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# NEWSLETTER

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## STATE OF THE ART

### ACT News

#### **Australian Heritage Commission**

Commonwealth heritage legislation amendments saga – The Senate began, in August 2001, to debate the legislation and possible amendments to the Government's proposals. However, this debate was not concluded before the general election and as the Bills had been introduced into the Senate, and that House was not dissolved, the Bills remain on the list of Bills to be debated (or withdrawn as the case maybe). So now, when the Senate sessions resume the Bills can be brought on again for debate there or be withdrawn, depending on the wishes of the new Government. The Liberal Party policy for the election was to continue to introduce the Bills so, as this party was successfully re-elected to government, this policy will presumably be pursued under a possibly new Minister for Environment and Heritage (not announced at time of writing).

When the Senate debate is concluded the Minister will send the then agreed package to the House of Representatives where the Government is in control and some form of what has been provided to them will be returned to the Senate. It is then that the really serious debate will take place. There is no set timetable for this process but it seems likely that this will occur in the first six months of 2002 before the Senate changes into a probably less favourable body to the Government as newly elected Senators take up their seats.

#### **ACT Heritage Unit**

The ACT Heritage Unit is undertaking assessments of the Oaks Estate area of the ACT, 'Woden' Homestead and 'Callum Brae' (a Soldier Settlement farm). These assessments include historical, Aboriginal and natural values. The Unit is also assessing the Petrov house. For further details contact Debbie Argue 02 6207 2167.

*Richard Morrison*

### New South Wales News

The new ASHA Secretary, Mac North, is moving to Sydney Water shortly, hence the following:

*"Archaeologist Position, DPWS Heritage Design Services. Permanent, full time, based in Sydney, NSW. This position will be vacated at the end of November 2001 and will be advertised in December 2001/January 2002. Please check the Public Service positions in the Sydney Morning Herald or <http://www.jobs.nsw.gov.au> for further details, including qualifications and selection criteria. Alternately contact Mr Bruce Pettman, Principal Heritage Architect, DPWS Heritage Design Services on 02 9372 8349 to pre-register for an information pack."*

**Godden Mackay Logan** has been a hive of activity over the last 3-4 months. After Nadia Iacono left over a year ago to undertake a PhD things got a bit hectic so Maddy Atkinson (now the new ASHA Membership Secretary) came up from Melbourne in July this year for three months. Among the projects Maddy was involved in has been the Camp Street Education Kit which she is completing in Melbourne. The loss of Maddy was partly compensated for by the arrival of Peter Davies (also from Melbourne and recently married to Susan Lawrence), who is here on a short term placement of three months. Peter has undertaken a variety of projects in Victoria and has spent four seasons in Cyprus with David Frankel and Jenny Webb. Peter is also here to replace Anne Mackay who is on secondment to the Heritage Office while Caitlin Allen takes a much needed break. Also, after having been with ERM for two years, I have now happily settled into being part of the team here. For an explanatory flow chart to explain these people movements check out the Godden Mackay Logan web page coming to a server near you in 2002!!

**Casey & Lowe** have been fairly busy this year with the completion of the interpretation program for the archaeology at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

Mary worked with Margaret Betteridge and Jisuk Han on the interpretation of the remains. Much of the archaeological areas are open to the public and are in the main foyer area as well as some displays immediately inside the old stables building. Mary was awarded a PhD scholarship to complete her thesis on the interpretation of the landscape of the Sydney Domain which is based on the archaeology of the Conservatorium. She expects to complete this in late March 2002. An important component of this work focuses on the Macquaries and how and why they transformed this landscape. Tony has been busy working on a number of projects and will soon undertake testing at St Patricks at Parramatta. In the new year he will direct excavations at Tempe House, Arncliffe

*Jennie Lindbergh*

### **Dawes Point Archaeological Site opened to the Public**

On 23 November the New South Wales Deputy Premier, the Hon. Dr Andrew Refshauge, opened the conserved archaeological remains of Dawes Point Battery to the public. The site is located at the base of the south pylon of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

The fort was established in 1791, the first permanent fortification in the colony and set up at a time when Spain was contesting England's colonial presence in the Pacific. Over the next 135 years the fort was upgraded for possible defence against Britain's colonial contenders; most importantly the French in 1805, and the Russians in the 1850s. Substantial improvements were made by convict architect Francis Greenway in 1819 and Royal Engineer Colonel George Barney in the 1850s, and were uncovered in 1995, including two subterranean gunpowder storerooms (magazines).

No archaeological evidence was found of the observatory established here in 1788 by Lt. William Dawes, the site apparently destroyed by Greenway's works. Remains of a 1789 building (probably a gunpowder magazine) were found, later incorporated in Greenway's guardhouse.

The park, in which the remains lie, was created after the battery was demolished in 1925 for the Harbour Bridge construction. During construction of the forecourt to the park earlier this year the top of a sandstone wall was uncovered on the former George Street alignment. The remains are probably of the house of shipwright Robert Cunyngham, dating to the 1820s. They were left undisturbed and the floor plan, along with that of the former Harbour View Hotel (remains of which are believed to lie next door) have been expressed in the pavement and further interpreted by means of photographs and CAD reconstruction.

Works this year also saw the discovery of the cable tunnel excavated deep in the bedrock for restraining cables during the construction of the Harbour Bridge arch. A massive feat of engineering, the two halves of the Bridge's arch were restrained by 128 cables threaded through the tunnel until the two halves of the arch met in the middle. These remains have also been consolidated and interpreted with the other archaeological remains.

In many places the remains of the fort have been reconstructed to provide a clearer indication of how the site functioned. The vaulted roof of the 1850s subterranean powder magazine was reconstructed using many of the original stone blocks, each weighing up to 2 tonnes. One of the five 42-pdr cannon, cast in 1843, has had its gun carriage reconstructed following painstaking historical research and was brought back to its original position after 76 years.

The Dawes Point remains have been presented in a way that they can be 'read' to present the viewer with a clear idea of how the site and its buildings related to its setting in Sydney Harbour. From Dawes Battery (the command post for a chain of batteries around the harbour) one can look to other former military fortifications at Fort Denison and Kirribilli Point.

It was at Dawes Point too that the colony's flag and signal staff was located from 1790. A square cut in the bedrock marks this place and a new flagstaff has been erected.

Leaving aside the physical remains, the intangible has also been celebrated in the on-site interpretation. During his three years on the site William Dawes befriended the Cadigal woman Patyegarang and made the first study of the local language, his diaries recording the attitudes of Patyegarang's people towards the invaders ('Why are the black men angry? Because the white men are here!'). At a time when we talk of 'reconciliation', Dawes' friendship with Patyegarang marks 'conciliation'. Unlike Bennelong and Colbee at First Government House, Patyegarang was not kept captive.

The Dawes Point story is one of a transforming cultural landscape; from the Cadigal people who baked fish on the flat stones at the water's edge, to the Observatory, Fort, Harbour Bridge and Park. All of these elements are present in the interpretation strategy, aimed at encouraging the public to look around them for the physical evidence of the past.

*Wayne Johnson*

*Archaeologist, Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority:*

## South Australia News

### Burra Community Archaeology Project

A walking survey of the Burra Creek and its tributaries in the vicinity of Burra, was conducted on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of October, to try and identify possible dugout sites other than at Mitchell Flat. Some possible sites were identified from aerial photos prior to the survey. Sites were recorded with a GPS and plotted on a 1:10,000 scale map.

Generally, the main creek north of Mitchell Flat has undergone considerable cultural modification and there were few traces of possible dugouts. To the south of Mitchell Flat and especially adjacent to the cemetery, there are numerous parallel depressions, running perpendicular to the creek, similar to the Mitchell Flat site that are probable collapsed dugouts. Reputedly, there is a semi-collapsed dugout in a gully adjacent to the cemetery, but this is on private land and I am still awaiting permission to investigate this.

The tributary gullies and Welsh Creek, all have probable evidence, again mainly in the form of depressions, but there were a few areas with a little surface material culture. The National Trust dugouts were visited again, but in one of the dugouts and area of *in-situ* whitewash wall has been exposed, showing that at least of these reconstructed features was probably based on an original dugout. The National Trust dugouts had been investigated in 1998, but nothing was recorded that indicated any original features, so there is another trip coming up to re-evaluate this site.

*Peter Birt, PhD Candidate, Flinders University.*

### Fieldwork in Heathcote, Victoria.

Di Smith has recently returned from two weeks fieldwork in the Heathcote region of central Victoria. Survey and recording of two rural vehicle and machinery assemblages was carried out and Di found the enormity of one site meant the delayed completion of some tasks until the next visit. This assemblage of some 106 vehicles and machines lay amidst a sea of almost every conceivable piece of farm machinery, car and truck parts and numerous cast iron objects. Everything from bed knobs to aircraft fuel tanks, fencing wire and children's prams and tricycles lay strewn over approximately two hectares of this farm. The acquisitive nature of the owner, a sheep and wheat farmer, is well known in the district.

