



NEWSLETTER

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ASHA Inc., PO Box 2497
North Parramatta, NSW 1750
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 AND WILDLIFE DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY, ENVIRONMENT, WATER, POPULATION AND COMMUNITIES (DSEWPAC)

Canberra National Heritage List (NHL) assessment - There was a face-to-face meeting between the Australian Heritage Council and the ACT Heritage Council in December 2011 to discuss the two nominations of Canberra currently under assessment for the NHL. This was a first for the Australian Heritage Council, to meet with another Heritage Council to discuss a significant assessment. The meeting was very positive and received good media coverage through ABC radio and the 7.30 Report. Work on this complex assessment proceeds.

HMS *Sirius* National Heritage Listing - The HMS *Sirius* was added to Australia's National Heritage List on 25 October 2011, the 225th anniversary of the commissioning of the HMS *Sirius* and the appointment of Arthur Phillip as Captain and commander of the First Fleet. The shipwreck of the HMS *Sirius* is the 97th place to be included in the National Heritage List. The sinking of the *Sirius* at Norfolk Island on 19 March 1790 was a disaster for the fledging colony, and it could be said that the adaptability, ingenuity and grim determination to survive shown by the early colonists to overcome adversity have become enduring traits of Australians and part of our national character.

The inclusion of the wreck of HMS *Sirius* on the National Heritage List provides the shipwreck with further protection under national environment law and also gives deserving recognition to this preeminent event in our national story.

The HMS *Sirius* was the guardian or Flag Ship of the First Fleet during its 15,000 mile, six-month journey from England to Australia in 1787-1788, and was vital to the success to the voyage. The *Sirius* was the main form of defence for the colony of New South Wales and its primary supply line and communications link with Great Britain.

By February 1790 the shortage of supplies at Port Jackson was at a critical level and the settlement was in danger of starvation and abandonment. To avert disaster Governor Phillip dispatched the *Sirius* and the HMS *Supply* to Norfolk Island with convicts and Royal Marines in the hope that the conditions on the island would be more conducive to self-sufficiency and relieve pressure on the remaining government supplies. The *Sirius* was then to proceed to China to purchase desperately needed supplies for the colony. The sinking of the *Sirius* in the next month, before carrying out its mission, was a significant adverse event in the colony's early history.

The officers of the HMS *Sirius* played an important role in the life of the early colony and gave it its first civic leaders. Governors Phillip, Hunter and Gidley King all sailed as senior officers on the HMS *Sirius* with each one leaving an indelible mark on the beginnings of colonial Australia.

In spite of the loss of the *Sirius* the decision by Governor Phillip to move colonists to Norfolk Island proved correct and ensured the colony's survival until further supplies arrived from England.

Further information on HM *Sirius* can be found at:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/national/sirius/pubs/hms-sirius-factsheet.pdf>

NH Listing information is at:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/national/sirius/index.html>

Video of the underwater remains can be found at:

https://docs.google.com/leaf?id=0BzMnXYYJVXjWOTc2NjE2NDQqOTJlYy00NjAzLWJmN2EtZDBkMDA0YWJmOTJk&hl=en_GB

Heritage Chairs and Officials of Australia and New Zealand (HCOANZ) meeting, Perth 20-21 February 2012 – HCOANZ had a successful meeting recently and discussed a variety of topics of mutual interest. A large part of the meeting was dedicated to the further development of the Australian Heritage Strategy and papers were also presented on topics such as: the outcomes of a national Heritage Trades Training Project and how these might be progressed; a Heritage and Sustainability Project status report; the development of a policy on how to deal with ruinous structures from a management perspective; the status of a trial Queensland Government e-heritage project to allow sophisticated one-stop-shop, national searching of heritage and other (eg pictorial) databases), and digitised reports; and other matters.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Archaeology of the ACT project - This project will investigate the archaeology of the ACT from Pleistocene to Contact within its palaeoenvironmental context. ACT's borders are a modern political construction. However, lying as it does between the watersheds of several rivers and creeks, and possessing a varied geography of mountains, plains, rivers and wetlands, the ACT forms a natural microcosm of a much larger geographic region. As such, it is strategically positioned to test models of Pleistocene human settlement, environmental adaptation at the height of the Last Glacial maximum (LGM) and subsequent cultural changes and environmental interactions throughout the Holocene, across a much larger region of south eastern Australia. A key feature of the project will be the active involvement of local Aboriginal communities.

AUSTRALIA ICOMOS; CANBERRA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY; NATIONAL TRUST (ACT); AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY AND THE DONALD HORNE INSTITUTE, CANBERRA UNIVERSITY COLLABORATION

ACT and Region Annual Heritage Symposium 2012 - Valuing heritage: our favourite places and why we need to keep them.

Date: Saturday 28th July 2012

Time: 8.30am to 5pm.

Venue: Sir Roland Wilson Building Theatre, Bldg 120, ANU campus.

Cost: \$100 full registration; \$50 full time students, concession, unwaged.

Possible Themes:

- Community value and social attachment to places
- The value of archaeology, it's not just buried in the ground
- 40 years of World Heritage – has it helped us?
- Recession heritage, the changing economics of attachment to place

This is the first notice for this annual event. Please send your ideas for session themes, offers of support and outlines for presentations to Sally.Brockwell@anu.edu.au

Please pass this on to your colleagues, professional societies and organisations and any others who might be interested.

Richard Morrison

NSW NEWS

Compiled by Tim Owen

2012 AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTION DEPOSITION POLICY NOW AVAILABLE

The Archaeological Collection is now open for depositions.

In the past members of the Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology have made enquires as to making a deposition of archaeological material with the Australian Museum. The Archaeological Collection has been closed for numerous years for a number of varying reasons. The Australian Museum wishes to inform the Association that the Archaeological Collection is now open for depositions.

