



# ABORIGINAL HERITAGE OFFICE NEWSLETTER

1st September 2012

Volume 6

## Yarnuping's

AHO News

### WHERE'S VIKI?



I am so sorry I haven't been around lately. I can't tell you how much I miss the beautiful engravings, rock shelters and special places that I loved so much in the AHO's northern region as well as the company of my AHO cohorts.

So, where am I? In August last year I came up to the Hunter Valley to do a week or two of archaeological excavation and find myself still here. The majority of my time has been spent excavating the most marvellous and

astonishing Indigenous flint knapping site in a town called Greta as well as smaller sites within and around the Hunter Valley region. The fantastic variety and abundance of stone flakes, cores and blades, that I have assisted in salvaging have made this archaeologist's heart burst with joy.

There is such a plethora of archaeological work to be done up here that, for the moment, it is in the beautiful Newcastle region that I will stay, however, sooner or later I'll be back! Take care everybody and keep up the good fight watching out for those precious Indigenous sites in Sydney.



### Special points of interest:

- Quiz
- Track of the Month
- Cross word
- It's a Funny World
- From The Editor
- Poster Competition



City of Ryde  
  
Lifestyle and opportunity @ your doorstep

Warringah  
Council



# Bureaucracy It's a Funny World

By Phil Hunt

During a meeting of state government Aboriginal heritage staff in the late 1990s people were muttering about an impending restructure. Furrowed brows, outbursts of outrage and righteousness, head shaking and the flutter of hands expressing anger over the illogical and unjust. An old archeologist smiled, helped himself to more scones and said, "Don't worry, you'll see it all come around again in 20 years. It's just the bureaucratic cycle".

It may be a cycle, but it sure is hard to keep track. When Aboriginal heritage protection was first included in state legislation in 1969 it was administered by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). The NPWS remained the name of the department for over 3 decades, which is an astonishing feat compared to the current trend. Of course individual sections within the NPWS changed quite frequently. Initially it was the Aboriginal Sites of Significance Survey, the early days with archaeologist Sharon Sullivan, Aboriginal Sites Officers Uncle Ray Kelly and Uncle Glen Morris, anthropologist Harry Creamer, etc. All the Aboriginal heritage staff were within the one

section. Then through the 1980s the sites officers became part of the local Districts, the 'Survey' changed focus, archaeologists were employed in Regions, there was a head office division, and so on. Then in 1997 they were all brought back together in the Aboriginal Heritage Division.

Since then the changes seem to have sped up. Regions (that were Zones, which before that were Regions) became Branches. Districts became Areas. Divisions, Groups, Departments, Sections, who can keep track?! The Aboriginal Heritage Division was disassembled in 2002 when the NPWS was finally chopped up, and Aboriginal heritage came under the *Department of Environment and Conservation* (DEC). This became the *Department of Environment and Climate Change* (DECC). When the ink was dry (and the Government recognized things were dry) it changed again to the *Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Water* (DECCW). With a change in Government there was the opportunity to refresh, and what better way to start than to relabel the bureaucracies? NPWS, DEC, DECC, DECCW – the suspense! What would it be? **15 Across:** a collective noun for a number of smaller parts consisting especially of a measurable activity or attrib-

ute? But which noun?

And the winner is.... OEH. Huh? O for Office. *Office for Environment and Heritage!* Why not? Don't get too comfortable though. There has been a big review and the cuts have been announced, the heads are on the block, the restructure is happening, and the printers are warming up...

At the Federal level the *Department of Environment and Heritage* (DEH) became the *Department of Environment, Heritage, Water* [remember when things got dry] and the Arts (DEHWA), which later became the *Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities* (DSEWPaC).

In Victoria in the early 1990s the new *Department of Conservation and Natural Resources* (DCNR) was nicknamed the **Department of Constant Name Rearrangements**.

Change happens. It is inevitable. Some change is exciting. Some is quite tedious. Most of it happens without our conscious awareness [*Homework:* try to think of something that doesn't change, moment by moment]. But one may ask, how much more of this Frequent Name Changing do we need? There are only so many collective names around. The BLANK of BLANK, BLANK and BLANK (ie The [collective noun] of [natural things] and [human-type things, mostly old]).

