ASHA 23

THE PAST IN THE PRESENT FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

TUESDAY 19 – SATURDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2023

Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre (MECC)
258 Alfred St, Mackay QLD 4740

CONTENTS

WELCOME

Welcome to the Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology (ASHA) 2023 Conference, proudly hosted on the Traditional Lands of the Yuwibara People in Mackay. Mackay was once the sugar capital of Australia and the broader region acts as a gateway to the Whitsundays.

The region is culturally rich and represented by many diverse communities. In particular, co-created research projects partnering with local Australian South Sea Island communities has highlighted diverse histories in the area.

The region is also famed for the amazing biodiversity encompassing the Great Barrier Reef through to the spectacular rainforests. We thank the local community for welcoming the archaeological community to Mackay for this important conference and trust that conference delegates will enjoy this opportunity to share their research and enjoy the Tropics.

Adele, Geraldine, James and Nick

ASHA 2023 CONFERENCE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

CONFERENCE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Conference Committee:
Adele Zubrzycka
Geraldine Mate
James Flexner
Nicholas Hadnutt

Conference Treasurer:
Helen Nicholson

Website Manager:
Nicholas Pitt

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

Our Conference takes place in the coastal city of Mackay, Queensland, home of the Yuwibara People. The Conference Organisers acknowledge them as the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are meeting. We would like to express our appreciation to the representatives of this community for their participation and their welcome at the opening of the conference.

The Conference Organisers also express their gratitude to the Australian South Sea Islander community who descend from the thousands of men and women brought to Australia in the nineteenth century to develop its burgeoning sugar industry. We would like to acknowledge the involvement of the community in multiple components of the conference and the research that will be presented in it.

SPONSORS

This conference would not be possible without the generous support from the Mackay Regional Council and their Invest Mackay Events Attraction Program grant.

Sponsorship monies are also distributed to fund students who present papers, attendance by community representatives, entertainment and Photography Competition prizes.

The conference organising committee acknowledges with gratitude the following companies and organisations that have provided sponsorship for this conference.

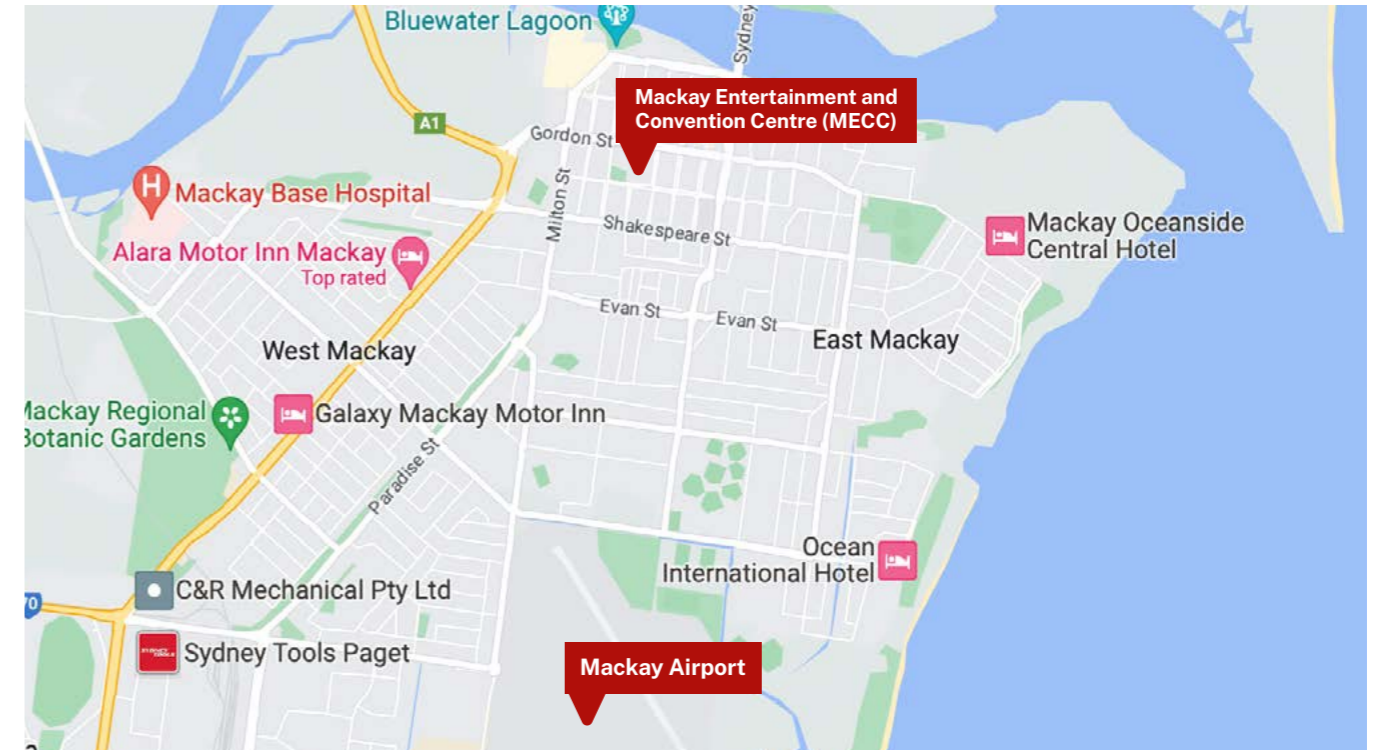STONEWARE:

EARTHENWARE:

BEST CONFERENCE PAPER

BEST STUDENT PAPER

BEST POSTER

Anonymous

TRAVEL INFORMATION FOR MACKAY

GETTING TO MACKAY

By Air

Mackay Airport is a major Australian regional airport, located in South Mackay, Queensland, Australia and serviced by most major Australian airlines including Qantas subsidiaries QantasLink and Jetstar and Virgin Australia. The Mackay Airport is approximately 8 min from the CBD and covers a distance of around 3 km.

By Train

Queensland Rail operates a train journey 5 times per week from Brisbane to the Mackay Station and Travel Centre on Connors Rd, South Mackay. The station is 10 mins from the CBD and covers a distance of around 4 km.

By Bus

Greyhound operates a bus service between Brisbane and Mackay, leaving Brisbane twice per day. This service drops travellers into the Mackay CBD.

Airport Transfers

Translink are currently trialing a public bus service between Mackay Airport and the CBD. The Translink 303 service operates from the city to the airport on a regular basis, visiting the airport eleven times a day, Monday to Friday, and four times on a Saturday. The Mackay Airport Taxi Rank is located outside of the Terminal, simply follow the signage inside the terminal. Metered fares apply.

GETTING AROUND MACKAY

Taxis

Mackay Whitsunday Taxis operate a service throughout Mackay and surrounds. Contact them on 13CABS (132227) or 131008. Metered fares apply.

Rideshare

Ride-Share operators Uber, Ola and Shebah, provide transport to/from Mackay Airport. Bookings can be made via ride-share apps. Drop-off location: Adjacent to Check-in Pick-up location: Bus Bay Area (baggage claim/arrivals end).

Public Transport – Bus
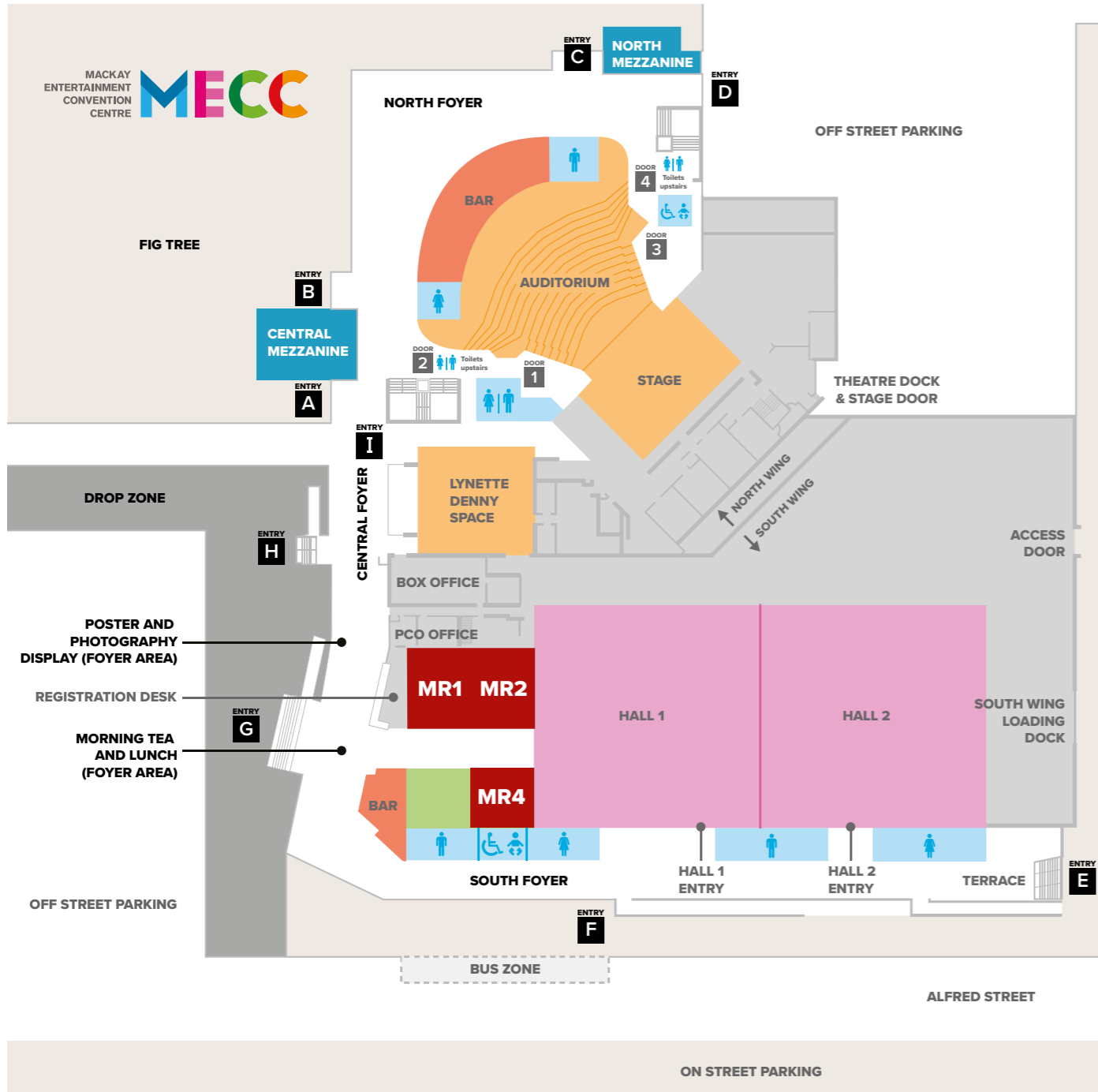
Mackay Transit Coaches, together with TransLink, provide quality public transport to the majority of Mackay. Visit the Translink website (www.translink.com.au) for current timetable information.