In order to make a Deposition with the Australian Museum you will need to obtain a copy of the 2012 Australian Museum Archaeological Collection Deposition Policy, The Policy documents and attendant forms are available at the Web link below

The purpose of this policy is to outline the conditions under which the Australian Museum will consider accepting Aboriginal archaeological materials collected under the framework of the *NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

<http://www.australianmuseum.net.au/Lodgement-of-Archaeological>

Allison Dejanovic, Australian Museum

SIGNIFICANT NSW STATE HERITAGE LISTING OF THE COLEBEE AND NURRAGINGY LAND GRANT – WESTERN SYDNEY

Recently included on the NSW State Heritage Register is the site of the first land grant ever given to Aboriginal people in Australia.

The land grant was associated with two significant Aboriginal figures from the early colonial period – Nurragingy and Colebee, to whom the land was jointly granted in 1816. The

location of the land grant is significant because it was an Aboriginal choice, being on land belonging to Nurragingy's clan.

Further information on this listing is available from the following link:

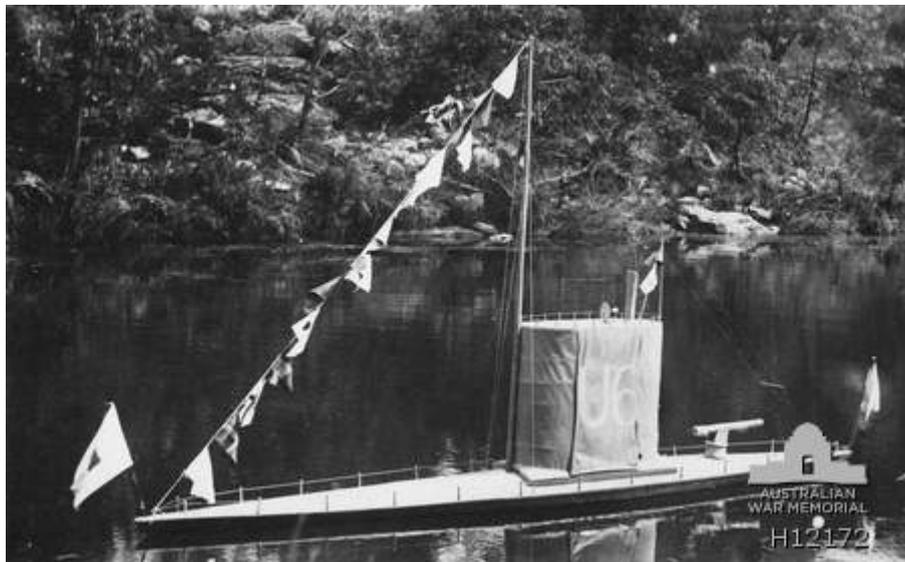
http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/07_subnav_04_2.cfm?itemid=5056189

Tim Owen

NSW HERITAGE BRANCH, OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE - MARITIME HERITAGE TEAM

Berrima Fieldwork

Tim Smith and Brad Duncan have undertaken fieldwork at Berrima from 27 - 28 February, 2012 to try to relocate remains of canoes associated with the Berrima WWI Internment Camp. The canoes were scuttled in the river after the camp closed at the end of the War, and several were decorated for regattas in the form of a zeppelin, U-boat, dragon, shark and a gondola, to name but a few. Several potential targets were identified from a side scan sonar survey undertaken in November 2011 (commissioned by the Heritage Branch), which are possibly canoes or dinghies, and also pier or jetty sites. Zero visibility conditions on site restricted fieldwork operations, and inspections were made largely by touch on the riverbed. Although no positive identifications of canoes were made during the current fieldwork (which was terminated early due to the potential for localised flooding), the locations of at least two underwater anomalies were reconfirmed using a Hummingbird Side Imager unit. Further work is planned for later in the year. The Heritage Branch is grateful to Colin Browne (Manly Hydraulics), Frits Breuseker (SeeSea Pty Ltd), and David Nutley and Stirling Smith (Comber Consultants) for their assistance with the fieldwork operations.



U-boat Canoe ca. 1917 (Australian War Memorial Connection)



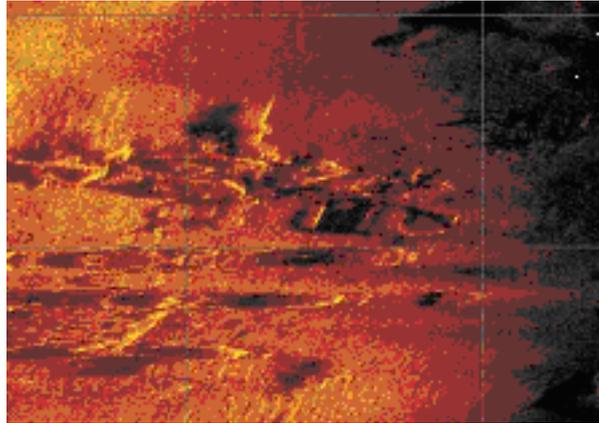
Biplane Canoe (Photo: Berrima and District Historical Society Collection)



Brad Duncan, Frits Breasuker and Stirling Smith undertaking side image survey at Wingecarribee River, Berrima (Photo: Tim Smith, NSW Heritage Branch)



