NEWSLETTER

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Box 220, Holme Building
University of Sydney NSW 2006
Secretary: secretary@asha.org.au
Website: www.asha.org.au

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STATE OF THE ART

ACT NEWS

Compiled by Richard Morrison

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

New Department Name

The Federal election result brought the appointment of a new minister for heritage (in full, the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts), the Hon Peter Garrett AM MP, and a changed department name, the Department of the Environment, Heritage, Water and the Arts. The Department also has responsibilities in relation to Senator the Hon Penny Wong, the new Minister for Climate Change and Water.

World Heritage Convict Nomination

On 30 January 2008 the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, Peter Garrett, announced the nomination of 11 convict sites to the World Heritage List. The sites were:

- **New South Wales -** Old Government House and Domain (Parramatta), Hyde Park Barracks (Sydney), Cockatoo Island Convict Site (Sydney) and Old Great North Road (near Wiseman's Ferry);
- **Norfolk Island -** Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area;
- **Tasmania -** Port Arthur Historic Site (Tasman Peninsula), Cascades Female Factory (Hobart), Darlington Probation Station (Maria Island), Coal Mines Historic Site (via Premadeyna) and Brickendon and Woolmers Estates (near Longford); and
- **Western Australia –** Fremantle Prison.

The nomination will be assessed by the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO will make a decision, expected in mid-2009, after a rigorous assessment process.

Together the sites represent the global phenomenon of convictism - the forced migration of convicts to penal colonies in the 18th and 19th centuries - and global developments in the punishment of crime in modern times. The Australian Convict Sites are the preeminent examples of our rich convict history, with more than 3,000 convict sites remaining around Australia. This is unique in the world today.

The Australian Convict Sites have been nominated under criteria (iv) and (vi) under the UNESCO Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention for its outstanding global significance as:

- **an exceptional example of the forced migration of convicts - an important stage of human history (criterion iv)**. The sites illustrate the use of penal transportation to: expand the geo-political influence of Britain; punish criminals and deter crime in Britain; and reform and rehabilitate the criminal elements of society; and
- **an extraordinary example of global ideas and developments associated with the punishment and reform of the criminal elements of humanity during the Age of Enlightenment and the modern era (criterion vi)**. The sites reflect new philosophies about the punishment of crime including: the spread of penal

transportation across the globe; the shift from corporal punishment to new forms of psychological punishment; the establishment of purpose-built prisons for female prisoners and juvenile prisoners; and the rise of the national penitentiary system in Britain.

If you wish to read more, including viewing (or downloading) the nomination, then go to www.environment.gov.au/heritage/worldheritage

HD accommodation change

As was foreshadowed in the last Newsletter, the HD has now moved into the 2nd, 3rd and 4th levels of 5 Farrell Place, Civic. The previous email addresses, phone numbers and postal address have been maintained.

Richard Morrison

NSW NEWS

Compiled by Tim Owen

NEWS FROM HERITAGE CONCEPTS

Clarkes Point Reserve and Horse Paddock – Excavation and Planning in Woolwich

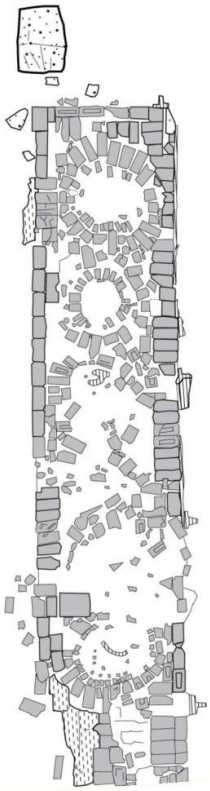
2007 was a busy year for Heritage Concepts, with the team undertaking extensive work in both Indigenous and historical archaeology throughout Australia. Involvement in a number of projects in Sydney's West allowed the team to be active in uncovering the early histories of formative towns, just as excavations on the northern coast saw the continuation of close working relationships with Indigenous groups. The year saw a great variety of work, but one major excavation and planning project worthy of special mention is Clarkes Point Reserve in Woolwich.

