



ABORIGINAL HERITAGE OFFICE NEWSLETTER

1st May 2012

Volume 2 , Issue 2

Yarnuping's

Editorial

The East coast of Aus has been getting a drenching with what seems constant rain. It often holds up site work with site inspections and monitoring. The Staff are going a bit stir crazy with the weather and busting to get out and about to catch up on visiting the sites we manage.

I would like to thank Geoff Hunt our Geologist for the past 10 months work as he is off for a few months travelling with a four wheel drive trip. Geoff (the coffee dude) has been busy working on several projects at once for the Office and needs the break. Geoff has promised to send articles in whilst he is away for the Newsletter.

Each year the AHO produces a video for our annual get together. The video includes the worst possible clips and images from our collection of Staff, Volunteers and general images of people at the Office doing stupid things. To view the video please drop into the Office at Northbridge.



This is a working model of a coastal fish trap.



In the past , the Aboriginal Heritage Office has re-recorded a fish trap, which was discovered earlier by James Smallhorn (Willoughby Council outdoor staff).

A full day of diving, exploring, measuring and recording the placement of the rocks that encompassed the skirt of the fish trap was undertaken by AHO Officers, alongside several staff from the NSW Heritage Office.

It was a problematic exploration in murky water with visibility reduced down to a couple of feet. Even more worrying, the edge of the platform around 1.8 metres of water dropped off to around 35 metres. An area favoured by nice big Bull Sharks that prowled the area looking for juicy fish which we, unfortunately, somewhat resembled in the murky depths.

Nevertheless, the dive progressed well and, with underwater video recorders and underwater cameras, the job was eventually completed. Totally Wild did a story on the work of re-recording the fish trap and we have a copy of the DVD at the AHO so, next time you are passing, drop in.



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Archaeology What's it good for?

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

This much used quote by George Santayana is probably the best justification for paying people to dig around in the dirt, 'hold up' building projects and come up with theories about some long forgotten human society whose members aren't able to pay tax, rent homes or produce new ideas. But the old ideas may just be worth dusting off.

We know that white society didn't have much time for Indigenous environmental knowledge or values. Yet around the world there is a growing interest in Indigenous land management and wisdom given the poor environmental record of the west-

ern materialist tradition the world is still addicted to. How did the First Fleet settlers managed to make their main water supply (the Tank Stream) undrinkable within two years? How did the new colonies of Australia manage to destroy so much arable land in such short time scales? Why did the Europeans think they could replicate European farming techniques in a landscape and climate so utterly different?

Until archaeologists started investigating the antiquity of Indigenous occupation in Australia, it was thought Aboriginal peoples had only been here a thousand years or so. Shock followed shock, as the dates became older and older. Aboriginal people nodded – "Yes, we've been here from the beginning". Five thousand, ten thousand, twenty, forty, sixty! At one school AHO officers unrolled a tape

measure in the hall to illustrate a timeline. The hall was 60 metres. Aboriginal history – 60m, post-1788 history-2cm. 'Who has the most to learn about this continent?' was the question asked.

In a busy, high tech world it seems we have less and less time to notice the actual environment in which we live. Yet it is the generations of noticing that produces the knowledge that allows human societies to flourish harmoniously in a place, and adapt and survive when conditions change. Archaeology may not be the best tool for this, but it is useful in showing the reasons for it, and helping one group of humans reconnect with their brothers and sisters of a different time and space.

Phil Hunt



An archaeologist in the deepest Amazon suddenly finds himself surrounded by a blood thirsty group of natives. Upon surveying the situation, he says quietly to himself, "Oh God, I'm screwed." There is a ray of light from heaven and a voice booms out, "No you are NOT screwed. Pick up that stone at your feet and bash in the head of the chief standing in front of you." So the archaeologist picks up the stone and proceeds to bash the chief. As he stands above the lifeless body, breathing heavily and surrounded by 100 natives with a look of shock on their faces, God's voice booms out again, "Okay...NOW you're screwed."

A computer once beat me at chess, but it was no match for me at kickboxing.

Emo Philips

Internship & Track of the month

“An internship, just out of interest? To keep you busy? Really?” was the question I often heard when I told my friends in Germany about my plans for Australia. I was about to graduate from Goethe-University Frankfurt am Main in March 2012, where I had been majoring in Political Science and minoring in Business Administration. I was thinking about how to best make use of the five months of free time ahead. I wanted to travel – that much was clear. And I wanted to come to Australia, because so far I had only spent one week here in my entire life, four years ago, and I was eager to explore the Australian way of life. During prior stays abroad in Rome and Dublin and travelling through New Zealand, I had come to realise that the best way to get to know a different culture is actually to stay in one place for some time and meet with locals. Therefore, an internship was the perfect opportunity to combine all my goals.

