

# Editorial

The publication of the 24th volume of *Australasian Historical Archaeology* celebrates the contribution of Judy Birmingham. Judy retired in 1997 from teaching at the University at Sydney, ending one stage of her distinguished career in which she contributed to the inception and growth of historical archaeology in Australia, the improved interpretation of heritage and its protection, and to the teaching of archaeology. This celebratory publication marks her retirement and contribution, with papers from Judy's colleagues and students, as well as others.

When considering this volume of AHA we sought papers that reflected the scope of Judy's professional interests, as well as maintaining a focus on the archaeology content of a journal that in part derives from Judy's earlier efforts. We feel that the breadth of papers here goes some way to meeting that initial editorial challenge. Appropriately for a reflective collection we include two 'Personal Notes', to provide some specific personal context to Judy's career and teaching. A brief overview of Judy's career is provided in the 'President's Introduction' by Susan Lawrence, President of the Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology. Judy's career and the growth of historical archaeology at the University of Sydney are entwined: Ian Jack's contribution recalls the development of historical archaeology at the university, providing an important account on the history of our discipline. In 'Judy in the sixties: an inspiration', David Frankel and Christine Eslick recall Judy as a teacher. These years are also recalled by Judy in her 'Conversation' with Tracy Ireland and Mary Casey as well as how she became interested in Australian archaeology and heritage as a result of the destruction of early industrial sites and her involvement with the National Trust of Australia (NSW).

We wanted the majority of papers to provide new research and debate on historical archaeology topics that reflect Judy's diverse interests and concerns: cultural landscapes, artefacts, contact archaeology, research agendas and industrial archaeology.

Two complementary papers touch on industrial heritage and the archaeology of industry in Australia, setting this area of research firmly within historical archaeology, something which, as Casella observes, characterises Australian archaeology. Richard Mackay and Tony Brassil track the growth of industrial archaeology in New South Wales and the central role of the National Trust Industrial Archaeology Committee and Judy's long-term involvement as Chair of the committee. During this period they listed many industrial heritage items such as flour mills, pottery kilns, lighthouses and bridges. Eleanor Casella widens the frame of industrial archaeology to explore how it articulates with historical archaeology. Both papers reveal Judy's involvement in the beginnings of this area of research and the importance of her contribution.

A concern with the protection of historical heritage characterised the early stage of Judy's career, which saw the

rise of consultancy archaeology on this continent, firstly in NSW, then elsewhere. Nadia Iacono's paper deals with issues pertinent to consultants and other archaeologists, namely the outcomes of archaeological projects and the need for quality research results. Dealing with this issue is a constant characteristic of the discipline and is usefully raised here. Mary Casey's paper on her doctoral research developed from a large archaeological consultancy. It reveals how the work undertaken through consultancy can make significant contributions to research into the historical past. This paper on the landscape of the Sydney Domain, the first intentionally-designed British landscape in Australia, examines issues of landscape and claiming by the early governors and how the continued remaking of this place represents their political and social concerns.

Several papers represent something of the diversity of research in historical archaeology and heritage. Sarah Colley's paper examines the important areas of faunal analyses in historical archaeology, with a focus on Sydney sites, but of far broader relevance. This is a first step in providing a cultural context for analysis of faunal material for Australian sites and is a welcome addition. It reviews approaches to the identification of meat cuts in Britain and the USA as the context for developing a meats cuts typology for beef in Australia. This research project developed from Sarah's involvement with a large consultancy excavation. Heading to Antarctica, Neville Ritchie provides an account of the sites on Ross Island, raising issues of heritage, conservation and interpretation in New Zealand administered sections of Antarctica. Harry Allen's paper, a former student of Judy's, now Associate Professor at the University of Auckland, New Zealand, involves a considered reflection of Blandowski, and helps to situate historical accounts of explorers valuable to archaeological researchers. Judy's research has involved ceramics and rural settlement, both of which are touched upon by Pim Allison and Aedeem Cremin in their paper 'Ceramics from Old Kinchege Homestead'. The colonisation of Western Australia's Northwest is considered in Alistair Paterson's paper, which reports on a regional research program of a type defined by Judy's Central Australia Archaeology Project. Both papers present quite different approaches to the pastoral settlements and the lives of the various residents.

Our thanks to Judy Birmingham who established the way and whose enthusiasm never seems to diminish for her current archaeological projects on Central Australia and the analysis of Irrawang pottery. We have included a select bibliography of Judy's publications to date, and look forward to more in future.

We thank the authors for their hard work and timely contributions. All were excited by the idea of the *Festschrift* and were keen to support its production. Thanks to our numerous referees and our tireless proof reader Tony Lowe.

ALISTAIR PATERSON and MARY CASEY