Mackay Visitor Information

Visit the Mackay/Isaac region visitor information website for up-to-date information: https://www.mackayisaac.com/travel-information/visitor-information-services

MACKAY ENTERTAINMENT CONVENTION CENTRE
MECC

FIG TREE

NORTH FOYER

ENTRY C — NORTH MEZZANINE
ENTRY D

BAR

AUDITORIUM

OFF STREET PARKING

DOOR 4 — Toilets upstairs
DOOR 3

CENTRAL MEZZANINE

DOOR 2 — Toilets upstairs
DOOR 1

STAGE

ENTRY B
ENTRY A

THEATRE DOCK & STAGE DOOR

ENTRY I

CENTRAL FOYER

LYNETTE DENNY SPACE

NORTH WING
SOUTH WING

ACCESS DOOR

DROP ZONE

ENTRY H

BOX OFFICE

POSTER AND PHOTOGRAPHY DISPLAY (FOYER AREA)

PCO OFFICE

REGISTRATION DESK

MR1   MR2

HALL 1   HALL 2

SOUTH WING LOADING DOCK

ENTRY G

MORNING TEA AND LUNCH (FOYER AREA)

BAR   MR4

OFF STREET PARKING

SOUTH FOYER

HALL 1 ENTRY   HALL 2 ENTRY   TERRACE

ENTRY E
ENTRY F

BUS ZONE

ALFRED STREET

ON STREET PARKING

Legend
- RESTROOMS
- PUBLIC SPACE
- STAFF ONLY
- BUS ZONE
- DROP ZONE
- ASHA23

Note:
All entrances to the MECC are wheelchair accessible
Car park entry via Macalister Street

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Venue Details

The conference will be held at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre (MECC), located at 258 Alfred St, Mackay. The MECC is centrally located in the Mackay CBD (10 minute drive from the airport) and just one to three blocks from major 4.5 star accommodation facilities, shopping centres and restaurants.

Mackay also boasts amazing natural heritage and conference delegates can enjoy a pre-or post-day trip to Broken River in Eungella National Park – Australia's most reliable place to spot a platypus in the wild. The sparkling waters and islands afford opportunities to explore the hidden wonders that lay off the coast of Mackay.

The Welcome event (Tuesday the 19th September) will be held at Mackay Artspace, adjacent to the MECC. The conference dinner will be held on Friday the 22nd September at The Church on Palmer restaurant.

We are also providing a day trip at the conclusion of the conference, providing delegates with an opportunity to meet with locals who will guide the group to visit key historic sites.

Registration Desk Opening Times

Tuesday 19th September 5.30 - 7.00pm
(Temporary desk at the Welcome Event)

Wednesday 20th September: 8:30am - 5:00pm
(MECC foyer)

Thursday 21st September: 8:30am - 5:00pm
(MECC foyer)

Friday 22nd September: 8:30am - 5:00pm
(MECC foyer)

Conference Opening

The first session of the conference will commence at 9:00am on Wednesday 27th September at the MECC. The registration desk will be open from 8:30am.

Arrival tea and coffee will be served from 8.30am.

Conference Closing

The conference will finish with the Conference Dinner on Friday the 22nd September at 7:00pm.

Refreshments

Morning tea and lunches are included in the conference registration fee. Tea and coffee will be served on arrival each morning from 8.30am. All catering is served on the MECC foyer.

Special Diets

If you have indicated a special dietary requirement on your registration form, please identify yourself to the registration desk and they will be pleased to assist.

Name Badges

All delegates will be provided with a name badge, which must be worn at all times within the conference venue, particularly at catering breaks.

Conference Bags

All delegates will receive a conference bag upon registration. Your bag will include materials submitted by sponsors and conference programmes (if requested).

Book Sales

ASHA publications and publications of general interest to historical archaeologists will be on sale during breaks. A book sales table will be located in the foyer of the venue.

Internet Access

Free Wi-Fi is available in the MECC. Our dedicated conference network is ASHA#2023 and the password is art3fact.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRESENTERS

Instructions for Session Chairs

You will be provided with 5-minute and 1-minute timecards for use during each presentation.

To ensure the program runs to schedule, please adhere strictly to the program as provided.

As a courtesy to presenters and other delegates, please ensure that all mobile phones are turned off or in silent mode during your session.

Instructions for Presenters

Please be in your session room 10 minutes early to assist all sessions to run on time. Your chair will brief you about the format of your session before the commencement of presentations.

If using a PowerPoint presentation, please bring your file on a USB stick to the room of your presentation during the break before your session, or 20 minutes before the start of the day's proceedings. A volunteer will assist with uploading your presentation.

Instructions for Poster Presenters

Posters will be displayed in the MECC foyer. Posters should be a maximum of ISO A0 size and printed on high quality paper.

Please hand-deliver your poster to the Registration Desk upon arrival on Wednesday 20th and Thursday the 21st September.

Poster presenters are expected to be present during the Poster Session on Friday the 22nd September during lunch.

Posters are to be dismantled on Friday 22nd September by 4:15pm. Dismantling of posters is the responsibility of the author and no responsibility can be accepted by the organisers for the collection or safekeeping of posters. Posters not collected by 10.00am on Saturday the 23rd September will be discarded.

PHOTO COMPETITION

This year we are presenting a Photo Session in conjunction with the poster session. Photographs will be on display throughout the conference, on poster boards in the Lobby, and are submitted in the following categories:

• Archaeological site/landscape

• Archaeological fieldwork or laboratory work

• Archaeological artefact images

• Manipulated or artistic images

• Fun fotos

A prize for the best photograph will be presented at the Conference Dinner on Friday 22nd of September.

SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDE

For Presenters

Individuals may wish to record or photograph your presentation and/or slides on personal devices. If you have sensitive material in your presentation that you do not want recorded or you simply do not wish to be recorded or photographed, please make an announcement at the beginning of your presentation 'Please do not record or photograph this presentation'.

For Delegates

If you are planning to record or photograph presentations and/or slides, please be respectful if a presenter requests that you do not do so. Any recordings or photographs should be for your personal use only and not for uploading to any social media or online platform without the presenter's express permission, which you must request personally.

Facebook

ASHA is active on Facebook and will be posting updates, reminders and photos throughout the conference. The link is:

https://www.facebook.com/
AustralasianSocietyforHistoricalArchaeology

"X" (formerly known as Twitter), Threads and Instagram

The official conference hashtag is #ASHA2023. If you want to tweet or post about the conference on X, Threads or Instagram, please use this hashtag so that others interested in the conference can find your tweets and posts.

We encourage live-tweeting and posting during the conference using the official hashtag, with the following caveats and suggestions for best practice:

Respect the wishes of presenters if they do not want their paper to be tweeted. Presenters – please make it clear if this is your wish. Remember that many people present unpublished work at conferences, and you should use your best judgement when putting other people's work into the public sphere.

Correctly attributing information is vital. If tweeting, be sure to give the name of the presenter and be clear when you are directly quoting someone. Presenters, if you are on X and are happy for people to tweet about your paper, put your Twitter handle on your opening slide so the audience can accurately cite you online.

Do your best not to misrepresent other people's views (even if you disagree with them) and post corrections if you slip up or someone misunderstands your tweet.

Do not post photos of people, photo competition entries or posters without the permission of the individual or author.

Remember that X, Threads and Instagram are public forums, so think twice when posting comments about the more social aspects of the conference; the general rule is to be collegial and respectful. Finally, enjoy it. Live-tweeting and posting can be a great way to increase engagement and widen participation at a conference.

Help us acknowledge the wonderful locality of Mackay and the Generous Sponsorship of Mackay Regional Council by using Hashtags in your Social Media:

Mackay Regional Council

FACEBOOK:

www.facebook.com/mackayregionalcouncil
@mackayregionalcouncil
#MackayPride
#discovermackay

INSTAGRAM:

www.instagram.com mackaycouncil/?hl=en
@mackaycouncil
#MackayPride
#discovermackay

Mackay Isaac Tourism

FACEBOOK:

www.facebook.com/visitmackayisaac
@visitmackayisaac
#visitmackay
#ourisaac
#thisisqueensland
@visitmackayisaacregion

INSTAGRAM:

www.instagram.com/visitmackayisaac
@visitmackayisaac
#visitmackay
#ourisaac
#thisisqueensland

CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Career Advice Conversation

ASHA is offering a Career Advice Conversation at this year's conference. The Career Advice Conversation is a free activity for current students and recent graduates. It will be held at lunchtime on Wednesday 20th September. Grab your lunch and come and have a chat with career archaeologists in academia, the public service and in private industry. The session aims to give students an opportunity to sit down informally with leaders in their field, and the sharing of experience, wisdom, networks, knowledge and know-how. Topics which could be discussed include career paths, employment and grant applications and research project development – issues not normally covered in university lectures but relevant to the real world.

Why does archaeology matter?

Workshop Convenor: Kate Clark
**Date and Time: Session 1, Thursday 21 September, 9:00am**

There is a growing body of international evidence for the benefits of archaeology to wellbeing – from the mental health benefits for veterans of taking part in fieldwork or for older people of engaging with objects in care settings. And there is now evidence for the economic benefits of the archaeology sector as a whole.

But what do we know for Australia? This workshop is an open invitation to ASHA members to share their knowledge and experience of the wider benefits that archaeology can bring to communities, to places, to the environment and to the economy.

It will go beyond significance to ask questions about the wider social, economic, environmental and creative values of storytelling through places and objects (aka archaeology). We will also explore some of the barriers to realising those wider values. The findings will contribute to a wider AICOMOS/ University of Canberra study that is looking at ways to embed cultural heritage into wider public policy in Australia.

Convenor biography: Kate Clark is an industrial archaeologist with over four decades experience in heritage and museums in Australia, Wales and England. She has a special interest in the public value of cultural heritage and in its contribution to wellbeing. She is currently undertaking an AICOMOS/University of Canberra study on embedding cultural heritage into wider public policy in Australia and is an adjunct at Western Sydney University. She also sits on the ACT Heritage Council.