I was thrilled when I got a positive answer from the Aboriginal Heritage Office about my internship application. Not only would I be able to spend a lot of time with locals, but I would also be able to learn something about Indigenous Australia. Additionally I applied for a host family to also get in touch with day to day life

of an Australian family. My host family lives in a house in Castle Cove, which is only a 15-minute bus ride from the Aboriginal Heritage Office. They have also taken in two more foreign students, from New Caledonia and Japan, so I am also able to gain some insight in other than Australian cultures, too.

Although I am not obliged to do an internship and don't have to meet any special requirements for a university, I am still confident that the work experience at AHO will provide a real advantage to me in the future: the Office operates in public service and I am going to study public administration and management from September on, which will straightly lead to an employment as civil servant in Germany. This internship will therefore help me especially in the field of city marketing and cultural management. At the same time, and because I attained a Bachelor degree in Political Science, I am very interested in the administrative work of the Aboriginal Heritage Office and its collaboration with different councils. That is why part of my time and work here is going to be dedicated to a report on how partnering and non-partnering councils are dealing with Aboriginal heritage issues, based on face-to-face interviews. What I like best about this task is that I

actually get to know how communication within a council works and that I get to meet with very kind and interesting personalities like Mayors and General Managers.

I am very much looking forward to the six weeks of my internship that still lie ahead of me. My fellow colleagues made in very easy for me to settle in, because they are treating me very kindly and also because I even have got an intern colleague – Michelle, who already introduced herself in the prior newsletter issue. I hope I will continue to learn a lot about the extraordinary Aboriginal culture and I am happy to assist my colleagues in preserving Aboriginal heritage for the future generations.

Vanessa Ruder

Track of the Month

Gadyan Track, Berry Island

This is one of the best walks around Sydney. It is a circuit track with a well-maintained track, boardwalks and signage are at suitable places, sites are protected and regularly managed, and there are bush foods and spectacular views of the harbour. The track is situated at the end of Shirley Road Wollstonecraft. The track is often used by the AHO tour guides for general archaeological and cultural tours. It is a self guided track and a brochure can be downloaded from the North Sydney Council web site http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/resources/documents/Gadyan_Track_flyer_web1.pdf

Find out why it is called The Gadyan Track.

Approx 700m.





Test your knowledge

- Q. 1. What is the new name of the point at East Darling Harbour?.....
- Q. 2. Who was Bennelong's wife?
- Q. 3. All Aboriginal people speak the same language? True or False
- Q.4. The Sydney basin is over 200 million years old? True or False
- Q.5. Wianamatta Shale covers more of Sydney than Sydney Sandstone?
- Q.6. The Sydney Tribal Group is called the Wiradjuri? True or False
- Q.7. The eastern coast line of Australia has changed in the past 30,000 years? True or False
- Q.8. who travelled with Bennelong to England?.....
- Q.9. Carbon dating is the only way to date Aboriginal Sites? True or False

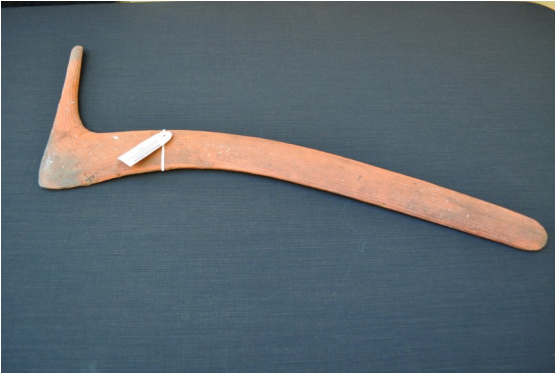
Answers next Month 1st June 2012

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

Karen Smith looked into Aboriginal Innovation for the Heritage Festival. One innovative item which is instantly recognisable as Aboriginal is the Boomerang. There are different kinds of boomerangs, hunting, killing and the returning boomerang. Boomerangs are possibly one of the most purchased items, alongside the yidaki, when people are on their overseas holidays.

