

NEWSLETTER

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STATE OF THE ART

ACT NEWS

No news from the ACT this issue

NSW NEWS

Compiled by Rick McGovern-Wilson

THOMAS BALL, A STAFFORDSHIRE POTTER IN EARLY SYDNEY

Between August and September 2008 Casey & Lowe excavated 710-722 George Street, in the Haymarket, Sydney. From the early stages of British settlement this area was known as the Brickfields (modern Haymarket). The site was associated with Thomas Ball's pottery between c. 1806 to 1823. Ball was known to have established his pottery on this city block near Campbell Street but its location was uncertain due to the permissive occupancy of land in this part of the city from 1788 until official leases were established in the early 1820s (Casey 1999).

Thomas Ball came from Staffordshire where he presumably learned his trade but moved to Warwick where he convicted at Warwick Assizes on 27 March 1797 and sentenced to a term of 7 years. He arrived in Sydney in 1799 on board the *Hillsborough*. By 1806 he had acquired a Certificate of Leave and was self-employed as a potter, probably on this site in the Brickfields (Baxter 1989). He was given a Certificate of Freedom in June 1810 by Governor Lachlan Macquarie (State Records of NSW, Index to Certificates of Freedom, 4/4423).

Large amounts of lead-glaze pottery were excavated from four substantial waster pits within the pottery site. We are in the process of sorting and cataloguing this material and will only outline initial results in this report. Preliminary analysis of this material suggests that Thomas Ball was imitating contemporary British ceramic types, mainly country-pottery styles but there are also attempts to imitate finer wares such as annular banded creamware, shell-edged ware and stoneware. The pottery also engaged in creating experimental decorative fine tablewares with painted decoration, in addition to more recognisable plainly glazed forms such as pans, dishes, and chamber pots. Many of the vessels had a pale yellow glaze, possibly a general attempt to imitate creamware as well as brown glazes in various shades and an unusual maroon colour usually found with incised decoration (Fig. 2).



Decorative techniques include hand painting in green and brown on a pale yellow background, incised lines, and rouletting. The decorative patterns consist of simple wavy lines, often in radiating patterns on the base of a plate or around the rim, intersecting lines, stylised floral motifs, and dots (Fig. 1). The hand-painted decorative styles are usually found on tablewares, plates and bowls as well as teawares.



A transported potter would have employed largely contemporary British technologies, although no kilns have been discovered in the area of the Brickfields. A slightly later example is the pottery site excavated at Irrawang, near Raymond Terrace, NSW (c. 1832-55). The site included a bottle kiln, and manufacturing processes employed included wheel throwing and the use of moulds, all typically British (Birmingham 1976, 307-08). British-style kiln furniture consisted of stilts and ring types (Lawson 1971, 24 cited in Kelloway 2008, 18). Analysis of the Thomas Ball waster material, in conjunction with research into contemporary industrial activities in the Brickfields area, suggests the use of a wood-fired updraught kiln. It is hoped that future scientific analysis of the glazes and fabrics will provide more concrete evidence for the type of kiln used and offer valuable information on the raw mineral sources used in glazing.

A variety of manufacturing defects were observed in Ball's waster pottery. The most common defects are related to the rapid over firing of glazes in the kiln (Fig. 3). Ball claimed that he was the first person in the colony producing commercial pottery and it is likely he would have been relatively unfamiliar with the local combustible materials and clays. Many vessels exhibit highly blistered and blackened glazes. Another common fault seems to have been caused by the explosion of wares in the kiln. The earthenware gravels produced by explosions then filtered down the pottery stacks, frequently collecting on the interior of bases. Stacking scars are represented by a variety of faults. These include the imprint of other vessels or kiln furniture marked in the glaze (Fig. 2). Vessels may have smears of earthenware around rims and bases, indicating the use of more informal items of kiln furniture.



Large amounts of small, often tubular and partially flattened, hand moulded and unglazed fired clay lumps were found in all pits. These are the remnants of informal items of kiln furniture, bobs as well as specialist kiln furniture such as stilts and spurs. There are examples of 'placing rings' and two and four pronged stilt-like props. The absence of any class of kiln furniture known to have been common in earthenware kilns can possibly be explained by the practice of re-using damaged furniture.

Saggars, for example, are known to have been crushed down and mixed in with clay bodies as grog for new saggars (Barker 1998; Barker & Horton 1999, 68). The addition of grog to clays improves its thermal shock resistance. It is a possibility that such recycling practices were employed in Ball's pottery. It is also possible that broken bases were being employed in the kilns as shelving or props. Evidence for this comes from a number of thick and heavily overfired bases recovered from the waster pits. These displayed numerous washes of multi-coloured glaze on breaks and the exterior, often in conjunction with kiln furniture scars suggestive of their being used in kiln stacking. Numerous fragments of roofing tiles were also probably used for stacking.

The pottery wasters are being incorporated into our existing type series for locally-manufactured pottery. The vessel type series is incorporated with a decorative series for the range of decorations. Our current artefact database has been redesigned to incorporate a new set of descriptive criteria so we can more appropriately analyse the pottery from a manufacturing site as we have so many more questions from this site, in contrast to the locally-made pottery found on domestic sites.

During the cataloguing of Ball's pottery we have already been able to identify his pottery on others in Parramatta (22km from Sydney) and on a city block immediately to the east of his pottery where some wasters formed part of a drainage layer (Casey and Lowe 2009). One of the easiest ways to identify Ball's products is his decorated pottery which is highly distinctive in contrast to the local material typically found on sites, with their plain lead glazes. We hope to be able to substantially expand the identification of his pottery on other sites in the near future.