kate.clark@canberra.edu.au
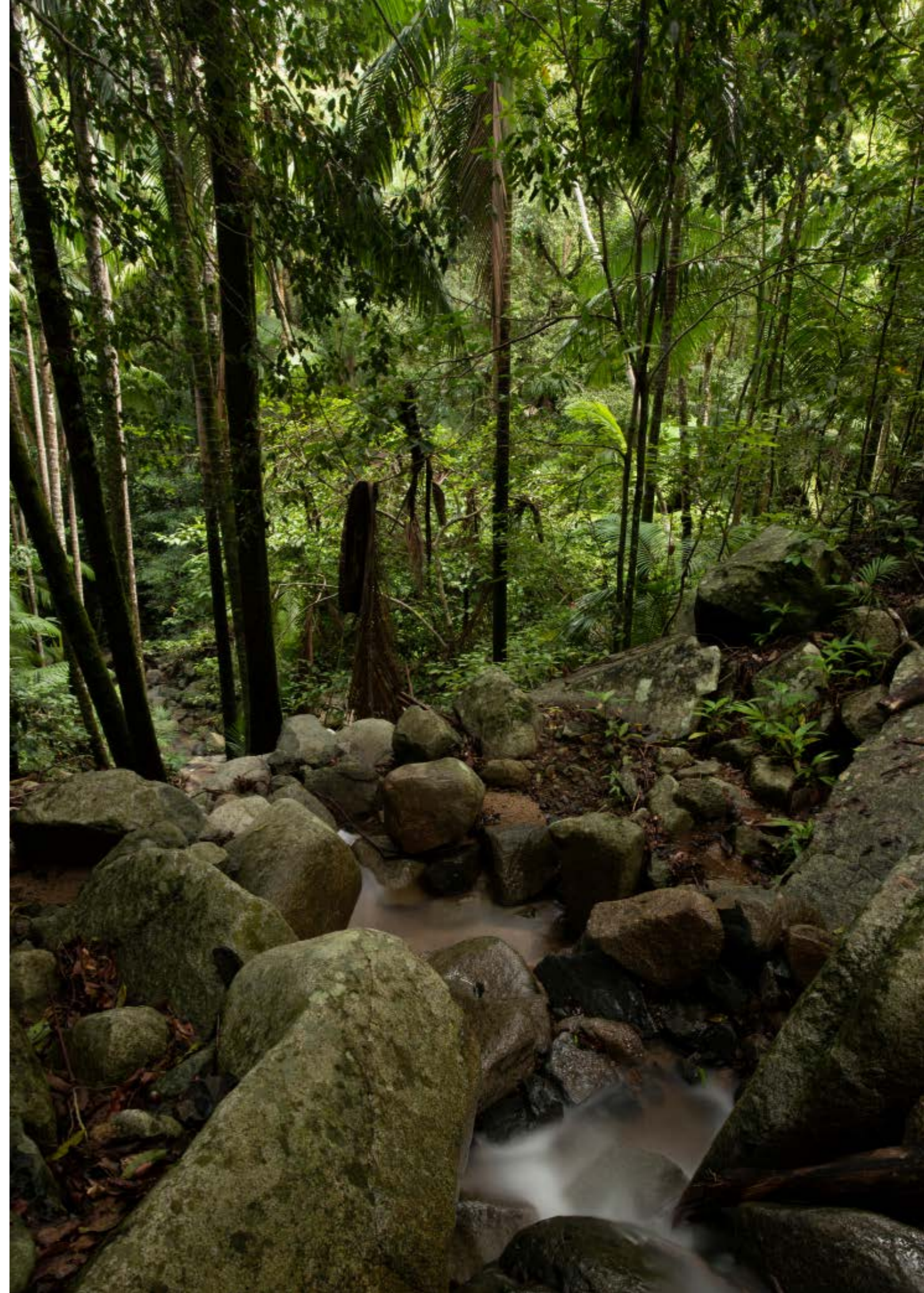
MEETINGS

ASHA Annual General Meeting

The ASHA Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 21st September from 5:30pm to 7pm at the MECC.

All members are requested to attend.

Australian National Committee for Archaeology Teaching and Learning (ANCATL) Meeting

There will be a meeting with the Australian National Committee for Archaeology Teaching and Learning (ANCATL) to update interested parties. The meeting will discuss upcoming activities, potential contributions of archaeology to changing curriculum, the next iteration of the skills passport, and opportunities to contribute to ANCATL for those interested. The meeting will be held on Thursday 21 September at 12:30pm-1:30pm at the MECC. Collect your lunch from the foyer and bring it along.

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

Welcome Reception

The Welcome Reception will be held at Mackay Artspace on Tuesday the 19th September from 5.30-7:00pm. Canapés and beverages will be served. A great opportunity to catch up with old and new acquaintants. The Welcome Reception is included in your registration fee.

Conference Dinner

The Conference Dinner will be held at the Church on Palmer restaurant from 7:00-10:00pm on Friday 22nd of September. The dinner will consist of a 3-course meal and will feature a cash bar. There will be complimentary drinks to begin the evening and we will conclude with an awards ceremony for best paper and poster prizes.

Mackay CBD Art Deco Walking Tour

On Wednesday afternoon, enjoy a guided walk around the classic Art Deco buildings that reside in one city block at the heart of Mackay. Led by local historian Nicholas McDougall, the walk explores Mackay's rich art deco heritage, and discusses the people and business that shaped the Sugar City in the early 20th century. Departing from the front of The Australian Hotel (cnr Victoria & Wood St) Mackay at approximately 5:30pm. Fee for the tour is $15 and should be booked directly with the provider via the website: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/mackay-art-deco-walking-tour-private-tickets-714370179437?aff=oddtdtcreator

The walk is available to all delegates and their families. It is a 90 minute tour and it is recommended that you bring a hat, water bottle and wear comfortable walking shoes.

POST CONFERENCE TOURS

All tours take place on Saturday 23rd September and must be pre-booked. Guests, including children, are welcome to attend.

Historical Archaeology Day Tour

The conference field trip will take in cultural heritage sites relevant to Australian South Sea Islanders and the development of the sugar industry. We will start in the morning at the Leichhardt Tree where visiting ships used to dock in the Pioneer River, followed by a tour of previously unmarked kanaka burials in the so-called "pagan" area of the Mackay Cemetery. From there we will proceed to Homebush, visiting the old South Sea Islander Meeting Hall and ruins of the Old Homebush Sugar Mill. After a break for lunch, the tour will then continue to the Hut, an Australian South Sea Islander meeting place and Mirani Museum, which holds a collection of South Sea Islander artefacts before returning to Mackay in the evening.

Wildcat Mackay Day Tour

Ever wanted to experience the amazing islands off the coast of Mackay? Wildcat Mackay is a fully inclusive day tour to one of the 5 amazing untouched islands of the South Cumberland Islands (Keswick, St Bee's, Scawfell, Cockermouth or Brampton Islands). Travel with the experienced crew and visit the beautiful bays, snorkel the stunning coral gardens, try a stand-up paddle board or simply relax on the sundeck with a drink and soak it all in.

Wildcat Sunset Cruise

Watch the sunset over the Mackay coastline while you enjoy a glass of champagne, some tasty nibbles and chilled-out tunes with our first class crew. Each sunset is unique and the vast array of stunning natural colours is the ideal backdrop for your evening onboard Wildcat. Whether you are looking for a romantic afternoon for two, or just want to spend some quality time with friends, family or group events like a hens party/ Christmas or birthday function, our sunset cruise is a truly spectacular way to relax and unwind. The cruise will last approximately two hours, which is the perfect time for you to cruise around the marina while taking in the stunning harbour views and night lights. The sunset cruise departs at 5:30pm and returns at 7:30pm - just in time to visit one of many of the amazing restaurants at the Mackay Marina.

Please contact the friendly staff at Mackay Tourism to book these tours via bookings@mackayregion.com

AWARDS AND PRIZES

The following awards and prizes will be presented during the Conference Dinner on Friday 22nd September:

BEST PAPER

Prize $250

Sponsor: Biosis

BEST STUDENT PAPER

Prize $250

Sponsor: Mountains Heritage

BEST POSTER

Prize $150

Sponsor: Anonymous

BEST PHOTO

Prize $25 Booktopia Voucher

Sponsor: J B Fremy, Artefact Heritage

CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

Mackay Artspace

5:30pm - 7:00pm	Conference Registration opens (Artspace)
5:30pm - 7:00pm	Welcome Function (Artspace)

WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

Mackay Entertainment & Convention Centre (MECC)

8:30am - 9:00am	Conference Registration (MECC)
	Coffee/Tea on arrival
9:00am - 10:30am	Welcome to Country
	Opening Addresses (ASHA President and Mayor of Mackay Regional Council)
	Keynote Speech
10:30am - 11:00am	Morning Tea – Served in the Foyer
11:00am - 12:30pm	Melbourne Archaeology: Future Directions (p 23)
12:30pm - 1:30pm	Lunch – served in the foyer
12:45pm - 1:30pm	Workshop: Career Advice Conversation – for students and early career archaeologists
	(bring your lunch along)
1:30pm - 3:00pm	New Materialist approaches to archaeologies of capital (Part I) (p 25)
3:00pm - 3:30pm	Afternoon break
3:30pm - 5:00pm	New Materialist approaches to archaeologies of capital (Part II) (p 25)
5:00pm	Day 1 Close
6:00pm	Walking Tour of Art Deco Mackay – Book online

THURSDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

Mackay Entertainment & Convention Centre (MECC)

8:30am - 9:00am	Coffee/Tea on arrival
9:00am - 10:30am	Workshop: Why does Archaeology matter?
	Presented by Kate Clark (p 12)
10:30am - 11:00am	Morning Tea – served in the foyer
11:00am - 12:30pm	Recent Work on Archaeological Methodology and Research (p 29)
12:30pm - 1:30pm	Lunch – served in the foyer
12:30pm - 1:00pm	Australian National Committee for Archaeological Teaching and Learning – Drop in Conversation (bring your lunch along)
1:30pm - 3:00pm	Humanising artefacts in the present: artefact studies in Australasian historical archaeology (Part I) (p 32)
3:00pm - 3:30pm	Afternoon break
3:30pm - 5:00pm	Humanising artefacts in the present: artefact studies in Australasian historical archaeology (Part II) (p 32)
	Humanising artefacts in the present: artefact studies in Australasian historical archaeology discussion panel
5:30pm - 7:00pm	**ASHA Annual General Meeting**
7:00pm	Day 2 Close

FRIDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

Mackay Entertainment & Convention Centre (MECC)

8:30am - 9:00am	Coffee/Tea on arrival
9:00am - 10:30am	Community Archaeology: Reflections on a Variety of Projects (p 33)
10:30am - 11:00am	Morning Tea – Served in the Foyer
11:00am - 12:30pm	Archaeology, collections, and Australian South Sea Islander Lived Identities: Synthesising a five-year project (Part I) (p 34)
12:30pm - 1:30pm	Lunch – served in the foyer
	Poster and Photo Session (p 21)
1:30pm - 3:00pm	Archaeology, collections, and Australian South Sea Islander Lived Identities: Synthesising a five-year project (Part II) (p 34)
3:00pm - 3:30pm	Afternoon break
3:30pm - 4:30pm	Using technology and science of the present to investigate the past (p 38)
4:30pm	Day 3 Close
7:00pm	Conference Dinner

SATURDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

Mackay environs

Start time	Bus tour pick up at 9:30am

DETAILED PROGRAM

Wednesday 20 September

Session 1: 9:00-10:30am

WELCOME

Welcome
ASHA President, Anita Yousif

Welcome to Country
Uncle Phil Kemp, Yuwi Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC

Conference Opening
Mayor Greg Williamson, Mackay Regional Council

KEYNOTE   p 22
The Past in the Present of the Bunun Country,
the Lakulaku River Basin
Jeff Cheng

Session 2: 11:00am-12:30pm

MELBOURNE ARCHAEOLOGY: p 23
FUTURE STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS
Megan Goulding

Melbourne Archaeology: Future Strategic Directions   p 23
Jeremy Smith, Megan Goulding and Karen Murphy

Photogrammetry in Melbourne: Use-cases, workflows,   p 24
implications, and future directions
Greg Hil, Meg Goulding, Geoff Hewitt and Melissa Hill

Bridging the divide: how artefact signatures can   p 24
enhance our understanding of context deposition and
its research potential
Jennifer Porter and Cornelia de Rochefort

Henry Hearne's cellar   p 25
Geoff Hewitt

Transitional Archaeology: Characterising the First Two p 25
Decades of Melbourne's Settlement
Megan Goulding

Session 3: 1:30-3:00pm

NEW MATERIALIST APPROACHES TO   p 25
ARCHAEOLOGIES OF CAPITAL (PART I)
Nicholas (Nick) Pitt

Small capitalists and the domestic urban   p 26
archaeology of 1830s and 1840s Sydney
Nicholas (Nick) Pitt

Glass and Metal of the Wenlock Goldfields: p 26
Field Seasons 2014-2016
David Tutchener

Origins of water powered flour mills in Victoria   p 27
Gary Vines

Nineteenth century sheep washing on the Darling   p 27
Downs – a regional case study in the utilisation of
pastoral land, labour and capital investment in
sheep washpool plants
David Cameron