Clarkes Point Reserve and the Horse Paddock area adjacent to it are located on the Woolwich peninsula just opposite Cockatoo Island. The area is currently being developed in line with management-plan implementations and Heritage Concepts were called in to undertake monitoring work on the site during 2007. This monitoring revealed a range of historic deposits, including sandstone walls, foundry remains and domestic structures. Once the first signs of these deposits were discovered an excavation programme was set in motion involving all members of the HC team.

Ongoing excavation on the site over a two month period revealed a variety of structures spread across the entirety of the area. Remains of the Atlas Engineering foundry proved an exciting discovery, as it had previously been thought that all remnants of this 1884-1898 period were swept clean following the army appropriation of the space in 1964. The foundry has historical associations with shipbuilding as well as links to early twentieth century industry. The nearby domestic structures uncovered in the Horse Paddock area could well be example of the small-lot subdivisions that provided the major character of what was a working class area during the time of the Atlas works. The official decision was made to rebury and preserve the structures once their extent had been documented, so the HC focus was on compiling highly detailed recordings of all the structures. The future inclusion of such on-site elements as interpretation boards meant that plans, photographs and artefacts from the site were gathered and compiled to provide comprehensive source material.

Excavation and recording took place over November and December. A number of artefacts were uncovered during excavation, including bricks and tiles as well as a range of metal and ceramic objects and glass bottles. All relevant material was retained for study and

potential display. All planning work was completed in December 2007 with final plans delivered early January 2008.



Photographs of the excavation and interpretation

Darran Jordan

NEWS FROM JCIS

TICCIH in Australia

The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage, usually known by its acronym TICCIH is an international society dedicated to the study of industrial archaeology and the protection, promotion and interpretation of industrial heritage. It is rather like an industrial heritage version of ICOMOS.

Following consultation and a meeting at the Opera House Bar, a group of people, mainly from ICOMOS, interested in forming an Australian branch of TICCIH decided to go ahead. We were aware that Aedeen Cremin had attempted this some years ago but the

momentum had lapsed. We are now deciding on how best to establish TICCIH in Australia and have established a moderated discussion group - TICCHI in Oz on Google groups.

The group can be found at

http://groups.google.com.au/group/ticcih-in-oz/web?hl=en

Anyone is welcome to participate. Some files of relevant information can be downloaded from the site.

We are planning to have a formal launch of TICCIH in Australia during National Archaeology Week and are thinking about a conference focusing on Industrial Heritage in Broken Hill in 2010.

Iain Stuart

NEWS FROM AMAC GROUP AND COSMOS ARCHAEOLOGY

Towards the end of last year, AMAC Group, in conjunction with Cosmos Archaeology, excavated the remains of the *Leo* at Honeysuckle in Newcastle. This was an iron-hulled paddle-steamer, built in Bristol in 1871 and brought to Newcastle, via South Africa, in 1876. The *Leo* was used as a tug in the Port of Newcastle until about 1917, when it was stripped down to the hull. The vessel may then have been used in the process of dredging the harbour floor and depositing the resulting silt to the rear of the new Lee Wharf, to reclaim the area. The *Leo* was eventually buried within this reclamation fill.

The recording of the wreck required some innovative engineering solutions which included de-watering the ground in the immediate vicinity of the site with pumps working around the clock. This effectively turned what would have been an underwater excavation into a terrestrial one.

Photograph of the *Leo*

Fenella Atkinson

NEW ZEALAND NEWS

Compiled by Rick McGovern-Wilson

JOHN SCOTT HOUSE, MANGERE, AUCKLAND

Excavations were recently undertaken at an 1860s farmhouse at Mangere, Auckland. Due to the designation for future airport development, the area has remained in farmland surrounded by encroaching industrial subdivisions. The single gabled wooden house with rear lean-to was in the path of the new runway under construction.

