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STATE OF THE ART

ACT NEWS

Compiled by Richard Morrison

HERITAGE BRANCH, DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT (CWTH) – JUNE

Staffing – In April 2014 a further Voluntary Redundancy (VR) round, this time for 250 staff from across the Department, was announced to allow the Department to ‘operate within its budget profile’ as its operating budget is to decline by around a quarter over the forward estimates.

‘The Department will move to a three Group structure, comprising an Environment Protection Group, a Climate Change and Water Group, and an Office of Environmental Science and Economics which will provide support functions in corporate services, policy analysis, evaluation, implementation and risk management to line areas, as well as house the Australian Antarctic Division. The restructure is aligned to the Government’s priorities for environment policy and administration, and will enable the Department to meet its responsibilities within budget.’

As occurred in previous rounds, it is likely that there will be Heritage Branch staff who take up VR’s and so staff numbers here will be further reduced.

Australian Heritage Strategy – On 15 April 2014 the Department released a draft of this Strategy for public comment until 9 June 2014. The vision presented in the document encompasses three key elements: National Leadership, Innovative Partnerships and Community Engagement. A programme of explanatory presentations on the draft were organised in capital cities. The exposure draft can be found at <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/australian-heritage-strategy> however, it is likely that the comment period will close prior to newsletter publication. It is understood that ASHA was preparing comment.

2014 Federal Budget – The ‘Environment Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) 2014-15’ (with related media releases) can be found at <http://www.environment.gov.au/about-us/accountability-reporting/budget-statements>. They describe a number of heritage-related measures, many of which were announced last year. These include the Green Army, money for works on the Port Arthur Penitentiary, and the new Community Heritage and Icons Programme, which also provides extra funds for the Australian Heritage Council (AHC) and the Federation of Australian Historical Societies. One measure not previously publicly announced is the decision to finalise ‘all outstanding national heritage assessments by June 2015’. As at 1 November 2013 there were 10 historic environment places under assessment for the National Heritage List (plus 7 natural and 6 Indigenous places) – see <http://www.environment.gov.au/topics/heritage/heritage-places/finalised-priority-assessment-lists>. This is a significant workload for both the AHC and the diminishing numbers of heritage staff that support the Council, especially given the relative complexity and scale of some of

these places under assessment and the 11 Commonwealth Heritage Places (10 of which are historic) also under assessment. The Budget's extra funds for the AHC are unlikely to be sufficient, even if deployed to resource these assessments, to complete this amount of assessment work, including necessary community consultation, to the usual high standard in the time required.

The PBS also refers to the delivery of the 'one stop shop' for environmental (including heritage) approvals to 'remove duplication in regulation between the Commonwealth and states/territories'. This means negotiating assessments and approval bilateral agreements between the Commonwealth and states/territories under existing provisions of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act). Since the preparation of the last newsletter several draft agreements (agreements for environmental approval with NSW and Qld and for environmental assessment with WA) have been developed and are available (at <http://www.environment.gov.au/topics/about-us/legislation/environment-protection-and-biodiversity-conservation-act-1999/one-stop>) for comment. Additionally, in late March 2014 the critical 'Standards for accreditation of environmental approvals under the EPBC Act' was released (<http://www.environment.gov.au/resource/standards-accreditation-environmental-approvals-under-environment-protection-and>). These standards are based on requirements of Commonwealth law and are intended to facilitate the maintenance of strong environmental outcomes through the one stop shop.

Environment Ministers Meeting, 29 April 2014 – This meeting followed-on from the Council of Australian Governments meeting in December 2013 and progressed the priority recognised then to review environmental (including heritage) regulation. The agreement reached was to identify unworkable, contradictory or incompatible regulation across all jurisdictions and seek opportunities to 'harmonise and simplify regulations'. The Agreed Statement (<http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/hunt/2014/mr20140429.html>) notes:

'Jurisdictions have commenced, or will shortly commence, regulatory reviews, which could encompass opportunities for best practice regulation, species and heritage listing processes and simplification of land planning including Commonwealth lands. Jurisdictions will informally discuss opportunities for reform of environmental regulation within the Commonwealth, states and territories.'

NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK 2014 ACT – REPORT FROM CAS (EDITED)

Our esteemed member Dr Mary-Jane Mountain kicked off our week by entertaining a capacity audience with stories of the landmark women who had inspired her through her career in archaeology. David Kaus and colleagues fascinated us behind the scenes by showing us the artefact collections from ACT and beyond in the NMA – including vehicles in inflated plastic tents.

Opening with the Queanbeyan and District Historical Museum Society's President John McGlynn and Deputy Mayor, Councillor Peter Bray, we began in spirited fashion with an example of contemporary archaeology – finding the lost car keys in a garbage bin, followed by a well-fed afternoon of show and tell with artefacts from Crinigan's Hut and recent excavations at Googong.

Thanks to curators at the AWM we heard the backroom stories behind the mementos of Frommelles and some intrepid souls braved the cold to saunter around the ANU Classics

Museum. We were fortunate that visiting specialists Professor Graeme Barker and Dr Jim Specht were speaking at CAR events this week, but the speaker with the most interesting material and engaging presentation was our own Ben Shaw who told us about the archaeology of Rossel Island. CAS will certainly ask him back next year at a less congested time slot.

The delightful Belinda and her friends at Questacon made our day special with lectures and entertainment in the Q Lab. Thanks to Billy O’Foghlu and his antique horns we were not only seen but heard, and Noel Tan and Iain Johnstone were big hits with hands-on ochre art. And thanks to Iain, Noel and Elena Piotto for riveting lectures.

Thirty people turned up on Sunday 25th to visit archaeological sites in Gungahlin with Dr Ken Heffernan, who had excavated Malton and several smaller sites, and Helen Cooke, instigator of investigations on Crinigan’s Hut, The Valley and Site B in the 1990s. Due to the number of folk and cars in small streets, we had to curtail our itinerary a little, but the nostalgic stories from some of the original Girls’ Own Archaeology team fascinated the audience. Definitely a tour to repeat!