Session 4: 3:30-5:00pm

NEW MATERIALIST APPROACHES TO   p 25
ARCHAEOLOGIES OF CAPITAL (PART II)
Nicholas (Nick) Pitt

One (Dis)Continuous Picnic: The Archaeology of   p 27
Food in Australian Historical Archaeology and
the Material Agency of Meat
Marc Cheeseman

Early nineteenth century storekeepers(?) cottage,   p 28
Queens Wharf Reserve, Parramatta
Sophie Jennings

Assembled in Time: A New Materialist   p 28
Colonial Parramatta
Caiti D'Gluyas, Abi Cryerhall and Sophie Jennings

PANEL DISCUSSION   p 28
Archaeology, capital, and the new materialism

Thursday 21 September

Session 1: 9:00-10:30am

WORKSHOP   p 12
WHY DOES ARCHAEOLOGY MATTER?
Presented by Kate Clark
Affiliation: University of Canberra

Session 2: 11:00am-12:30pm

RECENT WORK ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL   p 29
METHODOLOGY AND RESEARCH
Yongjun Qiu

Beyond significance – cultural heritage and wellbeing   p 29
Kate Clark

Shaky foundations: A snapshot of living conditions in   p 29
nineteenth century slums in Redfern, Sydney
Clare Fitzpatrick and Francesca McMaster

Old Frog's Hollow and the "Nine Holes": Unearthing   p 30
Brisbane's early Chinese Quarter
Kevin Rains

The Use of Shovel Test Pits as a Test Excavation   p 30
Methodology in Australian Historical Archaeology
Adele Zubrzycka, James Flexner and Jon Prangnell

Session 3: 1:30-3:00pm

HUMANISING ARTEFACTS IN THE PRESENT: p 30
ARTEFACT STUDIES IN AUSTRALASIAN
HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY (PART I)
Denis Gojak and Bronwyn Woff

Unearthing the multiethnic community in   p 31
Brisbane City
Yongjun Qiu

'A Chinese Den': The archaeology of intimate   p 31
exchange in Jones Lane
Ramona Lola Angelico and Angela Goh / Smith

Respectability: A look at Public verses Private   p 31
Consumption of Alcohol and the 19th-century
Temperance Movements
E. Jeanne Harris and Bronwyn Woff

The Town Hall Archaeological Site smoking pipe   p32
assemblage: establishing criteria for 'shop stock'
Felicity Buckingham and Cornelia de Rochefort

Session 4: 3:30-5:00pm

HUMANISING ARTEFACTS IN THE PRESENT: p 30
ARTEFACT STUDIES IN AUSTRALASIAN
HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY (PART II)
Denis Gojak and Bronwyn Woff

Humanising artefacts: wire strainers,   p 32
inventors, collectors and hoarders
John Pickard

Being-in-the-Roadside – Roadside Memorials as   p 32
Artefacts of Contemporary Personal Heritage
Cassie J Gordon

OPEN DISCUSSION   p 33
Reflecting on the connections between artefacts and
The Public in Historical Archaeology

DETAILED PROGRAM

Friday 22 September

The Poster & Photo Session will be held on Friday 22nd of September at the lunch break in the Foyer of the MECC. Poster presenters will be in attendance to discuss their posters.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

SESSION AND PAPER ABSTRACTS

KEYNOTE SPEECH

The Past in the Present of the Bunun Country, the Lakulaku River Basin

Speaker:
Jeff Cheng
Research Centre for Humanities and Social Sciences
(National Taiwan University)

Taiwan had long been inhabited by the Austronesian-speaking people before the arrival of colonizers. Since the 17th century, the island has been under the control or partial control of various outside powers, including the Dutch (1624-1662), Spanish (1626-1642), Ming loyalist Koxinga and his descendants (1662-1683), Qing Empire (1683-1895), Empire of Japan (1895-1945), and the Republic of China (1945 to the present). These colonizers changed the ways of living for Taiwan's indigenous people, including the Bunun residing in the Lakulaku River Basin. The Basin which is surrounded by mountains that soar above 3,000 meters in elevation, holds deep historical significance, having once been the ancestral homeland of the Bunun group, while also hosting temporary settlements of the Japanese colonizers.

Today, the region is a part of the Yushan National Park, with only a few mountaineers and tourists passing through briefly. Over the past decade, my research has focused on conducting historical archaeological studies within the Lakulaku River Basin. These studies have uncovered invaluable insights into both Japanese and Bunun cultural heritage sites, which bear immense significance for contemporary indigenous communities.

In this presentation, I aim to shed light on two key aspects of my research. Firstly, I will delve into the material aspects of life among the residents of the Japanese police outposts that once occupied the region between the 1920s and 1940s. By examining the consumption patterns, including the utilization of Japanese goods and culinary practices, I will explore how these aspects contributed to forming the residents' identities, both as colonizers and as a diasporic group within the Taiwanese mountainous landscape.

Secondly, I will introduce the archaeological investigations conducted in collaboration with the local Bunun community, focusing on exploring their abandoned settlements that emerged as a consequence of relocation plans implemented by colonial authorities under Japanese rule. These investigations have been conducted through a combination of archaeological surveys and the Bunun cultural activities, "root-seeking." This collaborative approach seeks to comprehensively understand Bunun's traditional landscape while building relationships with living indigenous Bunun people.

MELBOURNE ARCHAEOLOGY: FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Convenor:
Megan Goulding
(Ochre Imprints Pty Ltd)

2023 marks 30 years since the ground-breaking Melbourne Central Activities District Archaeological Management Plan was completed by Marie Fels, Siobhan Lavelle and Dana Mider (1993) for the then Victoria Archaeological Survey. This important piece of work led to over 800 historical archaeological sites being listed on the Victorian Heritage Inventory within Melbourne's CBD creating the statutory context within which over 200 archaeological investigations have since been undertaken.

Over the past three decades of archaeological investigation a significant body of knowledge has emerged around the post settlement occupation of Melbourne and its rapid development as a modern city. Archaeology has shone a light on the fabric of Melbourne's history and in so doing has contributed to a deeper appreciation of the history of Melbourne and its people.

In reflecting on what has been – the development of Melbourne and the remarkable insights into its history that has come from investigations into its archaeological traces – there is now an opportunity to look forward in order to contemplate what might be; where is archaeology heading in Melbourne? What opportunities and pitfalls lie ahead? What will the next 30 years of archaeological investigation look like and what might be achieved?

In this session we are seeking papers that look forward into a future archaeology of Melbourne by drawing upon what we have learned and imagining what we can achieve in terms of improved methodologies and techniques for site recording, synthesis of data, and interpretation.

Melbourne Archaeology: Future Strategic Directions

Jeremy Smith (Heritage Victoria), Megan Goulding (Ochre Imprints Pty Ltd) and Karen Murphy (Jacobs)

Riding on the findings of the Little Lon excavations in the late 1980s, the Melbourne Central Activities District Archaeological Management Plan, completed in 1993, led to over 800 historical archaeological sites being listed on the Victorian Heritage Inventory across Melbourne's CBD. The listings ensured that archaeological investigation occurs in advance of development. Since the 1990s over 200 archaeological excavations have been undertaken, uncovering an extraordinary record of the occupation and evolution of Melbourne since the mid 1830s. Archaeologists have also developed an understanding of why parts of the city contain extensive, well-preserved remains from the first few decades of Melbourne's historical settlement, buried at significant depth.

It is now timely to evaluate the vast body of data that has been collected on the archaeology of Melbourne and set strategic directions that will improve future investigations and their outcomes. In this paper we propose a variety of initiatives that capitalise on what has been achieved in the archaeological space in Melbourne to create an archaeology of the future.

SESSION AND PAPER ABSTRACTS

Photogrammetry in Melbourne: Use-cases, workflows, implications, and future directions

Greg Hil, Megan Goulding, Geoff Hewitt, and Melissa Hill (Ochre Imprints Pty Ltd)

During archaeological excavations in Melbourne's CBD, as well as excavations of sites where there is significant archaeological complexity, significant resources are required to record excavation contexts and sequences in plan form. This record of an excavation is critical both for the interpretation and decision-making that is necessary during an excavation as well as for capturing key excavation data for post-excavation interpretation and analysis.

Photogrammetry is a powerful 3D visualisation technique that has the potential to revolutionise site recording within historical archaeology. Overlapping photographs captured of archaeological sites or features can be converted into quasi-3D models that can be georeferenced in GIS. This technique can rapidly capture sequential phases of highly complex or spatially extensive sites in high definition, ensuring their preservation through record. Over the past two years Ochre Imprints has trialled photogrammetry as a site recording method for numerous historical archaeological sites across the Melbourne Metropolitan Area and Geelong. In this paper we use recent use-case examples to consider the ways photogrammetry can transform how archaeological sites and features are captured, visualised, and interpreted.

The integration of dGPS and Cloud-based connectivity into our photogrammetry workflows facilitates rapid communication of on-site discoveries to our offices. Once processed, georeferenced photogrammetry outputs can be interpreted alongside other spatial datasets, which can be shared with our field teams, clients, and stakeholders. This workflow improves the speed and quality of site recording and can inform important site management decisions such as whether works on site should stop or when they may proceed. In addition to outlining workflows, this paper explores some of the benefits, theoretical implications, limitations, and future directions of photogrammetry for archaeological site recording in Melbourne and beyond.

Bridging the divide: how artefact signatures can enhance our understanding of context deposition and its research potential

Jennifer Porter and Cornelia de Rochefort (Ochre Imprints Pty Ltd)

Historically, artefact analysis has taken place off-site and after the completion of excavation, often reported as almost an afterthought to the excavation process meaning that excavators and artefact specialists have lacked the benefit of each other's expertise in critical stages of the project.

In this paper we examine how early and ongoing collaboration between excavators, artefact specialists and historians can produce more rigorous significance ratings given to contexts in the field and beyond, which can guide excavation methodology, collection strategies, and conservation, ultimately influencing the record on which we base our site histories.

In the case study of the Melbourne Metro Town Hall Archaeological Precinct excavation, adjacent to Young & Jacksons Hotel, the tracking of ceramic patterns across the site and the identification of unique artefact signatures enabled highly ephemeral early occupation phases to be traced and the identification of one of Melbourne's earliest post settlement archaeological landscapes.

Henry Hearne's cellar

Geoff Hewitt (Ochre Imprints Pty Ltd)

The origin of this paper is the Ochre Imprints P/L Metro excavations in Swanston Street Melbourne, in particular the investigation of cellars within that part of the site known as VHI H7822-1906.

An extraordinary feat of architecture & practical building was revealed: a full-sized cellar had been constructed during 1882 within an existing two-storeyed 1853 basalt rubble warehouse built on shallow footings. The investigation also afforded the opportunity to contrast the actual physical presence of cellars with predictive modelling derived from historical sources and to reflect upon a tendency for buildings known to contain cellars to receive constrained archaeological attention.

Transitional Archaeology: Characterising the First Two Decades of Melbourne's Settlement

Megan Goulding (Ochre Imprints Pty Ltd)

Archaeological investigations conducted in Melbourne's CBD since the late 1980s have revealed tangible evidence of the complex and colourful growth of Melbourne since 1835. These excavations have shown that beneath the modern metropolis of buildings, roads, gardens and services sit extensive physical traces of Melbourne's history. This large body of archaeological investigation has produced a unique an understanding of early Melbourne and the rise of the modern city.

The first 20 years of settlement in Melbourne marked phases of enormous transition, bookended by the significant change that came with colonisation and the rapid development of a colonial township and the intense transformation heralded by the Gold Rush in the early 1850s. This paper explores this early Melbourne archaeology. What does this transformed landscape look like from an archaeological perspective and going forward, can we improve the ways in which we detect and interpret this important phase in Melbourne's history?