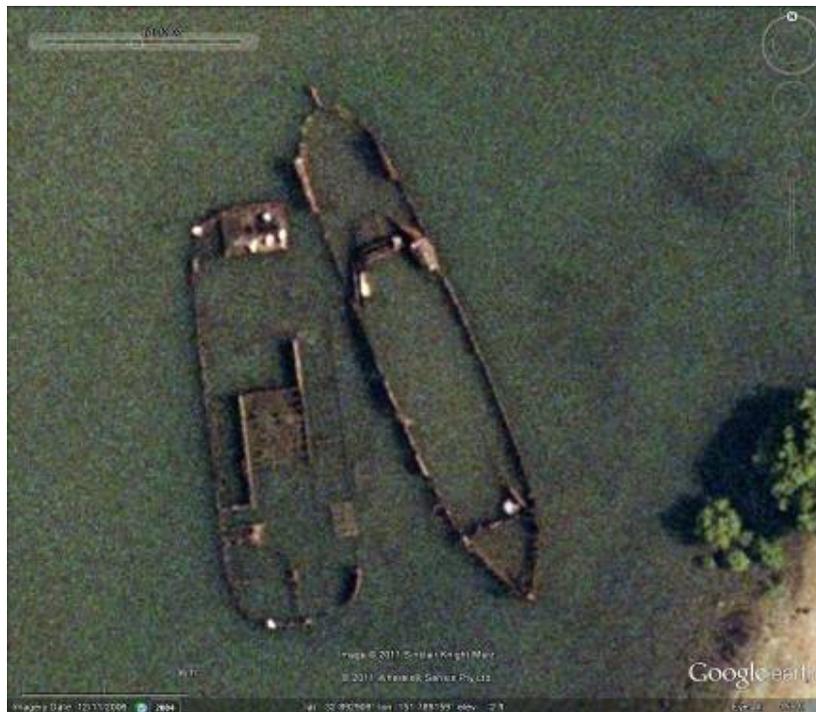
Tethered diving inspections searching for remains of Berrima Canoes: Diver Colin Browne, Dive Tender Stirling Smith and Dive Supervisor Tim Smith (Photo: Brad Duncan, NSW Heritage Branch)



Sidescan image of possible dinghy on Wingecarribee River bed
(Image from survey undertaken by SeeSea Pty Ltd)

Hunter River Unidentified Wrecks (Stockton)/ Maritime Infrastructure Sites

Brad Duncan inspected five iron/ steel wrecks at Stockton (Newcastle) on 24 January 2012. The wrecks lie approximately 1 - 1.5km from the Fullerton Road Bridge. Two of the wrecks have been previously identified as *Kate Tatham* and *Sylvan*, with the other wrecks likely to be droghers and a sea going vessel. Brad is working with Newcastle Ports Corporation to try to identify the remaining sites. In the same fieldwork outlined above, Brad Duncan inspected several maritime infrastructure sites, including the former Newcastle Floating Dock (#2) anchors, the Newcastle Boat Harbour and Forzac's Floating Dock.



Kate Tatham and unidentified drogher wreck, Hunter River (Photo: Google Earth)



Kate Tatham and unidentified drogher wreck, Hunter River
(Photo Brad Duncan, NSW Heritage Branch)



Forzac's Floating Dock, Newcastle Harbour (Photo: Brad Duncan, NSW Heritage Branch)

University of Sydney Collaborative Fieldwork

Brad Duncan and Martin Gibbs undertook preliminary fieldwork inspections on 25 January 2012 to inspect and plan for further fieldwork at the possible *Sabraon* shipwreck site (Berry's Bay), Homebush Bay breakers yard, Lockyers Wharf, and another possible breakers yard in Balls Head Bay. The Ball's Head site revealed remains of shipbreaking refuse, including a pile of rivets which probably fell out when the hull plates were cut along the rivet line. This phenomenon has previously been observed by Duncan at the Avalon shipbreaker's yards (see *ASHA Newsletter* 38 (4): 23-25, 2008). Further remote sensing and survey fieldwork using Honours and undergraduates student is planned for later this year.



Rivet mound at Ball's Bay shipbreaker's site
(Photo: Brad Duncan, NSW Heritage Branch)

Maritime Heritage Sites GIS Layers

The Heritage Branch Maritime Unit has developed several GIS layers of underwater cultural material, including sea dumping locations, airplanes and defence data. The maritime shipwreck database is also being converted to a GIS format, and these data sets will be used to compile a comprehensive GIS database of maritime cultural heritage sites, which will ultimately be available through publically online. Further information has recently been received from community members, which will be used to upgrade the database.

Sarah Ward Resigns

Maritime archaeologist Sarah Ward has left the Heritage Branch to take up a consultant position with a large multi-national company. The Heritage Branch would like to thank her for all her hard work over the years and wish her all the best for her new endeavour.

Brad Duncan

NEW ZEALAND NEWS

Compiled by Rick McGovern-Wilson

OIHI MISSION STATION EXCAVATIONS

A team from the University of Otago and the Department of Conservation, under the direction of Ian Smith and Andrew Blanshard, has just completed three weeks of excavation at the Oihi mission station, Bay of Islands. Oihi Mission Station was the first permanent European settlement in New Zealand, established in December 1814. It remained in use for just under 18 years, and this short life span adds to its significance as a benchmark for early Pakeha material culture. Two areas of the site were excavated. Area 1

disclosed a lower layer with pre-European Maori occupation buried by more than 400 mm of clay fill, creating a large terrace on which one of the mission buildings was constructed. This proved to be the mission school, indicated by an extraordinarily high number of slate pencils, along with children's toys. Two phases of building construction were in evidence at the school, with the second building much smaller than the first. In Area 2 the lowest occupation derived from the missionary period but did not reveal any structural remains. This was buried by a deep layer of clay fill from construction of a much larger terrace, perhaps in preparation for a larger missionary house. However no such building appears to have been constructed; instead there was a small structure with a traditional Maori stone-lined hearth. Whether this was used during or after the missionaries abandoned the site is not clear, although artefacts associated with this whare (house) appear to be very similar to those of the mission era.