Representing at least three generations of agricultural usage and transportation on the farm, the assemblage has grown further with the addition of pieces collected by the farmer generally from the Heathcote district. The site is accordingly used as a place for local farmers

to come and search for spare parts needed to keep other vehicles and machines in working order. This farmer proudly regards the assemblage as something of an outdoor museum. The spectacular spread and the range of this mostly twentieth-century material culture displays the breadth of his eclectic agricultural and vehicular tastes for all the district to see. Positioned in front of the main residence, the assemblage confronts the view of all travelers along the dirt road.

The other site was much smaller by comparison and is composed mainly of post-second world war vehicles assembled under and around a group of grey box eucalypts. Seven other items included two early 1900s H.V. McKay seed and fertiliser drills, the rotted timber and iron remains of a tipper dray and a gig. Created in 1945 by the farmer's late father, the assemblage has served several purposes. Over the years it has been used as a source for spare parts and paddock-bombs as well as a place of curiosity, where the farmer's children brought their friends to play in and scramble over the old lichen covered cars and truck cabins. In more recent years, evidence of vandalism has left its mark on the assemblage in the form of smashed windows and a few bullet holes in the panels of some vehicles. Locating and uncovering the varied and different uses for these assemblages has, so far, been an exciting and interesting challenge. A rewarding aspect of the research is witnessing the developing interest of each farmer in the recording of their agricultural heritage. Simply talking about each rusty old machine as we walk over the paddocks or peer in to dusty sheds appears to link in to an area that farmers are extremely passionate and nostalgic about. A preliminary visit to a third farm to assess an assemblage to record on the next visit provided a glimpse of rather promising material. That, as they say, is yet to come!

*Di Smith, PhD Candidate, Flinders University.*

### Abstract for Bachelor of Archaeology Honours thesis

#### 'WIFE OR SLAVE?'

The kidnapped Aboriginal women workers and Australian Sealing Slavery on Kangaroo Island and Bass Strait islands. Using Landscape Archaeology to search for evidence of pre-settlement lifeways during The Sealing Era 1802 – 1835 on Kangaroo Island, South Australia' (Supervisor: Dr. Keryn Walshe).

Slavery was not abolished in British colonies until 1833. The period of Australia's colonisation from 1788 to 1833 was a period when the mindset of the late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century European had been conditioned by the practice of slavery for many centuries. With this in mind, the broad purpose of this thesis is to set a new agenda for re-examining Australia's early history within the context of slavery. By expanding the archaeology of slavery

geographically and theoretically to Australia it may be possible to establish new theoretical tools and expand our understanding of Australia's history by viewing it through a different lens. An Australian Archaeology of Slavery may add knowledge to the little already known of those whose forced labour contributed to Australia's development. As a regional case study, this thesis will argue that during the period of first contact, the use of Aboriginal women known as 'wives' by sealing men living on Kangaroo Island during the Sealing Era from 1802 to 1835 was in fact 'Australian Sealing Slavery'. Although this had been modified specifically for the environmental, social, economic, legal and political conditions of the time, place and people. This thesis will attempt to ascertain whether archaeological methodology has the potential to investigate elements of slavery in Australia by examining the landscape on Kangaroo Island at Antechamber Bay where sealers and Aboriginal women lived pre-settlement and post-settlement (1836).

This involves investigation of the landscape with regard to building construction, spatial elements, boundaries and fence-lines; footpaths; indigenous and introduced vegetation and any artefacts associated with the landscape. In addition, by investigating primary source documents this thesis will attempt to ascertain whether the treatment of the Aboriginal women supports or refutes the argument that they were part of an Australian industry of slavery. As an adjunct to the primary source research, it will attempt to flesh out the lives of the women as individuals and survivors rather than assistants and victims. Furthermore, this thesis will put forward an additional model for Contact/Historical Archaeological methodology which includes Indigenous and forced labour in colonisation: the 'Robinson Crusoe and Wo/man Friday' slavery model which emphasises exploitation/enticement/forced labour/abandonment or renegotiation as an additional arm of the Swiss Family Robinson Model of colonisation.

Did these women tread so lightly that they left no evidence of their existence or was the practice of slavery concealed so that its existence is now undetectable?

*Keryn James, Archaeology, Flinders University.*

#### **Update on work at Polish Hill River, South Australia.**

In the last two months numerous surveys have taken place at different sites around Polish Hill River, including a field school for eight third-year archaeology students from Flinders University. During this survey seven Polish built and occupied residences (in various states of repair) from the nineteenth century were

mapped, planned and photographed in an effort to answer the research question: Can Polish ethnicity be identified through material remains? Several promising features were found in the former residences that pointed to a shared Polish ethnicity visible through architecture. Further research will be carried out before any definite conclusions are drawn. An informal survey was carried out in several local Catholic cemeteries, where graves belonging to the original settlers and their descendents were situated. It was thought that there might be some telling features to these graves that would also indicate a shared Polish ethnicity; however those surveyed to date have shown no distinct Polish features. Ethnographic work has also been carried out in the area with several residents being interviewed about their knowledge and memories of the Polish people who lived in the area. At this stage, further fieldwork is planned for the summer months, the weather and the snakes co-operating!

*Katrina Stankowski*

*PhD Candidate, Flinders University*

#### **The Brighton Smugglers Tunnel Schools Archaeology Project**

Following the announcement in the last edition of the ASHA *Newsletter*, the Brighton Smugglers Tunnel Project, Adelaide (project director Dr. Mark Staniforth) has run its course, with a successful collaboration between Flinders University's Earth Sciences and Archaeology departments. In addition to the geo-physical survey and archaeology investigations, a schools project was established and run following the Fern Avenue model (Owen & Steele 2000a & 2000b). On Mondays during October classes were involved in the archaeological investigations, being taught about archaeology and their local history.

Development of the schools project took a new direction due to the non-intrusive nature of the archaeological investigation at Brighton. As no excavation was conducted it was not possible for the children from Brighton Primary to dig. This presented previously unseen problems as interactive material needed to be developed that allowed the children to participate in on-site activities that taught them the practices of archaeology.

The Brighton schools project therefore encompassed two elements: an in-school introduction to archaeology and on-site investigations. The in-school session encompassed material that taught the archaeological basics (as explained by Steele & Owen 2001). On-site teaching encompassed three elements: artefact analysis and drawing, survey and aerial photograph analysis. Artefact analysis required the sorting of a 'teaching collection' into material type, with consequent discussion and illustration. Survey required the students to measure between designated flags that

delimited the boundaries of the site and then draw a plan on specially designed sheet. Aerial photography analysis required comparison between 1949 and 2000 pictures. The children were asked to draw buildings from both on their sheets, and then identify the houses that the smugglers tunnel could have possibly run between. The advantage of teaching aerial photographs on-site was that the children could see the physical buildings surrounding them and easily visualise what the site would have looked like 51 years earlier.

The Brighton schools programme can be deemed a successful part of the public archaeology programme that also involved the Brighton historical society and site tours for local residents. A total of 246 children from nine classes were taught archaeology, with positive feedback coming from students and teachers regarding the project. The schools material developed during the project will soon be incorporated in a second edition of *Digging Up The Past* (Owen & Steele 2001).

Owen, T.D., and Steele, J.N. 2001a. *Digging Up The Past. Archaeology for Kids*. Southern Archaeology. Adelaide. Owen, T.D., and Steele, J.N. 2000a. *The Fern Avenue Community Gardens Archaeology Project*. [http://www.ehl.flinders.edu.au/archaeology/\\*smith/fernave/fehome.htm](http://www.ehl.flinders.edu.au/archaeology/*smith/fernave/fehome.htm)

Owen, T.D., and Steele, J.N. 2000b. *The Fern Avenue Community Gardens*. Short report in ASHA Newsletter. September 2000.

Steele, J.N., and Owen, T.D. 2001. Moving Historical Archaeology in to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: The User Friendly Model of Historical Archaeology (designed for little people and non-archaeologists). Conference Abstract. *21<sup>st</sup> Annual ASHA Conference. September 28 – 30 2001*. Canberra. ACT.

*Tim Owen & Jody Steele*  
*PhD Candidates, Flinders University.*

## Queensland News

### Green Hill Fort

The Green Hill Fort Centenary of Federation project was officially opened by Senator John Heron on 8 September 2001. The opening ceremony included an impressive performance by Islander soldiers from 'Charlie' Company. Traditional dance, accompanied to the sound of small arms fire (in lieu of more traditional spears being waved around) is a sight to behold.

The project has involved extensive conservation of the 1890s fort. Using plans copied from originals held by the Public Records Office, Kew UK, archaeologists uncovered the original drains and, in the process, revealed construction faults when a ducted air conditioning plant was installed in about 1912. The project formed the basis of a paper by Gordon Grimwade and Geoff Ginn, presented to the recent

Institution of Engineers Conference on heritage engineering held in Canberra.

*Gordon Grimwade*

### Gowrie Creek Waterways

In November ARCHAEO Cultural Heritage Services commenced working on the large Gowrie Creek Waterways Cultural Heritage Study for the Toowoomba City Council.

