

# Editorial

This is the 25th volume of the ASHA journal. We are the second oldest journal devoted to the study of historical archaeology published in the world. The journal, then called *The Australian Journal of Historical Archaeology* (AJHA), was established by Graham Connah in 1983. The first volume covered a wide range of topics. Among these were Birmingham and Jeans' model for Australian colonialism, the Swiss Family Robinson model, and Connah's paper on archaeology as stamp collecting. Both papers were concerned to see a shift from the collection of data for its own sake to problem-oriented research with the intention of increasing our understanding the past and creating a stronger and more relevant place for historical archaeology research. Both these papers have contributed significantly to local debates and are still referenced and discussed 25 years later. Other papers in volume one addressed research in Parramatta and Uralla, New South Wales, the Northern Territory and New Zealand, with a general paper on whaling technology. Jane Wesson collated part one of a bibliography on Australian historical archaeology already produced before 1983. Prior to the publication of the journal many people had published notes in the ASHA Newsletter and Research Notes. A brief examination of this bibliography indicated that a number of papers had been published in local monographs and in overseas journals, such as Jim Allen's (1973) and Judy Birmingham's (1976) papers in *World Archaeology* or local journals including *Australian Archaeology*. The majority of the papers referenced were printed in the ASHA Newsletter. The bibliography also included many papers on maritime archaeology, these days a separate society although we have had many joint annual meetings.

Graham Connah edited six volumes (1983–1988) of AJHA as well as guest editing volume 12 in 1994. The name of the journal changed in 1992 to *Australasian Historical Archaeology* (AHA). Between 1989 and 1996 there was an editorial committee of members under the general editorship of Judy Birmingham and Brian Egloff. In 1996 Judy was general editor. Revolving members of the publications committee during this period included: Judy Birmingham, Brian Egloff, Andrew Wilson, Katrina Proust, Aedeon Cremin, Tony Lowe, Mary Casey and Neville Ritchie. Guest editors between 1993 and 1999 were: Aedeon Cremin, Neville Ritchie (2), Susan Lawrence (2), Graham Connah, Tony Lowe and Mary Casey. These guest editors helped get a journal then three years behind up to date. The journal produced in 1999 was the first one to be published within its annual timeframe since Graham Connah ceased being editor. These guest editors contributed substantially to the survival of the journal into the present day. Each of these guest editors understood the value of the journal to the society and the maintenance and development of the discipline. The last guest edited volume in this series, without a general editor or journal editor, was by Sarah Colley and Iain Stuart in 2000. Iain Stuart was general editor between 2001 and 2002, during this time guest editors included: Eleanor Conlin Casella and Clayton Fredricksen (2001), and Penny Crook (2002).

I was appointed journal editor in 2003 and will continue in this position until the production of volume 26 in 2008 when I will retire but will remain on as general editor. Guest and co-editors during this period were Neville Ritchie, Martin Gibbs and Alistair Paterson. Including this volume, 226 papers and 158 book reviews were published during these 25 years. This is a significant achievement in terms of the relatively small population of historical archaeologists within Australia. The reviews editors throughout the 25 years include: Michael

Pearson, Peter Bell, Aedeon Cremin, Tracy Ireland and Alistair Paterson. Alistair has recently resigned from his position and a new reviews editor will be appointed in the near future. A contents list of all papers in the journal, as well as an index, can be found on the ASHA webpage. We hope the next 25 years will be as productive as the past 25 have been.

Most appropriately for the 25th volume of the ASHA journal Graham Connah has included a paper. It was written for the joint 2007 Sydney archaeology conference, New Ground, in a session convened in honour of Vere Gordon Childe, it being 50 years since his death in October 1957. In his paper Graham emphasises the need to publish as much as possible and is concerned that there are insufficient monographs being generated from numerous research projects. He expresses concern about the trend to internet and e-publishing and the accessibility of its products in 10, 20 or 100 years. I am pleased to say that the ASHA monograph series has been reactivated by Martin Gibbs who is the monograph series editor. The first volume will be on Jim Allen's doctoral thesis on Port Essington and the second will be Judy Birmingham's on the Irrawang pottery, both should be available in the first half of 2008. It is a considerable achievement after some lean financial years that the society has been able to undertake this co-publication with the University of Sydney Press. In addition we will see the development of specific web publishing through the web page as a means of presenting information long out-of-print but worthy of continued consideration as well as new publications where the best way of dissemination may be through the internet. We look forward to exciting publications and the wide dissemination of archaeological work over the next 25 years.

Many of the papers in this volume are on landscape. It reflects a shift in the journal to partly themed volumes. This allows the society's members to focus on developing individual areas of research while still providing a place for members with different research agendas. The study of archaeological landscape has become an important area of research in Australia with themed sessions being organised at ASHA conferences in 2005 and 2007. AHA has published papers on the study of landscape in previous years and it is fascinating to note that the Birmingham and Jeans and Connah papers in 1983 discussed concepts of landscape. It is hoped that by bringing a group of papers together we can begin to strengthen and develop individual areas of the discipline. Six of the eight papers in volume 25 are on landscape. Four of these are based on papers given at the ASHA Melbourne conference hosted by Latrobe University in 2005.

This landscape session, organised by Susan Piddock, formed the genesis of these papers, including ones by Piddock, Brown, and Stuart. The papers by Susan Piddock and Pamela Smith are based on a major heritage project on the Adelaide Hills Face Zone in South Australia, aspects of which have been published elsewhere. Piddock's paper examines the landscape of slate mining and the associated towns in the Willunga district and the inherent difficulties of how sites on private land can be managed and the way interpretation can assist with managing these sites into the future. Smith reveals the variety of water management systems used throughout the whole of the study area and the failure of the imported technology to fit with the non-seasonal climate of droughts and floods. Steve Brown addresses the means by which the manager of National Parks in NSW is attempting to move from a site-based approach to a landscape approach to manage their sites and how this practice evolved in the United States.

Iain Stuart's paper is from his doctoral thesis. He looks at how the pastoral landscape was created through the role of surveyors, the impact of the bureaucratic structure, and the law and politics of the period, in creating the boundaries and layout of many pastoral holdings in southern New South Wales. Martin Gibbs explores the convict landscape of Lynton, Western Australia and the role of the 'yoeman ideal' in its manifestation. Brad Duncan's doctoral thesis on Queenscliff uses GIS mapping to expose the dynamic relationship between the foreshore and maritime environments, and maritime infrastructure. This creates unexpected landscapes and can quickly make maritime structures redundant and subsequently bury them.

Sarah Hayes, a doctoral student at Latrobe, is undertaking research into consumer practice of Viewbank, a wealthy middle-class site near Melbourne. This study of artefacts and

consumerism explores the context of the consumer practice of the Martin family by examining what they bought and where they shopped as part of performing the rituals of middle-class life in mid-nineteenth-century Melbourne. As part of contextualising this evidence Sarah has compared it to material from Casselden Place, Melbourne

I am pleased to say that all of the papers in volume 25 are problem-oriented and assist us in understanding more about the past and the role of people in creating and remaking this past. Generally we have moved a long way from 1983 in terms of what our members are researching and writing and what the journal is publishing. Many thanks to the authors and the referees who made this journal possible. With these as a guide I foresee the next 25 years being as productive for the society and its members as the last 25 years.