



ABORIGINAL HERITAGE OFFICE NEWSLETTER

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Yarnuping's

AHO News



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Welcome to our June Newsletter. The end is near, well the end of the financial year at least.

April was so busy! Site upgrades, school education and the museum reorganising as well as so many projects on the go.

In trying to keep this newsletter simple and easy on the brain, funny with some news about what we are up to here, we would like to dedicate a page to our volunteers and friends of the AHO. So if you would like to contribute an article then please send it through. We are also open to jokes or good food ideas.

Our uniforms have had a face lift. White shirts while on site monitoring, walks, tours and events and general duties. Beige shirts for archaeological digs and working after burn offs. We all still wear the ankle tuck trousers with badges on the sleeves of the shirts. The new uniforms have had a welcome reception from the community.

Ngemba Byrock Water Hole Creation

Baiame, the creator lived around the Byrock area during the Dreamtime. He dug a waterhole with his stone axe and when the axe became blunt he used the granite rock to sharpen it by wetting the axe and rubbing it on the rock next to him. Baiame crushed nuts and ground seeds to make cakes. Cracks on the rock platform shows where Baiame dragged his firewood and larger animals.

One day Baiame chased a wild bee wearing bird feathers on his feet. He chased the bee and stopped along the way at other rock areas eating the honey comb from other bee hives. He visited many areas around the western Stone Country. These areas became the home of the Kurulkiyalu (Stone Country people).

Kurulkiyalu are the Ngemba people and have many legendary stories of the Dreamtime. The Ngemba people still live in the area today. So next time you are in the Western parts of NSW stop at Byrock and visit this wonderful Aboriginal site. Byrock is situated 80km from Bourke and has a population of around 90. For more on this story visit the Waterhole at Byrock.



Archaeology and Climate Change By Phil Hunt

Archaeology and Climate Change

If you wanted to go for a surf 10,000 years ago you would have to travel an extra 20km east to get to the beach. Northern Sydney would be more like the Blue Mountains – back country. From about 10,000 to 40,000 years ago the continent was larger, it was joined to Papua New Guinea and Tasmania and it was generally colder, drier and less comfortable. It has been dubbed the 'Pleistocene'. It is the most recent glacial period that affected modern humans.

Archaeologists squabbled about what this glacial period meant for Indigenous people ('squabble' = a rigorous debate between scientists and their

interpretations over small amounts of empirical data). Were humans only just arriving in 'Australia'? Did they spread along the coast and up the rivers? Was the Pleistocene too harsh for people to survive in the arid heart or the high uplands? Did the tough conditions stymie intellectual advances? As more excavations were dug, more data was analysed and more hypotheses were presented. One thing became clear – Aboriginal people had been living in even the driest, most isolated parts of the desert and even in the Tasmanian highlands amongst the glaciers.

And then it was the dawn of the Holocene. Glaciers melted, seas rose, rain fell in different patterns. Things changed and many different species had to adapt or perish. People too. Huge areas of coast were swallowed up. We don't know what happened, but we can guess. People on the coast were continually forced inland, into neighbouring tribes.

Some may have welcomed, some may have drawn a line and resisted. Resources were lost, vital knowledge of how and when food was available became redundant under new weather patterns. It was only about 6000 years ago that the sea levels as we know them now actually stabilised. The archaeological evidence shows continued adaptation.

I'm not sure if different Aboriginal tribes had a geological-style name for the arrival of Europeans, but it would've surpassed any previous climatic shift in speed and intensity. Of course now we are in the Anthropocene – named not after the hunter-gatherers who have lived largely harmoniously with other species and ecosystems for millennia, but after ourselves. We have managed to become such a measurable impact on the earth that those gentle, shy geologists can't go anywhere without seeing evidence of massive impacts to mother earth, greater now even than the movement of sediments by glaciers and rivers every year.

Humans have always had to adapt to changes in the local and global climate. We are still in the same boat – the good ship Earth travelling in a lifeless ocean, a cold black vacuum. Success for us as individuals depends on how we adapt, which is dependent on how the rest of life adapts too.



Why did the chicken cross the road?

"Crossing the road today is a race between civil engineers striving to build bigger and better super-highways, and the chicken trying to prove them bigger and better idiots. So far, the chicken is winning."

"Blessed are they who can laugh at themselves, for they shall never cease to be amused."



Interns Page



I never imagined eight weeks to pass by so quickly. I only just arrived in Sydney – next thing I know, I handed in my report on councils' work on Aboriginal heritage issues. I visited councils, spoke to General Managers, CEOs, and Mayors, issued an online survey with my intern colleague, analysed data and all of a sudden, my time at the AHO is already over. I feel like I got a pretty good insight of the work the office is doing. I went on-site with different staff members to survey, monitor and train council staff, I helped organising AHO's presence at the upcoming Manly Food, Wine and Sustainability Fair, rearranged the museum with my intern colleague, and did all sorts of small tasks like providing brochures and training certificates, and draft work policies.