As good citizens of a democracy, it is not enough just to accept or criticize the foibles of our taxpayer paid public servants and politicians. We must search for our own role. Why is it that the changing of a government department name can be so enthusiastically embraced by all sides of politics? If part of the answer is because it makes the public think the government is doing something (or no longer doing something), then we the public are part of the problem. And part of the solution.

Let's tackle the issue scientifically. We can ask, **why is it so?**

There is only one thing more painful than learning from experience  
and  
that is not learning from experience.

Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.

**Issue:** Can't keep up with all the name changes.

**Immediate Cause:** Governments and bureaucrats keeping changing the names of things.

**Some Causal Conditions:** change of government, change of leader, change of circumstances (eg bad publicity, current crisis, budget cuts).

**Interdependent Links** (ie things that effect each other or are mutually dependent): governments and politicians, politicians and voters, politicians and media, media and people, media and media owners, media owners and politicians, politicians and skills, people and skills, skills and education, education and interest, interest and attention span, attention span and media, attention span and advertising, advertising and psychology, psychology and education, education and political advisors, political advisors and opinions, opinions and governments, governments and people.

**Scientific Analysis:** by creating a very technologically advanced computer program, we can place all the ingredients into it and press a button, to come out with a rigorous series of facts that support the universal hypothesis that:

*It's the government's fault. Any of them. All of them.*

There are few universal laws that have been shown to be unchallengeable. This could be one. Whatever problem there is in the world, anywhere and at any time, it is the government's fault and it has nothing to do with me.

Unless it is something like, 'Whatever issue there is in the world, I have an expert opinion on it, I take my information from the most entertaining source (with careful scrutiny with the friends who agree with me), I denounce anyone with an opposing view, and whenever things go wrong it proves that it is the government's fault (and things that work or go well were not the government's doing, any government, it was due to decent folk like myself, who aren't the government, any government, especially this government)'.

**Conclusion:** the only valid conclusion is that whenever you have governments and government agencies you will have name changes whenever there is change and whenever there is an audience seen to be receptive to the name changes. Or something like:

*Government + agency + change + audience = name changing*

So perhaps instead of feeling upset, we should just chalk it up to another of life's certainties – death, taxes, government agency name changing.

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## Education Section

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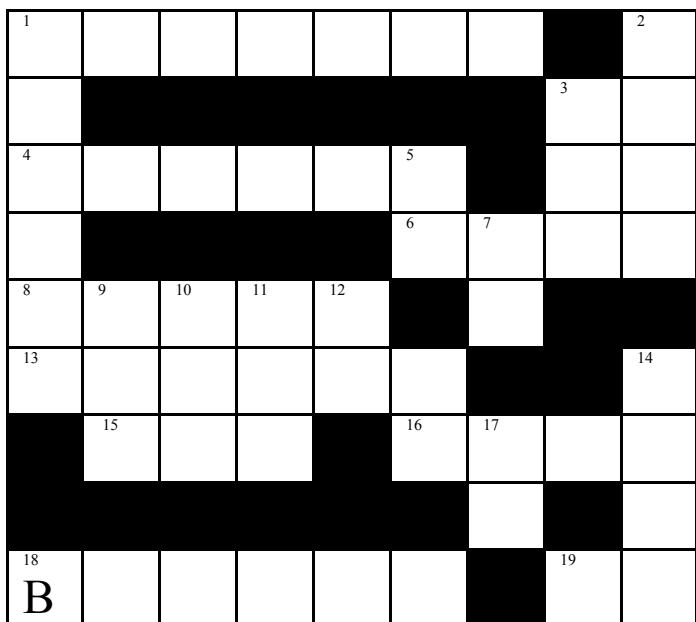
### Test your knowledge

Answers next Month 1st September 2012

1. What is the technical term for a back blade artefact?
2. Who or what is Scrap Metal?
3. Archie Roach is a famous Boxer? True or False
4. A drop bear is a marsupial ? True or False
5. The Stiff Ginns are singers? True or False
6. Goom is muddy water? True or False
7. Australian Aboriginal people have the oldest living culture on earth? True or False
8. Who was the famous Aboriginal tennis star of Australia 1975?
9. What is the swimming style (Australian Crawl)?