Thanks to Elena and Alison Moir for ensuring the program was full and promoted. Thanks also to CAS members and to our partners in hosting events: the curators and Friends of the National Museum of Australia; the Queanbeyan Museum and Historical Society; the Australian War Memorial; the Friends of the ANU Classics Museum; the Centre for Archaeological Research; Questacon and the Hall Schoolhouse Museum.

Material supplied by Richard Morrison

HERITAGE BRANCH, DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT (CWTH) – SEPT

The Department has decided to close its library, including the heritage collection, by the end of 2014. The Department has stated that this action is being taken to reduce costs. The heritage library has been built up since 1975 by the Australian Heritage Commission and the Australian Heritage Council, and includes thousands of grey literature reports (for example, National Estate Grant Program reports 1974-1999, thematic and methodological studies, and reports to satisfy), and material provided by development proponents under Commonwealth heritage legislation. There are also many published works, both national and international related to best practice heritage conservation, including archaeology, and to provide assistance in comparative assessments and the investigation of the national context of places that might be under heritage assessment for the various Commonwealth statutory heritage lists. It is unclear whether the Department’s vast heritage photographic collection is also caught in this dispersal and disposal operation.

There has been a lack of transparency in the proposed closure but it seems that some material is intended to be given to various other institutions, such as the National Library and Archives and possibly the heritage libraries of other jurisdictions, some material will be retained by the Department and that the residual library will become primarily digital and self-serve. Its status in the future as a public resource, long-used by consultants, students and others, is unclear. Its current virtue of being able to locate national heritage material through a single search of one, central location will no longer exist.

A number of letters were written by concerned, eminent people to both the Department and Minister Hunt. Following is a link to a 2SER radio programme on the topic that went national

with interviews with Dr Carmen Lawrence (Chair of the Australian Heritage Council), Dr Mike Pearson (Chair of the Institute for Professional Practice in Heritage and the Arts) and Ms Liz Vines (President of Australia ICOMOS). <http://www.thewire.org.au/storyDetail.aspx?ID=11898>

HERITAGE, ACT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

Interpretive signs recently installed south of Lake Burley Griffin, brings to eight, the number of self-drive heritage trails in the ACT. The sign positioned at the end of John Cory Road Hume kicks off the Tuggeranong Heritage Track. Ceramic artefacts recovered from here demonstrate that this area was an early contact site between Aboriginal and European people. The content for this and the Woden Heritage Track also include pre-ACT pastoral history, soldier settlement farms, post World War I, and modern developments. For further information contact heritage@act.gov.au

CANBERRA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (CAS) – CAS/CENTRE FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH (CAR) LECTURES:

Lecture by Dr Mike Pearson AO on 'Elephant tongues for breakfast: Sealing in Antarctica in the 1820s' at (6.30pm for refreshments) 7.00pm for AGM followed by lecture on Wednesday 19 November 2014. Gold coin donation, CAS members free, at Manning Clark Centre, Theatre 6, Bldg 26A, Union Court, ANU.

Material supplied by Richard Morrison

NSW NEWS

Compiled by Lydia Sivaraman

2014 SHAP WORKSHOP

This year's Sydney Historical Archaeology Practitioners (SHAP) Workshop was held at the Big Dig Archaeology Education Centre, Sydney on Friday 23 May 2014. Hosted by GML Heritage, the event closed out a busy National Archaeology Week 2014.

The theme this year was Historical Archaeology in Context, with a focus on the role of historical archaeology in the heritage industry in the context of upcoming legislative change. The workshop was opened by Ms Kate Clark of the Australian Heritage Council, followed by a talk by Dr Siobhán Lavelle from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage who gave the group an update on the latest news out of the Heritage Division. Dr Mary Casey then spoke about ethics in archaeology and the stewardship role which professional archaeologists play within the industry.

Prof Richard Mackay then led the group in a workshop discussing the new draft Australian Heritage Strategy. During the workshop, participants developed strategies and actions for the practical implementation of the key platforms of national leadership, innovative partnerships and community engagement. The results of this workshop will be disseminated and incorporated into submissions on the draft to the Department of Environment.

Students and recent graduates were also given the opportunity to introduce themselves to colleagues via short 5 minute talks and many business cards were seen being exchanged

during the breaks. Congratulations to David Bush, winner of the student lucky door prize who went home with a copy of Prof Grace Karskens' book, [Inside the Rocks](#).

During the afternoon, attendees enjoyed a treasure hunt around The Rocks before the day was closed with a presentation by Helen Nicholson from the Powerhouse Museum on the new National Curriculum and the opportunities this provides for introducing archaeology to primary and secondary school children.

Thanks to all who came along and made the day such a success by contributing to the lively discussion. Thanks also go to those who gave their time to speak and to the Big Dig Centre for hosting the event again. We look forward to seeing you all at next year's workshop!

Material supplied by the team at GML Heritage

NSW-ARCHAEOLOGY ON-LINE STAGE TWO – THE JUDY BIRMINGHAM AND IAN JACK PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTIONS

Stage 2 of the New South Wales Archaeology On-line is now complete with the release of the [NSW Archaeology Online: Image Archive](#). The image archive extends the [NSW Archaeology Online: Grey Literature Archive](#) by digitising two important private research collections of photographs of historical places in NSW and beyond, taken by Ian Jack and Judy Birmingham from the 1960s-1990s for historical and industrial archaeological research and consultancy projects. The Ian Jack Image Collection consists of thousands of photographs and slides of NSW industrial sites in regions including Bathurst, Lithgow, Mudgee Shire and Evans Shire. The Judy Birmingham Image Collection contains slides taken between the 1960s-1990s at a large variety of archaeological sites and locations in NSW, plus some from elsewhere in Australia and the South Pacific. The images and the content of their labels comprise important additional unpublished data and documentation of key NSW historical archaeology and heritage research and consultancy projects. The images are of public interest and have research value for documenting and understanding places and landscapes of historical and archaeological importance to NSW, including many which have now changed significantly or no longer exist.