The project will assist Council in planning future management and regeneration of the Gowrie Creek catchment. The creek is the dominant watercourse through Toowoomba, with the confluence of its two arms close to the city centre. Historically the creek replenished the large marshland area known as 'The Swamp' upon which Toowoomba was founded, and was an important economic and cultural resource for Toowoomba's Aboriginal population. Non-indigenous settlement saw many of the city's early industries (from brewing to tanning) situated on the banks of the creek, while extensive drainage and reclamation laid the foundations of the modern city. Urban development and neglect have thus reduced parts of this once beautiful creek to something of a wasteland, while other areas have been reclaimed and heavily landscaped.

As consultants for this important study in cultural landscape values, ARCHAEO will be undertaking historical research and archaeological analysis in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders. An Advisory Group drawn from local Traditional Owner representatives, historical society members and others has been established, and will be advising the project throughout. Perhaps most importantly, the study will provide a forum for the views of Traditional Owners and local historians to be taken into account in the future management of this important natural resource.

*ARCHAEO*

## RESEARCH REPORTS

### The Lake Innes Project 2001

The third and final season of excavations and analysis at the Lake Innes Estate, near Port Macquarie, New South Wales, was conducted for seven weeks during August and September. This ARC-funded research project, which followed detailed survey and recording of surface evidence each year from 1993 to 1998 (except 1996), has been directed throughout by Emeritus Professor Graham Connah, a Visiting Fellow at the School of Archaeology and Anthropology in the Faculty of Arts of the Australian National University, Canberra. The project has been carried out with the infrastructural support of the New South Wales

National Parks and Wildlife Service, who are the owners of the site complex and its surroundings. The major objective has been to investigate the archaeological evidence for the socio-economic hierarchy on such an agro-pastoral estate during the 1830s and 1840s. At least for the first half of this period the privileged life of the Innes family was made possible by the servitude of a substantial number of assigned servants, and the fairly detailed surviving documentary record provides an opportunity to test the extent to which such inequality can be identified in the archaeological record. In addition, the excavations have aimed to contribute to the conservation and interpretation aspects of the management and presentation of these sites.

Students from the Australian National University, the University of Sydney, the University of New England, and La Trobe University, took part in this year's work, in addition to former archaeology students and other members of the public. These included Lotta Hillerdal who for the second year running travelled all the way from Sweden to participate for the whole of the period of the actual excavation. Some 50 people worked on the various excavation sites and 10–12 on the post-excavation analysis. During the three seasons 1999–2001 a total of 12 excavations have been carried out on 10 different sites, immediately followed on each occasion by a period of artefact analysis. The sites selected have included the latrines and bathroom of the big house, as well as a section of its drainage system, a part of its public rooms and one of the bedrooms; a two-room living unit in an adjacent servants' cottage block; accommodation for both horses and stable-workers in the monumental stables attached to the main house; a cottage at the Home Farm; and two workmens' huts in the servants' village, both the latter sites being some distance away from the big house.

The major effort this year was at the site of the Home Farm, situated in dense vegetation about 1.5 kilometres south of the main house and its stables. Here Terry Moore supervised the total excavation of the traces of a timber cottage with a brick chimney, apparently the most important of a small group of buildings, for accommodating both people and animals, that stood at this location. This three-roomed cottage would have provided relatively generous living space for the married couple whom documentary records indicate as the likely occupants. Other work included the clearance of one of the horse-accommodation rooms at the stables, supervised by Paul Rheinberger. A very shallow and discontinuous deposit lay over an imposing sandstone-flagged floor, which when uncovered provided traces of the six horse-stalls which had occupied the room and revealed details of the sophisticated underfloor drainage system which had ensured a high level of hygiene for the animals. A tiny annexe room, the excavation of which was supervised

by Elizabeth White, had probably been a storeroom for veterinary medicines and equipment. Overall, the evidence from these two pieces of work in the stables suggested that considerable care had been taken of the animals housed there. Immediately following these excavations there was close consultation with conservation brickwork specialist Barry Nelis, while he carried out as much restoration of the sandstone floor and the drains as was possible, in order to remedy the damage done by vandals prior to the Lake Innes sites coming under State protection in 1992. This work has enabled the stable floor to be left uncovered and therefore available for inspection by visitors on National Parks and Wildlife Service guided tours.

Elizabeth White also supervised the excavation of half of the fill within the north-easternmost bedroom of the main house but the sub-floor deposit was found to have relatively little artefactual material, suggesting that the room may have been one of those less frequently used. Also at the main house site, John Hodgkinson supervised a series of strategically placed trenches which successfully traced a substantial length of brick barrel drain, that seems to have carried waste water from the bathroom (excavated in 1999) as well as rainwater from the bedroom wing roof and the surrounding area. The termination of this drain proved to be on the sharp slope to the south of the house, its location being betrayed by an isolated patch of moisture-loving canna lilies. That end of the drain has been left uncovered (temporarily protected by sandbagging), pending conservation work and preparation for public presentation. Following these excavations, and the sampling of the drain sediment for archaeobotanical analysis (being undertaken by Andy Fairbairn at the Australian National University), the continued viability of this drain was demonstrated by pumping 400 litres of water down it from near the bathroom end. Clearly it is still contributing to the site drainage some 160 years after its construction. However, one major drainage problem at the main house still remains unsolved: the large cess-pit into which the flush toilet system must have drained has still not been located.

Additional excavations were also undertaken at the servants' cottage site near the stables, that was excavated in 1999, and at the presumed blacksmith's hut in the servants' village down near the lake, that was excavated in 2000. In the first case the work was supervised by Julia Searle followed by Samantha McKay and in the second case by Samantha McKay alone. At the cottage site traces of a flimsy brick and timber building attached to its eastern end were investigated. It was hoped that this was the location of a pit-latrine to serve the adjacent cottage living units and indeed it does seem that it was a latrine and bathroom area. However, the two or possibly three cubicles along the northern side of the room which

were probably latrines had no evidence of either drainage or pits, suggesting that they were merely bucket latrines from which the nightsoil was regularly removed. At the presumed blacksmith's hut the artefact plots from the excavation in 2000 indicated activity to the west of the main structure and this year's work suggested that there may have been a skillion on that side.

Detailed field testing of soil phosphate levels at the Home Farm site and at the servants' village was carried out by Geoffrey Smith, a professional chemist, in an attempt to map the area of human activity in each case. The results await detailed examination and will need supplementation by more sophisticated laboratory analysis that has not yet been undertaken.

Preliminary results from the three seasons of excavations at the Lake Innes Estate suggest a four-level hierarchy amongst its occupants. At the top of the socio-economic pyramid was the Innes family and its guests, living a life of refined gentility in a brick-built mansion with generous-sized public rooms, large bedrooms (some with attached dressing-rooms), sophisticated bathroom and toilet facilities, and extensive kitchen, laundry, and other domestic facilities, the whole fronted by flower gardens which looked down to the beautiful Lake Innes and the mountains beyond. Socially and economically below them were the servants, but some of them were better treated than others. At the top must have been the occupants of the cottage block near the stables. They were housed in small two-roomed units that were nevertheless brick-built (if rather poorly), had suspended wooden floors, rendered walls, glazed windows, and communal washing and latrine facilities even if somewhat rudimentary. Stable-workers, such as the coachman, grooms and other stable-hands seem to have had roughly equivalent conditions, although it looks as if there may have been more concern for the comfort of the horses housed there than for the people who looked after them. Some distance away on the Home Farm there was probably even less comfort for the farm-hands and their overseer, the latter living in a three-roomed timber cottage although it does seem to have had suspended wooden floors and at least some glazed windows. The Home Farm people appear to have been at a slightly lower level than those servants who were accommodated near to the house and stables but at the bottom of the hierarchy were the occupants of the servants' village down near the lake. Here, in a damp gully near the lake-shore, out of sight of the big house and conveniently distant from it, were small earth-floored wooden huts that were probably occupied by labourers, brickmakers and other manual workers. Even among them, however, there were differences, for one of them was a blacksmith whose forge was nearby; this valued estate-worker had a hut that although small

and basic was nevertheless rather better than another hut excavated in the village in 1999.

However, these social and economic differences are more evident in the size and conditions of the dwellings themselves than in their contained artefacts, items of quality or value in some instances being found in contexts indicative of lower status. Such anomalies are not surprising, of course; the chipped porcelain no longer acceptable in the big house might readily have found a home in a servant's cottage and the bottle containing a fine wine might have been used in far more humble circumstances once its contents had been enjoyed at the Innes dining table. There is also the possibility of theft, a perennial problem with the servants of elite families in situations like those of Lake Innes. Nevertheless, there remains a serious difficulty with the interpretation of all this evidence. This is that the archaeological record remains ambiguous regarding the free or bond status of the occupants of some of the structures. It appears that the many convicts who were assigned to work on such estates as Lake Innes are far less visible to the archaeologist than those who remained on government labour gangs or in penal institutions. The archaeological study of assigned servants in nineteenth-century Australia seems likely to remain a formidable task.

