Connecting Archaeology and Community in The Rocks

Prof Richard Mackay, AM
Godden Mackay Logan

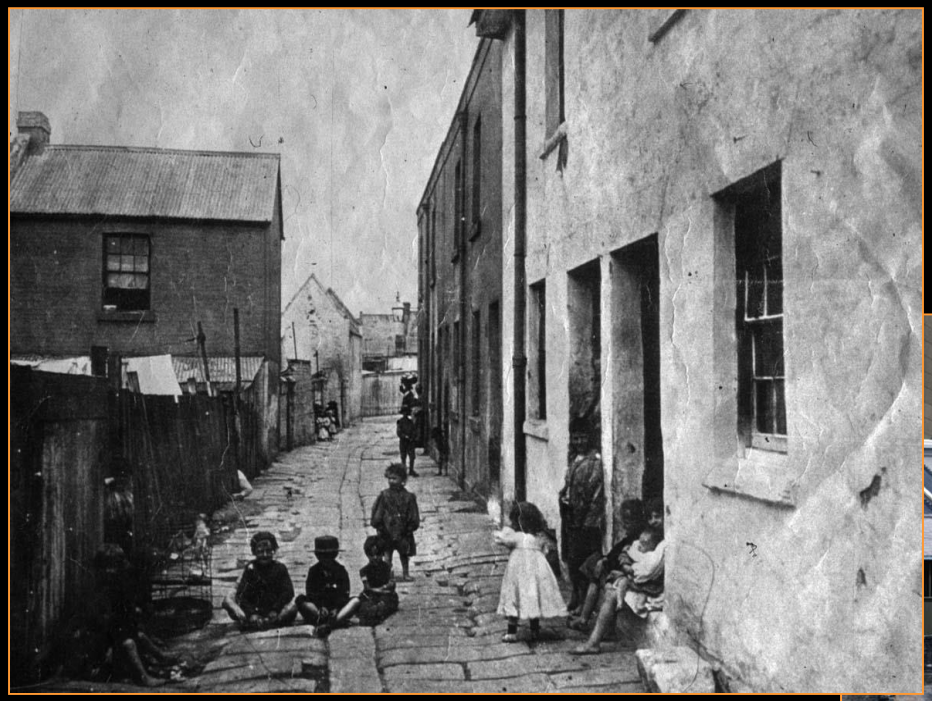
ANA HOTEL
Chevrolet

AUSTRALIAN
HOTEL
SOAP

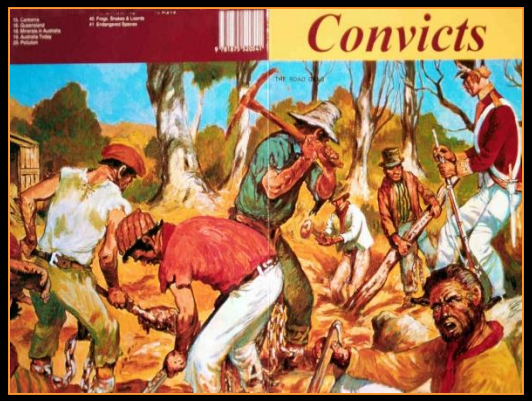
ALIAN
E.L.
RAY.
McEW
PALE
A
JOHN SIMPSON
STORE
115
CUMBRALAND PLACE

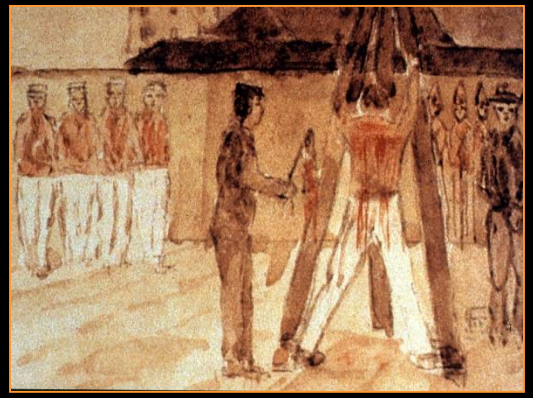
HA

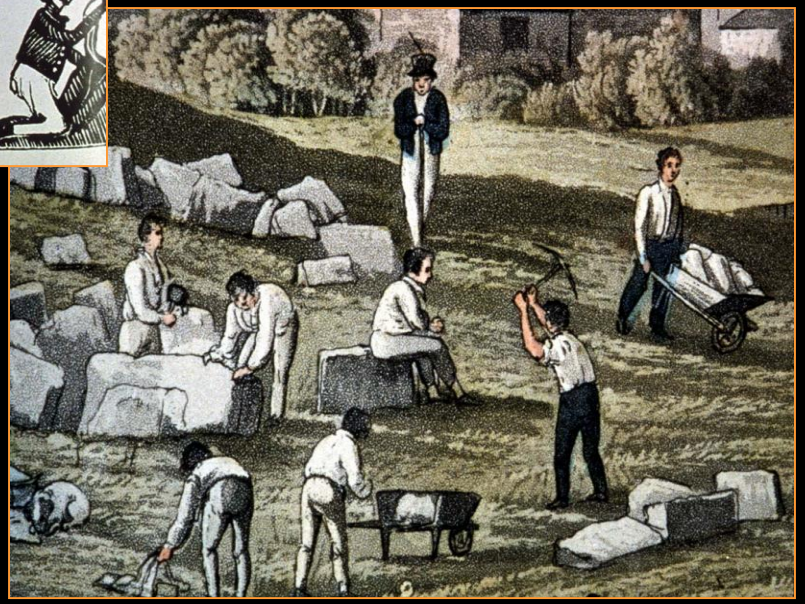
Peeling Back the Layers?



Challenging Traditional History







A Convict Consumer?