In-ground archaeology of the house yard revealed the remains of the ditch and bank fences which enclosed the house and were used to keep animals out of the domestic yard space. Two brick-lined wells were discovered in the back yard within five metres of each other. One well had clearly been filled in with the clay removed when the second was dug, showing that it was still open when the second was required. Excavation of the wells was attempted using a hydraulic excavator but had to be halted at a depth of 8 metres, though neither well's base was reached. Postholes revealed that structures had stood around the wells, probably to support a roof and windlass. Other features in the yard included ceramic drains, shell paths relating to the original part of the house and the remnants of overlapping brick paths from different phases of the building. A lack of discrete rubbish pits at the site is probably due to the fact that the ditches around the house were used for dumping refuse in once they were no longer required. Other features in the yard included ceramic drains, shell paths relating to the original part of the house and the remnants of overlapping brick paths from different phases of the building. A lack of discrete rubbish pits at the site is probably due to the fact that the ditches around the house were used for dumping refuse in once they were no longer required.

The original cottage dated to the 1860s, with additions made in the 1870s, 1910s and 1940s. The method of construction and phases of additions and alterations to the house were recorded as it was demolished. Underfloor deposits of ceramics and bottles can be correlated with the additions. The house was built for John Scott and family about 1865, and the farm was sold in 1892 to the Kirkbride family who retained it until the 1980s.

The archaeological study of farmsteads, especially with standing mid-19th century houses, is rare in New Zealand despite the importance of the rural economy. In fact the only other known example of archaeology associated with a standing farmhouse was the Westney House, also on airport land and excavated in 2006 by CFG Heritage also. From the results of the two projects we are building up an understanding of how small farmers perceived domestic space within the farm landscape, and how the material culture recovered reflects the economics and religion-based attitudes of rural settler families on the outskirts of Auckland. Lengthy occupation by two families (the Westney's lived in their house for over 75 years) allows attitudes to rubbish disposal to be explored, and in the case of Westney's, the generational succession and how that is manifested in the material culture.

Louise Furey and Beatrice Hudson, CFG Heritage

WAGENER SUBRITZKY HOMESTEAD

Archaeological investigations are currently underway at the Wagener Subritzky Homestead, a Category 1 Historic Place located in Houhora, Northland. The first phase of excavation is focusing on the sub-floor of the kitchen, scullery and classroom where the floorboards and rotten floor joists have been removed as part of the conservation works currently being undertaken on the 1860s structure. The original kauri joists were laid on stone, brick and wood bearers or in some cases were just bedded into the underlying sand base. Removal of the joists and top layer of fill has revealed an earlier hardened earthen floor in the kitchen. Numerous artefacts have been recovered including a bone quill, musket

ball, patterned beads, and a tooth from a large sea mammal, and there is evidence of an earlier occupation underlying the current structure in the scullery.

The second phase of the excavation will start shortly and will focus on the rear courtyard where the first homestead building once stood.

The conservation of the building is being project managed by Archifact Limited with funding provided from a NZ Lotteries Heritage Grant and an ASB Trust grant.

Figure1. Floor joist alignment following the removal of the Kauri Floor boards.

Homestead

Classroom sub-floor

Step bearer

Subfloor without fill

Russell Gibb, Geometria

EXCAVATIONS OF SETTLER HOMESTEADS IN TARANAKI

This summer has seen two successful excavations of settler farmstead sites in Omata, Taranaki, located on the west coast of the North Island of New Zealand (NZAA site record numbers P19/292 and P19/270). The excavations, over a total of four weeks, were the fieldwork component of doctoral research being undertaken at the University of Auckland by Janice Adamson. Working with Janice on both excavations was Dr Hans Bader from Auckland consultancy Geometria Ltd. The teams for both digs consisted mainly of volunteer archaeology students from Otago and Auckland Universities, and for the second excavation we were joined by Linda Terry from the University of Queensland. We also had a number of other volunteers bringing their skills and valuable experience to the sites, including Dr Nigel Prickett, from the Auckland Museum. Financial support was provided by the landowners Len and Heather Jury, and the NZ Historic Places Trust, who also provided website support (www.historic.org.nz).