The excavation attracted considerable attention from the local community, descendants of the missionary families and local iwi, and was widely followed on facebook (www.facebook.com/oihimissionstation) and via the Department of Conservation's website (www.doc.govt.nz/marsdencrossdig). Plans are currently being made for a second season of excavation in December 2012.



Oihi mission station with excavations underway, Area 1 on the upper terrace and Area 2 below



Fireplace of the mission school in Area 1



Stone-lined hearth with ceramic fragment in Area 2



Toy cannon made of brass, ca. 2 cm long

Ian Smith, University of Otago

ST JAMES CONSERVATION AREA SURVEY

Steve Bagley, Ian Hill, Mary-Anne Baxter, Mike Shepherd, Jeff Dalley and Katharine Watson recently carried out a survey of two 19th century homestead sites in the St James Conservation Area (North Canterbury). The Stanley Vale run was taken up in the 1860s and existed as a separate entity until being incorporated into St James station in 1892. The features that remain at the homestead site include a number of ditch and bank fences, plough lines (which are becoming increasingly difficult to see now that the area is no longer grazed), wire fences, a sheep dip, the bulldozed homestead site, two other building sites and the post holes from the yards. There are also numerous exotic plants in the area (including a fantastic raspberry patch).

The Lake Guyon run was taken up by W. T. L. Travers in 1860 and incorporated into the St James station until 1873. Travers took a number of photographs of the homestead complex which, along with aerial photographs taken by Kevin Jones, proved invaluable during the survey. The complex at Lake Guyon is similar to that at Stanley Vale, and comprised the

remains of the homestead (three collapsed stone chimneys) and associated buildings (including a pigsty, woolshed and huts), a boat landing, the yards, a more intact sheep dip than that at Stanley Vale, and various post holes and the remains of an orchard. The original track to the Lake Guyon station homestead was also recorded during the survey.

Kat Watson, Underground Overground Archaeology Ltd

HIGH-TECH PROJECTS

Dan McCurdy and Russell Gibb from Geometria have recently completed a detailed laser scan survey of the historic former courthouse building in Apia, Samoa. The courthouse is a two story colonial-era building begun in 1905 comprising of approximately 50 rooms and was scanned over three days, with a total of 251 scans recorded. This work forms part of a larger conservation project involving conservation architect Adam Wild from Archifact Ltd, Unitec's School of Architecture, the New Zealand High Commission, and the German and Samoan governments. Output from the scans will include plans, sections and elevations for inclusion in the conservation plan and a detailed 3d CAD model to allow students to design concepts for the conservation and adaptive reuse of the building. Animated fly-throughs have been developed for presentation purposes.



Looking at the front facade of the courthouse from the main road



Snapshot of laser scan of the west elevation of the courthouse

Russell and Dan have also recently returned from a second season in Antarctica as part of Antarctic New Zealand event K021, where they undertook further high definition scans of the Historic Era huts at Cape Royds and Discovery Point, Memorial Cross at Observation Hill, and Wilson's Igloo at Cape Crozier. The data collected this season focused on high-definition surveys of areas of deterioration and is currently being assembled for distribution to the project partners.



Setting up scanning equipment at Memorial Cross, Observation Hill

Russell Gibb, Geometria

CHRISTCHURCH EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY

Significant archaeological finds are continuing to be uncovered in Christchurch as buildings are demolished and services excavated to repair the damage caused by the various earthquakes that have occurred over the last 18 months. All work is undertaken under archaeological authorities issued by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT). The archaeological work involves monitoring the demolition of buildings constructed prior to 1900, the monitoring of foundation removals within areas of high archaeological risk, and the monitoring of earthworks associated with the replacement of the horizontal infrastructure around the city. This work has led to the investigation and discovery of a number of archaeological sites. As part of the ongoing demolitions in the Christchurch CBD, Matt Hennessey monitored the demolition of the heritage building at 246 High Street. Originally built in the 1870s, plaster had been applied to the exterior of the building to give it the appearance of being a modern tilt slab construction. It was only after demolition began that the plaster fell off, revealing a stunning red brick and limestone façade (Figure 1). The building featured riveted I-beams in its construction, and unique skylights that allowed sunlight to enter the first floor rooms.



Figure 1: View of 246 High Street with plaster covering the original facade. Unfortunately the demolition work removed the entire facade before it could be further recorded

The monitoring of the removal of foundations from the modern building at 291 Madras Street uncovered the remains of a nineteenth century brick basement on the site (Figure 2). Subsequent to its use as a basement the structure had been infilled with domestic refuse including various intact bottles and ceramics before it was buried and built over. A trench was excavated along the interior of the basement enabling the recovery of numerous diagnostic artefacts from the mid to late 19th century.

During the removal of a house foundation at Main Road in Redcliffs, Christchurch, archaeologist Emily Cunliffe uncovered a prehistoric midden layer (Figure 3). The midden constituted a charcoal stained soil layer 30 mm deep, below which was a layer of shell, bone, and fire cracked rock 125 mm deep. A fragment of a polished stone artefact was found in the shell layer. The house was built on a platform below steep cliffs, just around from the well-known archaeological site of Moncks Cave.

The archaeological work resulting from the demolitions and repairs needed after the Canterbury earthquakes has added multiple layers to the history and understanding of early Christchurch. This work has also underlined the importance of archaeological work being undertaken as demolition work continues ahead of the region's rebuild.



Figure 1: A nineteenth century brick basement uncovered during demolition work resulting from the Canterbury earthquakes



Figure 2: Cross section of a shell midden discovered during the monitoring of foundation removal in Redcliffs

Matt Carter, Underground Overground Archaeology Ltd

NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWS

Compiled by Ilka Schacht

Ilka advises that there is nothing to report this issue – Ed.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWS

Compiled by Adam Paterson

Adam reports that "SA is dead in the water" – Ed.