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

## Crossword



### Across

1. West Australian People
3. Marry me! \_\_\_\_?
4. Located Between Dubbo & Bourke.
6. A bet or Playing.
8. Nth East Coast people.
13. Central Aus people.
15. Abrev for return.
16. To go up or down.
18. Strange Mythical Creature.
19. We.

### Last Months quiz answers

1. Eight
2. Mungo Man
3. True
4. 2.3%
5. 1868
6. True
7. 1985
8. David Unaipon
9. terra nullius

1	7	8	8		1	4	1
9				0	1		3
7			1	0	6	6	
4	7	6			8		3
					1	7	7
1	2	1	5			5	
8	3		1	3	2	3	
1	5	8	7			3	1

I wanted to extend my apologies to everyone for not attending any Guringai Festival or NAIDOC Week events. I also managed to miss other important dates on our Aboriginal calendar. I felt very much the poorer for it. I am only just back to work - part time - after suffering an injury. At this stage I am unable to drive or walk on crutches far but am determined to be stronger than before.

Being confined to the office has its up side as I get to show people around our educational and informative Keeping Place & Museum.

While I was away an entire new exhibit was constructed that demonstrates the archaeological work we do in the field. This is a 'hands on' exhibit and demonstrates areas where you may find Aboriginal heritage and the different environments you may find it in. It also demonstrates recording and measuring methodology. This was exciting for me to see. Also exciting to see was the work done in the Museum and Keeping Place by our exceptional Dutch intern Michelle Hermans, who spent 6 months with us, and our German intern, Vanessa Ruder, who spent 6 weeks with us. The interns reorganised the cabinets and created new signage. It is enjoyable to see the passion and care they directed at this job.

I would like to discuss one cabinet display that we have in the museum. There is a favourite of mine that is a bush diorama. You can spend a long time looking at this and it gives you an understanding of how Aboriginal people lived and cared for their environment. It is also a Sights and Sounds Quiz.

You will see a simple gunyah construction made of a wooden A frame and sheets of bark in a comfortable bush camp with a fire, wooden tools and weapons and the male hunter bringing back his kill. Just near the camp is a scar tree which has had a piece of bark removed from its side for a shield, coolomon or canoe. I love the fact that Aboriginal people kept the tree alive despite this intervention. Just down from the camp is the harbour foreshore where the midden shells have been deposited for possibly 6,000 years (after rising sea levels on this coast buried most older middens underwater). Up on a slope is a stone quarry filled with many different stones. Some of these would have been traded far away and used for tools and grinding. A dry creek bed releases fresh water from its deep bed for drinking. Surrounding the camp are trees and low shrubs which would have supplied bush tucker or materials for weaving or creating line and rope. Water rushes down in the water would have supplied bird eggs and materials for weaving. Up on the ridge top is an engraving of a whale and near this, with a good view of all the surrounding area is a fresh water pool surrounded by axe grinding grooves where the stone edge of the axes would have been honed to a fine point.

This is just one of our many displays and I would encourage you to make a booking to visit. It is a wonderful resource for schools and, well, anybody who wishes to learn about Aboriginal Heritage and Culture.

Whale watching season is upon us and I have heard many stories of whales. First was the dead body of a young male that ended up in Newport Rock pool. The photos caused quiet a reaction and people were warned not to swim as sharks were circling. Next was the daily woman swimmers who found to their joy that they were swimming amongst the whales. Then to my horror was the story of the Manly Ferry running into and injuring a mother and calf. Surely during Whale watching season the Manly ferry could take extra watch too. The carvings around our coasts show us that mothers and calves have been visiting our harbour for thousands of years

Don't forget to enter our poster competition which is for school age children and all students and classes who are in the AHO partner Council areas; Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, Manly, North Sydney, Pittwater, City of Ryde, Warringah and Willoughby Council areas.