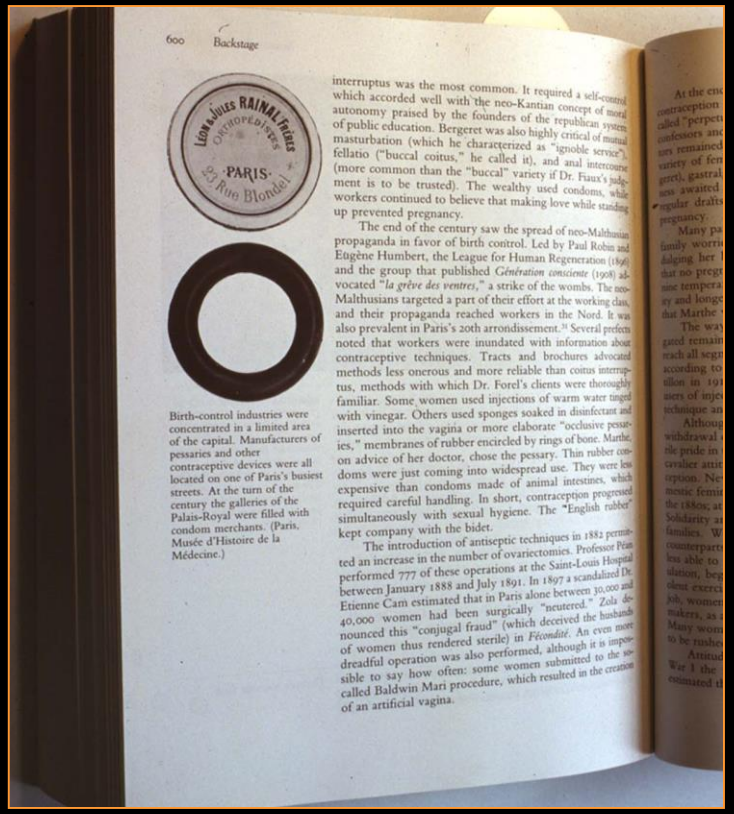
Butcher?

Bigamist?

Morals

FOR
AGOOD GIRL
ON
NDUSTRY
Temperance
If you would
When the
Good humour
That children can
It makes them happy, and what's more
It gives them power to bless.
A
GOOD GIRL

and Modernity?



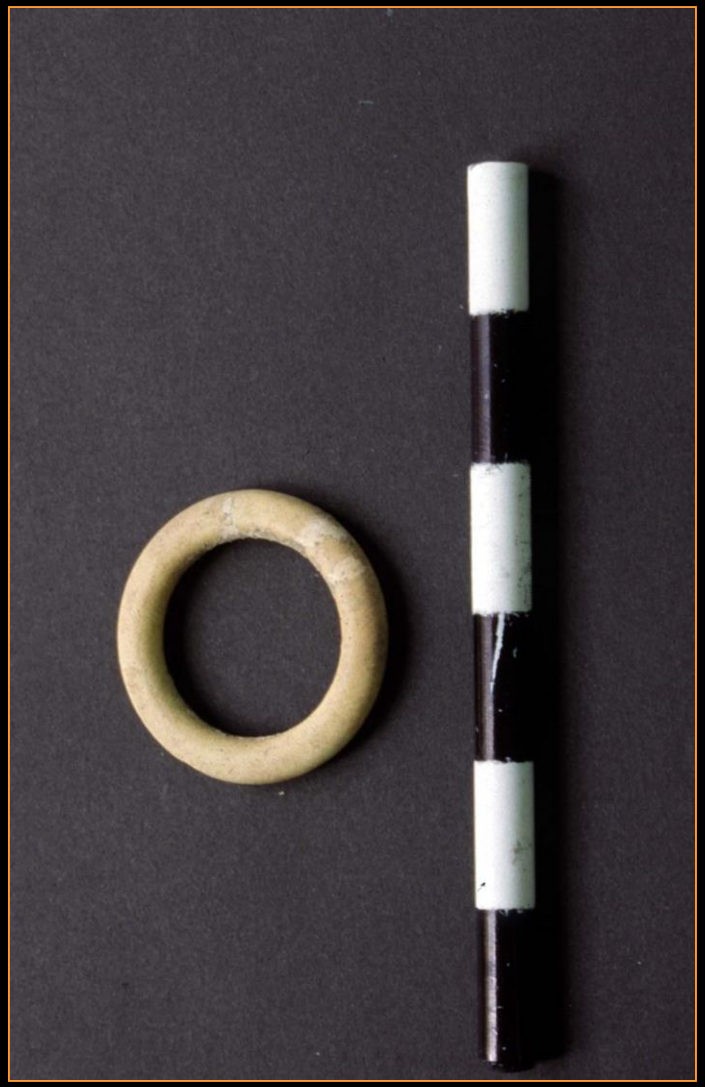
600 Backstage

Birth-control industries were concentrated in a limited area of the capital. Manufacturers of pessaries and other contraceptive devices were all located on one of Paris's busiest streets. At the turn of the century the galleries of the Palais-Royal were filled with condom merchants. (Paris, Musée d'Histoire de la Médecine.)

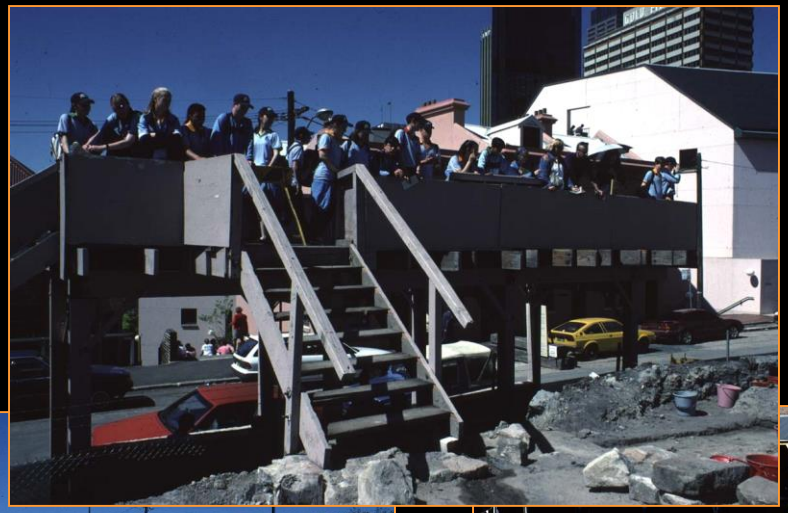
interruptus was the most common. It required a self-control which accorded well with the neo-Kantian concept of moral autonomy praised by the founders of the republican system of public education. Bergeret was also highly critical of mutual masturbation (which he characterized as "ignoble service"), fellatio ("buccal coitus," he called it), and anal intercourse (more common than the "buccal" variety if Dr. Fiaux's judgment is to be trusted). The wealthy used condoms, while workers continued to believe that making love while standing up prevented pregnancy.

