochronology specialist.

Other Research

Archival translations are currently ongoing in Europe and hope to shed some light on missing details or mistranslated copies of VOC (Dutch East India Company) documents addressing the

handful of Dutch wrecks known to have been lost off the Western Australian Coast. Silver coins from the Dutch wrecks are the focus of ongoing isotope analyses to determine specific information such as the origin of the original silver mines in South America.

Upcoming research includes reinvestigation on the *Vergulde Draeck* (1656), *Zeewijk* (1727) and *Zuytdorp* (1712), revisiting Beacon Island once more, the forensic analysis of the *Batavia* skeletons, as well as continuing into the next phase of ongoing research projects. Other shipwrecks included in this project are the earliest known shipwreck, *Trial* (1622) an English East India vessel and *Rapid* (1811), an American China Trader. The results are regularly communicated to the public through lectures, media stories, conferences and social media.

For more information please visit the 'Shipwrecks of the R40s' on Facebook and the Museum webpage:

<https://www.facebook.com/shipwrecksoftheR40s/>

<http://museum.wa.gov.au/>



Excavations in progress.



Beacon Island geophysical survey.



Batavia wreck site.



Canon on Batavia wreck site.

QUEENSLAND NEWS

Compiled by Paddy Waterson

Policy and Planning News

Latest changes to the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* (QHA) provisions regarding underwater cultural heritage commenced on 1 September 2015. These provisions include:

1. the requirement to report significant underwater cultural heritage artefacts, and
2. Replacing the term 'historic shipwreck' with 'underwater cultural heritage artefact' to broaden the range of artefacts covered by the QHA. The Act now includes a broad protection provision for all historic aircraft wrecks at least 75 years old within Queensland waters.

The amendments to the QHA are consistent with the state's commitments under the Intergovernmental Agreement on Underwater Cultural Heritage.

The Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) is also developing additional guidelines and has introduced new heritage forms, including the 'Discovery Reporting Form'. The form is to be used to report a discovery of an artefact under Section 89 of the QHA. This form is available at: <http://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/heritage/publications/>

For further information about reporting a discovery, please visit:

<http://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/heritage/archaeology/discoveries/>

Raine Island Cyark500 Survey

The Raine Island Beacon, 620 km north-northwest of Cairns, is being digitally scanned as part of a collaborative project initiated by the Queensland Heritage Council. The Raine Island Beacon was built in 1844 as a marker of the shipping channel through the Great Barrier Reef. It was commissioned by the British Admiralty and was constructed using a combination of convict and Royal Navy labour.

The initial scanning was undertaken in July 2015 using a Leica P20 laser scanner and involved staff from four Queensland Government departments. The scanning will provide a high resolution model of both the exterior and interior of the beacon that will document structural details and historic engravings, and assist future management. The scan is expected to be finalised in the winter of 2016. It will eventually be uploaded onto the internationally renowned CyArk website. It will join two other Queensland convict-built sites that are being scanned with the support of the University of Queensland and the CSIRO.

A conservation architect and an archaeologist from EHP were part of the team who documented a range of details and features in and around the Beacon. The condition of the stonework was also assessed. While visiting the island, the team also inspected the nineteenth-century guano mining site using a differential GPS to re-map the vast ruins.

Material supplied by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTICES

Australian Research Council 2015 Funding of Projects in Historical Archaeology

The 2015 round of funding from the Australian Research Council (ARC) was announced in late October and included several projects that support research in Australian historical archaeology:

The Archaeology of the Queensland Native Mounted Police

Associate Professor Heather Burke, Professor Bryce Barker, Professor Iain Davidson, Dr Lynley Wallis, Dr Noelene Cole, Ms Elizabeth Hatte, Dr Larry Zimmerman

The Flinders University of South Australia

\$765,727, 4 years

This project plans to conduct a systematic archaeological study of the Queensland Native Mounted Police. While previous studies have focused on policing activities as revealed by the historical record, this project will combine material, oral and historical evidence from a range of sites across central and northern Queensland to understand more fully the activities, lives and legacies of the Native Police. This project aims to provide an alternative lens through which to understand the nature of frontier conflict, initiate new understandings of the Aboriginal and settler experience, and contribute to global studies of Indigenous responses to colonialism.