Why do some boomerangs return? The returning boomerang is light weight, has equal sides producing a curved appearance. They also are flat on the underside and have a slightly rounded shape on top and this creates an aerofoil. A boomerang is held vertically and thrown with spin and when in flight

the wing shape and its angle relative to its flightpath create upward force while deflecting air downward. This force is called lift. When a boomerang returns it tend to turn over itself because of the different amounts of lift on each wing. This spinning motion becomes the curved returning path. Other boomerangs are much heavier with a slight curve and travelling at high speed can be thrown distances of 200 metre in a straight line.





Education

The Guringai Festival 2012 ‘One Voice –Still Talking’ has an interesting and varied program for all age groups. Pick up your program at your local council or come into the Aboriginal Heritage office to pick up one.

My role as Education Officer at the Aboriginal Heritage Office gives me the opportunity to teach upcoming generations about their Aboriginal cultural heritage, stories of their local environment and the Aboriginal people that lived there and the importance of heritage sites. My position allows me to work with schools and communities to conduct presentations and informative bushwalks teaching about rock shelters, shell middens and paintings and engravings. I believe that through education I can plant the seed and an understanding grows of our important heritage. It has been missing in Australian society and needs to improve if we are to have something to pass on to future generations. Aboriginal culture is the oldest surviving culture in the world and this longevity is partly due to a system of sustainability practiced by Aboriginal people, moving in rhythm with the seasons and with care and respect for Country. These ancient links between humans and the environment provide us with thousands of years of knowledge.

Karen Smith

Crossword

1			2		3		
					4		5
		6					
7							
						8	
9			10		11		
12							

Across

- 1. Used for Dating.
- 4. Frozen water.
- 6. Bush Pathways.
- 7. To see.
- 8. An English Airline.
- 9. A type of Aboriginal site.
- 12. As usual.

Down

- 1. Aboriginal carrying device.
- 2. A canoe is made from this.
- 3. Good.
- 5. A Lord 's Lands.
- 10. Not so Bright.
- 11. None.

Recipe of the Month

Spring vegie & meatball soup

- 1 zucchini, coarsely grated
- 600g chicken mince
- 1 large carrot, peeled, coarsely grated
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 1 egg yolk, lightly whisked
- 2 tsp olive oil
- 1.25L (5 cups) water
- 500ml (2 cups) salt-reduced chicken stock
- 285g (1 1/2 cups) fresh corn kernels
- 85g dried vermicelli pasta, coarsely broken (see note)
- 2 bunches asparagus, woody ends trimmed, thinly sliced diagonally
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh continental parsley



1. Place the zucchini in a colander and use your hands to squeeze out excess moisture. Transfer to a large bowl. Add the mince, carrot, garlic and egg. Season with pepper. Use clean wet hands to mix until well combined. Roll 1 tablespoonful of mixture into a ball. Transfer to a plate. Repeat with re-

remaining mixture.

2. Heat half the oil in a large non-stick saucepan over medium-high heat. Add half the meatballs and cook, turning occasionally, for 2-3 minutes or until browned. Transfer to a large plate. Repeat with the remaining oil and meatballs, reheating the pan between batches. Add the water and stock to the pan. Increase heat to high. Cover and bring to the boil.

3. Reduce heat to medium. Add the meatballs, corn and pasta to the pan. Cook, partially covered, for 4 minutes or until the pasta is almost tender. Add the asparagus. Cook for 2 minutes or until pasta is tender and asparagus is bright green and tender crisp.

4. Season with pepper. Stir in parsley. Ladle among serving bowls and serve.

Joke of the Month

A man walks into a bar on the top floor of a skyscraper. He sits down and orders a beer. After taking a drink he sees the guy next to him go over to the window and jump out! "Holy cow! Did you see that!?! That guy just jumped out the window!" The bartender does nothing. So the man takes another sip. A minute later the same guy walks in, orders another drink, chugs it, and jumps out the window again. "Jesus! He just jumped again!" The bartender ignores the man. So the man sits puzzled. The guy comes back into the bar, and orders another drink. "How did you survive that jump?".."I ordered a floatie drink, if you drink it in a certain amount of time, you can float." So the guy quickly orders a floatie drink. He takes it from the bartender, and chugs it. He then jumps out the window and...SPLAT! Right on the sidewalk! The Bartender then say s, "You know, Superman...you can be a real jerk when youre drunk."



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 Shhhhhhhh its a secret.

The Friendly People from the AHO