It is anticipated that the analysis of the pottery wasters from the oldest pottery manufacturing site so far found in Australia, and reputedly the first commercial pottery established in the country, will contribute to the expansion of our knowledge of the manufacturing process, the type of goods being produced in contrast to the type of goods known to have been purchased and found on residential sites, changing patterns of production and the limitations of colonial manufacturing.

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Mary Casey and Jenny Winnett

NEW ZEALAND NEWS

Compiled by Rick McGovern-Wilson

MINE CREEK SETTLEMENT, STOCKTON

A team of archaeologists has recently completed their second season excavating at the Mine Creek settlement on the Stockton plateau, north of Westport. This settlement developed in the late 1890s when the Westport Coal Company opened up a new section of the Millerton mine. The settlement grew up around the boiler shed, compressor shed and fan installed in a small gully on Mine Creek. Mine Creek settlement's population peaked at 70 people in 1911 and had been abandoned by 1936, if not earlier. By 1943, little physical evidence of the settlement remained and the surviving fabric was further modified in the 1950s when small-scale coal mining took place in the area.

A systematic archaeological survey of the area was carried out in 2007 and two excavation seasons have now been completed. The excavation has focused on the boiler shed complex and the house sites. Official reports differ on the number of boilers in the original boiler shed (two or three), but the remains of the building indicate that it was extended three times during its life and that it eventually contained eight boilers. These were Babcock and Wilcox boilers. The compressors were Leyner compound air compressors and the fan was a Schiele fan. Excavation of the compressor shed has revealed a wealth of metal artefacts relating to the operation of the machinery, including numerous hand tools, boxes of bolts and one of the boiler stokers. The remains of the fan, compressor house and boiler shed are now being prepared for 3D laser scanning.

Five house sites have been excavated, along with one other industrial building of unknown function. Excavation of the house sites has revealed an array of construction techniques, reflecting the investment of the different owners. Few artefacts have been recovered from these houses.

Extensive vegetation clearance of the site has also taken place (the site was covered in thick gorse at the time of the archaeological survey). This has revealed the remains of a tramway that carried coal from a nearby coal seam to the boilers, as well as a network of foot tracks around the site. These tracks connected the settlement with the township of Millerton and also connected the houses within the settlement. Several drains have also

been found, a testimony to the amount of rainfall this area can experience (Stockton plateau receives around 6 m of rain a year).

Katharine Watson

NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWS

Compiled by Ilka Schacht

PROPOSED HERITAGE LISTING OF FORT WELLINGTON AND HUGHES AIRFIELD

The Northern Territory Heritage Advisory Council is seeking public comment (until 15th March 2010) on the proposed heritage listing of Fort Wellington on the Cobourg Peninsula, and the Hughes Airfield south of Darwin. These two sites are historically significant in terms of early European settlement and World War Two.

Fort Wellington, located at Raffles Bay on the Cobourg Peninsula, was established in 1827 as the second of three failed attempts by the British Government to settle north Australia in the 19th century. Physical remains at the site include the foundations and flooring of stone structures, evidence of the fort itself, and cuttings in the coral to accommodate boat landings.

Hughes Airfield lies adjacent to the Stuart Highway approximately 48 kilometres south of Darwin and was one of a number of airfields constructed during World War Two. The site was the operational base for RAAF Hudson bombers of the No. 2 and 13 Squadron, which carried out the RAAF's offensive operations against the Japanese in Indonesia until the arrival of heavy USAF bombers in mid-1943. These squadrons are the only RAAF wartime units to have been awarded the US Presidential Citation for their operations and annual pilgrimages are still made to the site by members of the squadrons.

For more information about the proposed listings please contact the Northern Territory Heritage Advisory Council (08 8999 5039).

SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWS

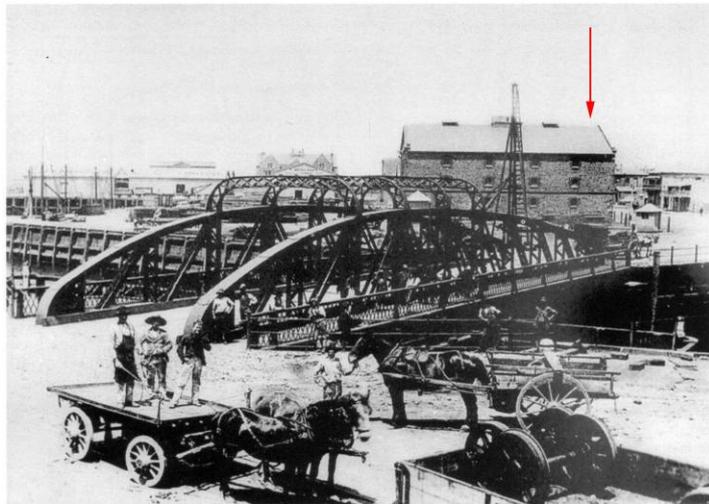
Compiled by Adam Patterson

REMOTE SENSING IN PORT ADELAIDE

Associate Professor Mark Staniforth and PhD candidate Adam Paterson from Flinders University together with Dave Ross from Tron Civil Contracting, Pty Ltd recently (20 February 2010) undertook a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey in Port Adelaide. The work was carried out under contract as part of the Land Management Corporation's Cultural Mapping Project for the Port Adelaide Waterfront Redevelopment. The aims of the survey were to:

- locate predicted sub-surface remains of a former South Australian Company Warehouse indicated at the site; and
- test the applicability of GPR to conditions in Port Adelaide, which are characterised by 2 metres of land fill overlying nineteenth century structures and occupation deposits.

Geo-technical reports and bore logs indicate that land fill in the survey area predominantly consists of re-deposited beach or river sand and silt, with some industrial waste, including slag. Natural soils revealed in the bore logs are located approximately 2 metres below current ground surfaces, and also consist of sandy silt. Historical photographs of the former building indicate that it was a large brick and masonry structure, probably with substantial footings.