Without digitisation and archiving it was possible and likely that some items in these collections, photographic slides in particular, would suffer further physical deterioration and eventually become unusable. Information recorded when the photographs were taken (e.g. dates, locations and descriptions of content), was also at risk of getting lost. This also allows the collection to be searched to some degree by keyword and location. Further information on the methodologies employed is available on the site. The photographic collection is being hosted by the [Federated Archaeological Information Management System \(FAIMS\)](#) repository, powered by the Digital Archaeological Record ([tDAR](#)) software developed by [Digital Antiquity](#) to store resources of archaeological data from the United States and across the world. The majority of the Birmingham and Jack images have been uploaded, with the remainder to be added in the coming weeks. To access them you will need to register with FAIMS (which is free).

The NSW Archaeology Online Project was initiated in 2009 to conduct, support and advocate research and public education about archaeology and heritage in the state, as part of the [Archaeology of Sydney Research Group](#). A key aim has been to create open access online archives of important reports and information about historical archaeology and heritage in NSW which for various reasons has been previously hard to access, is undervalued and

otherwise at risk of being lost (Gibbs, M. & S. Colley 2012. Digital preservation, online access and historical archaeology 'grey literature' from New South Wales, Australia. *Australian Archaeology* 75: 95-103.). Overall the NSW-AOL project has been amazingly successful in ensuring the survival of endangered documents, and free access to these for professional colleagues, students and the general public. Some of the performance stats from the NSW-AOL report (document) repository are as follows:

Date	unique visitors	Total visits to the site	typical visit (minutes)	Average no of files examined before leaving	longest visit (minutes)	Unique documents delivered one or more times
1/1/2013 to 31/12/2013	5,125	37,067	1.11	1.26	1,011	1,509
1/1/2014 to 4/8/2014	4,135	18,683	0.64 minutes	1.28	808	1,021

Planning will soon begin for NSW-AOL Stage 3, although no decisions have been made as to the nature of this. Several possibilities include post-1995 reports and/or reports from beyond the greater Sydney area. As usual funding, locating suitable sustainable digital repositories, and time to undertake the necessary work will all be factors.

The NSW AOL Image Archive was funded by a 2011-13 Community Strategic Products and Services grant from the NSW Heritage Council and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, awarded to Sarah Colley and Martin Gibbs (Archaeology, University of Sydney). Annika Korsgaard (Archaeology, University of Sydney) has been the project manager for Stages 1 and 2. We once again extend our thanks to all of those professional colleagues who have been so generous in allowing access to their reports and images.

Material supplied by Martin Gibbs and Sarah Colley

UPCOMING EVENTS IN ARCHAEOLOGY

Space and rite in Elymaean religious architecture during the Arsacid period

Speaker: Davide Salaris

When: 3.15pm, 16 September 2014

Where: CCANESA Board Room, Level 4, Madsen Building, University of Sydney

Secrets of the Willow Pattern (ages 5-10)

When: 10.30-10.50am daily, 22 September - 6 October

Where: Museum of Sydney, cnr Phillip and Bridge Streets, Sydney

Cost: free with museum entry

More info: <http://sydneylivingmuseums.com.au/events/secrets-willow-pattern>

Fashioning identity: Figurine makers of prehistoric Souskiou, Cyprus

Speaker: Edgar Peltenburg

When: 3.15pm, 23 September 2014

Where: CCANESA Board Room, Level 4, Madsen Building, University of Sydney

Martu Art from the far Western Desert: Artist Talks

When: 1-2pm, 26 September 2014

Where: Level 1, Museum of Contemporary Art, 140 George Street, The Rocks, Sydney

Cost: free

More info: <https://www.mca.com.au/events/martu-art-far-western-desert-martu-art-far-western/9422/>

Martu Art from the far Western Desert: Martu Art, Country and Culture

Speaker: Dr John Carty (anthropologist and curator) and Martu artists

When: 2-3pm, 28 September 2014

Where: Veolia Lecture Theatre, Museum of Contemporary Art, 140 George St, The Rocks, Sydney

Cost: \$12, \$8 (MCA members & concession)

More info: <https://www.mca.com.au/events/martu-art-far-western-desert-martu-art-country-and/9423/>

The Ness of Brodgar - a millennium of prehistory in the Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site

Speaker: Nick Card

When: 12-2pm, 10 October 2014

Where: Education Lecture Room 424, Education Building A35, Manning Road, University of Sydney

Olive Domestication and the Neolithic-Chalcolithic Jordan Valley: First Results from Pella in Jordan

Speaker: Anne Dighton

When: 3.15pm, 14 October 2014

Where: CCANESA Board Room, Level 4, Madsen Building, University of Sydney

Archaeologists Wear Black Hats: Why Archaeologists Are Bad Guys in Cinema

Speaker: Peter Hiscock

When: 6.00pm - 8.00pm, 15 October 2014

Where: Nicholson Museum, The Quadrangle, University of Sydney

Cost: \$32, \$25 (Friends of the Nicholson Museum)

Bookings: 02 9351 2812 or nicholson.museum@sydney.edu.au

More info: <http://whatson.sydney.edu.au/events/published/archaeologists-wear-black-hats-why-archaeologists-are-bad-guys-in-cinema>

Landscape and memory: Hero and Leander map the Hellespont

Speaker: Elizabeth Minchin

When: 12-2pm, 17 October 2014

Where: Education Lecture Room 424, Education Building A35, Manning Road, University of Sydney

Animal Sacrifice in the Bronze Age Temple at Pella, Jordan - a preliminary analysis of the animal bones from the Middle to Late Bronze Age

Speaker: Karyn Wesselingh

When: 3.15pm, 21 October 2014

Where: CCANESA Board Room, Level 4, Madsen Building, University of Sydney

Archaeology on the Orkney Isles

Speaker: Nick Card

When: 6.30-7.45pm, 22 October 2014

Where: Australian Museum, Entry via William St

Cost: \$30, \$20 (Members)

More info & bookings: <http://australianmuseum.net.au/event/Night-Talk-Archaeology-Orkney-Isles/>

Egyptian Magical Practice in the Roman Period

Speaker: Korshi Dosoo

When: 3.15pm, 28 October 2014

Where: CCANESA Board Room, Level 4, Madsen Building, University of Sydney

The Archaeology of Industrialised Genocide in Central Europe 1942-44

Speaker: Roland Fletcher

When: 12-2pm, 31 October 2014

Where: Education Lecture Room 424, Education Building A35, Manning Road, University of Sydney