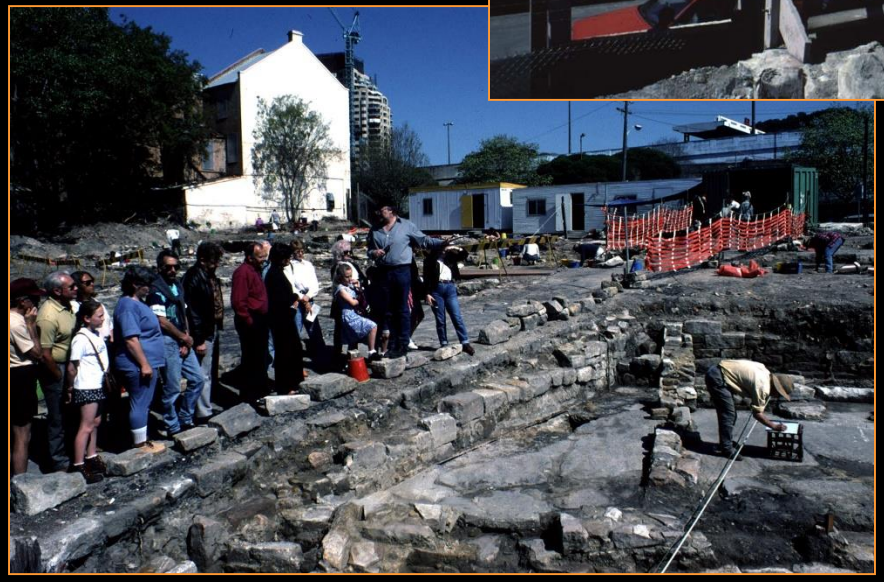
The end of the century saw the spread of neo-Malthusian propaganda in favor of birth control. Led by Paul Robin and Eugène Humbert, the League for Human Regeneration (1896) and the group that published *Génération consciente* (1908) advocated "*la grève des ventres*," a strike of the wombs. The neo-Malthusians targeted a part of their effort at the working class, and their propaganda reached workers in the Nord. It was also prevalent in Paris's 20th arrondissement.[31] Several prefects noted that workers were inundated with information about contraceptive techniques. Tracts and brochures advocated methods less onerous and more reliable than coitus interruptus, methods with which Dr. Forel's clients were thoroughly familiar. Some women used injections of warm water tinged with vinegar. Others used sponges soaked in disinfectant and inserted into the vagina or more elaborate "occlusive pessaries," membranes of rubber encircled by rings of bone. Marthe, on advice of her doctor, chose the pessary. Thin rubber condoms were just coming into widespread use. They were less expensive than condoms made of animal intestines, which required careful handling. In short, contraception progressed simultaneously with sexual hygiene. The "English rubber" kept company with the bidet.

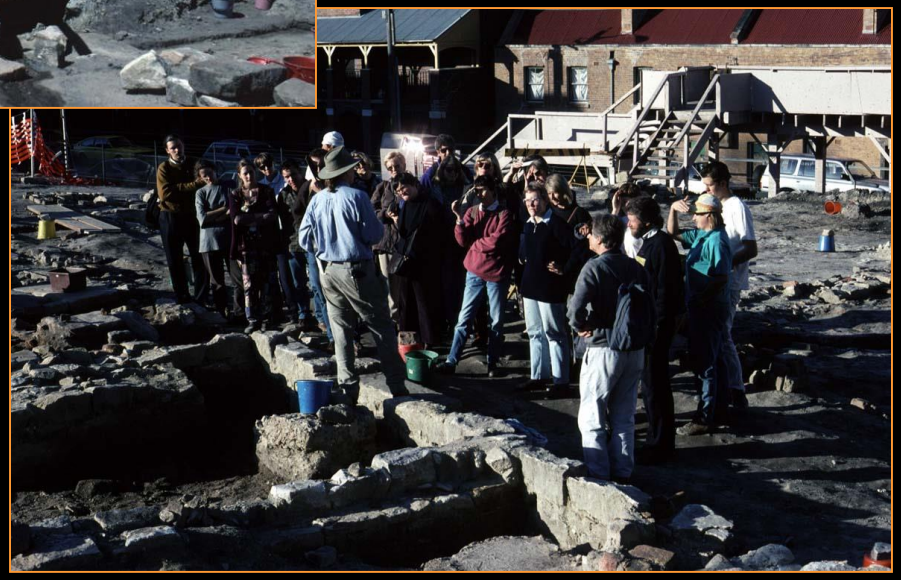
The introduction of antiseptic techniques in 1882 permitted an increase in the number of ovariectomies. Professor Péan performed 777 of these operations at the Saint-Louis Hospital between January 1888 and July 1891. In 1897 a scandalized Dr. Etienne Cam estimated that in Paris alone between 30,000 and 40,000 women had been surgically "neutered." Zola denounced this "conjugal fraud" (which deceived the husbands of women thus rendered sterile) in *Fécondité*. An even more dreadful operation was also performed, although it is impossible to say how often: some women submitted to the so-called Baldwin Mari procedure, which resulted in the creation of an artificial vagina.



Community Participation







Year 5

Manufactured Significance

Aussie diggers unearth history

By DAVID LUFF

AN army of enthusiastic archaeologists have built a little history of their own on a block of land in the heart of Sydney.

They are sifting through a vacant block in The Rocks hoping to uncover remnants from our colonial past.

The dig is part of a Sydney Cove Authority strategy to piece together a concise history of The Rocks.

It is the last major dig in the area because high rise buildings dominate the surrounding landscape.

The site, between Gloucester and Cumberland Sts, was once home to a bustling community of convict settlers.

The site has yielded a host of artefacts from the early 1700s — Sydney's formative years.

Chief archaeologist Richard Mackay said the returns from the dig, which reached the halfway mark this week, had exceeded all expectations.

Successive communities have all added their own character to the site and the soil contains a cross-section of life with preserved bones, bottles, porcelain and dinnerware.

The team forwarded a progress report to the SCA on Monday.

Mr Mackay said the atmosphere of the colonial community had been recreated in the imaginations of the crew at the dig.

"It's as if the area has burst into life again.

"It is extraordinary to be so close to what is a very seminal stage of Sydney's history, the genesis of European settlement in Australia," he said.

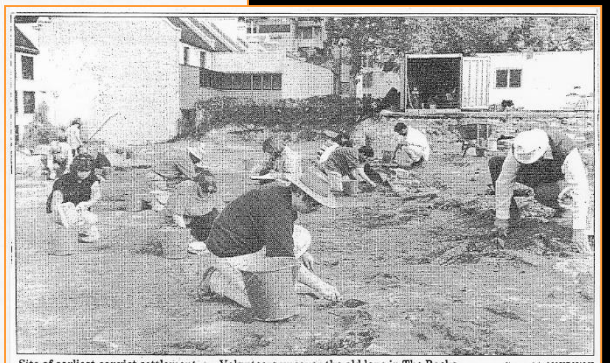
SCA archaeologist Wayne Johnson said the excavation was the most comprehensive investigation of a colonial site in Australia.

