

NEWSLETTER

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Contents

State of the Art	2
ACT News.....	2
<i>Heritage Division, Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA)</i>	2
<i>National Trust of Australia (ACT)</i>	2
NSW News	3
<i>News From Heritage Concepts Pty Ltd</i>	3
<i>News from Godden Mackay Logan</i>	4
New Zealand News	5
<i>Mount Hutt Station Homestead</i>	5
<i>Carlaw Park Excavations, Auckland, New Zealand</i>	9
Victoria News.....	12
<i>Pentridge Prison Excavations</i>	12
Western Australia News	14
<i>Peel Town Excavations</i>	14
Queensland News	15
<i>Historical Archaeology and the Queensland Heritage Act 1992</i>	15
<i>National Archaeology Week 2008 Events</i>	16
Northern Territory News	16
South Australia News	17
Tasmania News.....	17
Announcements and Notices	17
ASHA/AIMA/AAMH Conference, Adelaide 2008.	17
<i>Venue</i>	17
<i>Draft Programme</i>	17
<i>Sessions Proposed</i>	18
ASHA Membership Renewals.....	20
New ASHA Publication.....	21
Society Contacts	23
<i>2007–2008 Committee</i>	23
<i>State Representatives</i>	23
Forthcoming Newsletters	24

STATE OF THE ART

ACT NEWS

Compiled by Richard Morrison

HERITAGE DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, WATER, HERITAGE AND THE ARTS (DEWHA)

National Cultural Heritage Forum (NCHF) - Representatives of the NCHF, a non-government body of cultural heritage organisations (including ASHA) whose object is to advise the DEWHA Minister, were briefed on the recent Commonwealth Budget and its implications for heritage by DEWHA representatives at a meeting held on 15 May 2008.

NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (ACT)

Interpreting Archaeological Sites in Suburban Canberra - The ACT National Trust has commenced a program, *Heritage Places*, creating and erecting interpretive signs for historic places in Canberra's suburbs. The program is designed to raise the awareness of the ACT's Indigenous, rural and post-federation histories. Funding for the project has been received through the ACT Government Heritage Grants Program.

The program will see interpretive signs erected at:

Mulligans Flat School site – two schools were built on this site for the surrounding rural community, the first in 1896 and the second in 1913. In 1931, due to falling attendance, the second school was closed and the building dismantled in 1933. The site is marked by three rows of radiata pines and exotic shrubs planted by the children and a mound containing the remnants of the building.

Old Coach Road (Mulligans Flat) – still visible today as a corridor through a eucalypt dominated landscape, this road was constructed in 1880 and was the main route which linked the early rural settlements in the Canberra/Queanbeyan region to Bungendore, Lake Bathurst and eventually Sydney.

Molonglo Internment Camp Site (Fyshwick) – between 1918 and 1919 an internment camp existed in what is now the industrial suburb of Fyshwick. The camp was used for the internment of German and Austrian family groups who were either connected to, or considered to be, potential enemy aliens. After the First World War the camp was used for a time to house workers building the national capital and some buildings were later used in the Second World War as a Naval Wireless Station.

Athllon Homestead – the site of two former nineteenth century rural homesteads in the Tuggeranong Valley. The first homestead was burnt down by bushfires in 1952 and the second homestead was dismantled during suburban development. What is left today is a raised area of ground on a vacant block surrounded by suburbia. The site is a marker of the final phase of rural life in the valley.

Aboriginal Places – a sub-surface reef of chert runs through the northern suburban area of Canberra outcropping in several places. Two of these outcrops were used by Aboriginal

groups as primary stone sources. Identified and recorded by archaeologists in the 1980s, these sites show evidence of stone procurement and artefact manufacture.

Peter Dowling

NSW NEWS

Compiled by Tim Owen

NEWS FROM HERITAGE CONCEPTS PTY LTD

Historic Material at Ourimbah – The Denney's Store Brick Beehive Cistern

One of the many rewarding projects of 2008 for Heritage Concepts has been the Burns Store site at Ourimbah. Ourimbah is located approximately 8km north of Gosford. The early road that linked Gosford to Maitland passed through the area and the current Pacific Highway generally follows this old alignment. HC has been associated with work at Ourimbah for the past two years, with site inspections, multiple excavations and assessments conducted in 2006 and 2007 in relation to an upgrading of the Pacific Highway in that area. The extensive work conducted there previously led to an opportunity to return to the site in 2008 for further excavation when the ongoing road works uncovered some unexpected finds.