Conducting Significance Assessments (workshop)

Speaker: Roslyn Russell

When: 10am - 3:30pm, 6 November 2014

Where: History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney

Cost: \$60

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

More info: http://www.rahs.org.au/ai1ec_event/rahsphaasa-workshop-conducting-significance-assessments/?instance_id=597

Corroboree Sydney

When: 20-30 Nov

More info: <http://www.corroboreesydney.com.au/>

Aztecs: A rich and brutal story - the birth of modern Mexico (exhibition)

When: 13 September 2014 - 1 February 2015

Where: Australian Museum, 6 College Street, Sydney

More info: <http://australianmuseum.net.au/landing/aztecs/>

Associated lecture series:

When: 6.30-7.45pm, various dates (see below)

Where: Australian Museum, entry via William Street, Sydney

Cost: \$290, \$180 (Members) for the whole series; \$30, \$20 (Members) for individual lectures

More info: <http://australianmuseum.net.au/event/Aztecs-Night-Talk-Series>

- 2 October 2014: Aztecs - All About the Exhibition (Fran Dorey, exhibition project manager) <http://australianmuseum.net.au/event/Night-Talk-Aztecs-exhibition>
- 9 October 2014: Aztec Funerary Customs (Stan Serafin, anthropologist) <http://australianmuseum.net.au/event/Night-Talk-Aztecs-funerary>
- 16 October 2014: Pointed stones and broken bones (Stan Serafin, anthropologist) <http://australianmuseum.net.au/event/Night-Talk-Pointed-stones>
- 6 November 2014: The Enigma of La Malinche - the Woman in the Conquest of the Aztecs (Anna Lanyon) <http://australianmuseum.net.au/event/Night-Talk-Enigma-La-Malinche>
- 13 November 2014: Ritual Violence in Mesoamerica (Chris Carter, archaeologist) <http://australianmuseum.net.au/event/Night-Talk-Ritual-Violence>
- 20 November 2014: Aztecs - Where are they now? (Barry Carr, historian) <http://australianmuseum.net.au/event/Night-Talk-Aztecs-Where-now>
- 4 December 2014: The Aztec Mind (Peter Mathews, Aztecs expert) <http://australianmuseum.net.au/event/Night-Talk-The-Aztec-Mind>
- 15 January 2015: Messages from the Sky (Fred Watson, astronomer) <http://australianmuseum.net.au/event/Night-Talk-Messages-Sky>
- 22 January 2015: Native Women's Power Before and After the Fall of the Aztec Empire (Blanca Tovías, historian) <http://australianmuseum.net.au/event/Night-Talk-Native-Womens-Power>
- 29 January 2015: Fall of the Aztecs (Chris Carter, archaeologist) <http://australianmuseum.net.au/event/Night-Talk-Fall-Aztecs>

Material supplied by Lydia Sivaraman

“NON-DESTRUCTIVE” DIGGING ON HERITAGE/ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

In the last few years the use of so called “Non-Destructive” digging (aka Sucker Trucks) on projects involving archaeological or heritage sites has begun to be increasingly common. The process involves using a high pressure water jet to break up the ground and a powerful vacuum to suck the water and sediment, via a hose, into a large tank on the back of a truck.

The advantage of this technique over other excavation techniques such a mechanical auguring and use of excavators, is that such techniques discover buried infrastructure by banging into it, while non-destructive digging exposes infrastructure intact. As one of the company websites notes “While backhoes, augers and trenchers dig and damage expensive infrastructure, this method virtually eliminates the risk of damaging buried pipelines, cables, utilities and other underground infrastructure. Our non-destructive digging equipment offers diversity through multiple applications and environments.”

The lowering of the damage risk to infrastructure has led to the technique's popularity and some suppliers have been including the term “heritage” in the list of things non-destructive digging is good for.

JCIS Consultants have been involved in a number of projects – typically archaeological monitoring where instead of the usual excavator or mechanical auger, a sucker truck has been used by the client. In most of these cases we have been monitoring because structural remains are suspected to be in the area of some infrastructure and our role has been to prevent damage to any unexpected items and to record the evidence exposed by the work.

In terms of avoiding damage to substantial structures the sucker works well and is better because it can be controlled and any inadvertent contact with structures is only by water. Admittedly, it is a high powered jet of water which, I imagine, could be destructive to building materials like pise, mud brick or rammed earth but on the other hand mass concrete, metal items and masonry stand up to the jet.

The first projects JCIS Consultants worked on where a sucker truck was utilised, the water jet was blasting away and covered the operator, archaeologist and the area being excavated with mud, thus obscuring the stratigraphy exposed in plan and in trench sections. This was very unsatisfactory and less than useful in trying to understand what was being uncovered during the excavation and in recording afterwards.

On reflection, this was a case of the operators simply turning the water jet “up to 11” and blasting away. As the archaeologists were not familiar with the subtlety of the sucker truck we were unaware that there was a “gentle cycle” where the jet’s pressure was lowered and the surfaces could be washed to provide a clean surface suitable for archaeological recording. With a mix of high and low pressure, the non-destructive technique becomes much more useful as there is more opportunity for archaeological observation and control of the excavation process.

I am less convinced about the use of non-destructive techniques in areas where there might be artefact deposits as, presumably, these would simply be vacuumed up into the sediment tank (there to be deposited into landfill to await future archaeologists). JCIS Consultants has recovered artefacts from trenches where the operator noticed something and stopped work allowing us to recover the artefacts. However, if artefacts are considered likely to occur caution would be needed in using non-destructive techniques.

To conclude, the emergence of “Non-Destructive” digging on archaeological sites as an alternative to using mechanised augers or excavators to excavate ground to locate services or emplace services requires archaeologists to evaluate the technique so that they understand the potential impacts and methodologies that can be used during archaeological monitoring. This note has been written as a first impression of the use of “Non-Destructive” digging on archaeological sites so that other archaeologists can add their impressions and techniques with the aim of fully understanding this technique and its alternatives.