***You have enemies? Good. That means  
you've stood up for something, sometime  
in your life.  
- Winston Churchill***



**Open to students within the North Sydney, Willoughby, Warringah, Ku-ring-gai, City of Ryde, Manly, Lane Cove, and Pittwater Council areas!**

**4 x 1st Prizes —**

**Make a A3 to A2 size Poster on "Protecting Aboriginal Sites Located On The Northern Areas Of Sydney".**

**Include Text, Photographs and/or Drawings.**

**There will be one first place prize awarded to each of the following age groups:**

**3-4 Primary Years**

**5-6 Primary Years**

**7-9 High School & 10-12 High School**

**The judging of the posters will be done by the Aboriginal Heritage Office Steering Committee Members. Competition closes on the 16th November 2012.**

**Posters should be sent to;**  
**The Aboriginal Heritage Office**  
**c/o North Sydney Council**  
**PO Box 12**  
**North Sydney Council**  
**NSW 2059**

**Entries will also be accepted via e-mail in .pdf format at:**  
**aho@northsydney.nsw.gov.au**

**Please include name of the Class, School and contact information.**

**For further details please contact the Aboriginal Heritage Office on 99499882 or email your enquiry to [aho@northsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:aho@northsydney.nsw.gov.au)**  
**Please include name of the Class, School and contact information.**

**Winners and Prizes will be announced on 3rd of December 2012**



**Win a Didgeridoo for your classroom**

## Conditions of Entry

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**1.** Entries close 5pm, Friday 16th November 2012. **2.** Only entries meeting the Terms & Conditions stipulated herewith will be accepted. **3.** To enter, entries together with the 'Applicant Entry Details' section of this form (completed in full and securely attached to the back of the entry) must be delivered to, The Aboriginal Heritage Office c/o North Sydney Council PO Box 12 North Sydney Council NSW 2059 by 5pm, Friday 16th November 2012. **4.** In the case where groups of students enter a combined entry, each individual student within the group must complete & attach an 'Applicant Entry Details' Section to the back of the entry. **5.** Competition commences 1st August 2012. Entry is only open to Students who attend Schools within the Warringah, Willoughby, Lane Cove, North Sydney, Kuringai, Pittwater, Manly and Ryde Local Government Areas. **6.** Posters must be A2 in size, 420mm x 594mm. No framed works will be accepted. **7.** Entries will be placed on public display within the Aboriginal Heritage Office, 39/135 Sailors Bay Road Northbridge NSW. **8.** Four Prizes in Total one for each age group. **9.** All prizes issued to Schools are for use by and to benefit those School's and are not for individual use/allocation. **10.** Where winners are groups of students note that one prize is issued per group. Division of prize is at discretion of group. **11.** Prizes are not transferable, cannot be exchanged and non-cash prizes cannot be taken as cash. **12.** All entries become the property of Aboriginal Heritage Office and at anytime the entries, and or reproductions of the entries, may be used as the Aboriginal Heritage Office sees fit for promotional purposes and/or public display without payment of any fee to the entrant. **13.** Winners will be notified by telephone on Monday 3rd December 2012. **14.** Winners will receive their prizes by the Aboriginal Heritage Office at a organised School assembly. **15.** Artwork will be judged on artistic merit and relevance to the competition theme: "**Protecting Aboriginal Sites Located On The Northern Areas Of Sydney**". **16.** 1 entry will be selected per age group as 'winners' by the panel of Judges. **17.** The Promoter shall not be liable for any loss or damage whatsoever which is suffered (including but not limited to indirect or consequential loss) or for personal injury which is suffered or sustained as a result of entering the promotion or taking the prize, except for any liability which cannot be excluded by law. **18.** The Promoter collects entrants' personal information in order to conduct the promotion. By entering the promotion, unless otherwise advised, each entrant also agrees that the Promoter may use this information, in any media for future promotional, marketing and publicity purposes without any further reference, payment or other compensation to the entrant, including sending the entrant electronic messages. A request to access, update or correct any information should be directed to the Promoter at their address set out below. **19.** The Promoter accepts no responsibility for any tax implications that may arise from the prize winnings. Independent financial advice should be sought. **20.** The Promoter is the Aboriginal Heritage Office 39/135 Sailors Bay Road Northbridge NSW. **21.** Employees (and their immediate families) of the Promoter the Aboriginal Heritage Office and judging panel associated with this promotion are ineligible to win prizes. **22.** The Judging Panel will be made up from the Aboriginal Steering Committee Members by representation from each of the Partnering Councils North Sydney, Warringah, Willoughby, Lane Cove Kuringai, Ryde, Manly and Pittwater.