VICTORIA NEWS

Compiled by Rick McGovern-Wilson

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT THE EUREKA HERITAGE PRECINCT (H1874)

The Eureka Heritage Precinct (H1874) is one of only a few nationally-significant cultural heritage sites listed for its archaeological values. Large-scale redevelopment works within the Precinct are currently being conducted by the City of Ballarat in accordance with a Permit issued by Heritage Victoria. Within the 0.5ha section of the site examined to date, archaeological works have identified and investigated 65 mining-era features, including shafts, pits, water races, and postholes.

A number of mine shafts and pits – some up to 4m wide – have been found to contain a large number of intact artefacts, including glass and ceramic containers. Other significant finds include a range of mining-related tools and equipment, a copper alloy gunpowder flask and lead shot. Preliminary analysis indicates that these assemblages date from the mid- to late-nineteenth century.



Eureka feature 101: Iron alloy gold pan and pot lid revealed within archaeological feature 101.



Eureka feature 406: Iron alloy barrel hoops and cooking pot, along with glass and ceramic vessels revealed within archaeological feature 406.

Simon Greenwood – Matrix Archaeological Services P/L
PO Box 2452 Footscray VIC 3011, simon@matrixarchaeology.com.au

WESTERN AUSTRALIA NEWS

Compiled by Gaye Nayton

NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL WEB BASED RESOURCES

Some of you may be interested in my new web page at www.gayenaytonarchaeology.com as a resource.

The web page is divided into consultancy, academic and public archaeology sections. The consultancy section contains a list of completed projects as does the public archaeology section.

As I get client permission I am posting PDF's of completed reports and putting together project summaries within both the consultancy and public archaeology sections. Some clients may not wish to have the reports on-line but would be willing to allow researchers to buy copies. As this is clarified I will add links to the contact people/sites.

The public archaeology pages contain useful links for educators and a free PDF download of archaeological fun day activities which I have created and used for a number of years particularly for National Archaeology Week events. Kids and families love them. These two photos are from a recent open day.





Within the academic section I am gradually putting on summaries of my work at Cossack. The academic pages also contain information about the book *The Archaeology of Market Capitalism: A Western Australian Perspective*. I will put a summary of my honours work on the *Sirius* shipwreck when I have time.

Gaye Nayton

RASH OF 'DIGGER' SHOWS COMING OUT OF AMERICA

Reality TV has at last hit archaeological sites. Not in the form of shows about excavations but in shows about looting. Two different shows based on metal detectorists digging up historical artefacts and selling them for a profit have recently hit the air waves in the United States and the Society for Historical Archaeology could use your help in protesting shows which glorify destroying archaeological sites.

National Geographic broadcast the first two of its "Diggers" show this week. John Doershuk, State Archaeologist at the University of Iowa, watched the shows so he could report back to SHA. He said

"The show is typical Natl Geo style -- beautiful locations, good camera work, well-edited. But the "stars"-- the self-styled "Ringmaster" and "King George," are buffoons-I shouldn't doubt that serious metal detecting folks will not appreciate the caricatures. These two spend a great deal of camera time relating their enthusiasm for finding "juice," "nectar," and "roundness," all their terms for the buried "treasure" they excitedly dig up. I didn't think their "discovery rush" translated all that well despite their over-the-top efforts to whip the audience into a pot-hunting frenzy.

There's also plenty of reality TV side-show antics, such as silly bets between the two-e.g., who comes up with the oldest item-leading to the loser having to

complete a dumb stunt like riding a bicycle off a dock into a freezing cold lake while in drag or licking a jellyfish washed up on the beach (I kid you not).

Happily, there was zero mention of archaeology or science, and no effort at all trying to legitimate this activity as anything remotely educational or additive to general knowledge. The term "artefacts" was never used and "context" or why it's important was never brought up. The most damaging thing, I think, about this show is that no effort was made to document where anything came from or discussion of associations-each discovered item was handled piece-meal. Of course, "the past" and "history" were repeatedly invoked as cool, interesting, but ultimately, simply a source of cash.

..... The show was very scant on details about where they were collecting, although terms like "we were invited" and the "the owner wants us to find" were carefully inserted".

Ann Early, Arkansas Sate Archaeologist also watched both shows aired. Apart from the comment "Yuck" she made the following points

"One item I noticed was that the protagonists made significant note that some of their loot was going to Museums; one associated with the Montana prison and another set in downtown Charleston. There was film of a representative of the latter identifying and buying some of the loot from the plantation adventure. These institutions may be museums in name only, but this act, like the 'disclaimer' at the end of the program advising others to know about relevant laws (not to respect them, mind, just to be aware of them) give another whiff of legitimacy to the silliness.

I checked, and the 'museum' behaviour in both episodes violates the code of ethics of the American Association of Museums respecting collections activities. Two points seem relevant, promoting public good instead of individual gain, and "acquisition, disposal, and loan activities are conducted in a manner that respects the protection and preservation of natural and cultural resources and discourages illicit trade in such materials". The two museums shown in these episodes might not give a flip, but maybe the AAM does. So, museums potentially get a black eye here, and museum directors may find more metal detector folks on their doorstep asking for cash. That would extend to VIC in State Parks, and NPS facilities here in Arkansas too, if past experience is any guide.

If the AAM doesn't know about this program, seems to me they ought to be informed. It wouldn't hurt having the museum world involved in responses to this and the other two (now) programs The broader any alliance that archaeologists might be able to muster outside our own discipline, the more effective any of our activities might be".