A typical sucker truck in operation with traffic control and supervisors



Archaeological stratigraphy revealed by the lower power setting on a water jet
(note the tree root which has survived intact)

Material supplied by Dr Iain Stuart, JCIS Consultants

WHITE HART INN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

EMGA Mitchell McLennan Pty Ltd (EMM) was engaged by Baulderstone Pty Ltd, on behalf of Transport for NSW (TfNSW), to complete heritage services for the early works package of the North West Rail Link (NWRL), including an archaeological assessment and excavations. Five possible archaeological sites were identified in the European heritage assessment for the environmental impact statement (GML 2012) as requiring investigation to guide the appropriate level of management.

EMM, with the assistance of Comber Consultants Pty Ltd, completed the archaeological investigations of the five sites, with the most substantial and intact site being that of the former White Hart Inn. The inn, also referred to as the Swan Inn in some documents, was identified as a ruin and archaeological site as early as the 1930s. Research completed as part of the archaeological assessment for the early works identified that the inn was built for William Cox Esq by the convict builder James Gough. It operated from the late 1820s to the 1860s with a number of different publicans, including one woman, Sarah Tighe, who later married the publican at the Royal Oak (now the Mean Fiddler).

The excavation uncovered the footings of a building approximately 20m wide and 15m across, a separate building to the rear approximately 13m long and 5m wide, and a cistern with a diameter of 2.5m.

The surviving architecture of the main inn building confirms that it was configured as a typical colonial inn, oriented to face Windsor Road to the west. A long verandah faced Windsor Road, flanked by smaller rooms, or wing-rooms. A large room with fireplace is directly behind the verandah. Smaller rooms, defined by brick footings, emerged along the southern side of the building and possibly along the back of the building to the east.

The footings of the main inn building were constructed of sandstone built 0.80m into the ground. The robustness of the footings supports descriptions of the building being two-storey and made of sandstone and brick. Sandstock brick footings may represent a second phase of construction in the main inn building. The excavation revealed that the southern wing room was demolished and another room, with brick footings, was added to the south, extending the length of the verandah but keeping the symmetry of the facade. The original soil profile survived in places beneath the main inn building, and yielded Aboriginal artefacts.

A sub-surface room was partially excavated and is likely to be a cellar or cool room. This space is approximately 1 x 1.3m and has been excavated to approximately 1m in depth to a mixed, redeposited layer. On its western side, the cellar is defined by a slanting wall of large sandstone blocks set perpendicular to the sandstone footings of the main building. The walls/footings to the north and east are composed of sandstock brick. The extent of excavation in the cellar was minor, removing largely loose deposit filled with collapsed brick and iron fragments. Further investigation would be required to better understand the function of what is currently referred to as the cellar.

A detached room at the north east corner of the main building is considered to be a kitchen, 13m long by 5m wide, strongly suggested by the large fireplace base on the eastern end, a smaller fireplace base on the western end, as well as by virtue of its separation from the main part of the inn. The footings of this building were also of sandstone but differed from those in the main inn building in their construction. While those in the main inn building were made of roughly hewn blocks of sandstone approximately 0.8 x 0.4 x 0.2m, the footings in the detached room are smaller sandstone fragments put together by what resembles dry-stone

wall technique. One of the questions raised by the footings is if it represents a second phase of construction at the inn, suggesting an expansion of the commercial enterprise.

The final feature uncovered on the site was a remnant cistern represented by sandstock bricks forming a circle approximately 2.5m in diameter. This feature was excavated to approximately 0.3m to reveal that it was constructed of sandstock bricks, bonded with lime mortar, with the bricks slanting in to the centre indicating that it would have had a domed roof. The spherical shape of the cistern was supported on the outside by compact shale packing.

The excavation found that when demolished, the walls of buildings and structures were crushed into rubble and spread across the ground, effectively creating a sealed lid over the site. The imprint of only one timber fragment was recorded; it is possible that many of the useable materials were removed and re-used elsewhere as very little building material was found, with the exception of sandstone and brick footings. It is understood that one of the mounting stones was collected a number of years ago and incorporated into a property in the locality.

The focus of the excavation was to confirm the existence of relics and the condition of the archaeological site, which was realised. Preliminary assessment of the excavation indicates that the site is of State significance as it represents the expansion of the colony to the north-west and the importance of the road to Windsor. It is also one of the few surviving archaeological sites of its kind. Project approval allowed salvage of the site after consultation on a methodology with the Heritage Division; however, a combination of factors resulted in TfNSW deciding to conserve the site, necessitating a re-design of piers and the construction method of the NWRL.



The northern “wing” at the front of the building. The building faced west, which is left in the photograph. View to the north, north west.

The archaeological excavation program finished with the opening of the site to the public for one weekend. Community interest was high and despite some difficult weather on the Sunday, the chance to view the excavation was well received. The excavation report is scheduled to be completed in 2015 and in the meantime the artefacts recovered from the site

are being analysed. Due to the significance of the archaeological relics the site will be conserved and an interpretation strategy will be developed.



View along the front of the building with what is probably the second-phase wing room on brick footings in the foreground. The original south wing on sandstone footings beside it that was incorporated into the verandah further along and the north wing in the background.
View to the north, north-west.



View into the sub-surface room that has tentatively been described as a cellar or cold room. Note the slanting sandstone blocks to the left; there is another sandstone block emerging from the deposit that was not excavated. The wall directly above them (and under the north

arrow) is possibly an outside wall and is shown in context in Photograph 3.
View to the north-west.



This feature has been identified as representing a detached kitchen supported by the fireplace base at its eastern extent (front) represented by the flagstones behind the range poles, and another fireplace base at the eastern end. Compare the structure of the footings in this building with those in the main inn building (photographs above). View to the west.



The cistern located at the rear of the inn building. The cistern is approximately 2.5m in diameter, is constructed of sandstock bricks with a crushed shale packing around the outside perimeter. View to the north east.