The upgrading of the Pacific Highway had necessitated the demolition of a 1917 brick building known as the Burn's Store. The building that had existed at that location previous to it was an 1888 timber structure known as Denney's Store. According to historical documents it was destroyed by fire in 1916 and then replaced in 1917 by the new brick structure. When the brick building was demolished as a part of the highway upgrade, other artefacts and structural remnants were uncovered. Excavation and analysis soon revealed these finds to be associated with the original store, uncovering a varied collection of artefacts located inside what was originally a brick beehive cistern.

The cistern was most likely used to collect water from the 1888 built Denney's Store and run off from the nearby hill. After fire destroyed the store, remnants of it and its contents were deposited in the cistern, filling it preparatory to the ground being levelled and the new brick building being constructed. Lying flat atop the cistern deposit was a broken iron door from a strong-room or safe, the work of 1900s Sydney ironmonger, John Keep & Sons. Many of the artefacts found within the cistern show clear evidence of fire damage; they were also nested together in the deposit, demonstrating a mass deposition as stacks of material were dumped from the damaged stocks of the burnt store. The range of artefacts is also indicative of the stock Denney's Store held, including bowls, vases, plates, jugs and even a sewing machine. These objects were cleaned, assessed, analysed and recorded. Manufacturing stamps on some of the ceramic fragments shows that their production was in England, sometime after 1914. The fire date of 1916 suggests that these ceramics were fairly recent stock items at the time of the store's destruction.

Other finds in the area excavated and documented include a historic tip site to the north of the Burn's Store location, and cottage foundations located on the western side of the Pacific Highway. The cottage remnants consist of concrete and brick, including the remains of a sandstone-capped concrete path. The Denney's Store beehive cistern was

unfortunately damaged due to its chance discovery as a part of the road works excavation process, but once located the HC team were called in, enabling careful study of the remains. All Ourimbah finds were carefully excavated, photographed, planned and documented. Additional artefact cleaning, sorting and analysis was conducted at the HC offices.



The brick cistern at Ourimbah

Darran Jordan

NEWS FROM GODDEN MACKAY LOGAN

Cumberland Street, The Rocks – Sydney Harbour YHA

Work is now well advanced on the 'Sydney Harbour YHA' which is to be built on the site of the 'BIG DIG' in The Rocks, originally excavated by GML in 1994. The YHA project includes an extensive 'Archaeology Education Centre'. The GML team has been very active - Anita Yousif and Richard Mackay have been liaising with Wayne Johnson from the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, assisting with design development and excavating features that will be affected - in conjunction with the University of Sydney. Sheridan Burke and Felicity Watson have prepared an exciting Interpretation Strategy. GML will be working collaboratively with Tzannes and Associates on the evolving design, ICS on physical conservation and Louise Zarmarti on the education centre program content.

Customs Marine Depot, Neutral Bay

GML has been commissioned by United Group Services on behalf of the Australian Customs Service to undertake a Ground Penetrating Radar Survey at the Customs Marine

Depots site in Neutral Bay. The Archaeological Computing Laboratory, University of Sydney, undertook the survey on the site. The archaeological and radar investigations of the site will provide greater information in managing its archaeological resource, which includes evidence of early slipways and boatsheds associated with the early occupations of the site by Ben Boyd and the Halvorsen boatbuilding family business.

Penrith Lakes Heritage Advice and Archaeological Management

GML has been engaged by the Penrith Lakes Development Corporation for over a year, advising on the conservation of the rich heritage in the area. The Penrith Lakes site has been a sand and gravel quarry for over fifty years but still retains a fascinating range of heritage buildings deriving from early nineteenth century soldier settlement and convict labour. The heritage resource includes possibly the oldest surviving timber structure in New South Wales, a number of early homesteads, one of the earliest Catholic cemeteries in the country, and the site of one of the earliest Methodist churches in the State. All of these sites have the potential to include archaeological features. GML is in the process of preparing a site-wide Archaeological Management Plan, synthesising the extensive earlier work of Stedinger Associates, which will integrate with an Interpretation Strategy also being prepared by GML.

Arrivals

Godden Mackay Logan is excited to announce the arrival of three new archaeologists to our growing Sydney team. Anita Yousif, a skilled field archaeologist, joined us in February 2008 after many years working as a sub consultant. We are looking forward to working with Anita on future historical excavations. Fiona Leslie, a Senior Archaeologist with experience managing both Indigenous and non-Indigenous projects, joined the team in April to assist growing our archaeology business. Laura Farquharson, an archaeologist with experience working on Indigenous sites, soon followed in May to assist the team and expand our capacity. We welcome our new team members and are looking forward to working together on future archaeology projects.