John Doershuk also points out the show is about making money, both for the metal detectorists and the advisers. The major advisors he informs us are: Verizon, iPhone S, Nationwide, GEICO, Mazda, Acura, Volvo, Sam Adams, Heineken, and CSX Rail. He also points out that "both CSX Rail and Mazda ran ads focused on the importance of preserving the environment -- CSX promotes "Nature is spectacular -- let's keep it that way" while Mazda tied themselves to "The Lorax" movie that is recently out (or about to be released)".

In this case perhaps these advertisers in particular should be also targeted by the protest campaign.

The SHA Blog *More Teaching Moments: National Geographic Televisions' "Diggers"* says the following:

"Let's hope that we can enlist the National Geographic Society in that cause as they receive letters from SHA, the Society for American Archaeology, the National Association of State Archaeologists (NASA), the Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA), and a flood of grassroots resistance including online petitions and blogs that reach far beyond narrowly defined professional circles alone."

The other program of concern for looting archaeology sites has not yet gone to air but has been picked up by Spike TV. American archaeologists were alerted to the dangers of this show first and SHA has sent off protest letters. Of this show *More Teaching Moments* says:

"The most recent challenge comes from Spike TV's *American Diggers*, hosted by former professional wrestler Ric Savage. Like many professional and avocational archaeologists alike, Savage indicates that "I've been a history buff my whole life," but in the hands of Spike TV that interest in history demonstrates no real respect for archaeological methods, community heritage, or preservation law, since the show's central goal is to recover items that amateur "diggers" can sell. In Spike's own words, "In the US, there are millions of historical relics buried in backyards just waiting to be discovered and turned into profit. 'American Digger' hopes to claim a piece of that pie as the series travels to a different city each week, including Detroit, MI, Brooklyn, NY, Chicago, IL and Jamestown, VA searching for high-value artefacts and relics, some of which have been untouched for centuries." The show proudly proclaims that "After pinpointing historical locations such as Civil War and Revolutionary War battlefields, Savage's first task is to convince reluctant homeowners to let his team dig up their property using state-of-the-art metal detectors and heavy-duty excavation equipment. The team will then sell any artefacts found for a substantial profit by consulting experts and scouring the antique and collectible markets, but not before negotiating a deal to divide the revenue with the property owners

Savage transparently caricatures historical archaeologists and paints himself as a sort of working-class self-taught scholar with whom his audience of homeowners and history buffs should identify, revealing that he does not know any archaeologists or know much about what we do. He told the *St Augustine Record* that "'Diggers are looked on as the trailer trash of the archaeology community and the archaeologists are thought of as the brains, but that's not necessarily the truth,' Savage said. 'The higher the education people get, the higher the snobbishness that goes along with it.'" Of course many historical archaeologists have exceptional community-based excavation teams staffed by volunteers committed to their local history, and many volunteers routinely become solid scholars with a genuine understanding of and appreciation for archaeological method and interpretation.

Savage clumsily suggests that he is protecting a past that will disintegrate if we do not recover it now. When Savage descended on St. Augustine in February he said that “diggers are able to recover relics ‘that are rotting in the ground and (would) never be found’ as archaeologists wait for grants or for construction to trigger an excavation.” Of course virtually no artefacts are “rotting” in the ground, least of all the metal artefacts on which Savage focuses his excavations. If anything, removing those artefacts from a stable soil matrix accelerates their decomposition.”

There is also apparently a show about looting old buildings which Ann Early brings to our attention, thusly:

“And, just briefly, my thought about 'Scavengers' is to have a talk with people at the National Trust. Looting old buildings is not something the Trust would encourage, and since there are two Trust advisors in each state, usually associated with state level historic preservation advocacy groups, that are another national level organization with local affiliates that could speak about its concerns here too. “

While these shows may seem like an American problem; all of these shows are at the moment looting only American sites, such shows have a way of transforming and migrating if successful. While, as Iain Davidson of IDHA Partners thankfully observes, our prehistoric heritage is safe from metal detecting our historic heritage is very vulnerable. Protection for historic sites varies widely across states leaving plenty of sites unprotected. Here in the west the majority of the archaeological heritage of the state, particularly the pre federation archaeological heritage, is not listed or protected and wide open to exploitation by bottle hunters and metal detectorists. Even isolation no longer protects them as the advent of 4WD and other off road vehicles allows more people to assess more remote locations. I would suggest that as a body and as individuals we help our American colleagues protest and shut down these shows before the ideas migrate here.

Gaye Nayton

QUEENSLAND NEWS

Compiled by Cameron Harvey

Cameron is on extended leave and we haven't received any material – Ed.

TASMANIA NEWS

Compiled by Annita Waghorn

ARCHAEOLOGY REVEALS OATLANDS' LONG UNSEEN HISTORY

Over three weeks in late January and early February, a team of seventeen archaeologists and students undertook an excavation season at various sites through the Southern

Midlands of Tasmania. Excavations were undertaken at the Oatlands Gaol, which exposed the foundations of the gallows, and part of four solitary cells spanning the men's and women's divisions. Test excavations were also carried out at what is believed to be the first gaol site (pre-dating the better-known gaol by 10 years) – and, although inconclusive, demonstrates that there was something built on the site which was possibly the earlier gaol. Excavations were undertaken in Callington Park at the site of the ca.1830 tannery, of which practically nothing is historically known – with the footprint of what appears to be a building being found. A survey was undertaken at the Spring Hill Road Station (ca. 1832-38) which has revealed what appear to be the foundations of the 11 buildings known to have comprised that station. Test excavations were also undertaken at the Spring Hill Probation Station (1848), which unfortunately failed to find any trace of that station.

An open day was held on February 12th, which saw over 400 people flood the small town keen to catch a glimpse of the past – testimony to the genuine interest in Tasmania's colonial archaeology.

