

## Editorial

As a new editorial team starting with Volume 36, we wish to build upon *Australasian Historical Archaeology's* strong reputation as the regional journal for historical archaeology in Australia, New Zealand and the surrounding area. We also see great potential for new frontiers across a number of theoretical, methodological, regional and topical directions. Specifically, each of us has considered an area we would like to see expanded in *AHA* content in the future (and those of you who know us can probably guess which one wanted to push which direction).

### Documenting and debating our field:

*AHA* has a strong record of publishing individual case studies, as well as important theoretical and methodological treatises discussing what historical archaeology was, is and should be in our region but we could have more of the latter. Further, while the journal features a number of high-profile, established authors, it has also been an important forum for emerging scholars and practitioners and must remain so.

### Increasing outward focus and focusing on underrepresented groups:

Archaeology has an important role to play in ongoing public discussions such as those revolving around environmental sustainability, economics, and social justice issues. We have unique access to past people's material culture which reflects upon the historical processes that shape our current world, especially those who left the least in the documentary record. We should work to expand the representation of such voices, including Aboriginal Australians, Overseas Chinese, and the other diverse migrant groups who have come to Australia and Oceania over the past 200 years or more.

### Expanding regional coverage in Oceania and Southeast Asia:

While still an emerging field in many Pacific nations outside of Australia and New Zealand, historical archaeology has much to offer in terms of developing understandings of how indigenous populations negotiated, resisted, and accommodated colonial incursions in the absence of major influxes of European people. Historical archaeology is seen quite differently in Southeast Asia, where a longer literary and documentary tradition sees the field expand to the last 2,000 years, rather than the 500 years or less used in many other parts of the world. Even using the more restrictive definition, archaeology has an important role to play in, for example, understanding the development of an Asia-centred capitalism that remains a major force in the world's economy.

### Bringing contemporary archaeology into the picture:

Traditionally, *AHA* has focused on case studies and artefacts dating at least to the pre-WWII era, and generally to the 1800s and earlier. Which is too bad, as contemporary archaeology has emerged as a field of vibrant debate about the nature of our discipline and its object(s). Material traces from the very recent past, and indeed the present, still have much to offer in terms of gaining insights into human behaviour, social systems, environmental change and more.

Volume 36 features a selection of papers that both address the core of the journal's traditional emphases and represent new directions or areas to expand upon. It features a vibrant mix of papers from both consultancy and academic projects, which is essential to the continued diverse readership and authorship of the journal.

The issue opens with two papers that interrogate the history and archaeology of colonial Australia in new ways. Gojak and Courtney draw on newspaper accounts, advertisements, published etchings and overseas manufacturers' records to trace the political and economic histories of a clay tobacco pipe designed for the Australian colonial market. Known as the Squatters Budgerees, and curiously found across the world, the pipe was introduced in the wake of the pastoral expansion in NSW and the Myall Creek Massacre. The authors argue its use, initially, was a 'political act' during a time of significant division in colonial society about the treatment of Aboriginal Australians.

Macphail and Owen draw together numerous first-person accounts of the landscape and extreme weather events in Sydney Cove in the first decades of British settlement alongside detailed analysis of fossil pollen and spores recovered from excavations in George Street, Sydney. With clear evidence of pre- and post-contact ecology, they challenge previous assumptions about the vegetation of the Tank Stream Valley and the role of Aboriginal fire management in the creation of that landscape.

Two papers point to the potential growth of *AHA's* regional coverage in the Pacific region. Flexner *et al.* discuss historical artefacts from indigenous households in relation to the transforming economy of the Hawaiian Islands over the course of the 1800s. Zubryzcka *et al.* offer a glimpse into the life history of an 1840s Presbyterian mission house from Aneityum Island in the New Hebrides (now Vanuatu).

Jones offers an important paper for the historical archaeology of marginalised voices, specifically institutionalised Australians. She introduces the diverse evidence of institutional life at the Parramatta Industrial School for Girls, ranging from excavated artefacts to graffiti. This is a powerful piece reflecting upon a tragic and contested recent history.

Davies and Lawrence provide an analysis of the importance of water management systems for the success or failure of Victorian goldmining endeavours. Water is often neglected in the landscape archaeology of mining communities, but as the Lal Lal Waterworks case study shows, it was essential to the industry.

O'Connell and Koenig examine the history and construction of Ratcliffe Bridge, an 1863 stone arch bridge in Canterbury, New Zealand. Unusual in a landscape dominated by timber bridges, the authors explore its place in the local transport network, alongside the archaeological investigation of an adjacent hotel.

Finally, we have a paper on bottle reuse by Platts and Smith focusing on artefacts from Christchurch, New Zealand. This paper offers a valuable interpretive challenge to archaeologists to consider the longer use lives of bottles beyond the initial contents they once held. This is especially true of alcohol bottles, which were often reused as containers for a whole variety of substances.

The research report by Parkes *et al.* presents preliminary investigations of the Ruined Castle Shale Mining Company in the Blue Mountains of New South Wales and offers great promise for future exploration of associated domestic camps and settlements.

Both Parkes *et al.* and Davies and Lawrence draw on the work of the late Barry McGowan. It is a fitting tribute to a scholar who we lost this year, that his research continues in active use.

We are proud to offer this remarkably diverse set of papers as a start to our editorial tenure with *AHA*. We wish to thank all 30 (yes, 30!) of the authors for their hard work and swift turnaround of editorial changes in the final stages of production. Thanks also to Peta Longhurst who deftly collected the four very thorough book reviews we present herein, and to the 19 students who contributed their thesis abstracts. It is tantamount to the strength of our field that so much honours and postgraduate research is being carried out each year.

As members know we have been busy exploring options for enhancing *AHA* in the future and we will have more to report in 2019. In the meantime, we look forward to receiving new content, new voices and brilliant submissions for *AHA* 37 from the ASHA membership and beyond.

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*Penny Crook*  
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