"Apart from the archaeological excavation of San Francisco's Chinatown, few 19th century sites of this magnitude have been investigated in the world," he said.

More than 800 volunteers have joined in the search so far.

Weekday tours of the site begin at 11am, 1pm and 2.30pm

Volunteer Neringa Lisankaite moves some of the tonnes of earth to sift through remains. Picture: WAYNE JONES. INSET: The site of the dig in the 1800s



Site of earliest convict settlement . . . Volunteers uncover the old lane in The Rocks. Photograph by ROBERT PEARCE

Dig delves into our distant days

By GERALDINE O'BRIEN
Heritage Writer

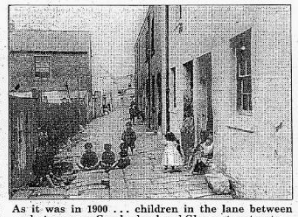
The trenches have been dug, the site pegged out with string, a drain has been uncovered running east-west across the site. In the shadow of some of Sydney's glossiest high-rise, the last – and probably largest – archaeological dig in The Rocks is under way.

Officially launched yesterday by the Minister for Planning, Mr Webster, the dig is likely to bring to light some of the earliest remains of the colony, according to Richard Mackay, the archaeologist in charge.

This site, between Cumberland and Gloucester streets, was *the* rock of the earliest convict settlers for which The Rocks was named.

High on the ridge, it was reached by a scramble over rough terrain from the cove below. Convicts who had been worked hard all day clearing land, says Mr Mackay, were glad enough to build their huts on land which didn't need clearing.

"There were at least a couple of First Fleeters living here," Mr Mackay says. "The historical record makes it certain there was occupation here since 1794, but it is quite possible people began living here before that.



As it was in 1900 . . . children in the lane between what are now Cumberland and Gloucester streets.

"We already have a very early clay roofing tile, similar to those from Old Government House at Parramatta, so we have circumstantial evidence of a very early date for the site."

The first house was built by the convict George Cribbs, whose name was later adopted for the laneway which runs down the hill. Other buildings followed, including about six hotels, to total 46 on a site about half the size of a city block.

It was evidently a lively place. Wayne Johnson, an archaeologist with the Sydney Cove Authority, which is financing the dig, has researched the lives of some of the early inhabitants.

George Legg, who disappeared when his boat capsized when he was fishing off the Heads in 1809 and whose hand was later found in the stomach of a shark, lived here with Ann Armsden.

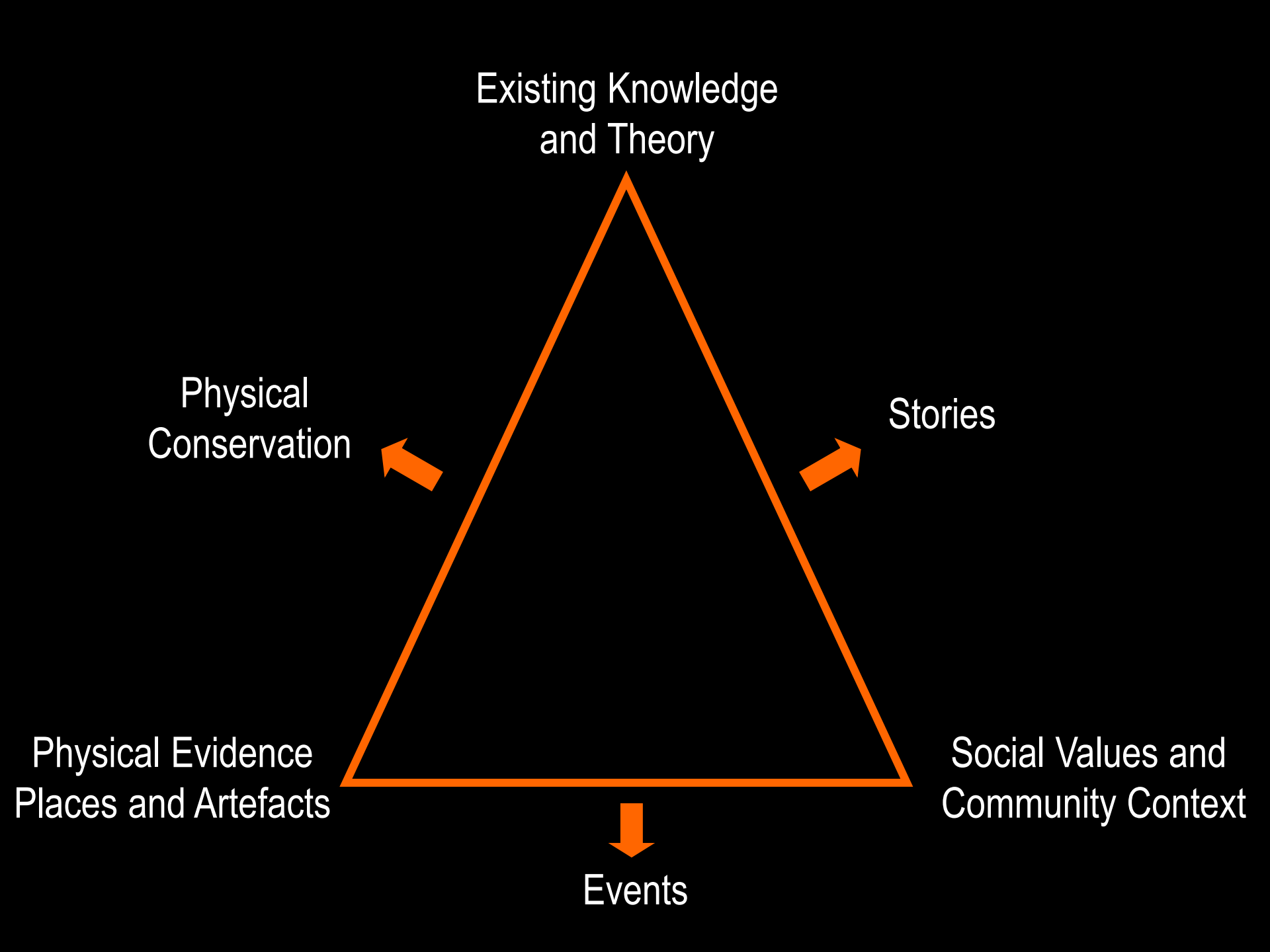
Mary Massagora, a convict, was caught by her husband *in flagrante* with their assigned servant, who was promptly dismissed. Mary, in revenge, went to live near Cumberland Street where her disconsolate husband, hanging around her doorway, was appalled by the number of "men friends" who were constant visitors.