NEW MATERIALIST APPROACHES TO ARCHAEOLOGIES OF CAPITAL

Convenor: Nicholas (Nick) Pitt (University of New South Wales)

There's nothing new about archaeologies of capital. For decades, many have placed capitalism at the centre of historical archaeology. Yet it has remained at the fringes for most historical archaeologists working in our region, perhaps due to difficulties relating theory, ideology and global systems to actual sites and objects.

Two interrelated developments within archaeology and history over the past decade or so arguably offer ways new ways to think through archaeologies of capital. Firstly, archaeologists have contributed to a broad range of 'new materialist' and 'more-than-human' approaches coming out of the humanities and social sciences that focus on the relationships between humans and other-than-human things and thereby offer new ways to link the archaeological record to larger human stories. Secondly, historians have begun to use new materialist approaches to weave together cultural, economic, and environmental histories. A conscious focus on things and more-than-human actors is bringing gender, race, and ecology to histories of capital. This session presents papers that think through the archaeologies of capital in our region in new ways, sensitive to past and present relationships between people and things.

SESSION AND PAPER ABSTRACTS

Small capitalists and the domestic urban archaeology of 1830s and 1840s Sydney

Nicholas (Nick) Pitt
(University of New South Wales)

Domestic dwellings are some of the most common archaeological sites found in urban historical archaeology. Frequently the structures themselves are considered less interesting than the artefacts found within them. This presentation applies approaches from new histories of capitalism and new materialism to question this view. In his Hints relating to emigrants and Emigration, first published in 1833, Henry Carmichael – a Scottish immigrant schoolmaster and admirer of Jeremy Bentham – divided potential emigrants into 'capitalists' and 'labourers'. Within the category of capitalists, he further recognised the 'small capitalist' of limited resources.

Among the potential investments he recommended were 'houses of a cheap and useful description'. As historian Ben Huf recently documented, the concept of 'small capitalist' was not limited to Carmichael. Small capitalists functioned as a moral category that legitimated wealth accumulation – especially in Sydney's settler colonial context.

The importance of 'small capitalists' has significant implications for the domestic archaeology of 1830s and 1840s Sydney. Through its access to the materiality of these dwellings, archaeology reveals the other-than-human things – land, bricks, stone, and mortar – that bound landlords in relationship with their tenants, and enabled the identity of the small capitalist. Housing in colonial Sydney was about more than simply shelter, but also had moral significance. Yet considering ways that the materiality of dwellings interacted with landlord and tenant, underlines how 'small' small capitalists could be.

Glass and Metal of the Wenlock Goldfields: Field Seasons 2014-2016

David Tutchener
(Deakin University)

This study is drawn from work completed within the greater Wenlock Region of the Cape York Peninsula within Kuuku I'yu Country. This paper maps and outlines the complex historical remnants of field surveys undertaken during the dry seasons of 2014-2016 and presents a portion of the historical archaeology of the Wenlock area including the re-location of three gold mining areas, several pastoral remnants and the remains of a Native Mounted Police Camp. This paper will also introduce some key historical figures associated with this area.

The analysis of these places included a detailed field-based recording of various intact objects, particularly glass and metal. Many of these objects were diagnostic and dateable and were used to corroborate historical source material to identify specific periods of landscape use. These objects illustrate the waves of temporary economic expansion through the Wenlock in the late 19th and the early to mid-20th Century.

Origins of water powered flour mills in Victoria

Gary Vines
(La Trobe University, Biosis Pty Ltd)

360 flour mills have existed in Victoria at one time or another, 42 of these were water powered. Almost all the flour millers were British, and they nearly all established their flour mills within a few months or years of arriving in Victoria. The milling technology they introduced depended on what they already knew in Britain, as there was no existing technology, industry, or skill-set in the colony. Some employed the most up-to-date steam-powered technology that the British Industrial Revolution was able to provide. They were highly capitalised and closely integrated into a burgeoning market economy. But others used simple, water-powered, timber-geared mills that were little changed from the Middle Ages and operating within very localised subsistence communal networks.

These extremes of technological sophistication versus traditional simplicity, or consumer capitalism versus near-feudalism, continued to operate side by side from the very first mills built in the early 1840s until the last water wheel stopped turning a hundred years later. Why then, were these disparate technologies introduced to Victoria at the same time, and why did an obsolete technological, social, and economic structure survive for so long?

Nineteenth century sheep washing on the Darling Downs – a regional case study in the utilisation of pastoral land, labour and capital investment in sheep washpool plants

David Cameron
(David Cameron Consulting Pty Ltd)

Before the 1890s washing sheep prior to shearing was standard practice in colonial Australia. Sheep washing was conducted primarily for economic reasons: to reduce the weight of fleeces to reduce the cost of transport, and to improve the lustre of fleeces to attract higher prices at market. At its zenith in the 1870s, pastoralists invested significant capital in ever more complex steam powered industrial-scale sheep washing plants that could process several thousand sheep per day and employ more than fifty washers, labourers and skilled trades.

Washpool plants have almost vanished from the landscape and remain little known in the historical and archaeological record. This paper will present results of an historical and archaeological investigation of forty washpool sites on the Darling Downs in Queensland and consider how land, labour and capital interacted with new technologies and markets to shape the development and demise of sheep washpool plants by the 1890s.

One (Dis)Continuous Picnic: The Archaeology of Food in Australian Historical Archaeology and the Material Agency of Meat

Marc Cheeseman
(University of Queensland)

Despite the vast role that sheep and cattle played in the colonial project in Australia, archaeological studies of faunal remains from post-1788 Australian sites remain relatively uncommon and lack theoretical diversity. Further, limited engagement between Australian food historians and archaeologists working with historical food remains more broadly (faunal or botanical) has arguably led to a relatively narrow focus and site-based approach, with few comparative analyses and limited critical engagement with the wider cultural and environmental frameworks involved.

This presentation will review the above claims and provide a brief case study based on some recently excavated faunal remains from both Chinese and European settlement contexts at two Late 19th/Early 20th century sites in Queensland: Frog's Hollow, an urban context in Brisbane's modern CBD, and Ravenswood, a gold mining town in North Queensland. Through an exploration of food history and the material agency of certain meats in 19th century southern China, colonial Australia, and Europe, it will be argued that despite both European and Chinese settlers adapting their food practices to this 'new' environment (i.e. 'localisation'), both groups were actively seeking and consuming culturally significant foods.

SESSION AND PAPER ABSTRACTS

Early nineteenth century storekeepers(?) cottage, Queens Wharf Reserve, Parramatta

Sophie Jennings (GML Heritage)

During May-June 2020, a program of salvage excavation was completed in Queens Wharf Reserve, Parramatta, as part of the Parramatta Light Rail (PLR) project. The Queens Wharf Reserve area was an important location for the early colonial settlement of Parramatta, containing the first wharf built at Parramatta in the 1790s as well as significant government institutions including the 1808 Grain Store and 1825 Commissariat.

This talk will focus on an early nineteenth century timber cottage, unusual in its location beyond the core settlement area at Parramatta within land reserved for government use which raises questions on who lived there and for what purpose. Preliminary research suggests the occupant(s) were likely associated with the 1808 Grain Store and this talk will consider archaeological and documentary evidence of the cottage and associated material culture to start to address questions on how the storekeeper position within the commissariat system may have altered access to material goods compared to contemporary sites in Parramatta.

Assembled in Time: A New Materialist Colonial Parramatta

Caiti D'Gluyas (University of New England), Abi Cryerhall (GML Heritage) and Sophie Jennings (GML Heritage)

A table, a spade, a storage crock. These 'things' are centred in a New Materialist reading in the present of three convict dwellings from Parramatta's past. Rather than object biographies - these are not excavated artefacts and we do not follow them diachronically - the items each represent an 'assemblage of practice': entangled relations between places, people and things. A capitalist framing is also applied since the entanglement incorporates workers, consumers, commodities, transactions of production and exchange, and colonising agendas.

This paper presents some archaeological conclusions from a recently excavated 'convict hut' in Parramatta. The Club Parramatta site is unusual in that its domestic occupancy ended in 1818 when the land was resumed for the Government Domain. Within this therefore short period of European occupancy, this paper explores temporal resolution of material evidence and some spatial analytical outcomes of research associated with the site.

PANEL DISCUSSION

Archaeology, capital, and the new materialism

Is there anything new about archaeologies of capital? This panel discussion draws together the themes of this session as presenters discuss the possibilities and potential of new materialism and new histories of capitalism to archaeology in our region. We will grapple with the intersections of theory and practice, and how theory can practically improve the stories we tell.

RECENT WORK ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY AND RESEARCH

Convenor: Yongjun Qiu (The University of Queensland)

This session presents general papers that address recent initiatives in cultural heritage and archaeology, that encompass research projects and methodology, and recent archaeological work.

Beyond significance – cultural heritage and wellbeing

Kate Clark (University of Canberra)

Cultural heritage is often characterised as a brake on the economy, something that damages house prices and an unnecessary luxury. Because it is contested and complex, it seems to be put in the too hard box and often 'forgotten' in key public policies such as arts and culture policies, planning policies and economic appraisal. Yet there is a rapidly expanding body of economic, social and environmental research into the wider benefits of caring for cultural heritage, often led in Australia by Indigenous thinking in areas such as health policy, where cultural heritage is seen as a foundation for how we live better lives.

This paper will go beyond significance to explore some of the evidence for the wider social, environmental, economic and creative benefits of investing in cultural heritage, both in Australia and internationally. It will also raise some of the challenges in moving from policy for heritage to embed heritage in other policy domains, particularly in a an economically driven policy environment that sees cultural heritage as something to trade for other benefits, rather than a foundational good.

Shaky foundations: A snapshot of living conditions in nineteenth century slums in Redfern, Sydney

Clare Fitzpatrick and Francesca McMaster (Extent Heritage)

Archaeological excavations carried out at 11 Alderson Street, Redfern present a snapshot of late nineteenth century inner city slums in Sydney. The historical records portray this area as filled with poverty, violence, disease and depravity. The area was home to large Syrian, Lebanese and Indian immigrant communities who were frequently subject to racist attacks by the press, who attributed the poor state of the area to the community.

Overshadowing the complex community history of the area, is its association with John and Sarah Makin, infamous 'baby farmers' found guilty of murdering at least thirteen infants between 1890 and 1892. The Makins resided at 11 Alderson Street for less than two months, and following their arrest, the property was excavated by police with the body of one infant recovered. Although salvage excavations focused on determining if human remains associated with this period were present, excavation also revealed the building practices in this swamp-turned-slum that no doubt contributed to the area's reputation.

Our paper will demonstrate how archaeology assists in contextualising the accounts in the historical record, exposing how substandard living conditions perpetuated prejudice against stigmatised communities.

SESSION AND PAPER ABSTRACTS

Old Frog's Hollow and the "Nine Holes": Unearthing Brisbane's early Chinese Quarter

Kevin Rains
(Niche Environment and Heritage Pty Ltd)

Between 2019 and 2020, archaeological excavations were undertaken in Albert Street (Brisbane CBD) for the Brisbane Cross River Rail project. This area was once part of Brisbane's Old Frog's Hollow, a former commercial and working-class district. From the 1880s, it also developed into a Chinese quarter as Chinese migrated into Brisbane from the declining Queensland gold fields. Its presence encouraged anti-Chinese sentiment amongst some segments of the broader population, leading to police raids and sensationalised accounts of opium addiction, prostitution and unhealthy living conditions.

