What a month we have had. Karen has broken her shin and was in hospital for a week and after an operation she is now on the mend. We expect her back in July we hope. We miss her and send our best for a quick recovery. Phil has once again vanished overseas for almost two months. As we say he has gone sitting on a mountain doing what good Buddhists do. Geoff is back in the driver's seat whilst Phil gallivants around the world. We have a new intern James (Jimmy) Webb. See page 3 for his spiel. Sad to also say goodbye to Michelle our intern whom has spent several months with us. Michelle has been a great asset and a good friend to all the staff here. She will be missed by all.

Genia McCaffery is quitting Council. She had been the Mayor for so many years and was one of the instigators who started the AHO and got the ball rolling. Genia will also be missed by so many. On a positive note we have been very busy with all the final sorting of projects for the end of the financial year. Glad to see the back of this year and start a fresh year.

World without Money
Think of a world without money. Trading with different Nations, negotiating peace and growth of the population. Managing resources and bartering for goods. Border crossing by negotiation without paying a toll or needing a passport. Living every day without worry. No taxes to pay, no need for an ATM or a bank to get some cash to feed your family.

Now Picture This
Going on holidays at different seasons of the year. Travelling to warm places in winter and near beaches in summer to cool off. No need to buy the latest fashion and keep up with the Jones's down the road. No need of a mechanic or a washing machine repair man when everything breaks down. Eating fresh sea food everyday. Tasting wild honey, fruits and veggies. No need to rush the kids to school and then rush to work through traffic. No needing to listen to endless rubbish on the radio and then come home to a messy house. Cooking and cleaning paying the mortgage. Mowing lawns and keeping the garden neat and tidy. Taking out the rubbish bins and recycling. Having to vote for politicians whom frankly you wouldn't even give them the time of day if you had to.

No need for endless roads or public transport. No need for GFCs and finding out that the savings from all your years of hard work is now worth nothing.

Now
Take me back to 1778 and stop Time.
Archaeological truth is in the eye of the beholder. Nazi archaeologists were able to use facts and figures to support their view of the superiority of the Aryan race. Scholars have often come up with the most fanciful ideas of why their particular ethnic group was somehow responsible for some great monuments around the world because clearly the local natives were incapable. The Ancient Phoenicians, perhaps, who built Great Zimbabwe? Mayan, Aztec and Incan architecture was clearly influenced by aliens (as the European connection was a bit sketchy). But let’s not be too judgemental of people trying their best (and sometimes their worst) to conjure up images of a lost past without the benefit of 21st century gadgetry.

It is easy for us to look at the past and judge those who do not measure up to our own ethical benchmarks. We can read their words, perhaps underscored by prejudice and narrow-mindedness, and scoff. We can look at others who we may agree with and commend their supposed wisdom, foresight, courage. What is less easy is to see our own blind spots, to determine where we ourselves may not measure up to the views of those in the future.

It is interesting to reflect on this. What can those in the future catch us out on? How are we discriminating? How are we being unfair?

If we take heritage as an example, I would suggest Aboriginal heritage is still largely ignored or undervalued in comparison with historical and natural heritage. I would also suggest this is largely due to ignorance rather than because Aboriginal heritage has a lesser value. There does seem to have been a gradual shift in perceptions. When Native Title was being discussed, terror gripped the nation. When an apology to the stolen generations was discussed, emotions ran high. What other issues are we afraid of confronting, or have unintentionally been blind too?

So what could be the issues that we are judged on? The intervention? Health? Education? What about our treatment of Aboriginal people themselves? Do we favour the ‘traditional owner’ over the ‘out of country survivor’? After the loss of life and land, the next thing all Aboriginal communities suffered was the banning of language, ceremony and culture. If we as a society now judge people on their ability to speak language, practice ceremony and tell stories, is this fair? And who is traditional? Is someone with distant but measurable Aboriginal ancestry more entitled to speak for country than someone who has grown up ‘Aboriginal’ but not from his/her parents or grandparents birth place?

If we ask Aboriginal people to tell us Dreamtime stories and do dances that they could never be taught, and ignore their survival stories, are we carrying out another form of dispossession? Or is this a good thing to help bring back culture? If it is both, how do we differentiate?