But, says Mr Johnson cheerfully, "they got back together again and were last heard of in the 1830s as 'dealers in curiosities'."

The site of the 10-week dig was occupied continuously until the plague-scare demolitions of the beginning of this century.

From 1917 it was occupied by an engineering workshop, a garage and a vocational training centre for returned servicemen until the 1950s, when it was concreted over for a bus depot.

That last layer has been removed. Now the professionals and their volunteer assistants are beginning the painstaking task of scraping and sieving their way down to the 18th century. "Any more volunteers would always be welcome," says Mr Mackay.


Existing Knowledge
and Theory
Physical
Conservation
Stories
Physical Evidence
Places and Artefacts
Social Values and
Community Context
Events

Casselden Place, Melb

Archaeology: The Event

The Press Conference

Schools Program

Tours

S·P·T
CASSELDEN PLACE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG
PROUDLY FUNDED BY
INDUSTRY SUPERANNUATION PROPERTY TRUST

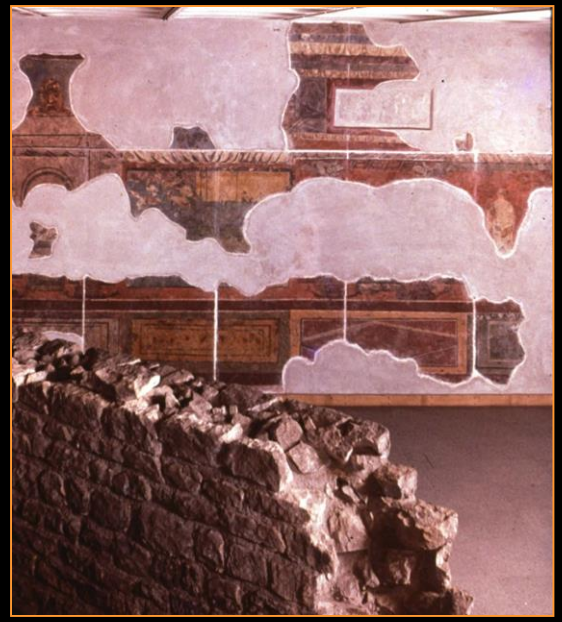
Signs

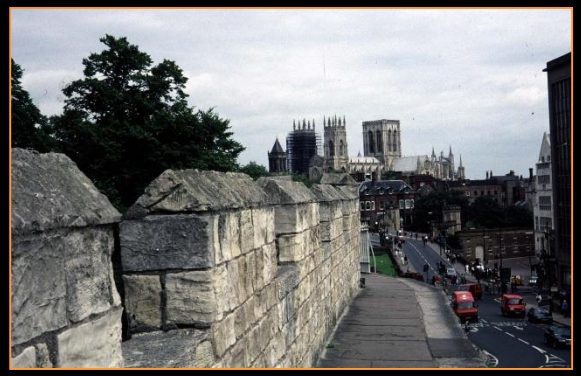
WELCOME TO CASSELDEN PLACE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG.
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO WORK ON
THE PROJECT PLEASE RING
1800 194 811
TO REGISTER.
NEWS 9
Out of the slum come riches of history