Rivers of Gold: The Legacy of Historical Gold Mining for Victoria's Rivers

Associate Professor Susan Lawrence, Associate Professor Ian Rutherford, Dr Ewen Silvester, Dr Darren Baldwin, Professor Mark Macklin

La Trobe University

\$650,187, 4 years

By considering rivers as cultural artefacts, this project aims to evaluate how historical gold mining has shaped river systems in Victoria. Victoria's historic mining industry led to extensive and long-lasting change to waterways across the state. The project plans to integrate approaches from landscape archaeology, physical geography, geomorphology and environmental chemistry to identify and map the extent of changes, including increased sedimentation, erosion, and chemical contamination. The project plans to demonstrate how historical mining continues to influence chemical and physical processes in Victorian streams and to develop understanding of the landscapes experienced by Victorians at the height of the mining boom. Project outcomes may provide improved context for catchment and reservoir management and counter prevailing impressions about causes of observed damage to rivers.

Dr James Flexner, Dr Stuart Bedford, Dr Frederique Valentin

The Australian National University

\$317,698

This project aims to conduct an archaeological survey of Vanuatu. One of archaeology's most significant contributions is providing models for the emergence of cultural diversity through time. Vanuatu is one of the most diverse regions on Earth. The southern islands were an important hub in early settlement and long-term inter-island interactions of Island Melanesia. Yet little is known about the origins of cultural contacts and diversity in the area. A major archaeological

survey of the Polynesian outliers Futuna and Aniwa and neighbouring islands Tanna and Aneityum would greatly improve our knowledge of settlement patterns, long-distance exchange, and cross-cultural interaction in the region, from initial Lapita settlement 3000 years ago through to the arrival of Christian missionaries in the 1860s.

2015 Joint ASHA / AIMA Conference

The 2015 Joint ASHA/AIMA Conference was held from Wednesday 23 to Saturday 26 September 2015 at the National Wool Museum in Geelong, Victoria. The Minister for Planning, Richard Wynne, opened the conference, which was followed by the launch of Brad Duncan and Martin Gibbs' new book, *Please God Send Me a Wreck: Responses to Shipwreck in a 19th-Century Australian Community* (Springer 2015). Two international guest speakers, Annalies Corbin and James Symonds, gave keynote addresses. Seventeen sessions over three days included more than 70 papers. A field trip to historic sites and wineries on the Bellarine Peninsula was held on the Sunday after the conference. The international scope of the conference was reflected not only in the global reach of many of the papers but also in the participation of people from the United States, United Kingdom, the Netherlands and South Africa, along with, of course, New Zealand.

A total of 142 delegates attended, including 90 full registrations. There was a total of \$34,700 paid in registrations fees, in addition to sponsorship support of \$14,750. Once all expenses were paid a total of \$18,330 was available for redistribution back to AIMA and ASHA, based on the number of representatives from each organisation.

The Organising Committee (Peter Harvey, Cathy Tucker, Matt Carter, Susan Lawrence, Karen Murphy and Peter Davies) thank the following organisations and individuals for their support:

- National Wool Museum
- Wathaurung Aboriginal Co-operative
- La Trobe University
- Heritage Victoria
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
- Ecology & Heritage Partners
- Dr Vincent Clark & Associates
- Beta Analytic
- GML Heritage
- Ochre Imprints
- Professional Diving Services
- Lester Franks
- AHMS
- Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists
- ArchLink
- Context

Electronic copies of the Conference Program are available from Peter Davies:

peter.davies@latrobe.edu.au

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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