By the 1910s, as both State and Federal legislation discriminating against Chinese immigrants took effect, there were only a handful of businesses and families left and the buildings were progressively demolished under a slum clearance program. This paper presents some of the key findings of the archaeological program, which focussed on a terrace row of Chinese shops known as the "Nine Holes". The historical archaeological evidence peers beyond the negative early stereotypes to reveal many details about ordinary life within the Old Frog's Hollow Chinese community. This project also illustrates how archaeology can be incorporated into infrastructure developments to achieve education, sustainability and public engagement outcomes.

The Use of Shovel Test Pits as a Test Excavation Methodology in Australian Historical Archaeology

Adele Zubrzycka, Jon Prangnell (University of Queensland) and James Flexner (University of Sydney)

The advantage of shovel test pits (STPs) as a survey methodology in archaeological fieldwork has been formally recognised in North America since the 1970s. Today, it continues to be adopted as a standard methodology in most early investigation stages where surface visibility is low. While generally recognised as an efficient, informative and comparably non-invasive test excavation tool, it has not been similarly adopted in the Australian historical archaeological context. Although there are several legislative and practical explanations for this, STPs have potential to be useful in specific circumstances.

This paper presents the findings of two archaeological field seasons at the Pioneer Sugar Estate, Brandon where STPs were utilised to identify the site of a South Sea Islander dwelling. It aims to demonstrate the benefits of STPs in some historical archaeological settings, particularly those where evidence of previous occupation is largely ephemeral or difficult to define in the landscape.

HUMANISING ARTEFACTS IN THE PRESENT: ARTEFACT STUDIES IN AUSTRALASIAN HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Convenors:
Denis Gojak (Transport for NSW) and Bronwyn Woff (Heritage Victoria)

Artefacts are at the core of archaeological practice and interpretation. As objects they capture cultural behaviour in intent, use and change through time. As finds we invest in their discovery, analysis and curation. They provide a tangible two-way link between past and present, but how do we ensure that we don't lose sight of the intangible human connection that these objects can contain and inspire?

Papers in this session draw out stories of real historical individuals and how object(s) factored into their lives, show connections between contemporary people and the past through interpretation and interaction with archaeology and artefacts, and may discuss more theoretical issues such as analysis, bias and how our own preconceived ideas colour our interpretation of artefacts and the past. Authors may be inspired to tell a personal story of their own connection to an object through the archaeological process – how 'doing archaeology' connects them to the past. These papers also address the study of artefacts as objects themselves and within their archaeological context, including detailed understandings of particular artefact categories, assemblages, or specific objects.

Unearthing the multiethnic community in Brisbane City

Yongjun Qiu
(The University of Queensland)

Niche Environment and Heritage excavated two sites in Frog's Hollow, the heart of Brisbane Central Business District as part of Cross River Rail Albert Street station construction in 2020 and 2021, Nine Holes and Leichhardt European Boarding House. This research explores the expression of ethnicity at both sites through historical and archaeological evidence. A total of 3764 ceramic sherds (MVC = 464) were analysed, revealing the presence of Anglo-and Chinese-ethnicities in Frog's Hollow.

A mix of Australian-Chinese-European-made ceramics were found in the Nine Holes, indicating a degree of acculturative change in the expression of Chinese ethnicity. The boarders expressed their imagination towards the Orient through the consumption of British-made Asiatic styled earthenware. This local case study highlights a multi-ethnic community within the process of globalisation and colonisation in late-19th-and-early-20th-century urban Brisbane.

'A Chinese Den': The archaeology of intimate exchange in Jones Lane

Ramona Lola Angelico (Dr Vincent Clark Archaeology & Heritage) and Angela Goh/Smith (Latrobe University)

Nineteenth century Melbourne had a substantial, predominantly male, Chinese population. Many occupied the northeastern end of the CBD encompassing the 'Little Lon' district and Jones Lane, home to a significant number of sex workers and brothels. Although there is existing scholarship on the archaeology of sex work and brothels in the area, the archaeological signature of Chinese owned or operated brothels remains largely unresearched.

Through the analysis of artefacts with Chinese provenance excavated from Jones Lane, combined with detailed historic research, this paper presents a case study for identifying intimate forms of exchange between these marginal communities. The research also highlights the potential use of Chinese medicine in late 19th and early 20th century Melbourne, in the context of sex work and women's reproductive health. This challenges culturally hegemonic perceptions in historic assemblage interpretation that fail to identify the interconnectedness of historic communities. This, in turn, affects how we understand the social history of early urban Melbourne, and the historic influences that make it the city it is today.

Respectability: A look at Public verses Private Consumption of Alcohol and the 19th-century Temperance Movements

E. Jeanne Harris (Urban Analysts) and Bronwyn Woff (Artefrag Analysis)

The increasing social pressures of the 19th century temperance movements in Australia were influential in altering the drinking habits of colonial Australia. Interpretation of changing alcohol consumption patterns, through the analysis of beverage bottles, allows us to look beyond the historical documentation to answer alternative questions and develop alternate interpretations that do not rely on historical documents or documentary historians as final arbiters of meaningful or accurate history.

The comparative analysis of from public establishments verse private residential assemblages allows for a greater understanding of the private face of temperance and evidence of the individual's response to these reforms and comparing it to evidence that is found in the assemblages of hotels, pubs, and clubs.

SESSION AND PAPER ABSTRACTS

The Town Hall Archaeological Site smoking pipe assemblage: establishing criteria for 'shop stock'

*Felicity Buckingham
(Ochre Imprints Pty Ltd) and
Cornelia de Rochefort (Affiliation)*

The smoking pipe assemblage from Melbourne's Town Hall Archaeological Site (THAP) is exceptional in its variety and scale, comprising a minimum of 14,317 individual pipes.

This presentation discusses how attributes observed in pipes associated with wholesale grocer John Connell facilitated the formation of site specific 'criteria' for identifying 'shop stock', and how those criteria, through cooperative dialogue between the project's field archaeologists and artefact specialists, enabled the identification of a second shop stock assemblage – associated with commission agent H. J. White, who occupied the site prior to Connell.

It was found that Connell's and White's stocks were sourced from different suppliers, their pipe designs, and the companies who manufactured them being mutually exclusive. As such, this presentation also touches on themes which may be explored further in the future, such as the journey of smoking pipes from manufacturer to end-user, in mid nineteenth-century Melbourne.

Humanising artefacts: wire strainers, inventors, collectors and hoarders

*John Pickard
(Australian Fence Publishing)*

The adoption of wire in Australian fencing in 1839 created the need for wire strainers. Using patent records and advertisements it's relatively straightforward to link inventors with their strainers. But how do historical archaeologists identify the strainers they may find on derelict fences? My 2022 book "Australian Wire Strainers" is one reference, describing over 270 strainers used in Australia since the 1850s. It relies on examples in museum collections, and those accumulated by private collectors and border-line hoarders. Gaining access to these private collections required forging personal relationships where we both benefit. I get access to their collections, and I return the favour by providing information on the history etc. of their strainers.

Similar connections with inventors and manufacturers provide insights into the thinking behind their tools, and information on current technology. In this paper I describe some of these connections and the mutual benefits.

Being-in-the-Roadside – Roadside Memorials as Artefacts of Contemporary Personal Heritage

*Cassie J Gordon
(Department of Transport
and Main Roads, Queensland)*

In considering roads as socially-produced landscapes, and the road corridor as its very own landscape, roadside memorials become symbols that communicate shared and public knowledge of road safety to road users, road personnel, road managers, and road designers. Roadside memorials act as a form of "personal heritage" where the performance of grief, and admonitions of road safety failures, are both ritualised and publicised.

This presentation will take a human-centric look at the phenomenology of the roadside and roadside memorials. These symbols of grief will be examined as part of an 'affective' landscape where compassion becomes compulsory and timeless. After addressing some of the potential future research in the field of archaeological theory, the presentation will conclude by providing insight into methods of best practice for heritage professionals working in road corridors while emphasising that roadside memorials are artefacts that inherently connect people of the present to people of the past.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Reflecting on the connection between artefacts and The Public in historical archaeology

Artefacts provide a tangible link to the past, and our discipline can only benefit from drawing on this resource in engaging with the public. In this open forum discussion, we ask for attendees' input on how archaeologists and artefact specialists currently use artefacts to bring history to present-day individuals and communities.

With an emphasis on collaboration for the benefit of both the discipline and individuals, questions may include: In what ways are we currently using artefacts to encourage a connection between past and present? What are the challenges we're facing in our attempts to facilitate these connections? What can we do to overcome these challenges both individually/at a consultancy level and as a discipline? Is archaeological practise enough on its own - do other disciplines' approaches to objects, material culture and tangible heritage offer useful ways to proceed? What are some examples from your own experience that you think work particularly well in presenting archaeological objects to a wider audience? Why do they work?

We hope that from this discussion, new ways of engaging the public via artefacts are brought forward, and we can take new steps to involve the public in the past that has shaped their present.

COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY: REFLECTIONS ON A VARIETY OF PROJECTS

*Convenors:
Helen Nicholson (Kalliope Consultancy)
and Matthew Kelly (Curio Projects)*

Archaeologists now recognize the important role that community involvement and collaboration can have in their research and site work. From gathering oral history, genealogical research, deploying volunteers, and public interpretation through to ongoing stewardship of heritage sites, there are multifarious ways in which archaeologists now engage with the wider community around them. Just as varied are the rationales, motives, and results associated with this engagement. This session showcases a variety of archaeological and heritage projects which demonstrate the importance and efficacy of this engagement.

Operation Digger, Community archaeology and veteran wellbeing

Stirling Smith

The need to address the mental and physical wellbeing of military veterans has been increasingly apparent in recent years. In the UK and US this has led to the establishment of formal programs that use participation in archaeological projects as a means of achieving health and wellbeing benefits. Research has shown they have been successful. In 2019, Operation Digger was established as the first program of this type with these aims in Australia. Working with archaeologists and heritage specialists to research and record military heritage sites veterans develop new skills, contribute their own knowledge and expertise and forge social support networks. The information they gather is then passed on to site owners, government agencies and other stakeholder groups to assist with site management and interpretation.

This paper will look at a number of projects that have been undertaken by Operation Digger and will examine the positive effects on veteran's resilience and wellbeing that arise from both participating in the recording programs and experiencing archaeological and heritage places. It will also examine the mutual benefits of the program for both veterans and heritage practitioners and how it can aid future management and interpretation of heritage and archaeological sites.

SESSION AND PAPER ABSTRACTS

The Time is Now: Reviewing and Rationalising 50 years of Community Collecting

Alicia Stevenson and Lara Clarke (Mackay Regional Council)

Mackay Regional Council owns and operates four museums, acquired over a period of time through a process of devolvement and local government amalgamations. Comprising a State heritage listed homestead complex and three social history museums, the sites and collections have historically been managed by volunteers who coordinated day-to-day operations including cataloguing activities across a range of electronic and paper-based systems.

The challenges associated with volunteer resourcing, rising audience expectations and the opportunity to capitalise on the region's rich history has led Council to embark on a process of review and rationalisation of its museum collections, estimated at over 45,000 objects. The aim is to understand their value as a tourism, educational, and community resource with the results informing decisions on the future use and needs of the collections and direction for the museums overall. At the heart of the project's success is building trust and relationships with volunteers and the broader community.