In addition to the above-named site supervisors, who as in previous years will participate in the writing of the annual report for the New South Wales Heritage Council and, it is intended, will eventually play a part in the full publication of the research, the following volunteers must be acknowledged for their dedication and hard and intelligent work: Bryan Asha, Denise Brauman, Beryl Connah, Dee Davis, Robert Fleming, Daniel Gerke, Selina Goldsmith, Gillian Goode, Helen Haridemos, Pat Heipertz, Samantha Higgs, Lotta Hillerdal, Sue Hudson, Reinis Kalnins, Jim Lancaster, Ian Lindsay, Deirdre Llewellyn, Bruce McConachie, Mitch McKay, Julie Moujalli, Moira Munro, Kate Nielsen, David Pearson, Betty Pinkerton, Simon Pitt, Rita Plummer, Tracy Richardson, Meaghan Russell, Julia Searle, Sue Singleton, Christie Smith, Geoffrey Smith, Jean Smith, Michael Smith, Nicole Smith, Pat Smith, Paul Streatfeild, Robert Tickle, Elizabeth West, Eben Wheeler, Peter White, and Sylvia Yates. Also, Julianne Cripps Clark, Scott Duggan, and Anne McLean filmed the various excavations in detail and Barry Nelis and an assistant attended to brickwork and stonework conservation. Finally, thanks must go to Eric Claussen of the National Parks and Wildlife Service and various field officers of the Service, whose support and practical assistance made such a large and complicated project possible, as has been the case for so many past years. In particular, John Hodgkinson, a volunteer ranger with the Service, gave invaluable assistance during the lengthy preparations prior to this

year's excavation period, in addition to supervising one of the excavations as mentioned above.

Publications already available concerning this research project include:

Connah, G. (ed.) 1997. *The archaeology of Lake Innes House: investigating the visible evidence 1993–1995*. Published by Connah, Canberra, for the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Connah, G. 1998. The archaeology of frustrated ambition: an Australian case-study. *Historical Archaeology* 32(2): 7–27.

Connah, G. 2001. The Lake Innes Estate: privilege and servitude in nineteenth-century Australia. *World Archaeology* 33(1): 137–154.

*Graham Connah*

### **The Archaeology Of The Modern City (AMC): Update of progress November 2001**

Work on this project began in earnest early this year. The AMC Project is funded by the Australian Research Council through its Linkage Scheme, and through contributions by our Industry Partners: Godden Mackay Logan, the Historic Houses Trust of NSW, and the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority. Thus far project staff (Penny Crook Project Archaeologist, and Laila Ellmoos Project Historian) have completed initial surveys of the assemblages and associated documents of the following sites: Hyde Park Barracks, the Mint, Susannah Place, First Government house and the Cumberland Gloucester Streets site. Work is underway on the Paddy's Market site and we then hope to move on to Lilyvale. All reports are confidential to the Industry Partners, and EAMC have sought the involvement of the excavators of those sites in the assessment phase. We wish to continue this practice in the subsequent phases of the project.

Once these initial assessments are complete, and the issues with each database have been rectified, our goal is to move towards the analysis of each assemblage. This will be a lengthy process, but it is envisaged that new information about each site and about the sites as a group will be made available to the Industry Partners, and will flow through to publications about the sites. Project staff have given several public presentations in Sydney and at the ASHA Conference in Canberra.

The Historic Houses Trust has funded work on the Hyde Park Barracks database. This will be conducted under the auspices of EAMC and be undertaken by Sophie Pullar. Funds have also been made available for the appointment of an expert advisory panel. The membership of the panel is: Alasdair Brooks, Martin Carney, Nadia Iacono, Dana Mider and Graham Wilson.

The AMC Project has another subsidiary project devoted to revising the Archaeological Management Plans of the cities of Melbourne and Sydney. This project is supported by the ARC through the provision of an Australian Postgraduate Award (Industry) Scholarship, and by our Industry Partners Heritage Victoria, the NSW Heritage Office and the City of Sydney. Nadia Iacono has been awarded the scholarship and has been engaged in completing a review of existing management plans and in investigating international best practice in this field.

In all three projects we are building on almost 30 years of archaeological work. It should go without saying that much has changed during that time and that the profession as a whole has moved forward in the sense that we know a great deal more about urban archaeology now than we did when the first major urban excavations began. This is entirely appropriate, indeed the opposite would be a cause for real concern. Nonetheless we recognise that the business of re-evaluating work done by colleagues might lead to the expectation that our primary purpose is to be critical of that work. This is not the case. Apart from explicitly acknowledging and celebrating the fact that standards and knowledge have changed over the period, we should also understand that research funds provided by the Federal Government and our Industry Partners have better uses than employing hindsight to award brickbats or bouquets to those who have gone before us.

*Tim Murray, Chief Investigator*

### **CALLS FOR ACTION**

#### **Issues of collective concern in Australian archaeology - work towards common goals at Townsville 2002**

James Cook University has offered to host the 2002 ASHA, AIMA and AAA conferences in Townsville. The convergence of the three main sub-disciplinary groups provides the chance to dedicate part of the conference towards dealing with issues that affect all aspects of archaeology in Australia.

A session was set aside at the ASHA 2001 Conference in Canberra to begin discussion of ASHA's role in that process and to start identifying issues that ASHA members felt could be dealt with by such a forum. The list below records topics and thoughts as they emerged. It is not definitive, but is presented to whet your appetite and to think of what else would be worth identifying as an issue for the three societies.

Throughout 2002 ASHA will be building on the issues below, and others, to work out how we can better control our future, and where archaeologists can

genuinely influence the environment within which they work. Each *Newsletter* between now and the conference will provide more opportunity to participate, as will the ASHA e-mail list [contact the Secretary if you are not sure that you are on it]. Please feel free to contact me on <denis.gojak@duap.nsw.gov.au> if you have comments or ideas

#### Issues raised at ASHA 2001

1. The way we deal with sites with multiple values [indigenous / historic], including ones that aren't early contact but modern Aboriginal.
2. The lack of heritage legislation in some states, or gaps in particular states [SA, NT, WA]
3. There is an existing Government Historical Archaeologists Network What about other similar networks to share information?
4. A call to identify issues needs to be backed up by well-prepared short punchy position papers that are factual and propose solutions
5. AIMA has already lobbied the Commonwealth Government for research to be included as something that can be funded by the CHPP [successor to National Estate grants program], rather than just works.
6. Publication - several small and struggling journals / newsletters, the basis for publication is changing and now is a good time to review the role and means of archaeological publication in Australia
7. Perception by the public/government that archaeology is expensive while not producing a relevant product.
8. University courses that go across institutions, and the potential of virtual courses that allow students to access a range of archaeological experience.
9. Lack of professional registration and certification [what is an archaeologist?].
10. Problems with the availability of the grey literature, its general loss to the discipline and the need for finding tools. Decline of the HERA database was mentioned here.
11. Make the solutions practical, not theoretical and rhetoric.
12. The papers presented at Townsville should support the issues, by showcasing achievements and examples of these new approaches.
13. There will be a National Heritage Maritime Strategy that will be in advanced form by Townsville - may be a good occasion to look at its worth as a model for whole of archaeology approach.
14. There is a continuing shortage of young graduates with solid knowledge. There is too much streaming into historical / indigenous streams too early in courses rather than producing generalists.
15. ASHA should be embracing this process enthusiastically.
16. What are to be the means of disseminating this information? ASHA newsletter, AUSARCH, ASHA e-mail lists?

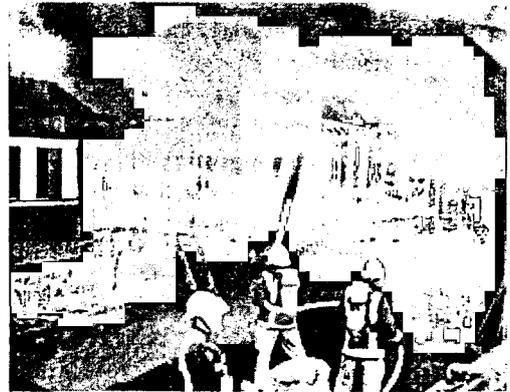
17. Student funding and costs of doing a degree - ability to fund teaching staff, and to be attractive to students.

18. Better linkages and coordination of web-sites and Internet presence.

19. Once all societies are agreed, a bulletin board to post and share information on the process.

*Denis Gojak*

### A Grimy Phoenix, indeed



*Photo*

*courtesy Lithgow Mercury and John Oates]*

Late in the afternoon of 31 October 2001, a fire in the railway carriage shed at Lithgow Mining Museum destroyed and damaged five wooden carriages, steam locomotive 2605 a diesel railcar and the Museum truck. The setback caused by the fire has not broken the spirit of the rail enthusiasts nor the Museum. The major mining display at the Museum has not been affected and plans are already advanced to replace and enhance the lost rail stock

In late April 2001, Lithgow will celebrate two significant events. The first is the official opening of the City of Greater Lithgow Mining Museum and the second is the annual 'Lithgow Ironfest', which highlights the Mining Museum in 2002. Lithgow is a cradle of industrial archaeology and as a gesture of support for the celebration of industrial archaeology and heritage, and as the first of what is hoped to become an, at least, annual event in NSW, ASHA is organising A FIELD TRIP TO THE CITY OF LITHGOW during the last weekend in April 2002, commencing in the evening of Friday 26 April and concluding mid-afternoon on Sunday 28 April 2002.