View of Robinson Bridge (foreground) and the South Australian Company warehouse building (indicated by arrow) in c1884 (Photograph by *Capt. Sweet, Ron Blum Collection* in Couper-Smartt 2003:67)



Adam Paterson conducting GPR survey (Photograph by Paul Kloeden, February 2010)

At this stage the survey data are still being processed, and the results are unknown, however we hope that this ongoing work may contribute to recent discussion (Gibbs and Gojak 2009) of the effectiveness and application of remote sensing methods within Australian historical archaeology. GPR may be used to investigate more sites in the Port Adelaide Waterfront Redevelopment area that have different sub-surface deposits and structures; allowing for comparison of results.

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PHOENIX FOUNDRY, GAWLER, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

This project arises from an excavation conducted in 2008 by Austral Archaeology, which sought to record the features of the Phoenix Foundry Site as part of development of the site. Initially, Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd was commissioned by DAYCORP Pty Ltd to survey the area encompassed by the Phoenix Foundry. This report tabled a number of extant archaeological contexts as strata uncovered in existing pits or as visible historical structures (McCarthy 2008:3-15). As a result of this, Austral archaeology issued a report advising of a 'very high degree of archaeological Archaeology was then engaged to record any archaeological features uncovered during the course of development. The foundry site is now the location of new shopping mall that has incorporated the heritage items located on the site into its design. The Phoenix Foundry site is listed on both the South Australian Heritage Register and the Register of the National Estate (McCarthy 2008:1). The archaeological record produced by this excavation forms the basis of my honours thesis completed in 2009, the abstract for which is included below.

Abstract

This paper critiques entrenched notions of technology, domesticity and industry, and responds to Casella's (2005:11) call for an industrial archaeology that 'links the household to the factory floor', by showing the contribution that techniques of intra-site spatial analysis, normally reserved for domestic sites, can make when applied to industry. Using a reinterpretation of the materialism of Vere Gordon Childe as a basis for the spatial analysis of the features excavated at the Phoenix Foundry, Gawler, South Australia, it sets out to answer the question: What is the relationship between economic change through the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and the technological space created at the Phoenix Foundry, Gawler? In doing so, a prevailing tendency to analyse industrial sites within a framework of technological determinism is placed in doubt. Normally disregarded industrial remains, in this case concrete footings, are discovered to be, not only a fruitful source of information about the economy's relationship to technology, but also a means to illustrate how industry strives to eradicate domestic behaviours within its own spaces.

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VICTORIA NEWS

Nothing to report from Victoria

WESTERN AUSTRALIA NEWS

No news from Western Australia

QUEENSLAND NEWS

Compiled by Karen Murphy

NEW PLACES ON THE QUEENSLAND HERITAGE REGISTER

Two new places have been entered in the register with important archaeological values.

The **Bowen Consolidated Colliery** (established in 1919) is a former underground mine at Scottville near Collinsville in North Queensland. The No. 1 Underground Mine at the Bowen Consolidated Colliery continued production until the end of 1962 by which time it had been superseded by the nearby fully mechanised No. 2 Underground Mine. The colliery is one of the earliest and most intact former coal mines in the Bowen Basin.

The colliery site has the potential to reveal information through archaeological techniques on important aspects of Queensland's history, including early underground coal mining, the evolving technology in the coal mining industry in Queensland, the working conditions of the mine workers, and the organisation of labour.

The Colliery complex has the potential to answer a range of other archaeological research questions including but not limited to the creation, selection, use and rejection of coal mining technologies, the ethnic and industrial background of mine workers and its influence on operations and organisation, and the impact of technologies and industries on the environment.



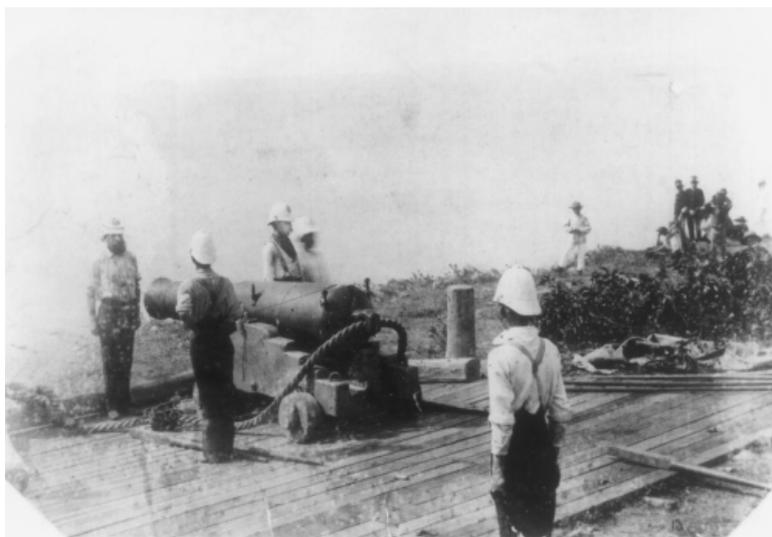
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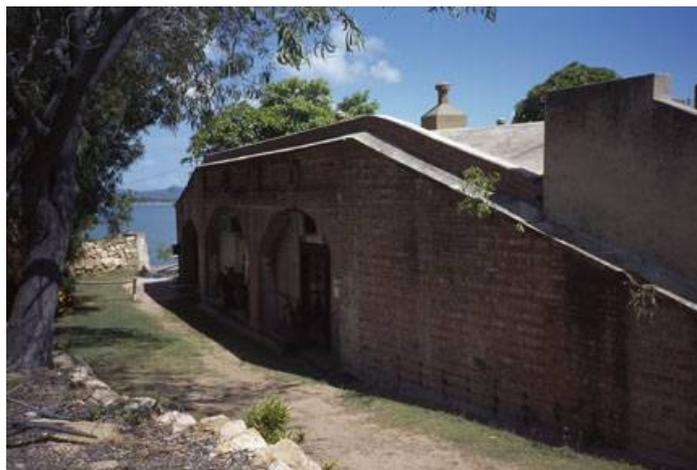
Water tube boilers (Babcock and Wilcox)