Community Archaeology of Conflict and Outsiders

Matthew Kelly (Curio Projects)

How do communities undertake archaeological projects when the focus of that work is on those who may be described as intruders who disrupted the lives of that community in the past? A past that is still, just, within living memory. Where those whose lives were impacted remain to guide and influence those that are active in the archaeological project.

This paper will examine some of the tensions involved in community archaeology in these circumstances where the archaeology focuses on a past conflict, and its foreign perpetrators, but where the benefits are firmly enjoyed in the present.

ARCHAEOLOGY, COLLECTIONS, AND AUSTRALIAN SOUTH SEA ISLANDER LIVED IDENTITIES: SYNTHESISING A FIVE-YEAR PROJECT

Convenors:
Adele Zubrzycka (The University of Queensland) and James L Flexner (University of Sydney)

The Australian South Sea Islander Lives Identities project began in 2018. It was designed to bring together research into museum collections, archaeological sites, cultural landscapes and intangible heritage in partnership with Australian South Sea Islander communities in tropical Queensland. Australian South Sea Islanders are the descendants of Pacific labourers, primarily from Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands but also other places, who were imported to Queensland and northern New South Wales to establish the Australian sugarcane industry between 1863-1900.

The project used a community-oriented approach to help facilitate Australian South Sea Islanders from Ayr, Mackay, Rockhampton, and Joskeleigh to record, develop and re-evaluate their multifaceted heritage. This session will bring together perspectives from members of the Australian South Sea Islander community, academics and professionals involved in the project, and external researchers, to share their experiences working in Australian South Sea Islander research. Papers will discuss advantages, complexities and limitations of different approaches to the Australian South Sea Islander past, including findings from field archaeology, material culture, landscapes, and memories, and insights into the development of the community-oriented approach within the project.

From community-led to covid lockdowns: Navigating Australian South Sea Islander collaborative research through the pandemic

James L Flexner (University of Sydney), Imelda Miller (Queensland Museum Network) and Helena Robinson (University of Technology Sydney)

Archaeologists know that fieldwork requires a flexible approach, especially when working in remote areas or with large and complex communities. Normally "once in a lifetime global pandemic" is not on the list of factors that can affect a project. Archaeology, Collections, and Australian South Sea Islanders was designed as a four-year project that commenced towards the end of 2018. Built around a community-led ethos, the project began with extensive community meetings, focusing on the areas around Mackay, Ayr, and Rockhampton-Joskeleigh.

Project momentum was severely disrupted by COVID-19, particularly with periodic border closures between New South Wales and Queensland. Nonetheless, the project was able to continue, with ongoing workshops, community meetings, and excavations targeting sugar mill sites. While the pandemic may be "over", the experiences of running a community archaeology project during the pandemic provide rich material for reflecting on the nature of community research in a changing world.

Pieces of Place – expressions of identity, in the present, in a different place

Imelda Miller and Geraldine Mate (Queensland Museum Network)

Pieces of place, as defined by Foxlee, Fredrickson and Hall (2008), are considered the physical representations of place, collected as mementoes. In the Australian South Sea Islander Lived Identities project, we have been considering how "pieces of place" are relevant to Australian South Sea Islander communities. Material culture speaks to immutable elements of identity. Personal actions, and connections between objects, practices and places, can be seen as embodying experience, embodying place, embodying people.

In this paper we explore an expanded view of pieces of place. We layer ideas about how connections to ancestral homelands comes through both gifts and souvenirs entangled in ontology, life experiences, and connection. For ASSI these "pieces of place" reaffirm and reinforce ideas of place and belonging. Pieces of place create a tangible connection to the past but more importantly are a facet of building a personal sense of identity – a sense of place and time related to connection to homelands – that allows expressions of that identity, acknowledging ancestral connection, in the present, in a different place.

Foxlee, J., Frederick, U. & Hall, N. (2008). Pieces of Place: Exploring the personal souvenir. Pp. 195-205. In F. Vanclay, M. Higgins and A. Blackshaw (eds) Making Sense of Place: Exploring concepts and expressions of place through different senses and lenses. (National Museum of Australia Press: Canberra).

Creating the Kastom Collection: Reclaiming the South Sea Islander narrative through museum collections

Imelda Miller (Queensland Museum Network) and Eve Haddow (The University of Queensland)

The Queensland Museum (QM) houses 25400 cultural objects from 22 Pacific Nations. Many items were selected and collected by outsiders, people of non-Pacific Islander heritage; their names appearing on correspondence, the database, object tags. Over the decades, collectors' viewpoints have dominated the ways people look at this material. These objects were originally created with purpose, filled with knowledge and cultural information about the maker, user, their people, land, and seas, yet no names exist of ancestors past. Despite this, these objects persist and are living, through time and space, in the past, present, and future. How can museums today shift their focus to actively look at these objects in new ways?

This paper focuses on the QM Australian South Sea Islander Kastom collection. From the early 1990s, this collection of Pacific material was conceived by connecting people, objects and stories that stretch beyond traditional museological and geographical boundaries, telling important narratives about Australia's complex histories. In exploring different perspectives, the aim is to highlight connections to Pacific peoples, to consider its pasts and futures. Over the years, research has expanded understandings of this material. This presentation discusses the development of the Kastom collection and its position today.

SESSION AND PAPER ABSTRACTS

From Plantation to Archive: Connecting community through analysis, consultation and access to the Pioneer Sugar Estate artefact assemblage

Adele Zubrzycka (University of Queensland) and Imelda Miller (Queensland Museum Network)

Between c.1881 and 1906, the Pioneer Sugar Estate in Brandon, North Queensland employed thousands of South Sea Islander recruits under indentured contracts to cultivate, grow and harvest sugar cane for the national and international market. In 2022, two archaeological field seasons were completed on the estate grounds at the site of three former South Sea Islander dwellings.

Fieldwork was carried out in collaboration and consultation with the Australian South Sea Islander (ASSI) community. Over the course of excavations, a total of 7057 artefacts were recovered from the site. These objects hold social and historical significance amongst the ASSI community, representing a tangible connection to their own cultural heritage and identity. This paper summarises key findings related to the Pioneer Sugar Estate artefacts and presents the goals and outcomes of working with the community to find a permanent and accessible physical and digital repository for the assemblage.

Cultural Landscapes of an Australian South Sea Islander community in Queensland

Tomasina Bickey (RASSIC), Zia Youse (Central Queensland University) and Geraldine Mate (Queensland Museum Network)

Cultural landscapes are composed through human experience, through narrative, travel, and being in place. Engagement with the community who live in and use these landscapes is therefore an immutable part of understanding them. As part of the "Archaeology, collections, and Australian South Sea Islander Lived Identities" projects, the team has been working with communities in Rockhampton, Joskeleigh, Ayr and Mackay to understand places, why they are important to these communities and how they remember, interact and value them, across the landscape as a whole and as focal points of meaning and experience. From cultural mapping workshops, community journeys and community gatherings, these landscapes have been revealed – a tapestry of places of living, learning and worship, historically contextualised in palimpsest with mills, plantations, railway lines, trackways, and institutional infrastructure.

This paper will present some of the outcomes of cultural mapping in Ayr, Mackay and Rockhampton. We discuss how, through collaboration, we have documented multifaceted landscapes that reveal intergenerational connections, lived experiences and changing relationships with place.

Plantation death: Mapping Australian South Sea Islander mortality and burials in the City of Logan

Hilda Maclean (Logan City Council)

This year marks the 160th anniversary of the arrival of the first South Sea Island labourers to the cotton later the sugarcane fields of South-east Queensland. Thousands were destined never to return, mainly succumbing to the diseases from which they had no immunity. To identify the dead, without initially knowing their names, a new research methodology was developed which is replicable throughout Queensland.

All the death registrations were purchased for Logan, a registration district with historically many plantations. The South Sea Islander deaths were analysed for cause of death, age, burial place (usually on the plantation) and length of time between arrival in Queensland and death. By cross-referencing the death data with the Register of Agreements and other records held by the Queensland State Archives, the island of origin of deceased may be determined. As most of the deceased were interred in informal burial grounds, the knowledge of their locations has largely been lost.

Surveying the landscape: reflecting on a study in Queensland plantation archaeology

Lincoln Hayes

This paper reflects on the processes, challenges, key questions and outcomes of my 2000 PhD study on nineteenth century plantation landscapes around Ayr and Ingham in north Queensland. With archaeological surveys of ten former plantation sites as a foundation, I drew on historical documents, photographs, anthropology and the oral testimony of Australian South Sea Islanders to elicit meaning and ideology from the cultural landscape.

This approach provided insights into power and race relations, transported landscapes, and a fledgling identity for Pacific Islanders in Queensland. It also raised the potential for Queensland studies to contribute to the study of plantation archaeology worldwide.

Linking Voyages and Plantations: creating an online database of South Sea Islander voyages

Emma Christopher (University of New South Wales)

Part of my ARC Discovery grant Slavery, Sugar, Race, which explores the links between Atlantic and Pacific slaveries, involves creating a prototype database of voyages that carried South Sea Islanders to Queensland. One objective of this is to allow Australian South Sea Islanders, museum curators, and historians to search easily for information regarding roots and routes. It also aims to look out from individual Pacific Islands to show all the possible locations people, along with artefacts and so many other cultural assets, ended up. Still in its formative stage (ironing out software) one essential aspect of the database to be addressed is to discuss with the ASSI community cultural appropriateness, best practices, and how and if it might meet their needs, including as for family research, as a teaching tool, and even for legal cases.

An "archaeology" of South Sea Islander song and dance performance and its representation in Queensland, 1860s–1910s

Michael Webb (University of Sydney) and Cammi Webb-Gannon (University of Wollongong)

It is not widely known that South Sea Islanders created and participated in a rich, multifaceted performance culture over the decades they laboured in Queensland. Recruits even danced and sang while in transit between their home islands and Australia. As we show in this paper, South Sea Islanders not only attempted to adapt aspects of their customary song and dance culture to the new locale and context; they also eagerly absorbed new repertoires, including gospel hymns and colonial set dances. Some women and men became adept on new musical instruments too, on which they created a kind of musical bricolage.

Besides discussing sources and methods involved in reconstructing images of plantation musical life, we examine the ways South Sea Islanders engaged in performance as a strategy for surviving and thriving in the global system into which they had been drawn. The Islanders were frequently depicted in terms derived from minstrelsy, which was popular in Australia throughout the second half of the nineteenth century, thus we also consider settler representations as a factor in the study of plantation performance culture.

SESSION AND PAPER ABSTRACTS

Australian South Sea Islander Heritage in the Redlands

*Elisabeth Gondwe
(North Stradbroke Island Museum on Minjerribah)*

This brief presentation examines the representation of Australian South Sea Islander (ASSI) history in the Redland City Council Local Government Area, which was one of the first districts to use South Sea Islander (SSI) labour in Queensland. Most of the land in what is now known as Redland City was owned by wealthy prominent people who farmed using SSI labour. SSI people played a significant role in farming, oystering and fishing and the development in the early colony of Queensland, but are completely invisible in the history and public memorialisation.

This paper presents the findings of a research project I undertook in 2015 to discover and make explicit the SSI heritage sites in the Redlands. I drew upon oral histories recorded with past worthy citizens from this former farming area. These interviews contained scraps of SSI history interwoven in the progress narrative of the brave farming pioneers.