Material supplied by Pamela Kottaras and Rebecca Newell, EMGA Mitchell McLennan Pty Ltd (EMM)

NEW ZEALAND NEWS

Compiled by Rick McGovern-Wilson

ARCHAEOLOGY IN CHRISTCHURCH

Archaeological work at the Christchurch Justice and Emergency Services Precinct finally came to an end at the start of July. In the last fortnight of work at the site, the substantial brick remains of a 19th century saw mill were exposed. Now the work on the report begins. With over 100 boxes of artefacts and some 12 town sections, this will be a substantial piece of work!

On the second weekend in July, the team from UnderOverArch volunteered at French Farm house. This building dates from the 1840s and was built by the French navy. It is now in a poor state of repair and the Akaroa Civic Trust is working to save the building and preserve it for the future. In the first instance, this involves installing supports for the first floor of the building, repiling and digging drains to stop water pooling inside the building. The archaeological work carried out to date has involved drawing all external elevations, mapping the area, drawing a floor plan, recording the building, removing and recording all loose material from within the building and excavating two rooms. This last yielded a surprising number of artefacts.



French Farm homestead



Bottles in situ under the floor boards at French Farm

Material supplied by Katharine Watson, UnderOverArch

NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWS

Compiled by Malcolm Connolly

[Nothing received for this edition – Ed.]

SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWS

Compiled by Cameron Hartnell

SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S SECOND COPPER BOOM

South Australia has returned to its early copper boom years, with numerous perspectives being brought to bear on our mining icons. Settled well after its Eastern cousins, it is a surprising fact that South Australia is the country's first (hard rock) mining state. While copper wasn't the first mineral mined, it was certainly the one with the largest impact. Places including Burra, Kapunda and later Moonta were vaulted onto the world's copper stage amongst other giants in Michigan and Cornwall. The mining of just this single element provided a huge and sorely needed boost to a struggling colony.

The picks have long stopped swinging but there's been a recent resurgence in interest in these seminal places. Two Flinders university students have turned their attention to the periphery of the earliest rush site: Kapunda. Doctoral candidate Cherrie de Leuien is looking at the site of St. John's church. This was one of the earliest Catholic churches in the state and was later used as a school and reformatory. Excavations in mid-2013 uncovered an

unusual underfloor complex to an external cell, complete with cellars and chutes. The mystery remains as to its intended use. Cherrie's investigations will give insights into concepts of landscape and gender archaeology.

Master's student Susan Arthure has been investigating the nearby former settlement of Baker's Flat. Irish settlers moved to work at the mine (operating 1844-79) from 1854, squatting outside town rent free. Her investigations aim to understand how Irishness can be seen through the archaeological evidence. Through landscape surveys, artefact analysis, documentary research and community engagement, Susan has begun to reveal some of the rich lives and ways of those migrants.

From the periphery to the core, with Kapunda residents and the South Australian Mining History Group having started plotting historic mining remains across the landscape. Later fill covers much of the former processing area, hopefully capping the remains of this fabulous site.

More broadly, work is progressing in the heritage recognition of SA's copper landscapes. South Australian's became devoted to the Cornish ways, adopting their technologies, methods and people to work newly discovered mineral areas. So much so, the State's copper mines are the best examples of Cornish mining landscapes outside Cornwall! Pasty anyone?

Following a nomination for the National Heritage List, the Department of the Environment (National Historical Heritage Unit) engaged the ANU School of Archaeology & Anthropology to prepare a report and undertake the community engagement necessary for the Federal minister to make a decision on the listing. If all goes to plan, National heritage listing would be a step on the road to World Heritage Listing as part of a transnational Cornish Mining listing.

With a bit of luck, these efforts will sustain a long lasting boom in interest in Copper mining history.

Material supplied by Cameron Hartnell

TORRENS ISLAND QUARANTINE STATION CEMETERY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The SA Maritime Museum undertook an archaeological survey of the quarantine station's cemetery in June to confirm the location of known graves and perhaps identify those long forgotten. A Community and Cultural Grant from Port Adelaide Enfield Council funded maritime archaeologists Britt Burton and Dave Ross in a GPR and magnetometer survey of the area.

The Quarantine Station began operations on the island in 1878. Remains were buried at this consecrated multi-denominational cemetery from 1896 to 1932 for those with infectious diseases including smallpox, plague, tuberculosis, malaria, leprosy and Spanish influenza. Documentary sources record ten burials at the site up to 8 feet deep but it is thought there may be up to 17. While vegetation proved a major obstacle, they confirmed the location of most burials but did not identify any new ones.



Photograph of the Torrens Island cemetery by Britt Burton

Material supplied by Britt Burton

VICTORIA NEWS

Compiled by Andrea Murphy

**SECRET LIVES, FORGOTTEN STORIES: HIGHLIGHTS FROM HERITAGE
VICTORIA'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTION, 16 APRIL–12 OCTOBER 2014**



Ceramic jug, egg cup and condiment bowl, England, c. 19th century (c. 1860s),
Excavated *SS City of Launceston*, Collection of Heritage Victoria

Archaeological artefacts from eight of Victoria's oldest historic sites will be showcased for the first time at the Potter Museum of Art, University of Melbourne, 16 April – 12 October 2014.

The exhibition will include more than 70 archaeological artefacts from Heritage Victoria's collection including 200 year-old objects from the failed convict settlement at Sorrento, a pistol from the site of the Eureka Rebellion, and burial boxes from the mass grave at Pentridge Prison where Ned Kelly was re-buried.



Metal percussion six barrel pepperbox pistol, Probably British, c.1850-80s, Eureka Historic Precinct excavations, 1997, Collection of Heritage Victoria

The collection traces Victoria's settlement and growth from convict times, through the years of the whaling industry and the Gold rush, up to the birth of Marvellous Melbourne.

The artefacts also tell the stories of forgotten Victorians: People such as the Chinese in the goldfields and impoverished workers in early Melbourne, who have not left their mark on traditional histories but whose lives are reflected in the trinkets and treasures that are left behind.

Curator, Dr Andrew Jamieson, says the exhibition represents a 'coming of age' of historical archaeology in Victoria. Never before has it been possible to see the state's history so richly presented through the lens of archaeology.

"Excavations in Victoria over the past 20 years have uncovered significant archaeological remains and relics. Many of the artefacts in the exhibition have never been displayed publicly before.