The field trip will be based around the Mining Museum, which occupies the site and residual buildings of the Lithgow State Mine. The program will include visits to the sites of the Lithgow Blast Furnace, Lithgow Pottery, Eskbank House and the Eskbank Railway Precinct, the Small Arms Factory Museum and the Zig Zag Railway.

Final catering and financial arrangements will be published in the next Newsletter but, if this sort of field trip appeals to you in principle, please contact Paul Rheinberger (02-4950 5322 days/024972 1138 nights or < pr@umwelt.com.au >), Graham Connah (02-6288 9105 or < graham.connah@effect.com.au >).

*Paul Rheinberger,  
Umwelt (Australia) Pty Ltd, Toronto NSW*

### **An ASHA Register for consultants' reports**

Many people have been expressing concern about lack of access to the large numbers of consultants' reports on subjects relevant to Australian or New Zealand historical archaeology. This is because the investigations reported on by archaeological consultants have become far more extensive and numerous than those conducted by academic researchers and yet, with notable and praiseworthy exceptions, are not published. Even although many consultants have for some years deposited copies of their reports in the relevant State heritage libraries or in major public libraries or even in local provincial libraries, the problem with access for students and researchers has remained, simply because it is often difficult to know where to look. With these problems in mind, I would like to invite consultants producing reports on Australian or New Zealand historical archaeological themes to 'register' them with ASHA. I propose that those who would wish their work to be better known and available for wider use and appreciation within the discipline should routinely supply this *Newsletter* with some basic information, which could then become part of an ongoing published record.

This information would include: name of consultant, name of consulting company where appropriate, full title of report, a summary of its contents of no longer than 100 words (including geographical location), five key-words for data-base entry, date of completion of report, library or archival collection where a copy of it has been deposited, details of any restrictions on access. The information supplied would then be published in the next number of the *Newsletter*, as a uniquely numbered entry in the Register.

It is realised that matters of client confidentiality may inhibit some consultants from participating in such a scheme but in such instances it may be possible to remove sensitive material from a report and still make its archaeological content available. Because the writer does not undertake consulting work, and therefore has no conceivable commercial interest in making this suggestion, in the first instance I would ask for entries for the Register to be sent to me Graham Connah, 2 Warner Place, Holder, ACT 2611, phone 02 6288 9105, fax 02 6288 9105 +\*51, E-Mail:

graham.connah@effect.net.au. Ultimately the Register could be developed as a cumulative on-line list, particularly after this *Newsletter* goes electronic in the near future.

It is recognised that for a long time the *Newsletter* has carried numerous reports about ongoing or completed consultancies but this proposal would codify the basics of such information, render retrieval very much easier than wading through countless old *Newsletters*, and indicate clearly the essential details of access.

So, it's over to you. Please help by providing the sort of information that is requested.

*Graham Connah  
School of Archaeology and Anthropology  
Australian National University, Canberra*

### **Speakers Wanted**

If you're travelling and have something to say to your fellow-ASHA members, please let the State representative know what your plans are. They'll need about a month's notice to organise a venue and advertise the meeting. Don't be shy, we all want to know what you're doing!

## **NEWS FROM ASHA**

### **ASHA President's Report 2001**

The one-time constraints on decentralising the Council are now behind us, thanks to the advent of teleconferences and the increasingly ubiquitous email. Teleconference meetings were held in February, May and August 2001. In addition, Vice President Paul Rheinberger chaired a Special Meeting on 12 May 2001 at the University of Sydney. The main purpose of this meeting was to replace the expensive and largely impractical system of postal voting for Council elections with one whereby a secret ballot is held during the AGM. The intention to pursue this change to the constitution was tabled at the last AGM. A second motion limiting the total number of co-opted members on the national committee to four was also put forward.

Both motions were carried unanimously and in my judgement are good practical decisions.

However, while teleconferences are an effective way (possibly the only way) to run our Council meetings, they are also relatively expensive, The international link-up to New Zealand in effect doubles the cost. A total of five hours of discussion during three teleconferences cost us a total of \$1700 in the past year.

At the last AGM it was moved that annual subscriptions be increased by c20%. This was a big jump and was largely necessitated by increased printing costs. The three major costs confronting the Society are the costs involved in printing and distributing the *Journal* and *Newsletters* and the costs of our teleconferences. Council constantly reviews these and other costs and attempts to keep them down.

Major issues dealt with during the year included:

The AHA Editorial Board appointed in September 2000. The nine members, Dr Susan Lawrence, Prof. Tim Murray, Dr Iain Stuart, Prof. Graham Connah, Dr Clayton Fredericksen, Dr Sarah Colley, Prof. David Carment, Penny Crook and Dr Eleanor Casella, are now in the second year of their three-year tenure. The current ASHA President is also automatically on the Board. Much of the discussion, largely by email, is of an advisory nature in response to matters raised by the General Editor, Iain Stuart. I would like to thank the members of the Editorial Board for their contributions.

The year 2000 *Journal* (Vol. 18), was the first edition of the Association's *Journal* to be produced by Iain Stuart since he was appointed General Editor and Penny Crook, Assistant Editor. Although the 2000 *Journal* appeared a little later than anticipated (July 2001), the production of the 2001 *Journal* is on track. Again, I would like to personally thank Iain and Penny for taking on this challenge. It involves far more work than just the mechanics of editing and conferring with referees' etc.

2002 is the twentieth Anniversary of the Society's *Journal*. Ian and Penny are planning a special issue, with a number of invited papers specifically addressing the future and direction of Historical Archaeology in Australasia.

If we are to have a vibrant, appealing journal it behoves us all, including the Editorial Board members, to promote and write for the *Journal*. To maintain size and quality it is imperative that many of the presenters at this and future conferences offer their papers for publication in the *Journal*.

During the latter part of the year Council investigated means of lowering the cost of producing our *Newsletter* which basically involved four options:

- a/ using a commercial printer and envelope-stuffing service as at present, but ascertaining if we could get it done cheaper elsewhere
- b/ using a commercial printer, with ASHA members doing the envelope stuffing and distribution.
- c/ producing it entirely ourselves on a photocopier we would have to purchase
- d/ getting out of hard copies as soon as possible and urging (or compelling) our members to accept an email

newsletter, so that if you want a hard copy you will have to print one off.

As a result of these deliberations, we determined the Government Printer in Sydney is the cheapest printing option, and have moved our account there. But to cut costs further, it is the Council's intention to provide an incentive, perhaps a reduction in annual subs, in order to encourage the acceptance of an on-line *Newsletter*.

Discussions were held with AIMA during the year with regard to holding further joint conferences in 2002 and 2004. The conference programme for the next three years is as follows: a joint conference with AIMA in Townsville in 2002, followed by an ASHA conference on Norfolk in 2003 organised by Neville Ritchie and Mark Staniforth; followed by a joint 'new concept' conference in New Zealand (Wellington/Picton) in 2004.

Our ASHA year got off to a great start with the well-organised joint ASHA/AIMA conference in Adelaide, and I would like to again express the Society's thanks to the Adelaide conference organising committee. As those who have organised conferences know, they are big events requiring a lot of co-ordination, and the situation is much more complicated when two organisations are trying to run a joint conference. As a spin-off from the joint conference, Council in conjunction with AIMA has investigated the possibility of discounts for membership, conference dues and publications for those who wish to be members of both Associations. However, after addressing the issues, Council decided that the only discount ASHA could afford was on its publications.

Despite the success of the Adelaide conference it would be remiss of me not to raise any concerns that ASHA members expressed. And there was one big one – the lack of a decent full-day field trip incorporated into the conference programme. I have raised this matter with AIMA and was somewhat surprised to get a response along the lines of 'if ASHA members want a full-day field trip – fine. We (AIMA) will have maritime papers on that day'. We will be insisting on a full-day field trip at Townsville (it's what lots of people go to conferences for!).

On the positive side, not only was the Adelaide conference, up there among the best, it also made a profit of c\$2000, shared equally between ASHA and AIMA, despite AIMA's greater contribution. As I have said before there is an onus on conference organisers to make a profit because with a fairly static membership, the Association simply cannot afford to subsidise the conferences. However, the Council will continue to assist conference organisers by advancing funds to cover pre-conference costs.

Adelaide also saw the launch, by celebrity speaker the Hon. John Bannon, former Premier of South Australia, of *1901 – the Life of Australians at the time of Federation: An Illustrated Chronicle*. This fine multi-authored volume, edited by Aedeon Cremin, was funded by a \$27,500 grant and published ahead of schedule. It has sold particularly well but unfortunately an anticipated profit turned into a net loss of c\$1000 because the Federal funding agency declined to pay the costs of the book launch in Adelaide.