I really enjoyed my internship at the Aboriginal Heritage Office. I was lucky to work and meet with so many nice people, to be given the opportunity to pursue my own interests for part of my internship and to create something of value for the AHO. I improved my intercultural communication skills, gained knowledge about Aboriginal heritage, and experienced the functioning and communication of and in between councils and institutions. I am glad to have made this very good experience of working for the Aboriginal Heritage Office. As for now, I am off travelling the east coast up to Cairns. I hope I get some warm sunbeams up there to get me adapted to German summer. Cheers!

Vanessa Ruder

Movie Review

BASTARDY MA15+

A Compelling life of Jack Charles. Successful Actor. Humorous and moving Story. Founder of the first Aboriginal Theatre Company and worked with outstanding actors such as Geoffrey Rush, David Gulpill, Bill Hunter and many more. Great interviews with Bill Hunter, Max Gillies and Bruce Spence. Worth seeing and bring a box of tissues.

★★★★★ Five out of Five

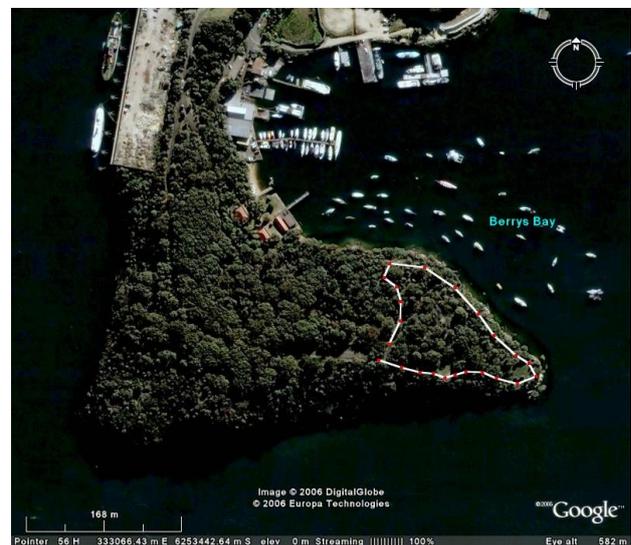
Track of the Month

Balls Head

While there are well-known sites at Balls Head, Waverton, the whale engraving in particular, these are not on the loop tracks and are not generally included as part of a guided walk (they are visited after the main walk).

The loop walk itself has some excellent features for discussion – including the middens, European quarrying of rock, proximity of important sites to the CBD, the protection of the area from urban development and so on. It has been well used for walks, and has BBQ facilities for picnics and get-togethers.

Enjoy the views





Test your knowledge

- Q. 1. Who wrote the book *Invasion to Embassy*?
- Q. 2. What does Kirribilli mean in the Aboriginal language?
- Q. 3. Name an Aboriginal resistance fighter of the 1700-1800s
- Q.4. What is the Aboriginal name for the Didgeridoo?
- Q.5. Which part of Australia did the Didgeridoo originate?
- Q.6. In what year was the treaty between defeated Aboriginal tribes and the British signed?
- Q.7. The common name for Tasmanian Aboriginal people is?
- Q.8. The common name for the central NSW coastal Aboriginal people is?
- Q.9. The Common name for the Western Australian Aboriginal people is?

- Q1.....
- Q2.....
- Q3.....
- Q4.....
- Q5.....
- Q6.....
- Q7.....
- Q8.....
- Q9.....

Answers next Month 1st July 2012

Tracks and Tracking

Children learn to recognise the tracks of animals as soon as they are old enough, learning the shapes and patterns of the animal tracks around their environment. Traditionally, as soon as children learn to walk, they learn to track their mother's and sibling's footprints. They grow up to recognise the footprints of their entire clan by the time they reach adolescence.

For an experienced Tracker reading the ground is like reading a story. When asked how he tracked, Mitamirri, a famous tracker of the early 20th century, said "I never bend down low, just walk slow round and round until I see more." There is much information that can be passed on by a track. Things like size, weight, gender and age. You would be able to tell how fast an animal is moving and which direction it is

travelling. Another indicator is how fresh the tracks are which tells you when an animal passed this way.

In the years following British settlement Aboriginal trackers, were used by settlers and the Government to help them find their way in an alien landscape. Everything from assisting them in finding food and water to locating missing persons or capturing bushrangers was asked of these amazing trackers. In the minds of the British who were unfamiliar with the Australian landscape these skills were magical.