The two houses excavated were occupied for a short time period, approximately between 1848 and 1860, when they were destroyed during the conflict of the first Taranaki land war between British and Maori. These sites provide a rare opportunity to closely examine material culture coming from a particular time period and linked to specific individuals and families. The archaeology of these sites is particularly important and poignant given that these families were of the classes coming out of Britain that were generally unable to leave any records in the form of diaries, drawings etc.

The sites were ephemeral in nature, as the houses were small, with wooden foundation posts, leaving no evidence of surface features, and located in flat paddocks. We therefore identified them through a combination of means - overlaying of historic maps, known approximate location of wells, and geophysical survey, which pointed to areas of significant disturbance. Both sites were stripped of grass by mechanical digger until an artefact layer was hit. The presence of building material such as window glass and many iron nails lead us very quickly to conclude we were in the right location for both house sites. We then excavated by hand, plotting in the location of each artefact using a Leica 1200 total station. The plotting of all the artefacts showed clear preliminary distribution patterns, and while the sites have been subjected to 150 years of farming activity, we considered the effects of shallow ploughing to be minimal, affecting the vertical, rather than horizontal distribution of artefact material, and leaving features, such as postholes, intact.

As expected, in both sites we found postholes remaining from wooden foundation posts and stakes. The alignment of these large spade-cut postholes will give us an approximation of the size of the houses. The artefact distribution in the first site showed an unusual patterning, which, on further excavation proved to be a slightly later feature inter-cutting through the house site. This later feature was a fortified Maori gunfighter pa consisting of rifle pits, trenches and a double palisade row. The gunfighter pa clearly was built over the remains of the destroyed house, and some of the wood from the house would have been used to protect the rifle pits. The pits and trenches would have been constructed during the first Taranaki land war period between 1860-1861, when the area was left by the settlers and military, and subsequently re-fortified by opposing Maori. This Maori gunfighter pa is the only one to be excavated to date that directly relates to the first Taranaki land war, and it is therefore of high significance. Most of the artefacts from this site were recovered from inside these pits and trenches, indicating they had been backfilled using the surrounding topsoil. Analysis of recovered artefacts will continue throughout this year.

Figure 1: P19/292 “Mrs Jury’s” - Large square postholes have rifle trenches and pits inter-cutting them.

Janice Adamson, PhD candidate, Anthropology Department, University of Auckland

NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWS

No news from the NT this time. The Wet is generally slow in the Top End with everything waterlogged.

Colin de la Rue

SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWS

No news received from South Australia.

VICTORIA NEWS

Compiled by Darren Griifin

NEWS FROM MONASH UNIVERSITY

Conservation and interpretation works at the former Ebenezer Mission will commence over the next few months, funded by Heritage Victoria, the Department for Victorian Communities' Local History Grants Program, and Monash University. The remains of the Mission-house, erected in 1860 by Moravians and Wotjobaluk residents, were investigated in 2003 as part of an Australian Research Council funded project directed by Jane Lydon, of the Centre for Australian Indigenous Studies at Monash University. At the request of the Aboriginal community, represented by Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Cooperative, and the Barengi-gadjin Land Council, the site will be consolidated and interpreted. The land is owned by the National Trust (Victoria), which will manage the project.

Jane Lydon

WESTERN AUSTRALIA NEWS

Compiled by Shane Burke

NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (WESTERN AUSTRALIA BRANCH) TO SUPPORT PEEL TOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT

Western Australia's branch of the National Trust has provided $18,000 to the University of Notre Dame Australia over three-years for the archaeological work at Peel Town. The funding will provide necessary equipment for artefact accessioning and fieldwork. In addition, a webpage linked to the Trust's homepage will give the public news about the project's progress and details regarding the opportunities for accessioning and fieldwork voluntary work.