During the Adelaide conference Colin Pardoe, President of AAA sounded out the possibility of having a joint conference of ASHA, AIMA and AAA at Townsville. Despite little support for the proposal initially from both ASHA and AIMA, things have moved on. Recent communications have revealed that the Townsville conference organisers (rather than AAA) are the primary promoters of an 'overlapping conference' proposal. The matter was discussed during the 2001 AGM. Among those present there was strong support favouring a one day plenary to discuss common issues of concern. ASHA's support for the proposal will be conveyed to the conference organisers shortly.

The 2001 *Journal* is a thematic volume centred on the 'Archaeology of Confinement'. Eleanor Casella and Clayton Fredericksen kindly offered to organise it. It will consist of ten papers, covering topics ranging from convict confinement to prisons, lunatic asylums and lazarets. Once Eleanor and Clayton have completed the editing process, the papers will be forwarded to Iain, who will liaise with the printers.

ASHA supports the production of thematic issues of the *Journal*, but if they are going to be produced as Special Publications, such as the 'Whaling' volume or the 'Chinese' volume, production funding must come from external sources. With our present funds, we have little left over after meeting the costs of publish our journal and newsletters.

I regret to report that the 'Overseas Chinese Archaeology' Special Volume based on papers originally presented at the Workshop on the Overseas Chinese in Australasia held at UNSW in February 2000 has still not been published. As editor, I now have enough papers in hand, but we have failed to find independent funding (\$10,000) to publish it as an ASHA Special Volume. Other options are currently being investigated.

*Newsletter* and *Journal* printing costs are now totalling over \$12000/annum, which, amounts to about 2/3 of our annual expenditure (or to put it another way - the equivalent of 240 ordinary memberships at \$50 a shot). Although the 2001 *Journal* cost c\$10,000, about \$2000 less than we understood it would cost, it was a thinner volume than usual. Printing costs remain our biggest

expense and it is something we need to shop around for to get optimum prices.

On the political front the Council wrote letters to the appropriate agencies urging protection of the recently uncovered remains of the 1821 Port Macquarie Government house site. I am pleased to report that the combined weight of the Society's and other groups' protestations seem to have carried the day. The site will be protected.

I would like to extend my thanks to the outgoing Committee, two of whom are not re-nominating, viz. our Secretary Rowan Ward and immediate past President Aedeon Cremin. These two have made major contributions to the Association's activities over the past few years for which I would like to express my heartfelt thanks on the Society's behalf. Rowan, in particular, has made a huge contribution to the day to day running of the Society. Not a week has gone past without one or two emails between us on various aspects of the Society's business. Not only has she very ably performed the normal range of duties expected of the Society's Secretary, she has also done a lot of extra work such as dealing with requests for back issues, and maintaining our finances by chasing up unfinancial members, dealing with credit card payments etc. The workload in this area is such that a decision has been made to divide the job along the following lines. The elected Secretary (Mac North) will become the Executive Secretary and produce the minutes, and deal with correspondence etc, while a Council member (Maddy Atkinson) will take on the new role of Membership Secretary and deal with all matters involving one on one liaison with members.

Aedeon's contribution over the years is well known to you all. Besides serving on the ASHA Council for many years culminating in five years as President, she has edited the *1901* volume, and more recently moved to Canberra and helped organise this conference, appropriately in the Federal capital, during this centenary year.

Ross Gam produced our *Newsletters* during the year, but the burden was shared with four members who acted in the capacity of Guest Editors for each issue: Jennie Lindberg (March), Jeremy Smith (June), Rick McGovern-Wilson (September) and Aedeon Cremin is putting together the December 2001 issue. Tracy Ireland continued as Reviews Editor. Evidence of her industry is reflected in the seven pages of reviews in the year 2000 journal.

Andrew Wilson has ably served as the Society's webmaster since the inception of our web site. Unfortunately, information on the site became seriously out of date this year, partly because Andrew had other commitments but also because he needs to receive

updated information such as forthcoming conference details in order to get it on the site. At this point it is fully up to date and Andrew has renewed his commitment to the task.

Because of storage limitations and the fact that there has been little demand for back issues of the *Journal*, the Council has decided to have a major fire sale of back issues. As a consequence 25 full sets of back issues have been made up and will be sold for \$50 on a first in, first served basis to financial members in the first instance. In addition new members will be given five free copies of back issues of which we hold disproportionately large stocks. If we clear the stock by these means we will be left with only two archival sets of the *Journal*. If there is renewed demand for back issues Council will investigate electronic methods of distributing copies such as on CD or on-line.

The new Council has a familiar feel about it. Most of the members have served a few years now. Thank you for serving again and a warm welcome to first time Council member Katrina Stankowski. We try to spread the workload around the whole Council, although as in any committee a disproportionate amount tends to fall on a few people. It is essential for the vitality of ASHA that new people put their names forward and/or contest the elected positions

Last but definitely not least, we are all here because a dedicated pair has organised the Conference here in Canberra. Although its early days yet, from what I've seen so far, this promises to be a memorable conference (for all the right reasons!). I'd like to thank everyone involved in its organisation on behalf of the Society.

*Neville Ritchie, President*

## ASHA Secretary's Report

### i) Correspondence:

The correspondence over the year has mainly related to the following: enquiries from subscription agencies and libraries regarding the delay in publication of volume 18 of the *Journal*; the University of York wishing to include a flyer advertising their online journal *Internet Archaeology* in either one of our *Newsletter* or *Journal* mailouts, and to make a small donation for our assistance (\$100); an academic publisher in the Netherlands wishing to promote the nine-volume *Encyclopedia of Prehistory* via a flyer in a *Newsletter*; copious emails regarding the threat to the Port Macquarie Government House site, and various conference enquiries.

### ii) Membership:

Membership has remained fairly static this year - 325 (compared with 318 last year). Some 44 new members made up for those who did not renew during the year. The subscription form was also further amended to include at the same \$28 Student rate, the category of Unwaged/Pensioner.

#### Membership categories for 2001

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Individual          | 174 |
| Corporate           | 73  |
| Student             | 39  |
| Unwaged/Pensioner   | 8   |
| Overseas Individual | 6   |
| Household           | 5   |
| Honourary/Life      | 13  |
| Reciprocal          | 7   |
| Total               | 325 |

Membership base: Australia 286 (NSW 124; VIC 39; QLD 33; SA 29; ACT 23, WA 15; TAS 13; NT 10)  
International 39 (China 1; Canada 1; United Kingdom 5; America 13; New Zealand 19)

#### iii) Publication Sales:

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Occasional Papers  | 9  |
| Set of Journals  | 4  |
| <i>Archaeology of Whaling in SA and NZ</i>               | 5  |
| <i>Individual Journal</i>                                | 10 |
| <i>Wybalenna</i>   | 3  |
| <i>Archaeology and Colonisation</i>                      | 1  |
| <i>19th Century Salt Manufacturing Sites in Tasmania</i> | 1  |

Sales of our publications are way down on last year, mainly due to a lot of members taking early advantage of our discounted price on sets of the *Journal* last year. In July I did a stocktake of all our publications to ascertain exactly what we actually held in stock and upon doing found we had particularly large discrepancies in the numbers of individual volumes of the *Journal* remaining, varying from just 14 of volume 7 through to a whopping 319 of volume 9. Our other publications with large numbers in stock include 219 copies of *Archaeology of Whaling in SA and NZ* and 216 of *Ross Bridge, Tasmania*.

In an effort to sell more sets of the *Journal* the committee decided to bring boxed sets down to Canberra and offer them at a special conference rate of \$50. Gradually, as numbers of volumes decrease, individual volumes will become unavailable, as in volume 7, so if members wish to get near-complete sets they should do so quickly.

Also, to try and bring the numbers of individual volumes into line, and as an added incentive to join ASHA, all new members will now receive 5 volumes for free. These packs will contain a selection of the volumes we have the most numbers of in stock.

After the Conference the incoming committee will do another stocktake and then decide on further courses of

action - perhaps special deals to members of SHA, IA, NZAA, AIMA, AAA, AACA, etc. They will also look at the feasibility of putting back issues on CD.

iv) Emailing of *Newsletter*.

After the discussions at the last AGM a notice was put in the December 2000 *Newsletter* asking that members who would like to receive the *Newsletter* via email, rather than in hard copy, contact the Secretary so this could be done. When I only received 6 affirmative replies it was decided by the committee to put the option on hold, with the overwhelming majority of members obviously preferring hard copy. Also the committee decided that as we had just increased the subscription rates to cover expected rises in the costs of producing both the *Journal* and *Newsletter*, we really had no excuse not to keep producing it in hard copy format.

Recently the idea was circulated that perhaps a box on the 2002 subscription renewal form could be added so that if members wanted the *Newsletter* via email then they could simply tick the box. This could also mean they may perhaps get a small discount on their subscription rate, as an extra financial incentive to take the email option.