The **Kissing Point Fortifications and Jezzine Barracks** occupy part of a rocky headland separating Cleveland Bay and Rowes Bay at the northern end of The Strand in Townsville. The fortifications were built in 1891 as a two-gun battery and part of the coastal defence scheme being established to protect the colony of Queensland and its ports from naval bombardment, installations of which started at Fort Lytton (QHR 600248; 1880-82) in Brisbane and extended to Green Hill Fort on Thursday Island (1891-92). The military presence at the site and the adjacent Jezzine Barracks has persisted over a period of just more than 125 years to 2007 when it was officially closed as an active army site.

The Kissing Point fortification and the site immediately surrounding it may provide valuable archaeological evidence of the design and construction responses made to adapt these kinds of standard battery designs to local conditions. As it belongs to a colonial system of defence that stretches along the entire east coast of Australia, the Kissing Point fortifications would benefit from and add detail to the body of evidence gleaned from these other locations.



Members of the Townsville Garrison Artillery standing next to cannon at Kissing Point, Townsville, 1892 (John Oxley Library <http://hdl.handle.net/10462/HNC/deriv/4>)



Casemate façade

For full details of all of the places in the Queensland Heritage Register, visit

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

Cameron Harvey, Department of Environment and Resource Management

HMQS MOSQUITO – SITE RECORDING

In November 2009, archaeologists from the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) and the Queensland Museum conducted a site inspection of the final resting place of the former Queensland Colonial Navy Gunboat *Mosquito*. The site was re-discovered in October and reported to DERM under the discovery provisions of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*.

The *Mosquito* was built by Thornycroft in the United Kingdom. She was a 2nd Class Torpedo Boat of 35 tons constructed in 1884. Torpedo boats of this type were specifically designed for attacking large warships within the confines of harbours and inland waterways, and were not ocean going vessels. The *Mosquito* was absorbed into the Royal Australian Navy following Federation in 1901, and discarded following decommissioning sometime after 1910.

The remains of *Mosquito* are located within mangroves on a tributary creek of the Brisbane River. The site comprises a predominantly linear, discrete scatter of collapsed steel hull plating and other steel structural members over an area measuring approximately 20 metres by 5 metres. Structural features visible at low tide include the cutwater frame - a single iron frame that formed the boat's stem and forward-most portion of the keel –and the conning tower, the exposed portion of which has collapsed.

The Queensland Museum and DERM hope to conduct further assessments of the site to better establish the extent of the remains.

Thanks to Dr Michael Westaway and Mr Ed Slaughter (Queensland Museum), Mr James Hunter (Flinders University), and Mr Warren Delaney (Maritime Archaeological Association Queensland).



Cutwater bow frame



HMCS MOSQUITO, 1901. The tiny beam of the boat is more obvious in this starboard quarter view. Her funnel located forward is offset slightly to starboard and the pill box conning tower to the port beam. (Photo-N. Pixley)

Cameron Harvey, Department of Environment and Resource Management

QUEENSLAND HERITAGE COUNCIL INITIATIVES

“Our Shared Heritage” Project

The Queensland Heritage Council is seeking input on places of heritage significance to the community that are not yet heritage-listed. Suggestions can be e-mailed to the Queensland Heritage Council on heritage.council@derm.qld.gov.au before 31 March 2010.

For more information visit: www.qldheritage.org.au.

The Australian e-Heritage Portal

The Queensland Heritage Council is in the early stages of a project to improve online access to information about places of cultural significance. Designed for researchers and educators, the Australian e-Heritage Portal will make cultural heritage materials available through an innovative database system and search facility to a wide range of disciplines and users. Users will be able to exchange, reuse and combine data from other researchers and domains in new ways. The e-Heritage Portal will make the state-based and national collections available for the first time through a common federated search interface.

The Portal project will include a seamless research and compilation service over these databases to produce rich, up-to-date 'compound objects' for teaching, learning and research.

In particular, the heritage materials in the state and national registers will be linked to other significant research collections and sources such as libraries, museums, galleries and archives. Because each search is carried out on databases that are rigorously maintained by their custodians, researchers can be assured of accessing the most up-to-date collection of material. Any changes and additions that are made to the databases of the participating bodies will be available in the federated database.

For more information, contact the Queensland Heritage Register through admin@qldheritage.org.au.

Cameron Harvey, Department of Environment and Resource Management

CERAMIC BACKSTAMP WEBSITE AND DATABASE

Jon Prangnell and Linda Terry are putting together a web-based database of Australian, English, Welsh, Scottish and Irish ceramic backstamps to assist archaeologists in the identification of the manufacturers and date ranges of ceramics recovered from Australian archaeological sites. When the internet site goes live users will be able to search the database by device type or name (or part thereof) and view images of all matching backstamps in the database. Users will also be able to obtain the registered company name and appropriate references (such as Godden or Kowalsky and Kowalsky reference numbers and date ranges). With the assistance of the Queensland Museum, Redcliffe Museum and local archaeologists we have scanned almost 400 backstamps into the database and we plan to 'go live' when we have approximately 1000 marks.

To ensure that there are no problems with copyright we are scanning original backstamps ourselves. If anyone is interested in assisting the project by allowing us access to their ceramic collections please contact Jon on j.prangnell@uq.edu.au. We will come to you!