The funding and webpage are a much-appreciated boost to the already exciting archaeological work that is uncovering archaeological remains from a camp associated with Western Australia's first (1829) European settlers.

RESEARCH ON GARDEN ISLAND

Meetings with the Defence Department occurred in late-2007 regarding archaeological research on Garden Island. Garden Island, south west of Fremantle and forming Cockburn Sound's west margin, was the site of Western Australia's seat of government between June and August 1829. The island's occupation occurred due to the problems of disembarking on the mainland caused by rough winter weather. After Perth and Fremantle's establishment, the Swan River Colony government maintained the colony's store on the island until 1832.

Surveys of the island occurred in the late 1960s by the Western Australia Museum, and in the last 15-years by consultants employed for the Defence Department. Archaeological

remains do exist from 1829, but long-term research on the Island's site formation processes and its effects on site disturbance has not occurred. The formulation of a research plan including last scale pedestrian transects, and possible excavations, is expected shortly.

Shane Burke

QUEENSLAND NEWS

Compiled by Karen Murphy

QUEENSLAND HISTORICAL ATLAS

To mark Queensland's sesquicentenary of self-government in 2009, two of the State's major cultural institutions – the University of Queensland and the Queensland Museum - have come together to develop and present a new conception of Queensland's cultural, Indigenous and environmental history. The Queensland Historical Atlas project will synthesise cross-disciplinary approaches in history, environmental studies, archaeology, anthropology and cultural geography to explore 'themes in the landscape' as a means to comprehend the diverse cultural and environmental histories of Queensland.

The Queensland Historical Atlas will complement existing historical, geographic and environmental research by examining a set of themes that encapsulate in vivid human terms the interplay between people and place, between cultures and landscapes, between outlooks and physical settings that is a basic continuity in the human occupation of the State. It will re-comprehend Queensland's history on a grand scale – spanning historical eras, cultural perspectives and diverse human activities.

The Queensland Historical Atlas is supported by the Australian Research Council Linkage Funding Scheme. Further information can be obtained from the Atlas website www.uq.edu.au/qhatlas

Sean Ulm

TASMANIA NEWS

No news received from Tasmania.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear ASHA Members,

Welcome to 2008 and the first newsletter of the year. Thanks again to Rick McGovern-Wilson for taking over the role of Newsletter Editor – I would encourage all members to use the newsletter as a means of keeping the HA community informed of what you are doing and what is happening out there.

The last several months have been quite an active time for the ASHA Committee and the new Executive. In addition to settling into our roles, we have had several larger issues emerge. Lengthy submissions were made by ASHA to both the Tasmanian and the NSW heritage reviews, making sure that the interests of historical archaeology were heard. Thanks to Susan Lawrence, Angie McGowan, and the many others who put these documents together and commented. While the Tasmania Govt now seems to be pondering its next step, there have already been worrying changes made or proposed for NSW, focussed on the composition and roles of the Heritage Office and the Heritage Council. The review itself has not been released, and at a recent meeting of reps from most of the major heritage groups in NSW there was great uncertainty regarding what actions were being taken by the Minister in response to the review, versus actions based on what he'd like to happen regardless of the review. As many of you will be aware there has been a spate of problematic planning decisions in NSW of late and it would appear that these unilateral changes with no consultation are another example of this larger problem. A request has been made for the release of the heritage review, and ASHA will almost certainly be a part of any response or campaign.

You should all have received Volume 25 of the journal (with its new and improved cover design), edited by Mary Casey and Susan Piddock – thanks to both of you. The committee is still working on various publication initiatives, including the scanning of back issues of the journal, as well as the earlier ASHA 'Studies' series and 'Occasional Papers' series. A review of the ASHA website is also under way, with the intention that we provide expanded content for our members and the general public interested in HA. If we can find a sufficiently cheap server we hope that some of these earlier publications can be made available via the web.

All the best for the new year.