Difficult issues and the message seems to be to take each issue in context and on its own merits.
My name is James Webb and I am a recent graduate of the University of Georgia with a B.A. in International Affairs with minors in Spanish and German. Seeing as how Australia isn’t particularly well known for its German or Spanish speakers, it may seem odd to some that I chose to live and work in Sydney. So far, I have been lucky enough to visit more than 20 countries worldwide; however, this is my first visit to the South Pacific (as well as my first time in the Southern Hemisphere). Aside from Australia always having been #1 on my world travel wish list, I really wanted a chance to gain real-world work experience before beginning my Masters program in International Relations at Bond University in Queensland this September. Although I am not working toward any kind of academic credit, my internship with the AHO offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn firsthand about Aboriginal culture and history—something that, until now, I really knew nothing about. In addition to various administrative duties, I have had the opportunity to get out of the office and accompany Dave and Phil to a number of actual Aboriginal heritage sites; so far these have included shell middens, sandstone engravings, and rock shelter paintings.

For the duration of my internship I am living in a dormitory-style student housing complex on Broadway Street. Distractions abound and sleep is often difficult to come by, but I would be lying if I said I wasn’t having the time of my life. Although Australia is in many ways very different from my home state of Georgia (flora and fauna, driving on the left, the lack of American football, etc), everyone I have encountered so far is extremely friendly and I have felt completely at home since day 1.

I am very much looking forward to the next 8 weeks and hope to contribute to the AHO in any and every way that I can.

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**Movie Review**

Every once in a while, a movie comes along that seems to have absolutely everything—beautiful women, state-of-the-art special effects, and enormous green supermen with severe anger control problems. The Avengers is a must see for any lover of action films. Among others, Marvel comic powerhouses Thor, Iron Man, and the Incredible Hulk team up to save Earth from an invading alien army in this non-stop action thriller starring Robert Downey Jr., Scarlett Johansson, and Samuel L. Jackson. Easily one of the most entertaining films in recent memory. Get your 3D glasses on...

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**Track of the Month**

**North Harbour & Manly Scenic Walkway**

**Fisher Bay**

This is an excellent walk, either starting at The Spit or from Sandy Bay, Clontarf. There are great views, many bush foods, many features similar to Aboriginal sites and a variety of environments. While it is only one way, people can continue on to other destinations or return.

The track is heavily used by local, national and international tourists and the several sites on or near the track need management works to properly protect them.

Medium difficulty walking

Always take water, hat and sun screen.

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English settlers, while seemingly unimpressed with the skill required to fashion such a canoe, nevertheless respected the skill with which the Aborigines were able to utilize them.

“The canoes in which they fish are as despicable as their huts, being nothing more than a large piece of bark tied up at both ends with vines. Their dexterous management of them, added to the swiftness with which they paddle, and the boldness that leads them several miles in the open sea, are, nevertheless, highly deserving of admiration.”

-Watkin Tench

The practice of removing large slabs of tree bark to build canoes has left an abundance of what are referred to as “canoe trees”—particularly within the Murray-Darling Basin. Over 7,500 scarred trees have been recorded in New South Wales; however, less than 100 remain standing in their original locations. The rest have been removed through forestry, farming, or land development.

James Webb

Test your knowledge
Q. 1. What is the main composition of a Midden?
Q. 2. What tribe is located in the Bathurst Region?
Q. 3. Governor Phillip was speared at Manly T or F?
Q.4. Who instigated the first Aboriginal Heritage Office in Australia?
Q.5. What year was the Aboriginal Heritage Office formed?
Q.6. Mosman Council is a partner in the Aboriginal Heritage Office T or F?
Q.7. Aboriginal people can claim any land in Australia T or F?
Q.8. Can anyone speak on behalf of Aboriginal Communities?
Q.9. Name a famous Aboriginal singer?

Answers next Month 1st August 2012

Aboriginal Canoes:
The Epitome of Sustainability

Aboriginal canoes were made from tree bark, typically the red gum. After removing a large slab, the bark was heated with fire to make it softer and more flexible. It was then folded into a boat-like shape and tied at both ends with a plant fibre rope. The bow was folded tightly to a point while the stern typically had looser folds and formed more of a rectangular shape. The canoes typically ranged from 2.5-6 meters in length.

