

## New Zealand News

### *Alexandra East Redoubt*

After a long battle the Waipa District Council has finally passed a resolution to gazette the site of the Alexandra East (also known as the Piongia East) redoubt as a historic reserve. Until recently, the Council was hellbent on selling the redoubt site which occupies two lots in a new subdivision created by the council on endowment land. The gazettal of the redoubt site is a victory for the untiring efforts of a local citizens' lobby group, aided overtly and covertly by archaeologists and other heritage advocates, who have fought for over a year to get the Council to withdraw the sections from sale and create a reserve. The Council is now seeking funds to have a management plan produced which will include plans for reconstruction of the earthworks which were levelled by the departing British forces.

At the northern end of the Waikato, the Queens Redoubt Trust, made up of local supporters and archaeologists, has nearly concluded a protracted agreement with the landowner to purchase the site of Queens redoubt, the largest redoubt constructed by British forces in New Zealand last century. The intention, here too, is to reconstruct a portion of the earthworks and establish an interpretive centre on this significant gateway site which served as springboard for the British invasion of the Waikato in 1863-1864. The site at Pokeno is right beside the Auckland-Hamilton highway and has tremendous potential for interpreting the Waikato War and its legacy.

*Neville Ritchie*

## RESEARCH NOTES

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### Flinders University Honours Theses

*Pingle Farm, From Rubble to Repute. An Archaeological Investigation, Interpretation and "Publication".*

Archaeology is a field, which can no longer stay within the realms of academia as it is far too widely recognised by the public as an interesting and exciting field. This therefore calls on us as the Archaeologists to release our work into the public sector allowing people to not only see the work being done but in some cases making it possible for them to experience it. This thesis concentrates on a small ruined farm located within the Onkaparinga Recreational Reserve, Port Noarlunga, South Australia. The aim of this research was to interpret the site both historically and archaeologically, then to present the interpretation to the public for two days, during which an underground cistern on the property was excavated. Guided tours were given of the site and a response survey was carried out in all that visited. The responses to the survey questions were analysed statistically and the results were positive. Visitors to the site were very interested in the work being done most stating that more sites of this kind should be opened to the public. Allowing the public greater access to our work is the only way to change the misconceptions that are held towards our field. This research is a small step in alleviating those misconceptions.

*Richard Coombs*

### *An Assessment of Australian Wooden Sailing Vessels (Constructed Between 1850 - 1899) Operating the South Australian Intrastate Coastal Trade.*

Investigation into the construction of Australian built wooden sailing craft, constructed between 1850-1899, has taken an active role over the past 20 years. However, much of this research has been based on a historical approach rather than an archaeological one. This paper discusses the combination of historical documentation, archaeological fieldwork and timber analysis to provide an insight to understanding the Australian built coastal traders that operated the intrastate trades throughout Australian waters. Wooden sailing vessels in Australia, constructed between 1850-1899 were designed to suit specific tasks and a specific environment. These adopted modifications saw a change in hull design and sail technology. Unique to the colonial Australian shipbuilding industry was the use of

Australian timbers. The study reveals that specific timbers were used for specific tasks in ship construction. When these or other suitable timbers were unavailable, shipwrights obtained them through the timber trade that had established well before the 1880s to manufacture their vessels. This thesis aims to explain methods of colonial ship construction, the modifications made to traditional ship constructions and the use of naturally grown resources in the construction of Australian built wooden sailing craft.

*Rebecca O'Reilly*

*Analysis and interpretation of the Holdfast Bay Historical Artefacts.*

A series of underwater excavations conducted at the site of a former jetty in one of South Australia's most popular metropolitan beaches produced a collection of historical artefacts which exceeded 5,000 pieces. Holdfast Bay (Glenelg) is situated on the eastern coast of Gulf St Vincent in South Australia. No study or analysis had been previously conducted on these artefacts which had not been documented or catalogued following the excavations. A more controlled series of excavations is due to take place in the year 2000 when, presumably, more artefacts will be raised from the seabed. It was vital, therefore, for the first collection of artefacts to be documented and properly examined to provide relevant information regarding the interpretation and significance of the site and to provide recommendations for future studies related to it. Few studies have been conducted on jetty sites and their associated material culture, which places this research as one of the few undertaken to date. The aims of this research included examining the nature of the artefacts and assessing the significance of the Holdfast Bay Jetty site. Various questions are explored in this thesis, which include the reasons and circumstances leading to the deposition of the artefacts and the sort of information that can be derived from studying them. Also examined are indications revealing the lifestyles of the people and the social and economic developments which took place. Hence, based on the study of the artefacts, attempts were made to interpret and reconstruct the cultural, economic, social and recreational activities of the people who either lived at or visited the site. The Holdfast Bay study has also been compared to other similar

sites especially to the Long Jetty and Albany Town Jetty sites in Western Australia which are the two most similar and contemporary of studies.