Fiona Leslie

NEW ZEALAND NEWS

Compiled by Rick McGovern-Wilson

MOUNT HUTT STATION HOMESTEAD

In May 2007 permission was sought by the owners of the Mount Hutt Station Homestead to demolish the structure. While the original building was built in the nineteenth century, it had been modified to such an extent that the building had low historical values. Demolition was allowed on the condition that the building was thoroughly recorded. This provided an excellent opportunity to apply the practises of buildings archaeology. Underground Overground Archaeology Ltd. undertook the research, recording of the homestead and the demolition monitoring.

The homestead site lies to the south of the Rakaia Gorge in South Canterbury. The land is part of Mount Hutt Station which consists of three runs originally taken up in 1853 and

stocked with sheep. It was difficult to establish when the homestead was actually constructed on the station as documentary records provided little information and few historic photographs were found. As a result, the homestead and its various additions had to be dated through architectural and stylistic features.

The homestead had undergone several phases of construction in its time. The first phase, based on features observed from site visits and historic photographs, date to the nineteenth century, possibly even to the middle of the nineteenth century. Further construction phases occurred throughout the twentieth century in which the verandah was enclosed, major extensions added to the east, west and north elevations and a new entranceway constructed at the south. These developments caused a significant amount of the building's original fabric to be removed or modified.

As the original homestead had been modified almost beyond recognition in the last century, the modern structure provided a very interesting opportunity to elucidate the history of the homestead through the practises of buildings archaeology. This is a developing field in New Zealand and little work has been undertaken in the South Island. The homestead allowed an opportunity to investigate nineteenth century construction techniques, room functions and early modifications and also contribute to knowledge concerning the range of building types in the Canterbury area.

Demolition of the homestead was carried out in May 2008, after the interior and exterior of the building were thoroughly investigated and recorded. The building was systematically stripped down to the original nineteenth century structure. From historic photographs it was evident that the original building was a two-storied building with a lean-to at the rear. This is similar to a 'salt-box' cottage that were common in the 1840-1860 period. While it is unlikely that the building dates to this period, it was possibly built not long afterwards. Other evidence, such as the nature of the sash windows, which do not have "lugs" that typically came into use in the 1850s, support this approximate construction date. A verandah was also built in this first construction phase.

The most important revelation concerning the original homestead was its construction using hand-mixed concrete. This is very unusual for such an early building. The walls of the building were formed from concrete, as were the floors of the original verandah, which was discovered to extend around the south and east face but not the north, meaning it did not take advantage of the sunlight. The structure was also built on small concrete piles with shingle laid beneath the building. In comparison, the roof was constructed out of timber planks. New Zealand native timber, such as rimu and kauri, were used throughout the original homestead and also in the various extensions. Furthermore, it was discovered that the modern extension on the north elevation had taken advantage of an original concrete lean-to, building the concrete wall up with timber so that it discontinued the sloping roofline and could perform other functions.

The application of buildings archaeology techniques to the Mount Hutt Station homestead has proved very rewarding. The information gained from this exercise will contribute to the knowledge of nineteenth century Canterbury buildings and their construction techniques and functions, and provide useful comparative data for similar undertakings in the future.



The Mount Hutt Station homestead as it was before demolition. The original structure is the two-storied part in the centre.



The west face of the original homestead, showing the lean-to at the rear that was later built up to serve another function. The various modifications to the original structure are reflected in the doorways and windows, two of which are bricked up.



The west face of the original homestead. Again, later modifications to the structure are reflected in the multiple doors and windows. The verandah at the front was enclosed in an early construction phase. The concrete verandah floor can be seen running along the west face.



The south face of the original homestead. The enclosed verandah has been stripped to show the initial construction phase. The open window was revealed behind wooden panelling put in place in a twentieth century modification of the front entrance.

Rosie Geary Nichol, Underground Overground Archaeology Ltd

CARLAW PARK EXCAVATIONS, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

During the end of 2007 an excavation took place in the middle of the industrial heart of 19th century Auckland. Three successive industrial enterprises were known through the historical records from the place: a flour mill, a tannery and Chinese market gardens. It was possible to preserve about two thirds of the area with archaeological remains. Only about 1000 m² were systematically excavated. The area was originally close to the harbour and consisted of mud flats. After removing the modern fill we had to battle the ground water during the whole time of the excavation. One Sunday morning after a storm we came back to a completely flooded excavation area.