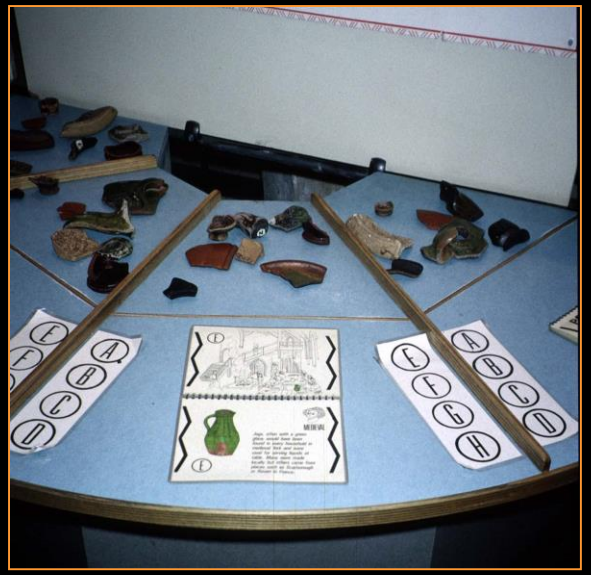
Community Diggers

Media

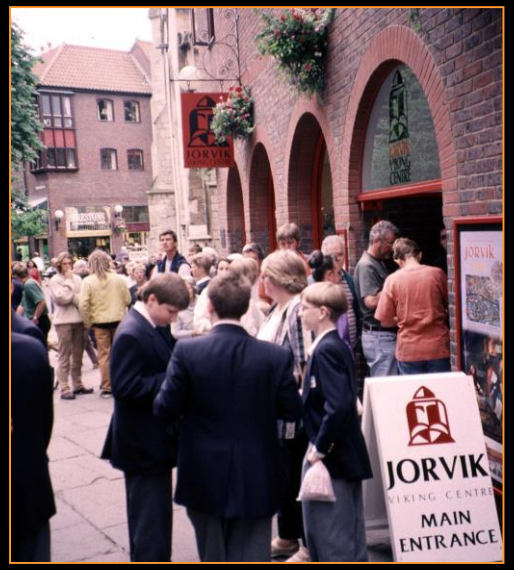
Outreach: York, UK



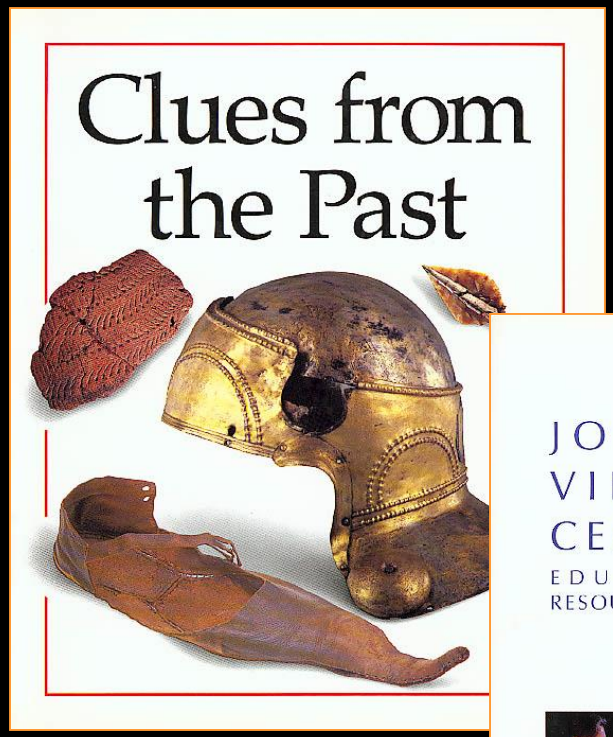


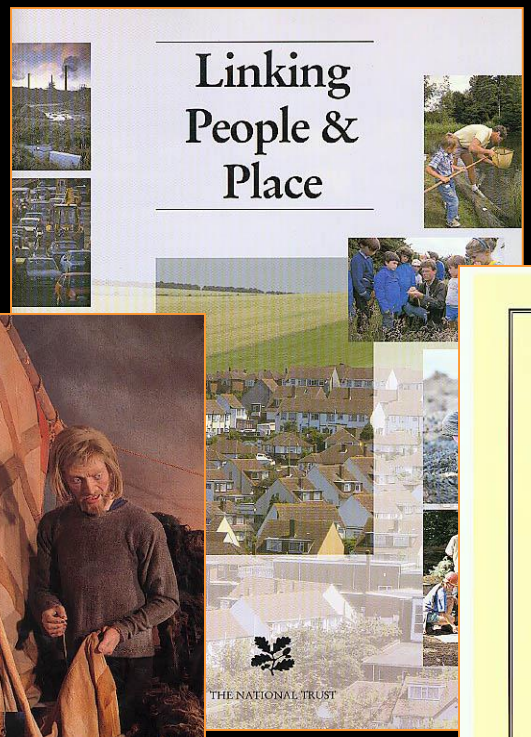


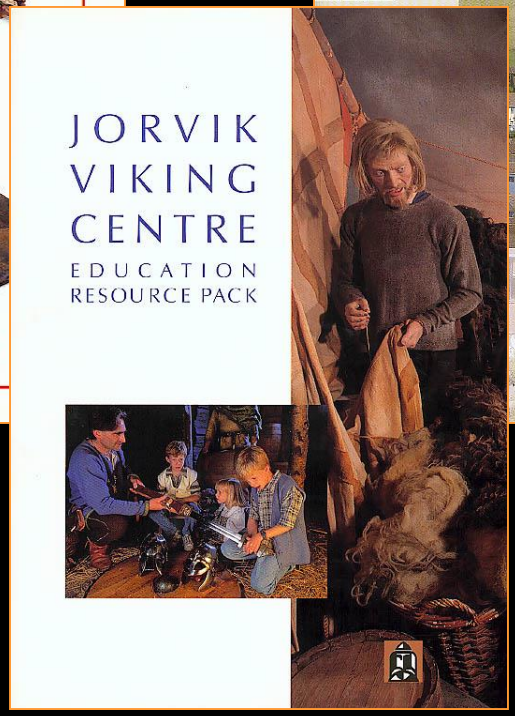
Education Programs

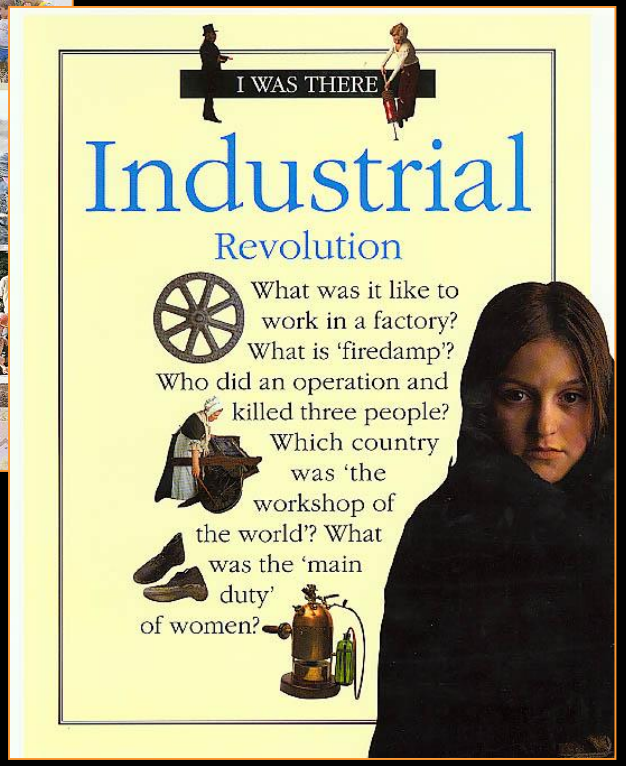


Resources: there

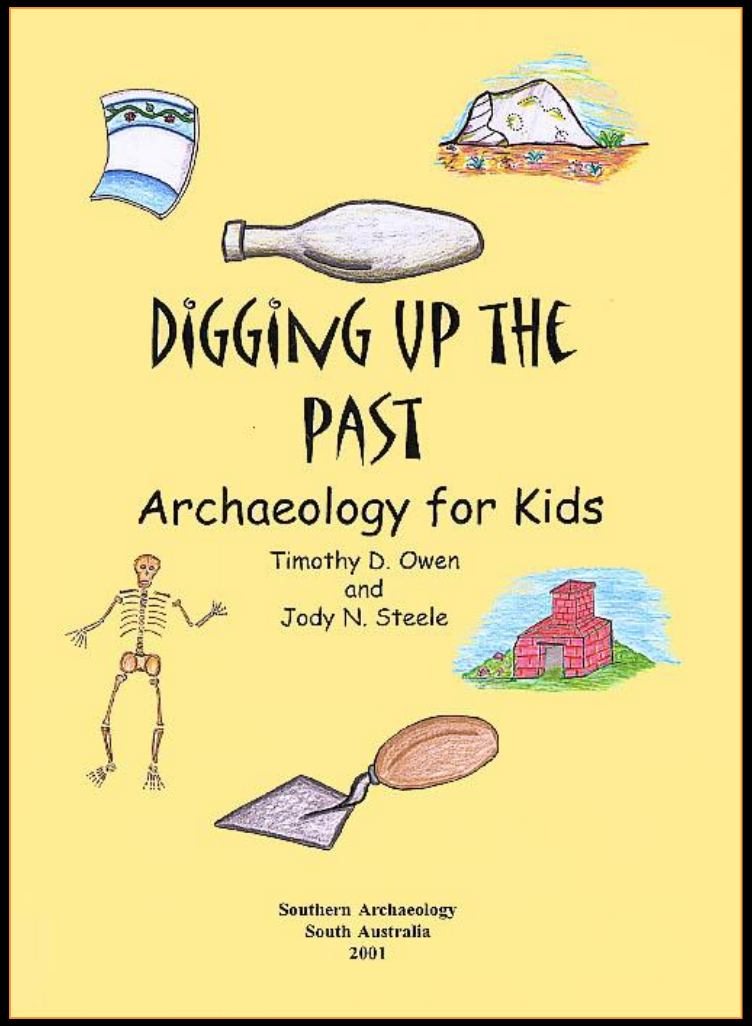


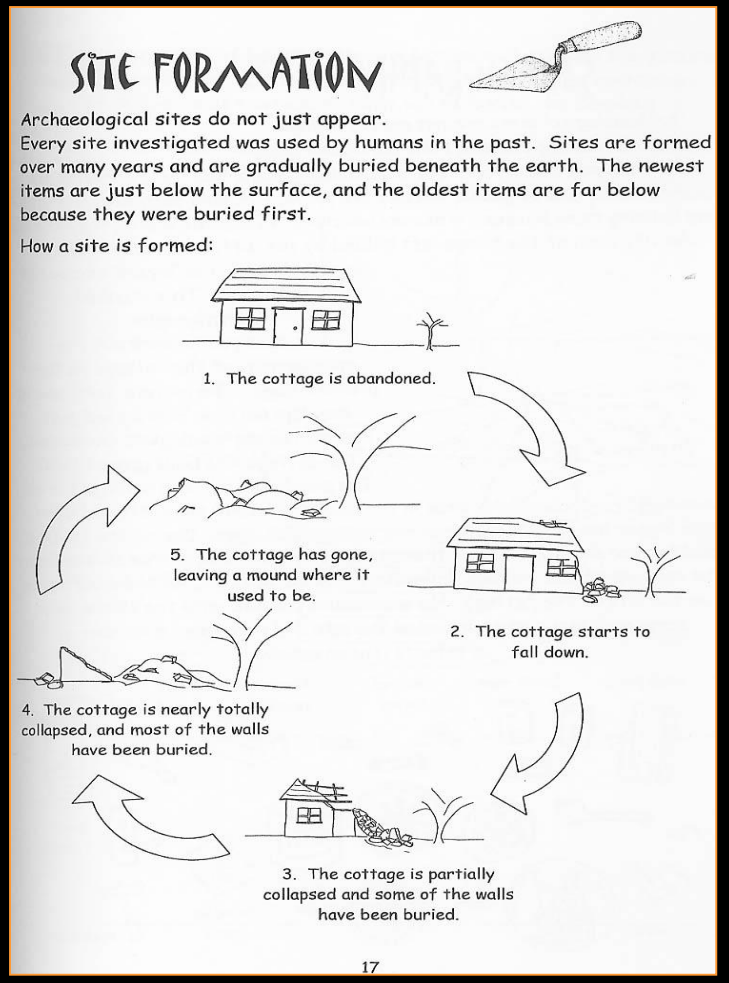






and here

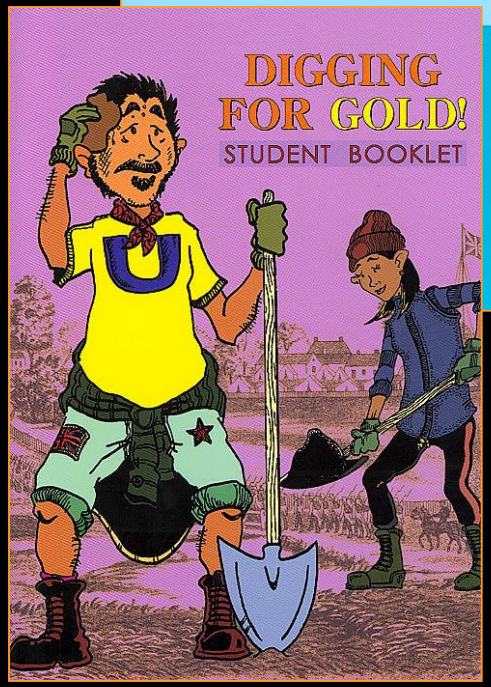

DIGGING UP THE PAST
Archaeology for Kids
Timothy D. Owen
and
Jody N. Steele
Southern Archaeology
South Australia
2001


SITE FORMATION
Archaeological sites do not just appear.
Every site investigated was used by humans in the past. Sites are formed over many years and are gradually buried beneath the earth. The newest items are just below the surface, and the oldest items are far below because they were buried first.
How a site is formed:
1. The cottage is abandoned.