This was the second annual excavation season hosted by Southern Midlands Council, in conjunction with the Centre for Heritage at Oatlands (Heritage Education and Skills Centre), which is an important training opportunity for archaeology students, and allows a great deal of investigation of our sites to be undertaken. Whilst the sites will be temporarily backfilled, documentation of their existence will allow future interpretation and possible re-exposure (subject to conservation requirements) as permanent 'exhibits'. Results of test excavations will provide the basis for planning next year's excavations.

The Oatlands Gaol is expected to be open to the public from mid-this year, following the installation of interpretation – largely based on the archaeological finds.

For enquiries, contact Brad Williams, Manager Heritage Projects, Southern Midlands Council, on 0418 303184, or bwilliams@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

Brad Williams MANAGER - HERITAGE PROJECTS, SOUTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL



Figure 1: Gallows remains



Figure 2: Solitary Cells

CASCADE GARDENS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES: NEW DISCOVERIES IN ONE OF HOBART'S PARKS

Recent archaeological works in Cascade Gardens, South Hobart have made some exciting discoveries. Austral Tasmania was engaged by Southern Water to provide archaeological services as part of upgrades to a sewer line running through the park.

The site provides an important insight into the early supply of water to Hobart. With the establishment of the Cascades Female Factory in 1827, surrounding land was reserved to prevent development near the Factory. This includes what are now the Gardens. Here, a dam was constructed across the Hobart Rivulet to supply water to the Factory. This dam was later augmented in ca.1836 to drive a water wheel that powered a Fulling Mill for the cleaning of cloth.

Problems with the supply of water to the people of Hobart had long plagued the colonial authorities. The Rivulet with its flow of clean water was one of the key reasons for choosing this site for the establishment of Hobart in 1804. It did not take long though for the stream to become polluted and a series of schemes were developed to source fresh water from higher up the mountain.

Perhaps the most controversial was the concept developed by Peter Degraives in 1844. Degraives constructed a reservoir off Macquarie Street, where the badminton courts are now located. This was fed by buried sandstone aqueduct which started in what is now Cascade Gardens.

Almost immediately, the new scheme came under severe public and official criticism. Before reaching the reservoir, the water travelled through Degraives' flour mills, brewery and saw mill. Both the quality and quantity of the water was often poor, it being found that the flow of water was even stopped on numerous occasions. Some 2,000 citizens of Hobart petitioned the Governor and an official enquiry resulted in the water supply system being taken over by the Government.

Working with Southern Water, the principle of 'as much as necessary, as little as possible' was applied. Austral Tasmania monitored and recorded the excavations for the new sewer line. Several historic features were uncovered during works. These included the remains of a sandstone wall, a sandstone race, and a brick-lined box drain. Each structure was carefully exposed and detailed records were made. Where possible, impacts to features were avoided, or minimised by working in previously disturbed areas.

One of the more impressive discoveries was the sandstone race, or water channel which was fed from Degraives' mill. Finely constructed, the race was 80 centimetres deep and 90 centimetres wide. Some of the blocks were massive, the largest being 1.25 metres long and 27 centimetres deep. "We were able to identify this feature from the original contract specifications" said David Parham, Director of Austral Tasmania.

"The contract detailed that the tail race was to be fitted with a sluice gate and fender, and we found a vertical cut in the wall from where the gate could be lowered or raised to regulate the flow of water. We also found how the builders kept the race from leaking. One of the outside edges of the wall was packed with heavy clay. This is consistent with the contact requiring the channel to be 'puddled', where clay was worked into a thick watertight paste before being applied."

These works have uncovered an important and somewhat controversial part of Hobart's history David Parham said. The supply of fresh water has been crucial to the history of Hobart. The Cascades scheme predates, by some 17 years, the later, and far more successful, Mountain Water Supply System. Cascades provided all of Hobart's reticulated drinking water until the 1860s, and remained in service until the 1890s.



The water channel showing the slot where the sluice gate was once fitted



The sluice gate slot; bricks were used to line the floor of the channel to help create a seal when the gate was closed



Two Cascade bottles recovered from the channel



The brick-lined box drain; this well-constructed piece of infrastructure used large pieces of sandstone to cap the drain

David Parham, James Puustinen: Austral Tasmania

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

ASHA AWARDS PROGRAMME 2012

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. The winners will be announced at the annual conference dinner. All award winners will be published in the Newsletter and on the ASHA web site.

The awards will be judged by a three-person panel chaired by the Past-President of ASHA. The panel will consist of representatives from the consulting profession, government heritage agencies, and academia. All judges must be financial members of ASHA. Those on the judging panel cannot be nominees for awards while serving as judges.

ASHA reserves the right not to make an award if nominations are too few in number or judged of insufficient quality. The judgement of the panel is final. No correspondence will be entered into regarding decisions. Entries will not be returned. Winning entries will be lodged in the ASHA archives and may be used by ASHA for training and promotional purposes, with credits to the individuals and agencies involved.

R. Ian Jack Award for Best Honours or Coursework Masters Thesis

This award will be made to the best thesis completed by an Honours student, MA Preliminary student, Graduate Diploma student, or Coursework Masters student in a university in Australia or New Zealand. To be eligible for this award the thesis must have been completed in 2011, and must be research related to historical archaeology. The thesis must be nominated by the supervisor.

The award will consist of a cash prize of \$200, a certificate, and assistance with preparing an article based on the research for publication in *Australasian Historical Archaeology*.

Nominations will be judged on the basis of timeliness and significance of the research aims, appropriateness and effectiveness of methodology, accuracy of information, presentation, and general contribution to the field of historical archaeology.