These canoes provided an easy means of travelling as well as gathering various types of food (fish, eels, bird eggs, etc.). A small fire was often kept alight in the canoe itself on a bed of clay or seaweed; this enabled them to conveniently cook fish as soon as they were caught. These early watercraft had a relatively short life span; they were primarily used for gathering food and crossing rivers rather than extended journeys. In a remarkable contrast to the white settlers, the indigenous Australians were able to construct a reliable watercraft without killing the tree itself. Early
Americans and Australians
By: An American—James Webb

I have been living in Australia for almost 4 weeks and, while there are many similarities between your typical U.S. and Australian citizen, a few slight differences have become apparent.

⇒ Generally speaking, almost every Aussie I have come into contact with has been unusually (almost suspiciously) friendly, optimistic, and more than willing to enjoy a nice cold beer with a thirsty foreigner. Although we Southerners are famous for friendliness and ‘Southern hospitality’, one trip to New York City, Detroit, or Los Angeles would make any traveller immediately aware that this is not the case everywhere in the country.
⇒ Australians generally seem to be more interested in international issues and enjoy travelling more than the average American. We often tend to keep to ourselves.
⇒ In the U.S., we love our guns. It seems to bewilder most other cultures, but it is deeply rooted in our history and national mentality and is basically non-negotiable.
⇒ In contrast to Australians, Americans prefer (some might say demand) smaller government, fewer taxes, and as little government interference in one’s life as possible. Distrusting the government is as American as apple pie and blue jeans.
⇒ We all speak English. Hooray!
⇒ Most Australians are more or less accustomed to seeing kangaroos, koalas, wallabies, etc. We are not; there is nothing in the states resembling any of these animals and your average American tourist will become giddy as a schoolboy upon seeing a kangaroo hop by for the first time. I know I did.
⇒ Vegemite is one thing about Australia that I will never understand.
⇒ In the U.S., we have many many more fast food restaurants. In a related story, we have more fat people.
⇒ We look left, then right, before crossing the street.

So these are my current observations and I guess more to come in another issue.

Crossword

Across
1. People of Uluru
6. A lid
8. A type of snake
10. Abbrev for archaeological assoc
11. Mythical Spirit of Uluru

Down
1. Aboriginal Object
2. Native Plant (Genus)
3. Granny Nick name
4. The family Doctor
5. Gorge near Uluru
9. A type of tree bark
Recipe of the Month

Kangaroo

Black Fella Style

Ingredients
- 8 medium-large Onions chopped thick
- 30 ml Port
- 50 g Butter or Marg
- ½ cup Bush Tomatoes
- ½ cup Parsley finely chopped
- Salt
- Pepper
- 2 big bunches Native Spinach
- Cooking Oil
- 500 g Kangaroo Loin.

Marinade—
- 30 ml cooking Oil
- 30 ml Port or vinegar
- 1 Clove Garlic
- 1 Bay leaf
- Salt
- Pepper.

Combine kangaroo ingredients and marinate overnight.

Make sure BBQ or hot plate is very hot then place the kangaroo on hot plate for about 2-3 minutes each side don’t keep turning the meat.

When cooked leave it aside for at least ten minutes. Should be eaten medium/rare as kangaroo will be tough if overcooked.

Confit

- Pour some oil on to the hot plate. Add onions and sprinkle with pepper & salt.
- Sprinkle herbs and bush Tom’s over the top. Add a little more oil to help herbs cook.
- Cook onions until they turn golden brown on underside then turn them over.
- Pour Port generously onto the onions which will give a pickled flavour.
- When almost cooked, move onions to the side.
- Add butter or Marg to the remaining herbs that have been left over from the onions and allow to melt (making a sauce that will coat the spinach).
- Place native spinach on the top, remove as soon as wilted.

Slice the kangaroo loin and place on a layer of onion and native spinach and serve immediately.

Jokes of the Month

"What’s wrong, sonny?" asked the old timer sympathetically, coming over to the little kid who was sitting on the curb, crying his heart out. "I’m crying cause I can’t do what the big boys do!" So the old man sat down and wept too.

A reporter was interviewing a 104 year-old woman: "And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?" the reporter asked. She simply replied, "No peer pressure."

"Get this." said the bloke to his mates, "Last night while I was down the pub with you guys, a burglar broke into my house. "Did he get anything?" his mates asked. "Yeah, a broken jaw and six teeth knocked out. The wife thought it was me coming home drunk."

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