*Jennifer Rodrigues*

**La Trobe University Honours Theses**

*Colonial Enterprise: The View from a Nineteenth Century Whaling Station.*

The potential of archaeology to address a broad range of social and economic processes through the study of material culture has been largely untapped in Australian historical archaeology. This dissertation aims to redress this imbalance through an analysis of the ceramic, glass, and clay pipe assemblage from the Hewitt and Kelly whaling station. Particular issues to be addressed are the means by which the station was supplied, the types of goods consumed by the whalers, and the overall relationship and extent of integration between the station and colonial and global economic networks. This may be viewed in the overall context of the ability of an emerging colonial society to effectively sustain its material needs.

*Luke Flanagan*

*Unbuttoned: Archaeological Perspectives of Convicts and Whalers' Clothing in Nineteenth Century Tasmania.*

Buttons are commonly recovered from archaeological sites dating from the nineteenth century. They are a potential source of valuable information regarding sites' previous inhabitants. However, the required data for pertinent analysis of buttons has not been synthesised for archaeologists in Australia. Buttons are mundane and ubiquitous. It is owing to this that they are valuable tools for archaeological analysis. This thesis is concerned with the comparative analysis of buttons recovered from the Tasmanian convict site at Port Arthur and the whaling sites at Adventure and Lagoon Bays. Documentary, pictorial and archaeological evidence is engaged in order to provide perspectives for

the buttons and clothing of the previous occupants of the sites. To this end, extant items of convict clothing have been observed and recorded. Based on the synthesis of these disparate forms of evidence, this thesis contributes to the debate regarding the degree of differentiation observable between convicts and the working classes. Furthermore, the investigation seeks to determine whether or not a distinctive convict assemblage can be identified. In addition, manufacturing methods are analysed in order to assess the likelihood of local manufacture occurring at Port Arthur. It is the contention of this thesis that the generally accepted method of analysing buttons in order to extrapolate the types of clothing worn by previous inhabitants of historical sites is not feasible. It is argued that an analysis of button attributes is likely to result in more plausible conclusions.

*Sam George*

***Archaeology in the Suburbs: A View from the City of Monash.***

This thesis has been formulated to investigate the application of archaeology in the suburban landscape. The thesis uses simple and straightforward archaeological methods to identify aspects of the 'hidden' heritage in the suburban City of Monash, Melbourne. Data from the prehistoric Aboriginal, Aboriginal-European contact, and post-contact periods is analysed and interpreted in order to produce a more integrated form of local history. Sources of information include unpublished heritage management reports, unpublished archaeological site surveys, social histories, local histories, town planning and management reports and plans, and primary documents. Approaches used are derived from cultural geography and urban history in addition to archaeology.

*Kevin Hoey*

***A Whaler's Ration: A Comparison of the Faunal Remains from Adventure Bay and Lagoon Bay Shore-Based Whaling Stations in Tasmania.***

This thesis forms a component of the Archaeology of Whaling in Southern Australia and New Zealand project. As part of this broad study two former shore-based whaling stations in southern Tasmania were

excavated. They were the Kelly and Lucas station at Adventure Bay on Bruny Island, and the Hewitt and Kelly station at Lagoon Bay on the Forestier Peninsula. This has resulted in an assemblage of nearly ten thousand bone specimens of bird, fish and mammal which were analysed for this Honours thesis. The results formed a basis for a comparative dietary investigation of these stations for the period of the second quarter of the nineteenth century. These stations were supplied with provisions in ration form with a proportion of meat, mostly of domestic varieties. The stations were relatively isolated and self-sufficiency for subsistence was not practiced. This situation provides an insight into a rural occupation, where different dietary behaviour may be observable in comparison to urban locations. In this study the dietary behaviour of Van Diemen's Land for this era was also investigated to provide a context for the results from the whaling stations. A major component of the investigation was to determine the contribution each of the identified species made to the diet, and to examine any similarities or differences between the two sites.

*Catherine Tucker*

## **AWSANZ Project**

***Preliminary Notes on Excavations at Hewitt and Kelly's Whaling Station, Lagoon Bay, Tasmania***

The remains of at least two and possibly three buildings from a former shore whaling station were uncovered at Lagoon Bay, Tasmania, during archaeological excavations in February 1999. One of the buildings is believed to have been the headsman's quarters, while the others were crew quarters. Associated with the structural remains were a range of artefacts, including transfer-printed earthenware, olive glass beer/wine and gin bottles, clay pipes, bone buttons, iron nails, and copper sheathing. A brief underwater survey of the adjacent seabed (all that weather would allow) was unproductive, with only one whale skull located. The work was carried out by a team of archaeologists led by Susan Lawrence of La Trobe University, in collaboration with Mike Nash of the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service. It is part of the AWSANZ project