The first recorded use of Aboriginal trackers in Australia was in 1834 in Western Australia, near Fremantle, when two trackers, Mogo and Mollydobbin tracked a missing five-year-old boy in very rough country. In 1864, the Duff children were lost for nine days in heavy rain in the Victorian Wimmera. Within a day of Djungadjinganook and two other Aboriginal trackers being brought in, the Duff children were found.

Djungadjinganook, who was also known as Dick-a-Dick or King Richard, became an Australian cricketer, a Wotjobaluk man who spoke the Wergaia language. He was a member of the first Australian Cricket Team to tour England in 1868 and was known for his skill in traditional weapons including the use of a waddy and shield. It is reported that on the cricket tour of England he often demonstrated these skills by invit-

Last Months quiz answers

- 1. Barangaroo
- 2. Barangaroo
- 3. False
- 4. True
- 5. True
- 6. False
- 7. True
- 8. Yemmerrawanne
- 9. False

Last Months Crossword

- | <u>Across</u> | <u>Down</u> |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1 Carbon | 1. Coolamon |
| 4. Ice | 2. Bark |
| 6. Tracks | 3. Nice |
| 7. Look | 5. Estates |
| 8. BA | 10. Dim |
| 9. Midden | 11. Nil |
| 12. Normal | |



Education—continued

ing young men to hit him with a cricket ball thrown from 15 paces. According to reports he was never hit, even when up to three balls were thrown at the same time. He also always won the backwards sprint.

The Aboriginal Trackers or 'Black Trackers' as they were known in 1880 were called in to look for Ned Kelly at Glenrowan under the command of Stanhope O'Connor from the Queensland police force. It was these trackers that Ned referred to when he said he wanted to kill the 'Black Devils'. He knew they were the only people that could capture him. The Aboriginal Trackers were treated poorly from start to finish and did not even manage to get their share of the reward.

There were many Aboriginal men who gave their abilities and their lives to explorers of Australia. An Aboriginal Bathurst man 'John Piper' aided Major Mitchell to cross the Great Dividing Range. Another Aboriginal man Wylie showed Edward Eyre how to cross the country from East to West. Even today Aboriginal Trackers are used to find fugitives. Two interesting movies that are about Aboriginal trackers are 'One Night the Moon' directed by Rachel Perkins which is based on the true story of a young girl who went missing in the Australian outback in 1932 and 'The Tracker'. The Tracker is set in the year 1922. It is a story about four men in pursuit of an Aboriginal man. Three of the four men are white, and are on horseback. The fourth, the group's Aboriginal tracker, leads them on foot.

Karen Smith



Crossword

1			2	3	4		
			5				6
7	8						
9				10		11	
						12	
13		14					
						15	
16							

- Across**
- 1. What Aboriginal people never had with the Invaders
 - 5. Evade
 - 7. Abbreviation for world time
 - 9. Another word for engravings
 - 12. in, on or near
 - 13. needed to catch school transport
 - 15. A classic Holden 1963-1965
 - 16. Another word for a cave /Aboriginal use
- Down**
- 2. Support or help with over drinking
 - 3. Idiot box
 - 4. When addressing his holiness
 - 6. To get it done
 - 8. Phil's favourite meat substitute
 - 10. Not together any longer
 - 11. A Gungi's weapon
 - 13. Public transport
 - 14. The boss of the home

Recipe of the Month

Bush tomato scones

Ingredients



- 4 cups plain flour
- 1 tbsp baking powder
- 3 tbsp butter
- 3 cups milk
- 1 cup bush tomato, finely chopped
- Pinch of salt

Pre-heat the oven to 200°C. Add salt and baking powder to the flour.

Rub the butter into the flour until it resembles breadcrumbs. Add bush tomato and mix through. Gradually add the milk, a little at a time, until you have a soft dough. Knead for a few minutes. Cut into scones and rest for 10 minutes.

With a pastry brush, brush the tops of the scones with a little milk and bake for approximately 20 minutes at 200° C or until brown on the top.

Jokes of the Month

A man and his wife were sitting in the living room and he said to her, "Just so you know, I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and fluids from a bottle. If that ever happens, just pull the plug." His wife got up, unplugged the TV and threw out all of his beer.

A pom, fresh off the plane at Sydney airport, is trying to negotiate Australian customs. Finally, when it's his turn to get his passport stamped, the customs officer starts rattling off the usual questions:

C.O. - How long do you intend to stay?

POM - 1 week.

C.O. - What is the nature of this trip?

POM - Business.

C.O. - Do you have any past criminal convictions?

POM - I didn't think we still needed to!

From the Editor



We would like to invite our readers to send in articles to be included in our Newsletter. Any articles relating to Aboriginal Sites, History or Cultural Heritage.

Please email the Office

aho@northsydney.nsw.gov.au along with your article, story and a photo. If you don't want your name published please include a note saying Shhhhhhh its a secret.

The Friendly People from the AHO