Using a mailhouse to do our *Newsletter* was deemed to be costing us far too much (c\$1500 per newsletter, c\$6800 per year) and so as of September we have gone back to doing it ourselves. Thanks to Mac North for finding an excellent printing deal with the Government Printing Service. This means that the Sydney / NSW based members of the committee will once again be getting together 4 times a year to spend a couple of hours getting the *Newsletter* ready for mailout. However, the time may also be used as extra committee meetings, or they will arrange to have a teleconference on the same day.

The committee did consider purchasing a photocopier but, after Paul Rheinberger and Ross Gam did costing comparisons, it was decided to go with the cheaper option of the Government Printing Service. The question of where the photocopier would be stored was a major problem.

v) Membership Database on Website:

This would be a similar setup to AAA, whereby members could, through password-only entry, access their individual entry and check details such as financial status, change contact details, etc. Details would not be available to anyone other than the individual member and the Secretary.

This would hopefully cut down on the number of instances of having to track down members who have moved and whose *Newsletter/Journal* mailouts are returned, or when emailing members in bulk the server crashes because a large number of email addresses are no longer correct and the Secretary has not been informed. Not only do members miss out on receiving the *Newsletter* and *Journal*, but they are also not getting

information about upcoming seminars, lectures, etc sent to them via email.

It would be time-consuming to initially set up and it would probably mean paying someone to get it up and running. However it does seem a worthwhile venture to pursue. Does the membership support this?

vi) Amendments to Constitution:

A special meeting of ASHA members was held on May 12 - thanks to those members who attended and to those who sent in proxy votes. Thanks to Paul Rheinberger for drafting the changes to the clauses in the Constitution to be voted on and for organising the special meeting.

The amendments were all carried unanimously, and we now see the end in the need for unwieldy postal voting. Postal voting is now replaced with voting at the AGM and the use of proxies. A limit has also been placed on the number of members able to be co-opted onto the committee - no more than four.

The amended Constitution may go out to the full membership in a future mailout of the *Newsletter* or *Journal*, in small booklet format.

vii) ASHA as Lobby Group:

Individual ASHA members and the ASHA committee took part in the active lobbying that occurred mid-year to stop the impending destruction of the important remains uncovered by archaeological excavation of Government House, in Port Macquarie, NSW.

While individual members sent faxes and email to the various Ministers and City Council concerned, the committee sent letters outlining our concerns to Senator Robert Hill, the Federal Minister for the Environment and Heritage; Bob Carr, the NSW Premier; Dr Andrew Refshauge, the NSW Deputy Premier and Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning, and to the Hastings Council in Port Macquarie. Replies to these letters were received from all, and the NSW State Government has since chipped in \$1 million towards the preservation and interpretation of the site.

viii) Committee Meetings:

This year has seen an ever-increasing use of email, particularly between executive members of the committee, which has meant that the number of costly teleconferences could be kept to a minimum (3 instead of 5)\*. The supposedly cheaper option that Telstra had promised just prior to the last AGM turned out to be even more expensive than the rate we were already using (the link to NZ was very cheap but lines within Australia were astronomical).

Below is a list of committee member attendances at teleconference meetings.

\*Due to the expense, our phone link to NZ was limited to just the one line (to Neville in Hamilton), meaning that Rick liaised with Neville beforehand to comment on anything to be discussed at the meeting.

COMMITTEE MEETING ATTENDANCE FOR 2000

(out of 3)

| <u>Committee Member</u> | <u>Position</u> |   |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Neville Ritchie         | President       | 3 |
| Paul Rheinberger        | Vice President  | 2 |
| Susan Lawrence          | Vice President  | 2 |
| Charles Brackenridge    | Treasurer       | 3 |
| Rowan Ward              | Secretary       | 3 |
| Maddy Atkinson          | Member          | 3 |
| Aedeon Cremin           | Member          | 2 |
| Clayton Fredericksen    | Member          | 2 |
| Ross Gam                | Member          | 2 |
| Nadia Iacono            | Member          | 2 |
| Jennie Lindbergh        | Member          | 2 |
| Rick McGovern-Wilson    | Member          | 0 |
| Maclaren North          | Member          | 2 |
| Graham Connah           | Co-opted Member | 1 |
| Iain Stuart             | Co-opted Member | 1 |

*Rowan Ward*CONFERENCE NEWS**ASHA 21**

**Conveners' Report on 21st Annual Conference held at Australian National University, 28 September-1 October 2001.**

65 people attended ASHA 21. There were 28 papers, one discussion forum and one poster, presented over two days. 15 people went on the field trip to Lanyon, Braidwood and Majors Creek.

The Conference was generously sponsored by the School of Archaeology and Anthropology, which covered all room and equipment bookings. Thanks are due to Professor Matthew Spriggs, Sue Fraser and Marian Robson at the School and to Dr Elizabeth Minchin and the Department of Classics, for making available the Classics Museum free of charge.

ASHA 21 was organised by Graham Connah and Aedeon Cremin, taking it in shifts. Graham established the basic structure (dates, bookings, catering) and held the fort while Aedeon was in Europe. Aedeon took over when Graham went to Lake Innes and oversaw the final production. Mass email enabled them to keep contact with all the participants.

ASHA members assisted in various ways. Rowan Ward was, as ever, prompt and efficient in dealing with correspondence and information; Penny Crook reformatted the abstracts and schedule, for which Sophie Pullar designed a cover. In Canberra Richard Morrison advised on the programme while Barry McGowan and Kirsty Altenburg advised on the field trip. During the Conference Beryl Connah and Jean Smith collected registration fees and other payments.

The field trip would not have been possible without the generous assistance of Jennifer Storer, curator of Lanyon Museum, of Netta Ellis and the Braidwood Historical Society and of John Freeman, owner-restorer of the Braidwood Hotel.

*Aedeon Cremin and Graham Connah  
Australian National University*

**The View from Adelaide**

This year's ASHA conference was held in the picturesque surroundings of the ANU campus in Canberra and as in previous years the papers reflected a diverse range of topics. Papers covered many aspects from the practical, to the theoretical, to reports on work being undertaken by both students and consultants. In this report I would like to highlight some of the papers that interested me and I must admit a bias in attending papers by other South Australians. Helen Cooke in her paper 'Reflections' which opened the conference highlighted a problem facing those of us who work both as indigenous and historical archaeologists in South Australia, that there is virtually no government support for heritage in the state. Echoing a growing call among our profession and on email lists such as AUSARCH for practical suggestions to tackle the lack of funding, Helen asked conference delegates to contribute suggestions to improve the relationship between bodies responsible for archaeological and heritage sites, aboriginal bodies and archaeologists. Helen's call may in fact be taken up as after lengthy discussion at the ASHA AGM and at the end of the conference, it was decided to take up the option of joining AIMA at Townsville. The possibility of a overlapping day with the AAA conference during which sessions would be dedicated to discussion of the state of archaeology and active responses to perceived problems. Rather than just complaining to each other, Denis Gojak has suggested that issues and options to tackle them be circulated via email and email discussion lists before the conference so that the sessions have a practical outcome. This was supported by the conference delegates.

Darren Griffin presented a paper which drew on critical theory to understand the spatial arrangements of the Poonindie Mission, where the idea of the English town layout was used to reinforce European values and maintain hierarchies of authority. The aboriginal resistance to this authority was to come in the form of camps within sight of the Mission but not part of it. Katrina Stanowski presented a paper on the Polish Hill River Settlement that caused a few thinking caps to be put on. Investigating farmhouses built by Polish immigrants in the nineteenth century, Katrina has discovered that a number of the houses have niches of varying sizes adjacent to the fireplaces, and their possible uses were considered by the delegates. Katrina is investigating ethnicity and its visibility in the

archaeological record. Continuing the theme of ethnicity and the archaeological record. Denis Gojak presented a paper on Chinese market gardens in Sydney. Sam George presented one on buttons, and Tim Murray and Penny Crook outlined the project 'The Archaeology of the Modern City'. Ian Stuart gave an interesting paper on Nissen huts and the variations on their designs. Some ASHA members may have been following the discussion on Histarch on this topic inspired by a question on the huts that revealed a wide interest in the question of the preservation of twentieth century heritage. Huts were often used for immigrant accommodation in Australia and form an important first experience for many Australians.

The ASHA conference this year include some papers with a practical basis. Jody Steele and Tim Owen followed up their Adelaide ASHA conference paper on public archaeology with a further paper discussing the teaching of archaeology to a wide range of children and their management on archaeology sites. Tim and Jody's book *Digging Up The Past* which features practical worksheets for teaching children was a best-seller at the conference and those interested in this area can obtain a copy of the book from Tim.Owen@flinders.edu.au for a modest price. Richard Mackay's presentation of the Parramatta Archaeological Landscape Management System was another highlight showing how computer technology can be used to create a 'map' whereby developers and the Parramatta Council can select an area of the Parramatta landscape or a town lot and be able to tell whether archaeological sites may be found on the site. These predictions are based on research undertaken and new research can be fed into the database and 'map'.