Journeys to Sugaropolis: a retrospective

Kevin Rains (Niche Environment and Heritage Pty Ltd)

2013 marked 150 years since the first indentured South Sea Islanders came to Queensland to work on Robert Towns' cotton plantation at Townsvale (now Veresdale) near Beaudesert. Other local plantation owners soon followed with the importation of South Sea Islander labour, and from cotton moved into the growing of sugarcane. Journeys to Sugaropolis was a research project and exhibition produced as part of a Southeast Queensland commemoration of that event (ASSI 150). It looked at the lives and contributions of Australian South Sea Islanders – those early indentured labourers and their descendants – to the Gold Coast and nearby areas, focussing particularly on an archaeological investigation of the Ageston Sugar Plantation on the Logan River and the formation of ASSI families involved in the banana industry of the southern Gold Coast and northern New South Wales area. Ten years on, this paper reflects on the outcomes of the project and how it might contribute to the current ASSI Lived Identities project.

USING TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE OF THE PRESENT TO INVESTIGATE THE PAST

*Convenor:
Greg Hil, Tracy Martens, Rebekah (Bek) Kurpiel, Susan Lawrence
(La Trobe University)*

Historical archaeology is an investigative process that draws upon an eclectic range of sources and methods. New scientific techniques and applications of established techniques in novel contexts continue to enhance and expand on information gleaned from traditional survey and excavation. This developing area of inquiry continues to enhance both macro approaches that connect sites to their landscape context, and micro approaches that retrieve information from features often invisible to the naked eye.

State-of-the-art 3D modelling and remote sensing approaches, such as LiDAR, photogrammetry, and Ground Penetrating Radar can improve how sites are analysed, interpreted, documented, compared and managed, while also facilitating community understanding and connections to the past. In addition to new methods, established analytical methods applied to previously understudied materials, like archaeobotanical remains and archaeological textiles and fibres, are offering new data sources and perspectives on the past that can expand and improve archaeological investigations.

Archaeological Textiles from Victorian-era Cesspits, Little La Trobe Street, Melbourne

*Tracy Martens, Rebekah Kurpiel
(La Trobe University),
Sarah Myers
(Archlink Archaeologists and Heritage Advisors Pty Ltd)*

Archaeological textile analysis can provide important information about common and significant archaeological inquiries, including material procurement, subsistence and agricultural strategies, socio-cultural affiliations, and status. In the Australian historical context, textiles and fibres can also link sites and individuals to national and international disasters and political crises, including the American Civil War and the National Shearer's strike, which lead to the development of the Australian Labor Party. These enquiries could also contribute to a more complete picture of the development of the wool industry in Australia and wool trade between Australia and the rest of the world.

Despite the potential contributions of this type of analysis, the economic and socio-cultural connection between Australian identity and sheep and wool, archaeological textiles are generally ignored in Australian archaeology. This paper includes a detailed analysis of archaeological textiles from two Victorian-era cesspits (H7822-2367 & H7822-2366) in Melbourne's CBD, highlighting the potential for this type of analysis in Australian historical contexts and presents future research directions in this area of historical archaeology.

The Narani sawmill tramway amphibious log landing ramp – utilising digital technologies and spatial analysis for an archaeological feature survey of an extensive partly submerged site located within a dynamic littoral zone in a protected marine reserve

*David Cameron
(David Cameron Consulting Pty Ltd)*

The Narani sawmill amphibious tramway log landing ramp (1873-1907) was used to transfer logs from paddlewheel droghers to tram trucks running on an amphibious tramway. The remnants of the ramp are situated in an active littoral zone located within a protected marine reserve at Smiths Lake, NSW. An archaeological feature survey of the site has been undertaken utilising HD drone imagery, digital water level data, metal detecting, high accuracy GNSS GPS and GIS spatial data analysis. Results indicate that the layout, extent and construction of the amphibious tramway ramp and marine log landings are technically and functionally simple, yet ingenious, adaptations to the challenges presented by the local topography, geomorphology, hydrology and bathymetry of Smiths Lake. The ramp and landings were specifically designed and constructed to operate within the marine constraints of a dynamic littoral zone affected by a largely unpredictable non-tidal variation of water levels of up to 2m.

Buried Blocks Beneath Ballarat? Evaluating the potential for capped archaeological features beneath Ballarat's historical Main Street Precinct

*Greg Hil, Rebekah Kurpiel, Susan Lawrence, Paul Penzo-Kajewski
(La Trobe University) and
Jacinta Bauer (Heritage Victoria - Department of Transport and Planning)*

Recent high-profile discoveries of archaeological fabric capped by metres of fill across Melbourne's CBD have highlighted a need to better understand the outcomes of historical landscape change during planning stages. Through a combination of documentary research, computer-based elevation change modelling, and Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR), it is now increasingly possible to evaluate subsurface conditions through non-invasive means.

The city of Ballarat is another part of Victoria that is known to have been transformed by earthmoving activities during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In 2021, La Trobe Archaeology Research Partnerships teamed up with Heritage Victoria to evaluate the potential for historical archaeological fabric beneath Ballarat's modern-day streetscape. This paper presents the results of that investigation, which dovetailed a GPR survey with elevation change modelling and historical research. The results include tantalising evidence for buried structural remains that extend metres beneath Ballarat's historical Main Street precinct. Could Ballarat have its own 'Buried Blocks'?

SESSION AND PAPER ABSTRACTS

Extracting the history of early Melbourne city life: the METRO tunnel dental assemblage

Rita Hardiman, Julie Owen (Melbourne Dental School, University of Melbourne), Louise Shewan (School of Geography, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, University of Melbourne), Jennifer Porter, Megan Goulding (Ochre Imprints Pty Ltd)

In 2018, during preparation for the Melbourne Metro Tunnel, one of Australia's largest public transport infrastructure projects, over two thousand teeth and more than one million artefacts were discovered beneath the remnants of properties demolished along Swanston Street. Adjoining the heritage-listed Young and Jackson Hotel, the site identified as the practice of dentist and surgeon John James Forster, yielded the vestiges of his trade-extracted teeth-purportedly removed "without pain" and discarded through the drainage system of the property from 1898 into the 1930s.

An adjacent site revealed a further assemblage of extracted teeth from the business of Dr Blitz. Retrieved from iron plumbing pipes and sediment, this fortuitous discovery affords a unique glimpse into a transformative and vibrant time in Australian history and early inner-city life through the information retained by these mineralised samples of human tissue. This interdisciplinary project brings together archaeology, anthropology, dentistry and mineralised tissue biology to provide direct biological evidence for diet, disease, demography, ancestry and population mobility, enhancing our understanding of Australian society and culture at this time. We report on initial research and outline future plans.

Engaging public participation in archaeology: Harrietville Chinese Mining Village

Anne Collins (The Uncovered Past Institute)

This poster explores a case study of engaging public participation in archaeology, learning archaeological methods and procedures. The public were offered the opportunity to then apply their learning with hands-on experience in a 19th century Chinese Gold Mining Village situated in Harrietville, Victoria, on the banks of the East Ovens River.

Food and Identity (Re) Creation in Migrant Communities: Applying ZooMS to Highly Fragmented Faunal Remains from an Historical Queensland Gold Mining Town, Ravenswood

Marc Cheeseman (The University of Queensland)

Australian historical archaeology has rarely considered the social context of food remains, most studies frame their interpretations around economics, availability and/or provisioning arrangements. Faunal analyses are also complicated by the often highly fragmented nature of zooarchaeological material at many Australian sites.

This poster details a pilot study integrating 'traditional' morphological faunal identification with Zooarchaeology by Mass Spectrometry (ZooMS) analysis of taxonomically unidentifiable 'medium mammal' specimens to investigate food choice and group identity at a 19th century gold mining town in North Queensland with European and Chinese settlement contexts.

The results of the pilot study lend support to interpretations based on morphological identification; that 'localisation' (i.e. flexibility in adapting food practices to local conditions) is present in both European and Chinese migrant contexts and is an important aspect of how these migrants (re) created and maintained cultural and social ties in this remote mining town. The results of this pilot study also demonstrate the utility of ZooMS in complimenting morphological analyses to explore complex questions of food choice and identity.

Chitin in a Victorian era Privy: A Pilot Study of Insect Remains in the Australian Historical Context

Emmy Frost, Allison Bruce, Tracy Martens, Rebekah Kurpiel (La Trobe University) and Sarah Myers (Archlink Archaeologists and Heritage Advisors Pty Ltd)

Insect remains are paleoenvironmental proxies that provide information about depositional context and evidence of organic materials that may not survive taphonomic processes, like food remains and other soft, biodegradable tissue. In archaeological contexts, insect assemblages can provide evidence of past environmental conditions, depositional practices, foodways, and other onsite activities like woodworking. Our recent pilot study, presented here, focuses on insect remains from three Victorian era cesspits in Melbourne's Little La Trobe Street (H7822-2366 and H7822-2367). The analysis shows differences in insect assemblages between cesspits associated with onsite activities, provides information about past depositional practices and highlights the potential for this type of analysis at historical sites.

SESSION AND PAPER ABSTRACTS

Leveraging the Queensland Museum Network's historical archaeology collection

Nicholas Hadnutt, Geraldine Mate, Lincoln Morse (Queensland Museum Network)

In 2020, the authors published a paper in the Australasian Historical Archaeology journal, entitled "Characterising the Queensland Museum historical archaeology collection". This paper provided an overview of Queensland Museum's historical archaeology collection, including development, content and suggestions for future usage of this growing resource. A particular focus of the paper was engaging with people to facilitate interest, research and engagement with the assemblages. This poster presents an update of initiatives implemented over the past 3 years to raise the profile of this important collection.

No further "Visitations from God": Classifying Queensland colonial deaths with the Nosological Index

Hilda Maclean

During the early 1880s, the Queensland Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages was becoming increasingly frustrated by non-medical and fanciful causes of death submitted by the District Registrars. In addition, reporting inconsistencies between registration districts made it difficult to compile meaningful mortality statistics. In response, the Nosological Index or Guide to the Classification and Tabulation of the various Causes of Death was introduced in 1887 which cross-referenced common names for causes with their medical counterparts.

Almost 1000 causes between 1857 and 1900 were collected by the author from death registrations, cemetery records and coroners' reports while compiling the Queensland Chinese Death Index. By reclassifying causes using the Nosological Index, it is possible to compile accurate statistics on Chinese deaths in colonial Queensland for the first time. Not only regional, occupational and temporal differences are able to be mapped, some long-standing myths have been dispelled.

Past Time – Past Place: The Mining Landscape of the Normanby Goldfield near Bowen, North Queensland

Marcus Zuercher (James Cook University)

The Normanby goldfield is a small goldfield by its production output compared with Ravenswood, Charters Towers, or the Palmer goldfields. Discovered in late 1871, this goldfield is very unique because it provides an exceptional opportunity to study the fluency and temporality of miners and mining communities of the gold rush era. The Normanby goldfield is like a dormant volcano, erupting very so often with high mining activities and expectations and then falling dormant again until the next eruption up to the late 1930's when active mining operations ceased.

Because of the overall occupation longevity, a picture of the 'Overall Shape of Life', spanning a period of over 100 years can be created. Using landscape as the primary research framework, the research aims to record and analyse the social, cultural, and mining landscapes of the Normanby goldfield. Utilizing digital technologies, spatial analytical methods, and social foci as a 'Narrative Creation Platform' to interpret and visualise the cultural, social, and mining landscape phases of the goldfield, may explain why active mining on the field was halted in the 1930s, even though there is still a considerable quantity of auriferous ore in the locality.

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