The only surviving part of the mill race was found on the slope above the main area. It was cut into the mudstone with a service path cut into the bank uphill. Most interesting was the fill, as the empty mill race was used by the Chinese market gardeners as a rubbish tip and a large number of complete Chinese vessels, e.g. soya sauce and rice wine containers, were found (Figure 1). The remains of the mill building itself are still preserved *in situ*.

The second phase of occupation – the tannery – left substantial pits in the area together with a well preserved barrel, possibly made out of local wood (Figure 3).

The pits were backfilled for the later occupation by Chinese market gardeners from 1882 onwards. The area was used by the Ah Chee family and leased from the Crown. The excavation area focused on the southern part of the Chinese complex where local grown and imported foodstuff – we found coconut husks - was prepared to be sold onto the local market. A large valley behind this complex was used to grow mainly vegetables to supply Auckland.

The remains of the main house with a complex drainage system and a wash station on the side of a stream were excavated. A large amount of finds came from successive fills to raise the level of the surrounding areas and keep them drier. A bricked courtyard and bricked path ways are part of these attempts to keep the surface water off the building and its immediate surrounds (Figure 4). Historical maps and the excavation results show the accuracy of the early surveyors. The main building is within 10cm of a 1906 survey (Figure 2). Several further buildings of the Chinese market garden complex are preserved *in situ*.

Many pieces of wooden building timber survived and together with the School of Environmental Studies at Auckland University a dendrochronological test project for Kauri, a local timber, was initiated. This project slots into a larger FORST project looking at Dendrochronology and Kauri.

The most gratifying aspect of the excavation was the close contact and support from the extended Ah Chee family during the excavations, which added enormously to our understanding of the archaeological features. Due to the racism at the end of the 19th century, Chinese immigrants were a silent group who left little historic writing. A family visit day together with an open day for the general public allowed everyone to have a key hole view into a hidden part of Auckland's history (Figure 5).

The involvement of the Chinese community with this project will continue during and hopefully beyond the material analysis and report writing.



Figure 1: Mill race with section of backfill still unexcavated; cut bank on the left uphill; sump on the right.



Figure 2: Area 1 house and brick floor, historic map overlay.



Figure 3: Tannery barrel after excavation.



Figure 4: Northern edge of courtyard.



Figure 5: Ah Chee family visit day at the end of excavation.

Hans Bader, Geometria

VICTORIA NEWS

Compiled by Darren Griffin

PENTRIDGE PRISON EXCAVATIONS

TerraCulture in association with Heritage Victoria recently completed archaeological excavations at Pentridge Prison, Coburg. The investigation arose as a result of planned redevelopment of the Prison complex. Test excavations were undertaken 2006/7 at the site of the former executed prisoner burial ground and at a separate location where Ronald Ryan (the last person judicially hanged in Australia) was thought to be buried. Some historic documentation was located that reported the location of the burial ground but the authenticity could not be verified prior to archaeological investigations and there was no surface indication of the site. The plan identified 9 graves dating from 1932-51 and 21 relating to exhumations from Old Melbourne Goal and reburials at Pentridge in 1929 and 1937.

The history of judicial executions in Victoria is that prior to 1932 executions were undertaken at the Old Melbourne Goal in Melbourne's CBD (except for at some regional centres). From 1932 all executions were undertaken at Pentridge Prison until 1967 when the last execution took place. The first execution on-site at Pentridge was in 1932 but it was used to relocate remains removed from the Old Melbourne Goal. In 1929, following the

closure of the Old Melbourne Goal the remains of executed prisoners were identified by accident during redevelopment works. The reports in contemporary newspapers tell of bones being stacked beside graves and that it was generally a horrible sight (bearing in mind that some of the burials had been less than 15 years in the ground). The workers who discovered the remains went on strike at the appalling conditions, and there were unconfirmed reports of school children removing bones from the piles, including elements of that reported to be Ned Kelly. The situation was described as disgraceful and professional undertakers were commissioned to gather the bones, re-coffin them and inter them at a new location; Pentridge Prison in three separate pits. In 1937 further burials were identified as to be impacted by development and professional undertakers were brought in to exhume the remains and rebury them at Pentridge. From 1932 until 1951 prisoners executed on-site at Pentridge were reputed to have been buried with the 1929 and 1937 re-internments, however no definitive documentation of the location was identified during the background research. The final executed prisoner was however buried in a new location to the south east in 1967. The list of prisoners buried at Pentridge for both those executed at the site and those moved to the site included many notables including Edward Kelly, Ronald Ryan (last man executed in Australia) and Jean Lee (last woman executed in Australia).