"For the first time it is now possible to see the evolving story of Victoria's 19th Century settlement and development reflected in its archaeology," Dr Jamieson said.

The exhibition highlights the history of archaeology in the state, revealing the discoveries of archaeologists and the contributions they have made to our understanding of Victoria's past.

The collection also has a maritime theme, featuring artefacts recovered from two important shipwrecks, the *Cheviot* and the *SS City of Launceston*.

"The exhibition represents a very exciting and important opportunity to collaborate with Heritage Victoria (and the Heritage Council) in telling the story of the settlement and growth of Victoria through these unique objects," Dr Jamieson said.

For further information:

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The Ian Potter Museum of Art The University of Melbourne



Material supplied by Sarah Hayes, La Trobe University

TASMANIA NEWS

Compiled by Annita Waghorn

PORT ARTHUR CONVICT WORKSHOPS ARTEFACT ANALYSIS

In early July, as part of continuing collaboration between the Port Arthur Historic Sites Management Authority (PAHSMA) and Dr Martin Gibbs, 10 students enrolled in the University of Sydney's ARCA2621 Advanced Archaeology Practicum spent two weeks helping to sort and catalogue artefacts excavated in 2003-4 from the former workshops area adjacent to the main penitentiary at the Port Arthur Historic Site. The workshops were a critical part of the functioning of the convict settlement, housing a range of industries and crafts including blacksmithing, nailmaking, cobbling, carpentry, timber milling and other diverse industrial processes.

The artefact analysis exercise contributes to PAHSMA's Collections Project, which includes a review of assemblages from nearly 40 years of archaeological excavations; it also feeds into the joint project on convict labour and industry at Port Arthur and the Tasman Peninsula. This work continues from that of the 2011 University of Sydney student group who undertook the analysis of material from Maureen Byrne's 1976 excavations of the first prisoner barracks complex and which led to the 2013 Honours theses by Caitlin Dircks and Chloe Hamilton.

As part of the 2014 course the students were introduced to artefact processing under the guidance of Jeanne Harris of Urban Analysts, who has been working for PAHSMA in the Collections Project and who generously donated her time to teach the students how to do artefact identifications and create a professional catalogue. PAHSMA staff members Jane Harrington, David Roe, Jody Steele, Michael Smith, Annita Waghorn and Nicky Corbett were of vital assistance in setting up the course and allowing access to materials, while also providing seminars and tours on current issues in heritage site management, interpretation and especially collections management. The students are in the throes of writing up their results and interpretations of the material.



Jeanne Harris of Urban Analysts instructed the students in artifact identification



University of Sydney students worked to identify and catalogue artefacts from the Port Arthur Penitentiary Workshops

Material supplied by Dr Martin Gibbs

WESTERN AUSTRALIA NEWS

Compiled by Jillian Barteaux

[Nothing received for this issue, but we have a new State Rep – Jillian Barteaux – who has agreed to take up the role, and will be seeking material for future issues – Ed.]

QUEENSLAND NEWS

Compiled by Cameron Harvey

[Nothing received for this issue – Ed.]

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

SOCIETY NEWS

2014–2015 MEMBERSHIP YEAR OPENS

On 1 July the 2014–2015 membership year opened. Over half our members have already renewed. You can check your membership anytime by logging onto www.asha.org.au.

If you have forgotten your username and/or password, click the '[Forgotten Password](#)' on the homepage or contact secretary@asha.org.au.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The next Annual General Meeting will be held during the AAA–ASHA joint Conference in December.

Where: Boardroom 2, Pullman Cairns International, 7 Abbott Street QLD 4870

When: 12:30–1:30pm, Tuesday 2 December 2014

Nominations forms for Committee positions will be circulated soon.

NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR REQUIRED

ASHA are seeking a new Editor for the Newsletter, as Rick McGovern-Wilson will be stepping down from the role, at the AGM in December. Rick will complete the December issue of the Newsletter, but then will be looking to hand over the reins. If you are interested, please contact either Rick on newsletter@asha.org.au or Mary Casey (ASHA President) at president@asha.org.au

AAA/ASHA 2014 JOINT CONFERENCE

Culture, Climate, Change: Archaeology in the Tropics

1–3 December 2014

Cairns, Queensland



We invite you to visit the tropics this year to participate in the joint Australian Archaeological Association/Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology annual conference. The conference will be hosted by [James Cook University](http://www.jamescook.edu.au) at the Pullman Cairns International. The conference theme is **Culture, Climate, Change: Archaeology in the Tropics**.

The conference will comprise three concurrent sessions each day. Functions include two days of pre-conference workshops and a Welcome Reception on the night before the conference starts, a Meet the Graduates event for students and recent graduates, slots for the annual general meetings of ASHA, AAA and AACAI and other groups (AO, AHA, AA, AIAA, ANCATL), lunchtime career advice workshops for students and recent graduates, an optional conference dinner on the last night of the conference and optional post-conference fieldtrips on the day after the conference concludes. See the [Draft Program](#) for a developing summary of the conference program or go to the conference [home page](#) for full details.

We have negotiated very favourable accommodation room rates for conference delegates at the Pullman Cairns International commencing from \$159 per room per night for up to 3 adults. We encourage delegates to stay at the venue. The discounted rate needs to be booked during the registration process.

Registration fees include attendance at the Welcome Reception; morning and afternoon teas, and lunches every day of the conference as well as plenty of other snacks at social events; conference materials; and access to two days of FREE pre-conference workshops (Geochronology, Historical Tour of Cairns CBD, CV Workshop, How to Get Published in Archaeology Workshop, ARC Funding in Archaeology Workshop).

Remember that some of the workshops have limited numbers, so if you are keen to go to any of them get in and register for the conference sooner rather than later.

Further Information

Further details are available at:

<http://www.australianarchaeology.com/conferences/aaa2014-conference/>

or

<http://www.asha.org.au/conference/>

or

Email Julie Jerbic at aaa@conferenceonline.com.au.

We look forward to seeing you in December.

P.S. To celebrate the 37th annual conference of the Association the official hashtag for the conference will be #AAA37.