2. The cottage starts to fall down.
3. The cottage is partially collapsed and some of the walls have been buried.
4. The cottage is nearly totally collapsed, and most of the walls have been buried.
5. The cottage has gone, leaving a mound where it used to be.
17

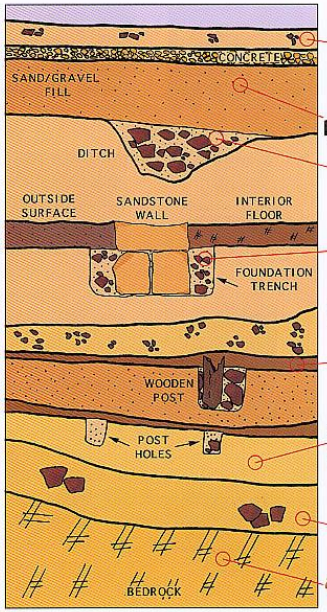
DIGGING FOR GOLD!

Goldfield Archaeology at Ballarat's Government Camp

TEACHER'S BOOKLET
Photocopy Masters



Activity 2: Layers Beneath our Feet



ACTIVITY 3.1

Dating a Deposit Using Coins

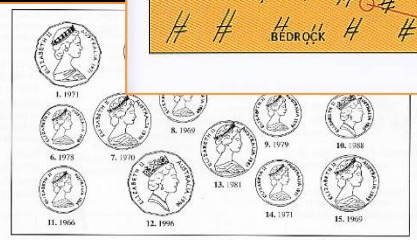
Archaeologists can use many different objects to help them date the layers - or deposits - that they excavate.

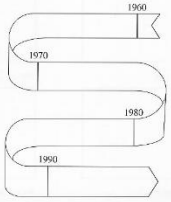
If coins are found, they are perhaps the best dating tool of all.

This is because coins survive well in the soil - and they carry a date - either the year in which they were minted, or the name of a ruler.

Archaeologists still need to be careful, however, when using coins to date deposits.