Test excavations were undertaken in October 2006 and January 2007 where it was confirmed that there were human remains within a large burial ground. In addition, in a separate burial ground to the south further remains thought to be those of Ronald Ryan were identified. The remains were all reburied. On 21st December 2007 the remains thought to be Ronald Ryan were exhumed and sent to the Victorian Institute for Forensic Medicine (VIFM) for identification. In February 2008 excavations of the main prisoner burial ground commenced. All of the nine graves of the prisoners executed at Pentridge between 1932 and 1951 were identified. Identification was confirmed by the presence of metal name plates attached to the exterior of the coffin. The contents of each coffin were removed from the original casket and placed into new timber coffins, complete with associated lime and original timbers. The lime appeared to have aided preservation of the contents rather than hastening decomposition. The remains were then buried at a newly established burial ground (formerly the burial ground used for the remains thought to be Ronald Ryan).

The 1937 remains exhumed from Old Melbourne Goal were identified during the same phase of excavation with four separate caskets (two up two down) within a single grave cut. The remains had been removed from their original coffin and placed into new receptacles prior to reburial at Pentridge. These remains were removed from the coffins during the archaeological investigations and sent to the VIFM for analysis.

Only two of three burial pits corresponding to the 1929 relocations were identified with 17 individual coffins removed. The analysis of the bone and the exact number of individuals contained within these coffins is currently being undertaken by the VIFM as it is not known if there was co-mingling of remains. All of the coffin contents were sent to the VIFM for analysis.

In addition to the burial ground excavations, additional archaeological features were identified relating to the occupation of the prison and several rubbish pits, drains, a previously unknown wall and fence lines were recorded. One of the pits contained a great variety of artefactual material including; smoking pipes, various ceramic, numbered bone handled cutlery, metal plates, pannikin vessels, copious quantities of leather shoes and

leather off-cuts, shovels, spades, hammers, match boxes and bottles. This important assemblage will provide a unique insight into commodities within the prison complex used by prisoners, potentially staff or contracted workers. Initial inspection places a date range around 1840-1880 and analysis will be undertaken this year.

Catherine Tucker

WESTERN AUSTRALIA NEWS

Compiled by Shane Burke

PEEL TOWN EXCAVATIONS

Western Australia's Minister for Heritage, the Honourable Michelle Roberts MLA, her advisors, and members of the Department of Environment and Conservation, National Trust and the Heritage Council of Western Australia, toured the area of the Peel town archaeological excavations on Saturday 17 May. The visit corresponded with the gazetting of a Conservation Order over the 40.5 hectare area containing archaeological remains from the camp of about 500 people associated with Western Australia's first six-months of European settlement in 1829 – 1830. The Minister's speech emphasised the site's significance for giving a better understanding of Western Australia's early colonial period: 'While our history can be read in the pages of a textbook, it's not often that we get the opportunity to touch evidence of our past and see firsthand how settlers lived in those difficult times', she said. The Conservation Order provides protection over the area, and allows research to proceed for a minimum of five-years.



The Honourable Michelle Roberts MLA, Minister for Heritage (centre background), examines the on-going work at Peel town while excavations continue on exposing Site 3 in the foreground (photograph courtesy of Simon Meath)

Shane Burke

QUEENSLAND NEWS

Compiled by Karen Murphy

HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE QUEENSLAND HERITAGE ACT 1992

As foreshadowed in a previous issue of the ASHA Newsletter, amendments to the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* commenced on 28 March 2008. The amendments represent fundamental changes to the Act, and in particular include several important provisions relating to the identification and protection of historical archaeological places in Queensland.

The most significant amendment is the inclusion of a new 'Archaeological Place' category in the Queensland Heritage Register. An archaeological place cannot already be entered in the Queensland Heritage Register as a State heritage place, and must have the "potential to contain an archaeological artefact that is an important source of information about Queensland's history" (s. 60).

The previous permitting system has been replaced by regulation of development through the Integrated Development Assessment System under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997*. It includes a requirement for an archaeological investigation to be carried out if development is likely to destroy the archaeological values of a place.

There are also discovery provisions, whereby a person is required to report accidental finds of archaeological artefacts, and the penalties for interfering with them have been substantially increased. In exceptional cases, the State may declare ownership of an archaeological artefact that is important to Queensland, and affected persons may seek compensation.

The protection of historic shipwrecks in Queensland waters has also been aligned with the Commonwealth shipwrecks provisions.