John Prangnell and Linda Terry, University of Queensland

TASMANIA NEWS

Compiled by Greg Jackman

AUSTRAL TASMANIA

Austral Tasmania, arguably Tasmania's most well travelled heritage consultants, has been involved in a wide variety of projects in some interesting parts. This included fieldwork at Melaleuca in the State's south-west, where David Parham and Ian Terry are preparing a CMP for the precinct for the Friends of Melaleuca. Austral Tas is also gearing up for more work in the north west following on from Justin and David's (very wet) Spring surveys in September last year. The bulk of the work occupying the firm's time is related to planning for major transport infrastructure works at Bagdad, Kingston and Dilston. David and Richard have undertaken a number of Practice Note assessments over the last few months, on a mixture of sites in both the north and the south of the state. Site types range from urban environments where 150+ years of urban development has potentially been sealed beneath an inner-city carpark, to sites of convict incarceration and forced labour.

In addition to hiding in their offices squinting at bright screens, several small excavation/monitoring projects have allowed the trowels of Austral Tasmania to retain their polished finishes. Whilst extant recording projects have seen David in particular re-acquaint himself with the old ways (measured drawing).

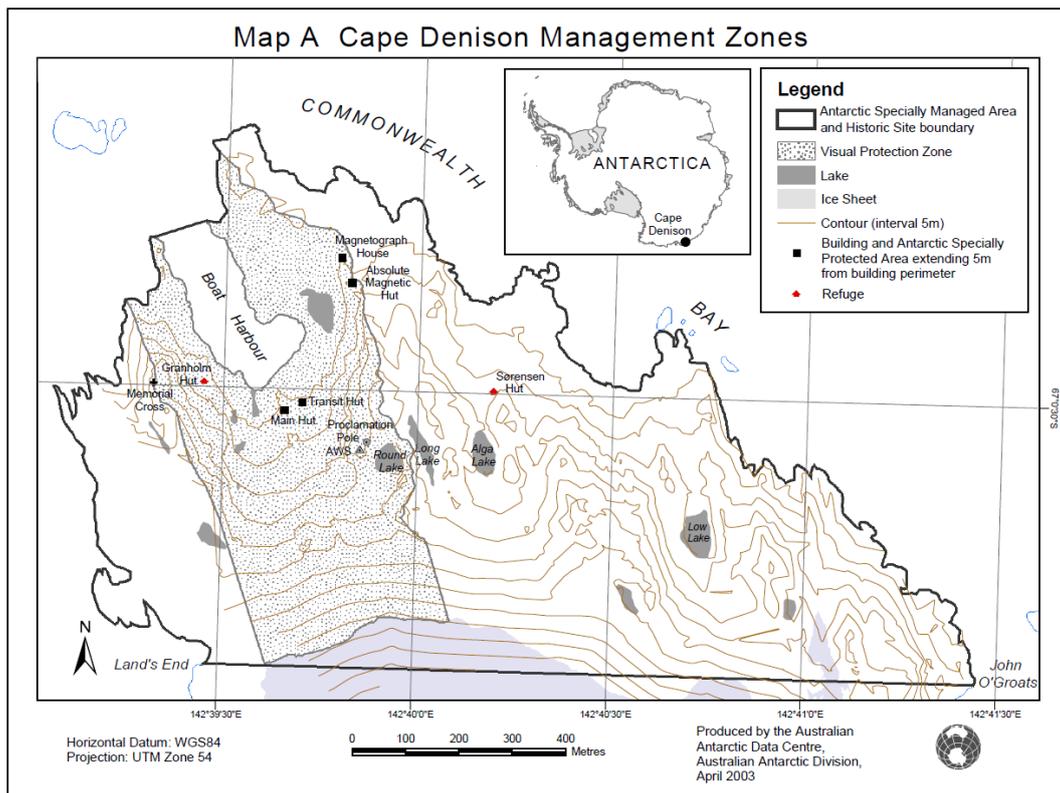
By the time you read this article, Austral will have welcomed James Puustinen (formerly of GHD and before that Heritage Tasmania) to the fold. James brings a wealth of experience to the heritage consultant role and will further strengthen the firm's capability in the areas of heritage planning and historical research.

Richard Tuffin

PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE TASMANIA

Artefacts on Ice

In December, I followed in the footsteps of several AHSAites before me and ventured off south to the great icy continent of Antarctica. As part of the 2009/2010 Mawson's Huts Foundation Conservation Expedition, I was granted the title of Expedition Archaeologist and we set sail from Hobart on the French Ship the L'Astrolabe on Friday December 4th. The purpose of the expedition was to continue the conservation work on the huts and surrounding area of the Mawson's Huts Historic Sites located at Cape Denison.



The expedition involved six weeks on the ice with the main role for the archaeologist being as the ice excavator to allow timber conservation work to the exterior of the Main Hut. As a rookie to the world of ice excavation and armed only with articles written by Neville Ritchie, Estelle Lazer, Angie McGowan, Anne McConnell and Linda Clarke, I had packed every possible type of excavation tool, turns out they were right, a geo-pick is the only way!

Outside of ensuring the carpenters didn't disturb any of the frozen archaeological deposits, I put myself to work conducting a detailed survey of the interior of the hut buildings. Although many sketched drawings and photographs have been taken inside the buildings to-date, detailed scaled planning had not been comprehensively carried out (especially with the current level of ice within the building...Angie's photos show several truckloads more ice inside the building than that which exists in there at present). After four hours within the hut attempting to plan every plank, post, hook and shelf, I soon began to understand why no-one had perhaps carried out recording in this much detail before. Imagine yourself with drawing board and lead pencil standing inside an ice cream freezer for four hours!! All would have been well with the exception that it is very hard to draw at 1:25 scale with thick thermo-mittens covering your fingers, so woollen liners were the best I could do to maintain dexterity and feeling in my digits!