Nominations must include one hard copy of the thesis, two electronic copies of the thesis as PDFs on clearly labelled CD-ROMs, and the cover sheet.

Maureen Byrne Award for Best Post-Graduate Thesis

This award will be made for the best thesis completed by an MA or PhD student in a university in Australia or New Zealand. To be eligible for this award the degree must have been awarded in 2010 or 2011, and must be research related to historical archaeology. The thesis must be nominated by the supervisor and the student must be a financial member of ASHA, or have been an ASHA member while the work was undertaken.

The award will consist of a certificate and publication of the thesis in the ASHA monograph series.

Nominations will be judged on the basis of timeliness and significance of the research aims, appropriateness and effectiveness of methodology, accuracy of information, presentation, and general contribution to the field of historical archaeology.

Nominations must include one hard copy of the thesis, two electronic copies of the thesis on clearly labelled CD-ROMs, and the cover sheet.

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

This award will be made for the best report on a historical archaeology project carried out as a consultancy in Australia or New Zealand. To be eligible for this award the report must have been submitted in 2011. The nomination can be prepared by either the client or the consultant, but must have the support of the client. At least one member of the consultancy team (who may be the nominator) must be a financial member of ASHA. The nominee is the team or individual who carried out the work, while the nominator is the individual preparing the submission and acting as contact person. The same individual may be nominator and nominee.

The award will consist of a certificate and publicity on the ASHA web site and in the ASHA newsletter.

Nominations will be judged on the basis of the significance of the research design and methodology, innovation, presentation, and the degree to which the client's requirements were met.

Nominations must include one hard copy of the report and project brief, two electronic copies of the report and project brief as PDFs on clearly labelled CD-ROMs, and the cover sheet.

Martin Davies Award for Best Public Archaeology Initiative

This award will be made for the best project presenting historical archaeology to the general public in Australia or New Zealand. To be eligible for this award the project must have been completed in 2011. If it is an on-going project it must have either commenced or taken place during 2011. Public archaeology initiatives may include (but are not limited to) tours of excavations, post-excavation interpretation on-site, lecture series, television or radio programs, web sites, museum displays, education programs, and plain language publications intended for a non-academic audience. The nomination can be prepared by either the client (if done as a consultancy) or the individual or agency responsible, but must have the support of the client where appropriate. At least one member of the project team (who may be the nominator) must be a financial member of ASHA. The nominee is the team or individual who carried out the work, while the nominator is the individual preparing the submission and acting as contact person. The same individual may be nominator and nominee.

The award will consist of a certificate and publicity on the ASHA web site and in the ASHA newsletter.

Nominations will be judged on the basis of interest to the audience, clarity of presentation, innovation, and public response.

Nominations must include a one-page description of the project, and relevant supporting material which may include photos, videos, posters, brochures, media coverage, reviews,

evidence of feedback, etc. The nomination should include one hard copy and two electronic copies of all material included as PDFs on clearly labelled CD-ROMS, and the cover sheet.

Instructions for entry

Complete a Nomination Cover Sheet and send with the appropriate number of copies of the thesis, book or report (as specified under each category heading) to:

ASHA Awards
c/- Dr Susan Lawrence
Archaeology
La Trobe University
Melbourne VIC 3086
Australia

For copies of the Nomination Cover Sheet email awards@asha.org.au or download from www.asha.org.au.

Nominations are due by: **31 March 2012.**

For more information contact awards@asha.org.au or call Susan Lawrence on 03 9479 1790.

SOCIETY CONTACTS

2011–2012 COMMITTEE

President	Jon Prangnell	President@asha.org.au
Vice Presidents	Linda Terry	linda@asha.org.au
	Brad Duncan	Brad@asha.org.au
Treasurer	Karen Murphy	Treasurer@asha.org.au
Secretary	Geraldine Mate	Secretary@asha.org.au
Committee	Shane Burke	
	Peter Davies	
	Ross Gam	
	Rick McGovern-Wilson	
	Susan Piddock	
	Paul Rheinburger	
	Iain Stuart	

Publications

Publications Manager	Mary Casey	
AHA Editor	Tracy Ireland	editor@asha.org.au
AHA Reviews Editor	Kate Quirk	reviews@asha.org.au
Newsletter Editor	Rick McGovern-Wilson	newsletter@asha.org.au
Webmaster	Brad Duncan	webmanager@asha.org.au
Publications Officer	Peter Davies	publications@asha.org.au

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

ACT Richard Morrison PO Box 6060 O'Connor ACT 2602 act@asha.org.au	SA Adam Patterson Flinders University GPO Box 2100 Adelaide SA 5001 sa@asha.org.au	WA Gaye Nayton 64 Weston Street Maddington WA 6109 wa@asha.org.au
NSW Tim Owen Cultural Heritage Services 2009 Locked Bag 24 Broadway NSW 2007 nsw@asha.org.au	QLD Cameron Harvey Heritage Branch Department of Environment and Resource Management GPO Box 2454 Brisbane, QLD 4001 qld@asha.org.au	VIC Andrea Murphy Director / Principal Consultant Archaeology at Tardis PO Box 776 Beaconsfield VIC 3807 vic@asha.org.au
NT Ilka Schacht Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory GPO Box 4646 Darwin NT 0801 nt@asha.org.au	TAS Annita Waghorn Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority Port Arthur TAS 7182 tas@asha.org.au	NZ Rick McGovern-Wilson New Zealand Historic Places Trust PO Box 2629 Wellington NZ 6140 nz@asha.org.au

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.

Rick McGovern-Wilson
General Editor
ASHA Newsletter

Email: newsletter@asha.org.au

Post: New Zealand Historic Places Trust
P O Box 2629
Wellington 6140
NEW ZEALAND

Phone: +64 4 470 8055