The amended *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* can be downloaded from the 'Acts in Force' section of the Queensland Office of Parliamentary Counsel website at: <http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/OQPChome.htm>

In order to assist with the identification of Archaeological Places for entry in the Queensland Heritage Register, a State wide survey commenced in 2007. The overall methodology for the conduct of the survey has been completed, involving GIS modelling, and initial reconnaissances have been completed for several shires. Additional research is to be undertaken on those places identified as possible 'archaeological places' during these reconnaissances once assessment mechanisms and guidelines have been completed.

Natalie Franklin and Cameron Harvey

NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK 2008 EVENTS

Another successful week of events was held in Queensland this year for National Archaeology Week. Historical archaeological events included guided walking tours of the 19th century timber milling settlement site at Mill Point on Lake Cootharaba, and the historic town of Landsborough, both on the Sunshine Coast. The Mill Point walk attracted 12 keen walkers (on a very windy and cold day for Queensland). The Landsborough walk meanwhile attracted 35 adults, one child and two dogs, even though it clashed with a Land for Wildlife event. There was loud applause at the end in thanks and the generous publican provided everyone with a lunchtime snack as his way of supporting the event.

The search for the remains of the first European settlement in Queensland was one of the big events of the week with Dr Jon Prangnell, in conjunction with the Moreton Regional Council, undertaking a ground penetrating radar and magnetometry survey in Redcliffe, just north of Brisbane. Convicts were first brought to the area in 1824, settling at Redcliffe on the shores of Moreton Bay, before later relocating the penal settlement to the site of the present-day Brisbane CBD. The survey aimed to test the locations documented in Steele's map of the settlement from the 1970s and identify any remains of the structures associated with the settlement. Although we are still awaiting the final report from the technicians, it appears that the footings of the prisoner's barracks, the brick kiln and the floor of the commandant's house have been located. The event generated a high level of media and local interest with ABC Radio and Channel Nine News covering the story. Visits were made by the Premier's Parliamentary Secretary, the Mayor of Moreton Regional Council, and the State Member for Redcliffe. A constant stream of members of the public were excited to get a real-life experience of a 'Time-Team-style' geo-physics survey in action!

University of Queensland and the Friends of the Toowong Cemetery continued with their fourth year of excavations to recover and record destroyed headstones from an old creek line within the Toowong Cemetery in Brisbane. Over three days, a team of archaeologists and students from UQ led over 50 primary school children from two different schools through a number of activities including excavating, recording and understanding information from headstones, and learning about the history of the cemetery. On the third day of the event, excavations were opened up to the public with more than 70 visitors including children and adults keen to get their hands dirty. This year we recovered five clearly identifiable headstones which the Friends of Toowong Cemetery will now research. The event also generated some media attention with a story in the Brisbane Times, and surprisingly Sydney's Sun-Herald (apologies to the NSW NAW organisers!)

The successful week ended with a well-earned trip to the cinema to see *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skulls* with 96 archaeologists, archaeology students, friends and family attending the Saturday night session.

Karen Murphy, Steve Chaddock, Jon Prangnell, Linda Terry and Tam Smith

NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWS

Compiled by Colin De La Rue

Nothing from the NT at this time.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWS

No news at all from the Festival State....

TASMANIA NEWS

No news from the Apple Isle either....

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES

ASHA/AIMA/AAMH CONFERENCE, ADELAIDE 2008.

Join us this year in Adelaide, South Australia, for the **AIMA/ASHA/AAMH annual archaeology conference, 24-28 September 2008**. We borrowed this year's conference theme from the 1960s movement "History from Below." That movement saw historians shift their focus from topics such as great men, big wars and political elites to subjects that previously had been neglected like women, children, urban and rural poor, immigrants and ethnic minorities. "History from Below" was also about engaging public interest in local histories and encouraging the public to take control of their own personal and community histories.

We are currently accepting proposals for sessions for the 2008 "Archaeology from Below" conference. "Archaeology from Below" brings to light our professional efforts in involving and working with the public to understand their own archaeology and history. Sessions are invited to address the relationship between archaeology and the public. Topics may include: how we define the "public"; the means by which we have involved and engaged individuals and communities in our research; how we may have become involved in their research; how effective our efforts have been in working with the public; and what impacts working with the public have on our profession and heritage.