Martin Gibbs

President

ASHA AWARDS 2008 CALL FOR NOMINEES

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

Nominations are sought for work in the following categories:

R. Ian Jack Award for Best Honours Thesis

Maureen Byrne Award for Best Post-Graduate Thesis

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

Martin Davies Award for Best Public Archaeology Initiative

Graham Connah Award for Best Publication

Nominations are due by 31 March 2008. The awards will be announced at the ASHA conference in Adelaide.

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

SOCIETY CONTACTS

2007–2008 COMMITTEE

President	Martin Gibbs	president@asha.org.au
Vice Presidents	Penny Crook	vicepresidentpc@asha.org.au
	MacLaren North	vicepresidentmn@asha.org.au
Treasurer	Sue Singleton	treasurer@asha.org.au
Secretary	Katrina Stankowski	secretary@asha.org.au
Committee	Deborah Arthur	
	Brad Duncan	
	Ross Gam	
	Greg Jackman	
	Rick McGovern-Wilson	
	Susan Piddick	
	Jon Prangnell	
	Paul Rheinberger	
	Pam Smith	
	Jody Steele	
Immediate past President	Susan Lawrence	

Publications

***AHA* Editor**	Mary Casey	editor@asha.org.au
***AHA* Reviews Editor**	**VACANT**	reviews@asha.org.au
Newsletter Editor	Rick McGovern-Wilson	newsletter@asha.org.au
Webmasters	**VACANT**	webmanager@asha.org.au
Publications Officer	Maya Veres	publications@asha.org.au

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

ACT

Richard Morrison
25 Forbes St
Turner ACT 2612
act@asha.org.au

NSW

Tim Owen
Cultural Heritage Services
2009 Locked Bag 24
Broadway NSW 2007
nsw@asha.org.au

NT

Colin De La Rue
11 Bedwell Court
Gray
Palmerston NT 0830
nt@asha.org.au

SA

Robert Stone
Flinders University
GPO Box 2100
Adelaide SA 5001
sa@asha.org.au

QLD

Karen Murphy
School of Social Science
University of Queensland
QLD 4072
qld@asha.org.au

TAS

Greg Jackman
Port Arthur Historic Site
Management Authority
Port Arthur TAS 7182
tas@asha.org.au

WA

Shane Burke
Department of Archaeology
University of Western Australia
Nedlands WA 6907
wa@asha.org.au

NZ

Rick McGovern-Wilson
New Zealand Historic Places
Trust
PO Box 2629
Wellington NZ
nz@asha.org.au

VIC

Darren Griffin
Senior Archaeologist /
Heritage Advisor
ACHM (Vic) Pty Ltd
GPO Box 5112
Melbourne VIC 3000
vic@asha.org.au

FORTHCOMING NEWSLETTERS

The ASHA Newsletter is produced quarterly with the assistance of guest editors. The 2007–2008 guest editors are:

This issue:	Jon Prangnell	email: j.prangnell@uq.edu.au
Jun 2008 issue:	Darren Griffin	email: darren.griffin@achm.com.au
Sept 2008 issue:	Anne McConnell	email: annemc@aaa.net.au
Dec 2008 issue:	Rick McGovern-Wilson	email: newsletter@asha.org.au

In order to facilitate a more efficient newsletter production, all contributions should be forwarded to the e-mail address of your state rep (see ASHA contacts on the previous page for address details) by the following dates:

March issue:	*15 February*	September issue:	*15 August*
June issue:	*15 May*	December issue:	*15 November*

The guest editors are asked to finalise the newsletter in the third week of the month prior to circulation. Final copy must reach the General Editor, Rick McGovern-Wilson, by the final week of the month prior to circulation.

This is your newsletter and your contributions are vital. Please check deadlines diligently. Your efficiency will be greatly appreciated. I look forward to your forthcoming news of events.

Rick McGovern-Wilson
General Editor
ASHA Newsletter

Email: newsletter@asha.org.au

Post: New Zealand Historic Places Trust
P O Box 2629
Wellington 6004
NEW ZEALAND

Phone: +64 4 470 8055