WINNER OF THE 2014 SHARON SULLIVAN NATIONAL HERITAGE AWARD ANNOUNCED

On 19 May 2014 Australian Heritage Council announced this year's recipient of the Sharon Sullivan National Heritage Award.

Council Chair, Professor Carmen Lawrence said the award recognises an individual's outstanding and long term contribution to Australia's national heritage in the natural, indigenous or historic environment.

"It gives me great pleasure to announce that the 2014 recipient of the Australian Heritage Council's Sharon Sullivan National Heritage award is Archaeologist David Johnston for his outstanding contribution to the Australian Indigenous heritage environment and his continued influence on practice.

"When David graduated with Honours from university in 1989 he was one of the first Indigenous Australians qualified to work as an archaeologist.

"Following a remarkable academic career that took him to the United Kingdom and work with the British Museum, David has made an exceptional contribution to the research, management and protection of our Indigenous heritage," Professor Lawrence said.

Dave Johnston is the current Director of Aboriginal Archaeologists Australia and Chairman of the Australian Indigenous Archaeologists' Association.

He is a member of the Commonwealth Governments' Indigenous Advisory Committee that deals with advice relating to the EPBC Act and a member of the AIATSIIS Research Ethics Committee and the Canberra Museum and Gallery Advisory Committee.

"David has made important contributions to the development of the field Indigenous archaeology and its development at Australian universities as well as working to ensure an Indigenous perspective in the study of Australian archaeology.

"David's contributions have been internationally recognized. He was actively involved in the development and adoption of a code of ethics for the World Archaeological Congress and also drove the adoption of a code of ethics by the Australian Archaeological Association. He was instrumental in the development of the Australian Government's guidelines for Indigenous heritage.

"I am delighted that David Johnston is the first Indigenous recipient of the Council's Sharon Sullivan National Heritage Award and I speak for all Council members when I say David is a worthy holder of the award and that we look forward to his future contributions to our Indigenous heritage," Professor Lawrence said.

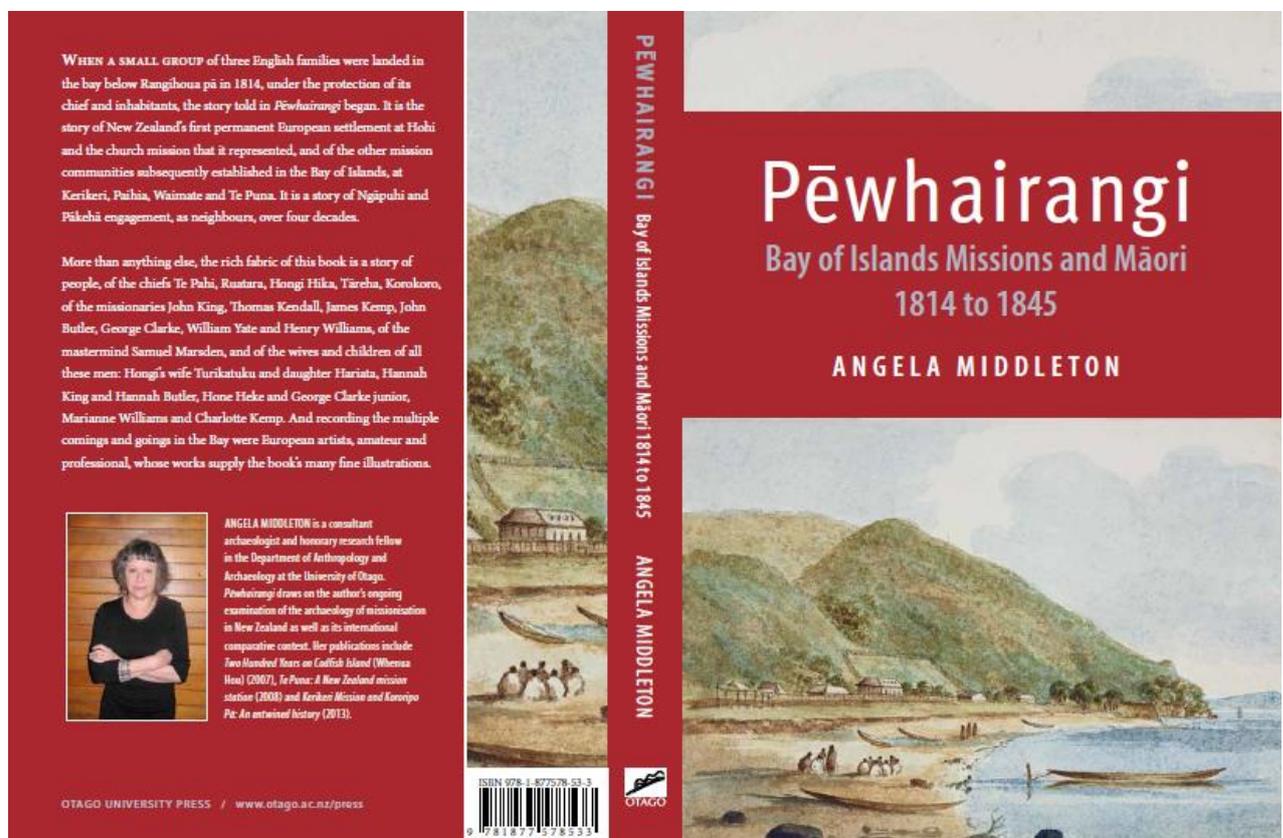
The Sharon Sullivan National Heritage award

The Sharon Sullivan National Heritage award was created by the Australian Heritage Council to not only recognise individuals' outstanding and long term contribution to Australia's national heritage in the natural, indigenous or historic environment but to commemorate the remarkable contribution of retired Australian Heritage Council member Adjunct Professor Sharon Sullivan.

Media contact: DSEWPAC media 02 6275 9880 or media@environment.gov.au

Material supplied by Mary Casey, ASHA President

NEW BOOK - BAY OF ISLANDS MISSIONS AND MISSIONARIES



This can be ordered from Nationwide Book Distributors, PO Box 65, Oxford 7443, New Zealand
books@nationwidebooks.co.nz Phone +6433121603

Material supplied by Angela Middleton

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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.

Rick McGovern-Wilson
General Editor
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