VENUE

Flinders University, Adelaide, South Australia

DRAFT PROGRAMME

- Wednesday 24 September 2008 = MacLaren Vale Historic Site & Winery Tour (8:30 - 17:30pm) & Reception at the Pacific Gallery, SA Museum with registration desk at the Institute Building, North Terrace (19:00 – 21:00 ?)
- Thursday 25 September 2008 = Conference Sessions Day 1 (9:00 – 17:00) & ASHA AGM (17:30- 18:30) / AIMA AGM (18:30 – 19:30)

- Friday 26 September 2008 = Conference Sessions Day 2 (9:00 – 15:00) & Port River Cruise (17:00 – 19:00) / Reception at SA Maritime Museum (19:00 – 21:00)
- Saturday 27 September 2007 = Conference Sessions Day 3 (9:00 – 17:00) & Conference Dinner at the National Wine Centre, North Terrace (19:00)

SESSIONS PROPOSED

Publications from Beyond the Bureaucracy

Session Chair: David Nutley

A great deal of good quality research arises from the initiative and interests of individuals working out side of key government underwater cultural heritage management agencies. Many of these are researchers with no government affiliation - volunteers, historians and descendants of seafarers. Others are researchers within affiliated government agencies, such as transport and Navy but whose contributions to the understanding of underwater cultural heritage are equally invaluable.

This session will focus on and celebrate the achievements of this important group of researchers and writers.

Voices from Below

Session Chair: Susan Piddock

Reflecting the conference theme of archaeology from below, this session brings together papers about the unvoiced. The unvoiced are people who are written about by others but left no detailed written record themselves, and those considered to be on the margins of society. These include those who were institutionalised such as insane, the destitute and prisoners, along with groups such as convicts, women, and the urban and rural poor. This session's papers will look at how we can recreate their lives through archaeology and history, and can also address the question of how we engage local communities in their own histories where these groups or institutions were present.

Public, Professionals and Preservation: Conservation Of Cultural Heritage

Session Chair: Vicki Richards

The aim of this session is to broaden discussions on the interactions of professionals and the public with respect to in-situ stabilisation and management of terrestrial and underwater cultural heritage sites and their associated archaeological finds. Papers discussing this basic theme including the ideology of on-site preservation and conservation, legislative requirements and present directions of in-situ preservation, assessment of site and artefact deterioration, principles for development and implementation of mitigation and conservation strategies, long-term effects of past stabilisation and conservation techniques, in-situ monitoring of sites to determine the effectiveness of management and conservation strategies, etc are encouraged.

Maritime museums and maritime archaeology - engaging the public together

Session Chairs: Peta Knott and Kevin Jones

Maritime Museums and maritime archaeology both focus upon preserving the past through historical maritime artefacts. Both need an educated and interested public to support their ongoing function. Museums are often familiar with engaging the public but often do not have the contextual information behind the objects in their collection to educate the public as to their significance. Archaeologists are often the reverse – they have the contextual information but do not have established means or experience of presenting that information to broad sections of the public.

With the common goals of maritime museums and maritime archaeologists, their common subject matter and their complementary skill sets it would seem advantageous to both to work together to achieve these goals. As these two groups are renowned for not working collaboratively, this session is a forum to discuss partnerships between maritime museums and maritime archaeologists. The broad issues of the benefits and drawbacks of this type of partnership as well as specific issues such as standards of conservation, storage and contextual artefact information; historical versus archaeological interpretation and communication between curators and archaeologists are all suggested topics of discussion.

Together, maritime museums and maritime archaeologists can cooperate to present the public far more effectively with engaging objects and stories from the past. The choice before both groups is whether they choose to pursue this goal.

Taking the pith out of Archaeology

Session Chairs: Jody Steele & Tim Owen

Far from a new concept, Public Archaeology has been actively practiced by archaeologists around the world for over thirty years. In recent years however, it has become a very hot topic. Archaeologists now regularly share tales of projects with successful public components, discuss how the popular media misrepresents the discipline and how the press always go with the cheesy headline instead of the story title suggested in the media release. With this in mind, is it perhaps time that we as professionals and practitioners stopped merely sharing our success stories and complaining about how misunderstood we are, and start being a little creative about how else we can be published about archaeology.

This session invites presenters to discuss new and innovative ways that archaeology can be disseminated to a greater audience. The Chairs invite you to share your insight into what the general public expect from archaeology as a discipline and from archaeological professionals.

Student Session

Session Chairs: Darren Kipping and Jun Kiumra.