In addition to what are almost a lovely set of scale drawings (they are currently spread all over my desk awaiting inking), I was able to trial a fun technique of recording the artefact scatters outside amongst the rock outcrops. I know that kite aerial photography is not a new concept; however using this technique in the windiest place on earth takes quite the amount of planning. With the enormous brain of our team engineer/scientist the small digital camera was mounted into a kite rig and sailed above the site at great heights to enable the capture of the vast artefact scatters surrounding the hut, the results are high

resolution and with this year's melt activity, I would suggest some of the best contextual information that has been able to be gathered in relation to the scatter and its association with the buildings and other site features. Although the results are spectacular, it was suggested that I not be put in charge of the remote control for the kite rig ever again – too many horizon shots apparently.



Until the report is finalised and I have more results on some of the other tasty tidbits that we're researching, I'll leave you with a few images of the very special place that is Mawson's Huts Historic Site.



Looking SW towards the Main Huts & Workshop building



Inside Mawson's Cubicle – Frozen in time

Jody Steele

PORT ARTHUR HISTORIC SITE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Summer Archaeology Program report – convict sawpits

This year saw (no pun) a very successful Port Arthur Summer Archaeology Program. In January, twelve students from across Australia descended on Port Arthur to delve into the depths of a c. 1856 complex of convict sawpits. This complex is evidence of the industrial-scale timber production at Port Arthur. The bank of sawpits was dug into land reclaimed during the 1850s. A stone retaining wall was built around the pit's perimeter and it was covered by a lattice-clad timber pavilion measuring 18 by 36m. The building was large enough to allow twelve pairs of sawyers to work at one time. Very few references to the sawpits have been found in historic records, and only a limited number of images of the building's exterior survive. Following the closure of Port Arthur in 1877 and the destruction of the sawpit building c. 1880, the open pit was used by the local township of Carnarvon to deposit rubbish. This continued until about c. 1920, after which the pit was filled in and grassed over for use as a sporting field.

The site is now the subject of a long-term research project conducted by Port Arthur as part of its Summer Archaeology program. The site offers the opportunity to investigate not only the structure and functioning of the sawpits and convict labour, but also issues relating to late nineteenth-century rural township life. Several trenches have been excavated since 2001 at various points around the sawpit perimeter wall. These excavations revealed that the wall extended at least 1.4 m below the ground surface. The excavations also uncovered large quantities of late nineteenth and early twentieth century artefacts from the pit's interior.

In January, very ably assisted by the Summer Program volunteers as well as Karen Murphy in the field and Emily Jateff in the project lab, we embarked on three weeks of digging. We hoped to shed some light on the interior structure of the sawpit, and to further characterize the township-era refuse deposit. We continued excavation of a 5 by 5m trench positioned over the sawpit's western wall which was partially excavated in 2009. We also opened another trench on the north-eastern corner of the 2009 trench. A substantial sample of the township-era refuse deposit was excavated. This material although still undergoing cataloguing, will reveal some interesting insights into early township life. Several lock assemblies formerly used in the cell doors of the Port Arthur Separate Prison and Penitentiary were found. These will contribute to our understanding of the timing and process by which much of the penal-era hardware of Port Arthur was removed, recycled and discarded.

One of the more intriguing aspects of this year's dig was the discovery of structural timbers and a thick layer of woodchips and sawdust in two small sondages placed through the township-era refuse. These sondages were excavated down to the level of original beach sand in pre-reclamation Mason Cove. The timbers are thought to be part of convict-era sawpit bays. The findings suggest that in order to construct the sawpits, the convicts excavated into the land recently reclaimed from Mason Cove. They then created sawpit bays by packing down a thick layer of clay, and then topping it with clean sand to form a working surface for the under sawyer. The sides of the sawpit bay appear to have been marked out by log segments that were pegged down by short wooden stakes. A layer of compacted wood chips and sawdust was then packed down into the sand during the sawpit operations.

In January 2011 we will open up larger areas of the existing trenches to the level of the sawpit-related features. In doing so we hope to find evidence as to whether these features are elements of sawpit bays, and if so, their dimensions and collective spatial configuration.

Many thanks to a fantastic crew of Karen Murphy and Emily Jateff, and the 2010 Port Arthur archaeology volunteers: Charles Alexander, Adele Anderson, Marianne Clarkson, Nicky Corbett, Jessica Gallagher, Julia Garnaut, Anne Golden, Jane McMahon, Jennifer Milani, Shannon Smith, Jessica Vander Hoeven and Andrew Wilkinson.



Figure 1: Overview of Trenches on Port Arthur Oval with Penitentiary to rear



Figure 2: Layer of compacted woodchips and log, possible sawing bay, Trench 6



Figure 3: 2010 Crew, Port Arthur Summer Archaeology Program

Anita Waghorn

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

ASHA CONFERENCE BRISBANE 2010

The 2010 Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology Conference will be held over three days from Thursday 30 September to Saturday 2 October 2010 in Brisbane at the Mercure Hotel, situated on North Quay in Brisbane's CBD.

A welcome reception will be held on the evening of Wednesday 29 September on the decks of the historic *Diamantina* at the Queensland Maritime Museum, and the conference dinner will be held on Saturday night 2 October at the Marque Hotel, Brisbane. A post-conference tour is being planned for Sunday 3 October.

Brisbane in spring is a perfect time to visit. The venues are all centrally located around the Brisbane River, with easy access to a range of accommodation options and opportunities to visit the Queensland Museum, Gallery of Modern Art, and South Bank Parklands. We look forward to seeing you in sunny Queensland!

Call for Sessions

Proposals for themed sessions are invited for the upcoming ASHA Conference. Sessions are invited on current issues and research in Australian and New Zealand archaeology, as well as sessions of interest and relevance to Australian and New Zealand archaeologists more generally. This may include overseas work being undertaken by archaeologists based in Australasia.