Cut here..... Cut here..... Cut here..... Cut here..... Cut here..... Cut here..... 

### Aboriginal Heritage Office Poster Competition Entry Form

**Primary Years 3 to 4**

**Secondary Years 7 to 9**

**Primary Years 5 to 6**

**Secondary Years 10 to 12**

Entrants Full Name (Please Print).....

Entrants Address or School Address.....

Entrants Age:.....

School Year:.....

School Name;

Entrants Date of Birth:.....

.....

Phone Number.....

E-Mail Address.....

Signature—Student.....

Parent/Guardian Full Name (please print)

Signature—Parent/Guardian.....

.....

Cut out and attach to the back of the poster and send to

The Aboriginal Heritage Office c/o North Sydney Council, PO Box 12 North Sydney Council NSW 2059

## Tracks of the Month

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Lovetts Reserve (short walk-620m)  
Lane Cove

### Lovetts Reserve Upper Lane Cove River Walk

At the end of Lloyd Rees Drive, there is good parking, a well-maintained track, good views of the river, and lots of bush foods. The walk can be extended or reduced in size, depending on the group. There are many features suitable for sites to talk about.

Blackman Park, Mana Badan-gai Track (short-600m)

Blackman Park (long-1300m)

### Lane Cove

### *Blackman Park / Ventemans Reach*

Both the long and short walks are on very well maintained tracks with boardwalks and natural heritage signage. Walks can be shorter or longer as required. There are no sites immediately on the track, but suitable features are adjacent and there are a wide range of vegetation types, bush foods and so on. The short walk is described in the AHO brochure.

## HOW THE EMU GOT SHORT WINGS

A long time ago, the emu bird lived in the sky. His nest was on the clouds. Every evening from his nest he used to watch the brolgas dancing by the lake and he loved their dance. That emu was wondering to himself if he could come down and dance like them.

So one day he flew down from his nest to where the brolgas were dancing. Then he went among them and asked the brolgas to teach him their dance.

One of the brolgas said to him “spread your wings out like this.” And then another one of the brolgas said to the emu, “come on, dance like this, the way we brolgas dance”.

So he tried but his wings were so big they got in the way. That brolga got angry and stopped the emu, and shouted “spread your wings !”

# Recipe of the Month

## Eggplant & Tofu

### Thai Style

5 Asian eggplants  
3 fresh chillies  
4 cloves garlic  
1 tablespoon coriander  
1 small onion  
3 teaspoons brown sugar  
2 tablespoons lime or lemon juice  
1 tablespoon vegetable oil  
250g firm tofu, diced  
handful basil



Cook the eggplants on a hot BBQ grate until charred and black on all sides, about 15 minutes. Remove from heat, and place on a rack to cool. Peel, slice diagonally, and set aside.

In a food processor or blender, combine the chillies, garlic, coriander, onion, sugar and lime or lemon juice until smooth.

Heat oil in a large frying pan over high heat, and add the chilli mix. Reduce heat to medium, and cook for 1 minute. Gently stir in the tofu, half of the basil and the eggplant. Cook until heated through. Serve garnished with the remaining basil.

### Jokes of the Month

A man being mugged by two thugs put up a tremendous fight! Finally, the thugs subdued him and took his wallet. Upon finding only five dollars in the wallet, the surprised thug said "Why did you put up such a fight?" To which the man promptly replied "I was afraid that you would find the \$200 hidden in my shoe!"

George collected lots of money from trick-or-treating and he went to the candy store to buy some chocolate.

"You should give that money to charity," said the sales girl.

Fred thought for a moment and said, "No, I'll buy the chocolate. You give the money to charity."

A guy walks into a bar and orders a drink. After a few more he needs to go to the loo. He doesn't want anyone to steal his drink so he puts a sign on it saying, "I spat in this beer, do not drink!". After a few minutes he returns and there is another sign next to his beer saying, "So did I!"



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](mailto: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 Shhhhhh its a secret.

The Friendly People at the AHO