Engaging with the public has always been one of the main aims of archaeology; as archaeologists inform the public about past human behaviours and relationships. This interaction is vital to the success and development of archaeology as a discipline. Many students understand this link and are now relating their work not only in an archaeological context but in a public context as well. Students develop new ideas of how to get the public to understand their heritage and their role in it. A student oriented session at this conference is designed for two themes. Firstly, the session will focus on ongoing research

in the archaeological and heritage management's contexts by individuals. This session will also be an opportunity for students to present and discuss how archaeological findings help engage with the public.

Poster Session: Data interpretation for the public's benefit.

Session Chairs: Jennifer Rodrigues and Jun Kimura

Visualized archaeological information potentially contributes to breaking down of barriers separating the public from scholars' interpretation. Returning a part of scholars' research results to the public has been issue for a long time. The poster session aims to review one of the fundamental purposes of creating posters which encourages discussion on the usefulness of citing archaeological data to members of the public in the form of visual information. The poster session includes three categories: students, avocationalists and professionals, in order to promote dialogues between people having different backgrounds. It is an opportunity for participants to consider presenting a poster as a means of communicating to the public through presenting current or recently completed research and field projects.

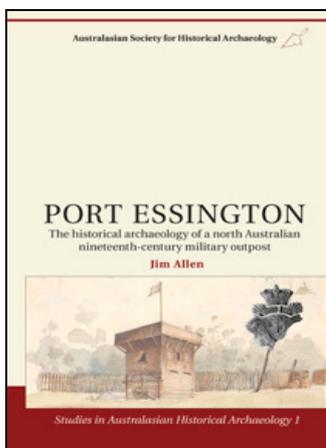
You may submit your session proposals and papers by 31st July on the conference website: <http://ehlt.flinders.edu.au/conferences/archaeology/index.html>

Registration is now open

ASHA MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

ASHA membership renewals are currently due for the 08-09 financial year, and by now you should have received your renewal form in the mailbox. If you haven't, you can download one from the website at: www.asha.org.au .

NEW ASHA PUBLICATION



Port Essington: The historical archaeology of a north Australian nineteenth-century military outpost

Studies in Australasian Historical Archaeology #1

Jim Allen

Sydney University Press - ISBN: 9781920898878

In 1966 Jim Allen undertook the first professional archaeological excavation of a European site in Australia, investigating the 1840s military settlement of Victoria, established at Port Essington, the northernmost part of the Northern Territory. Allen's study (submitted as a PhD to the ANU in 1969) explored the history and archaeology of the short-lived settlement, tackling for the first time many of the themes which continue to underlie historical archaeological research - isolation, the responses of poorly equipped and inexperienced colonists, material culture and trade networks, the impact of inept government bureaucracies, disease and health, and relations with the Indigenous population. Allen's main theoretical thrust concerned the problems of integrating written and archaeological data, which remains a central issue in the discipline of historical archaeology in Australasia.

Recognised for 40 years as a pivotal study in Australian historical and contact archaeology, ASHA's publication of *Port Essington* makes this important and still highly relevant work widely available for the first time. The volume is published complete with the original data tables and graphs and is lavishly illustrated, with a retrospective by Jim Allen (now Emeritus Professor in the School of Historical & European Studies in La Trobe University). *Port Essington* will appeal as a reference book to both students and professional archaeologists. To celebrate the release of Port Essington and to raise funds for future publications, ASHA is offering a special pre-publication price if purchased directly from the society.

*** ASHA Members - \$40 + p&p * * Non-ASHA Members - \$45 + p&p ***

Full RRP will be \$49.95 (plus p&p) via USyd Press & Amazon (with a far lower profit for the society), so support the society and the publication of Australian archaeological research by buying a volume (or two) from us!

Note - Because this is a special pre-publication print run, copies ordered now will be posted in early August 2008.

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FORTHCOMING NEWSLETTERS

The ASHA Newsletter is produced quarterly with the assistance of guest editors. The 2007–2008 guest editors are:

<i>Jun 2008 issue:</i>	Darren Griffin	email: darren.griffin@achm.com.au
<i>Sept 2008 issue:</i>	Anne McConnell	email: annemc@aaa.net.au
<i>Dec 2008 issue:</i>	Rick McGovern-Wilson	email: newsletter@asha.org.au

In order to facilitate a more efficient newsletter production, all contributions should be forwarded to the e-mail address of your state rep (see ASHA contacts on the previous page for address details) by the following dates:

<i>March issue:</i>	<i>15 February</i>	<i>September issue:</i>	<i>15 August</i>
<i>June issue:</i>	<i>15 May</i>	<i>December issue:</i>	<i>15 November</i>

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, Rick McGovern-Wilson, 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.

Rick McGovern-Wilson
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