It is proposed that sessions will comprise a number of 15-20 minutes papers depending on the volume of proposals received.

If you wish to propose a session for the conference, please submit the following information:

- a session abstract of 150-200 words
- the name and topic of two prospective papers for the proposed session
- name, affiliation, contact email and phone number of all session organisers

The above details should be emailed to Geraldine Mate at geraldine.mate@qm.qld.gov.au or may be posted to ASHA Conference Committee, School of Social Science, University of Queensland, Brisbane QLD 4072.

Following review of the session proposals, a call for papers will be issued.

All session proposals must be submitted before **1 April 2010**.

Further details on the conference including online registration will soon be available on the website hosted by the University of Queensland - <http://www.socialscience.uq.edu.au/>

ASHA AWARDS PROGRAMME 2010

ASHA members are invited to nominate recent work for consideration in the ASHA Awards program. The ASHA Awards program aims to promote excellence in historical archaeology in Australasia by recognising best practice in the heritage management of historical

archaeology; promoting the communication of archaeological results to the public; and rewarding outstanding research by students.

Nominations are sought for work in the following categories:

R. Ian Jack Award for Best Honours Thesis (for theses completed in 2009)

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

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

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

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

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

SPECIAL JOURNAL EDITION

International Journal of Historical Archaeology

Volume 14, Number 1 / March, 2010

Special Issue: Aboriginal Missions in Australasia;

Guest Editors: Jeremy Ash, Jane Lydon, and Michael Morrison

<<http://springerlink.com/content/104876/?p=1ca35455b325420e84a80f0ca5fcfd93&pi=0>>

THE 14TH TICCIIH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS, FREIBERG, SAXONY

The International Committee for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage (TICCIH) is the international organisation for the conservation of industrial archaeology/heritage with the aims of promoting preservation, conservation, investigation, documentation, research and interpretation of our industrial heritage.

TICCIH holds congresses every three years, the first being at Ironbridge Gorge in 1971. Apart from the presentation of papers and various social events, the congress includes meetings of TICCIH National representatives, meetings of the various TICCIH sections, and the election of the TICCIH Board. Importantly each National Committee presents a report on Industrial Archaeology/Heritage in their country or area since the last Congress. These are published and form an important record of progress (or otherwise) towards TICCIH's aims.

The 14th Congress was held between 30th August and 5th September 2009 in the town of Freiberg in Saxony. Founded by Otto the Rich in 1186, Freiberg is a historic silver mining town (the Broken Hill of Saxony so to speak), not far from Dresden in the foothills of the Erzgebirge ("ore") Mountains (subject to a proposed World Heritage Nomination). The

Congress was hosted by the Technical University and Mining Academy of Freiberg which was founded in 1765 and has been a European focus for mining education and research since then.

The Congress theme was “Industrial Heritage, Ecology and Economy”. It was aiming to examine the close connections between environmental, economical, technical, social and historical questions of industrial heritage in our modern world. The Congress language was English.

The Conference had around 350 participants from 38 nations. There were 190 papers in 23 sessions, 5 workshops and 20 posters. There were four papers presented by Australians (Tim Hubbard, Sue Stepowski-Jackson, Sara Jane Brazil and Iain Stuart) It is impossible to list all 190 papers but a list of the Congress sessions has been compiled to show the range of topics covered which is available from the TICCIH in Oz website (<http://groups.google.com.au/group/ticcih-in-oz?hl=en>).

There were two all day conference excursions: The first was a trip to the former industrial and brown coal landscape in Lusatia and the newly emerging Lusatian Lakeland (a filled open cut coal mine). The second trip was by steam train (hauled by Steam locomotive 65 1049, 0-8-4T) to the Saxon Museum of Industry and the Industrial Townscape of Chemnitz (aka Karl Marx Stadt) of course the giant head of Karl Marx in the town centre.

The general assembly was held on the 5th of September. A new TICCIH Broad was elected. Patrick Martin took over from Eusebi Casanelles as TICCIH President. Unusually there was an election for board members. Dr Iain Stuart from Australia was one of those elected to the TICCIH Board.

Overall the Congress was well organised, although not a slick as the SHA meetings. Freiberg was an ideal environment to hold a heritage related congress as it retains much of the urban form of a medieval town.

What stood out was the common issues we all struggle with – valuing of industrial heritage and the complex issues involved in its preservation such as competing values (for example the EU wants to return all rivers to their “natural” condition with obvious implications for hydro electric schemes), site contamination and the sheer size and scale of industrial sites.

Europe has progressed a considerable way down the track toward making their industrial sites tourist attractions (the German practice of selling beer at the site cafes no doubt helps) and linking them through an overarching organisation the European Route of Industrial Heritage (ERIH). However visiting some sites we noted that mono-lingual interpretation was the norm even on World Heritage sites

The high regard that ICOMOS Burra Charter is held in became obvious after seeing several papers advocating its approach and urging the development of Conservation Management Plans as a basis for heritage management – something that Australian heritage managers do in their sleep.

It was also great to see papers on Industrial heritage in Asia. Among others there was Stuart Smith talked about Kyushu Yamaguchi Consortium World Heritage project; Hsiao-Wei Lin talked about conserving the Chi-Ku slat pans in Taiwan and a presentation on mANN and its work on the Union Carbide site at Bhopal and the historical cement factory of PT. Semen Padang, in West Sumatra, Indonesia.

The TICCIH National Co-ordinator for Australia is:

Helen Lardner, HLCD Pty. Ltd., email: h.lardner@hlcd.com.au

The TICCIH in Oz site is <http://groups.google.com.au/group/ticcih-in-oz?hl=en>

Dr Iain Stuart, JCIS Consultants, TICCIH Board Member

NEW ON-LINE CERAMICS CATALOGUE

The Florida Museum of Natural History has recently established an on-line fully searchable catalogue of historic period archaeological ceramics dating from 1492-1850. This has been developed from the more than 2 million excavated specimens from over 100m sites throughout Florida and Latin America. The digital catalogue includes thousands of colour images of individual sherds representing hundreds of different ceramic types, along with information about the specimens and bibliographic references.