The forum entitled Debating Databases proved to be a particularly interesting session as it identified a number of problems with existing databases and with how we define databases. Penny Crook, Dr Alasdair Brooks, Dr Susan Lawrence and Dr Martin Gibbs produced a handout for the session with a wide range of questions covering *Comparability and Standardisation*, *Tools for the Job*, *Utility*, and *The Details* (this can be obtained from Penny at La Trobe University) which all archaeologists should consider and respond to. In particular, there was some discussion about making databases more user-friendly, and potentially publicly accessible, without compromising their ability to perform complex searches and comparisons. Discussion clearly highlighted the different things we are seeking in a database and even in what we define as a database, which Andrew Wilson as programmer and archaeologist saw as being different from those of us less involved in design. An attempt to define the data entry questions required in a database indicated that we might need a series of databases with questions that more closely resemble how we define the characteristics of the type of artifacts we are studying

i.e. ceramics or glass. Often it is the details or notes section that provide us with the information we need to know for analysis. The session also highlighted the need to identify where databases are located and where collections are actually held.

The day trip was organised by Aedeon and took us to the beautiful Lanyon Homestead with its intact outbuildings and landscape. The latter is currently protected from the encroachment of the urban sprawl. Over an *al fresco* lunch at the Braidwood Hotel the owner, John Mitchell, an architect by trade, talked to us about the Hotel and the adjoining shops and how he is trying to preserve the heritage character of while producing economically viable spaces. Being archaeologists we investigated from cellar to attic. A viewing of the fascinatingly eclectic collections of the Braidwood Museum provide an important view into what a community feels is important about its heritage. Netta Ellis kindly led us to the Mitchell Goldfields and shared her knowledge with those of us not familiar with goldfields.

I would like to thank Aedeon and Graham for organising the conference which as usual reflected the diversity of our interests in historical archaeology.

*Susan Piddock, Flinders University*

### **The View from Melbourne**

Having now attended the conferences of the Society for Historical Archaeology, the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology, and the Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology, I've reached one inescapable conclusion: if it ever came down to a competition, the Australians and New Zealanders would drink their American and British colleagues under the table every time.

The fact that central Canberra only appears to have two pubs, one mock-English and the other mock-Irish, was no impediment to conviviality.

More seriously, ASHA's 2001 conference displayed many of the strengths and weaknesses inherent in historical archaeology in Australia and New Zealand. Inevitably, the parallel sessions make it impossible for me to comment on all papers or even all sessions, but some broad thoughts in this regard follow. The particular strength of Australasian historical archaeology lies in its willingness to interpret and analyse the data, to move beyond 'what' to consider 'why'.

Unfortunately I missed the 'Encounters' session (with papers on contact and historical-era indigenous communities), the 'Rural Landscapes' session and much of the 'Urban Archaeology' session to attend the

material culture session and the database forum, but I've been reliably informed that there were several noteworthy examples in these other sessions. Naturally, it's in the nature of interpretation that we won't always all agree with all of the conclusions, but the willingness of many papers to interpret and analyse is particularly encouraging.

But if analysis and interpretation are strengths of Australasian historical archaeology, then the identification and description of the material culture that underlies that analysis and interpretation is more of a problem.

There was a material culture session at the conference, which indeed featured some impressive papers, but through the conference as a whole, there was an unfortunate dearth of specific attempts to integrate the nitty-gritty of artefact analysis with the broader picture of analysis.

Some of the exceptions were Graham Connah's use of artefacts in his paper on the Lake Innes excavations, Sam George's paper on buttons and Tasmanian convicts and whalers, and my own modest contribution on international comparisons of nineteenth-century ceramics.

The Debating Databases forum convened by Penny Crook was particularly useful in bringing some of the problems surrounding artefact analysis into the open. The very fact that one's main conclusion from the latter discussion was that while everyone agreed databases could very much be improved, there was very little agreement on how to go about improving those databases suggests that this is an issue that needs to be considered in more depth if Australasian historical archaeology is to continue to develop and grow. Penny's co-authored paper (with Tim Murray) on the Archaeology of the Modern City project demonstrated an encouraging willingness to consider the important issues that go into database creation. Hopefully these issues will continue to be at the forefront of discussion.

The AGM has probably already been discussed elsewhere in this newsletter, but the most notable discussion involved next year's proposed Townsville conference, particularly as regards the potential involvement of the AAA. While there was some disagreement over who said what to whom, why, and when, broad consensus was that the proposed format of a day's overlap between AAA and the separate ASHA/AIMA conference would be a positive development.

Finally, on a more subjective note, I think it's worth noting that on this year's evidence, ASHA is by far the friendliest of the three major international historical/post-medieval conferences. In particular,

while I concede that the small size of ASHA might well make the society's attitude in this regard something of a necessity, the level of encouragement and generosity shown towards younger members of the discipline was particularly commendable. The SHA and SPMA might well learn a thing or two from ASHA in this regard.

*Alasdair Brooks, La Trobe University*

## ASHA Conference, ANU, 30 Sept 2001

### **Debating databases: A forum on the cataloguing of artefacts in historical archaeology.**

At the most recent ASHA conference on 30 September, about 20 conference-goers attended a forum on the formation and usage of artefact catalogues and databases.

The idea for the forum arose from work currently being undertaken by the Exploring the Archaeology of the Modern City project (EAMC), led by the Archaeology Program at La Trobe University in collaboration with industry partners. Nine databases from archaeological sites in Sydney have been reviewed for their accuracy and utility in the project, and so far six have been incorporated into one mega-database.

The many minor and sometimes significant differences between each database, and the dearth of guiding literature in Australasian historical archaeology, suggested a need to spark a discourse on why and how historical archaeologists create and use databases or catalogues. Having proposed to hold some kind of forum in Sydney (where the EAMC work is based), we saw the ASHA conference as a good opportunity to broaden the base for discussion.

A panel including Professor Tim Murray (Head of School of Historical and European Studies, La Trobe University and Chief Investigator of EAMC research), Dr Alasdair Brooks (Post-doctoral scholar, La Trobe University), Caitlin Allen (Archaeologist, NSW Heritage Office) and myself, presided over the discussion and shared opinions.

The forum was intended to be informal and was guided by a lengthy list of questions and comments covering issues of comparability and standardisation, 'tools for the job', utility, and 'the details'. We had some good, positive discussion, and despite not actually responding to the list, we covered a lot of the issues. Amidst the discussion of accessibility (can one database meet the needs of archaeologists and the general public?), fields crucial to any artefact database (a few were suggested, but the list was in no way comprehensive), assemblage culling and the need for artefact repositories in some states, the big issues to which we continually returned

were:

1. lack of funding, and
2. lack of training/expertise;  
and to a lesser extent:
3. lack of standards/guidelines,
4. lack of comprehensive reporting on catalogue definitions, and
5. the pressures of consulting.

I felt we really didn't get to the heart of some of the problems—but that was perhaps too much to ask for the first round. I guess the debate over fundamentals would come out of the second, third or fourth forum of this kind (perhaps one based on some kind of discussion paper).

Most attendees were keen to get follow up information and called for a discussion paper of the issues raised. I will prepare such a paper in early 2002, based on an audio recording of the session and it will be distributed over the ASHA mailing list and other email lists. There was a recommendation that the discussion paper or later, some kind of policy statement, be endorsed by Australia-wide government organisations and other interest groups.

There was also the suggestion for SHA-style one-day forums or workshops about particular artefact types be incorporated into the ASHA Conference to share knowledge and increase the level of expertise throughout the profession.

At the 2002 ASHA conference in Townsville, Dr Martin Gibbs plans to hold a more detailed forum or workshop, focussing on the practicalities of detailed artefact analysis and cataloguing. I hope all those interested in this topic will be able to attend next year.

*Penny Crook*  
*Project Archaeologist, EAMC, La Trobe University*  
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#### **FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES**

- 2002 Joint conference with AIMA in Townsville.
- 2003 ASHA conference on Norfolk Island.
- 2004 Joint conference in Wellington/Picton, NZ.

#### **FORTHCOMING NEWSLETTERS**

The ASHA Newsletter is produced quarterly. The 2001-2002 guest editors are:

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| This issue | Aedeen Cremin aeदेenc@bigpond.com       |
| March      | Helen Cooke (SA)                        |
| June       | Alasdair Brooks (VIC)                   |
| September  | Tracy Ireland (ACT)                     |
| December   | Martin Gibbs (QLD conference organiser) |

or Rick McGovern-Wilson  
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In order to facilitate a more efficient newsletter production, all contributions should be forwarded to the e-mail address of your state rep by the second week of the month prior to circulation. See ASHA contacts on last page for address details.

The guest editors are asked to finalise the newsletter in the third week of the month prior to circulation. Final copy must reach the General Editor, (Ross Gam), by the final week of the month prior to circulation.

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.

Would all readers notify me immediately by email if they notice any mistakes in the newsletter, especially email addresses.

*Ross Gam*

MacLaren North, our new secretary wishes to advise his new contact details below;  
Please use this email address (maclaren.north@sydneywater.com.au) should you need to contact me. Any paper correspondence can be sent to the ASHA PO Box.

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