While the focus is primarily on ceramics of Spain and its colonies, there may be material included that is of use to Australasian archaeologists. The link to this database is:

http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/histarch/gallery_types

NEW BOOKS

Mining Sites in NSW: History and Heritage



Pearson, Michael, and B. McGowan. 2009. *Mining Sites in NSW: History and Heritage*, Department Industry and Investment, NSW. ISBN 978 0 7347 1988 0 248pp Soft cover with profuse illustrations. A4 landscape

Mining in NSW: History and Heritage presents the history of mining in NSW from the first workings at Newcastle to the end of the boom days of mining in the early 1900s. Written by two of the leading professionals in the area of mining history and heritage, the aim of this book is to enable the reader assess a abandoned mining site and determine its heritage

significance based on the mining of 25 different mineral groups in NSW (as state of Australia). The book also includes fascinating history on mining in NSW and provides an insight into what our early miners had to face. Access to I&I NSW's extensive photo library, and a number of private libraries, has given this book 124 photos of outstanding quality.

To order your copy (\$60.00 + p&h) contact I&I NSW (Minerals) bookshop on 61 1300 736 122 or email orders@minerals.nsw.gov.au



The Burning Mists Of Time: A Technological And Social History Of Mining In Katoomba

Philip J. Pells and Philip J. Hammon (eds), 2009 *The burning mists of time: a technological and social history of mining in Katoomba* with contributions from Amanda Mackie, Karen Carlson and Brian Fox,

Hardback 258 p. ill., maps ; 31 cm ISBN 9780977563968 (hbk.) WriteLight, 30 Wills Lane Blackheath NSW 2785

This is the fascinating story of the establishment of the town of Katoomba in the Blue Mountains of NSW, including the history of the Scenic Railway. The book traces the people who lived in Katoomba in the late 1800's, the pioneering developers who were drawn by the world's richest oil shale deposits and associated coal seams, and the roles of those people and their works in the rise of Katoomba to fame as a significant tourist destination.

To provide background to the central story, and to help in understanding the motivations and limitations of the central characters in this history, the book also describes the society in which this all happened, the aboriginal influences, and the bureaucratic and financial systems within which the developments had to take place.

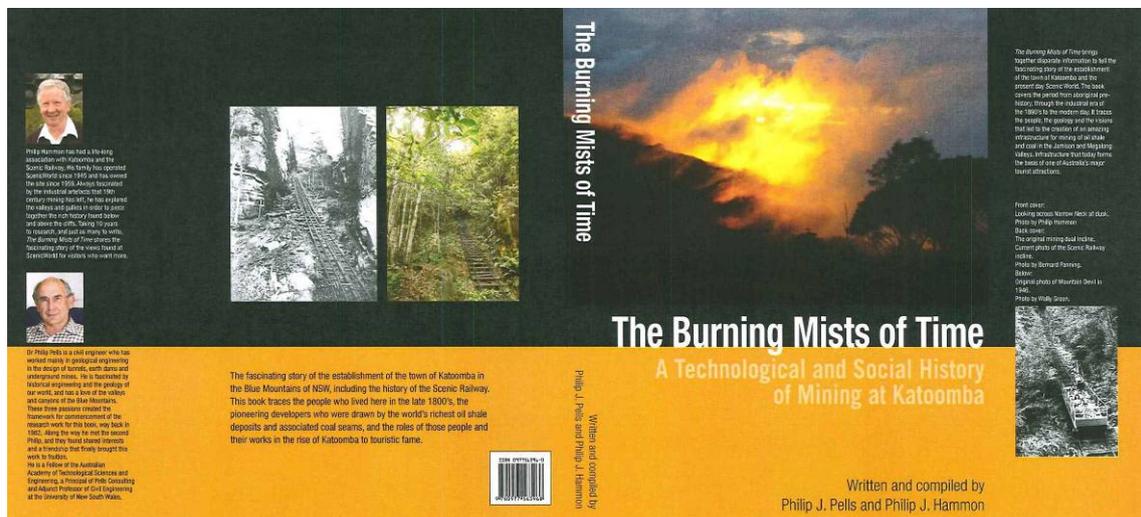
The technical descriptions of the amazing infrastructure needed to recover the rich oil shale from the vastness of the Jamison and Megalong Valleys, are written to be understood by the non-technical person.

The research needed to bring this book to publication has been undertaken over many years, both by professional researchers, and avocational archaeologists and historians. The latter ask the questions; “why is this here?” and the former try to help answer them. Understanding the 19th century engineering solutions from the scant remains of abandoned worn cables, and eroded earthworks, takes a wealth of experience, in wire rope workings, steam haulage, mining practices, underground and surface surveying, and even pony management.

Pells and Hammon have put all this together in a very readable and well illustrated book, with many previously unpublished historic photos, with sketches and diagrams to clearly explain what was a quite complex industrial process in use at the site. There is an interesting web page at <http://www.scenicworld.com.au/burningmists/> which provides details of the research undertaken and some links to bookshops stocking the volume.

The book can be purchased from Scenic World at Katoomba for \$A59.95 plus postage (email Skyway souvenirs Email: jeanette@scenicworld.com.au for details

If you purchase a copy of the book at ScenicWorld, you will receive a presentation box of a piece of oil shale and a souvenir box of matches, with which you can test the claim that Katoomba’s oil shale was the highest quality in the world by setting fire to it in the privacy and safety of you own home (We are not sure whether this applies to mail orders given restrictions on flammable material in the post but you can always ask).



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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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