For example, imagine that the **coins** on this page were all found together in **one deposit**. Let's investigate what they can - and can not - tell us.





QUESTIONS

1. Look at the dates of these coins and write the coin number in the **correct position** on the time-line.
2. How do you think these coins might have ended up **together** in the ground?
3. What is the **earliest** possible date that these coins were hidden or lost?
4. How is it possible that these **coins** may have been lost or hidden as recently as 2001 - even if no coins date to this year?
5. Look at the pictures and writing on the coins. What **information** do these coins tell you about Australia?
6. Sometimes we **don't** find coins in places where people lived. Why do you think this happens?

THE BIG DIG KIT

INVESTIGATING AUSTRALIAN ARCHAEOLOGY

TEACHER'S BOOKLET

Thanks for getting in touch about your essay topic.

Luckily I do have something that may help. A few years ago, after I'd finished at the Cumberland St site, I put together this booklet to help your cousin Alex with a school project.

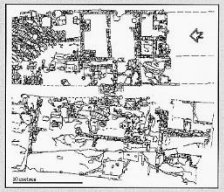
I think you'll find it very useful for your essay.

All the best - Uncle Marco -.

Marco Conti
Personal Notes & Observations

Cumberland & Gloucester Streets Site
June-October 1994

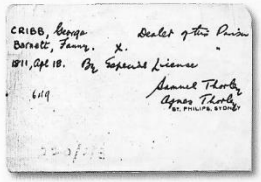
FEATURE REGISTRY



Type of Feature: Plan of 1850s Terrace Buildings
Feature Number: 046
Date: 29.9.94
Location: Squares G-K: 10-16
Notes: Once the 'back-yard' of Cribb's dwellings, now subdivided into narrow terrace buildings. Natural rock to the left - giving the name "the Rocks" to the area.

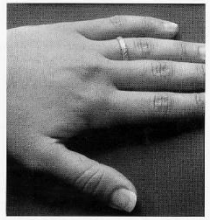
Cumberland and Gloucester Streets site

Source 15. Feature card for the terrace buildings we excavated through September.



CRIBB, George — Dealer of this Parish
Barnett, Fanny
1811, Apl 18. By Special License
Samuel Thorley
Agnes Thorley

Source 16. Cribb marries Fanny.
Mutch Index: Birth, Death and Marriages.

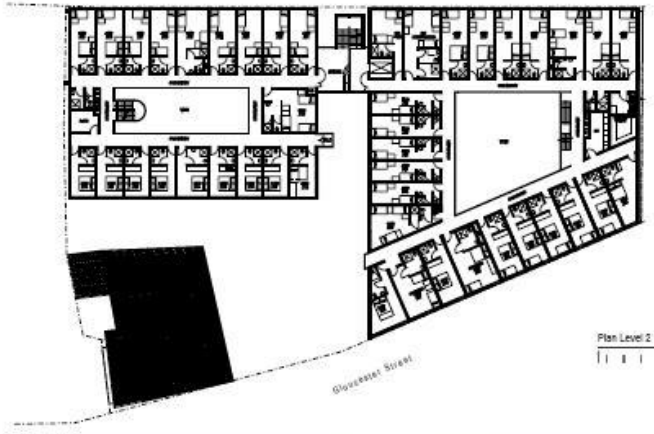


Source 17. A wedding ring uncovered in a deposit of demolition fill from the 1890s. This fill had been brought in from outside the site. Square C8.

A
B
C
D
E
F
G
H
I
J

Cumberland Street

Cumberland Street

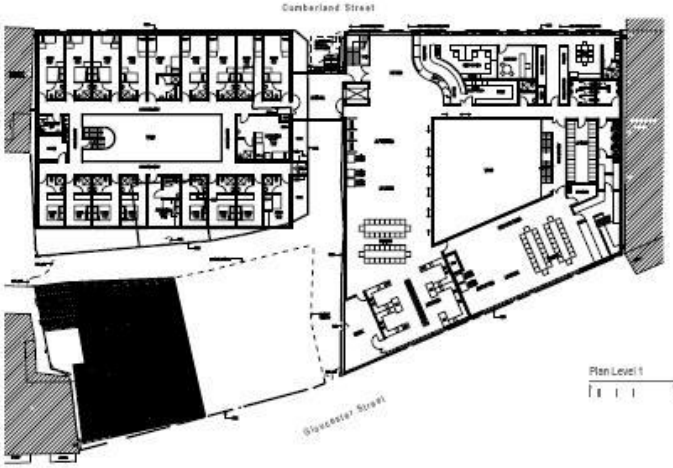


Plan Level 2

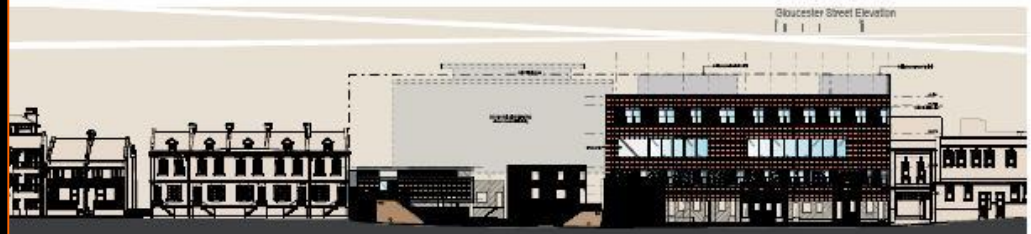
Cumberland Street Elevation

YHA NSW LTD
SYDNEY HARBOUR YHA & THE BIG DIG ARCHAEOLOGY EDUCATION CENTRE

Cumbers Lane in 2010



Plan Level 1

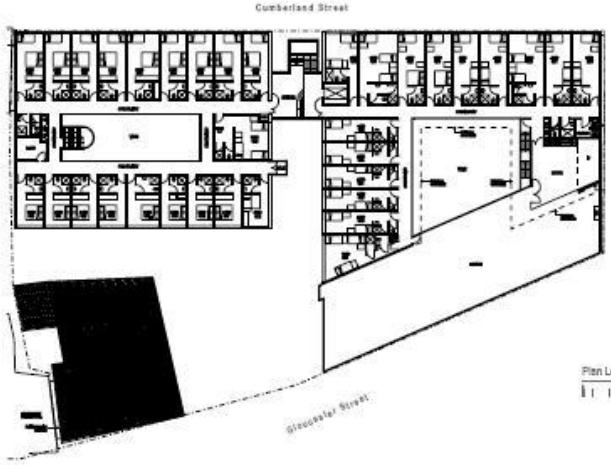


Gloucester Street Elevation

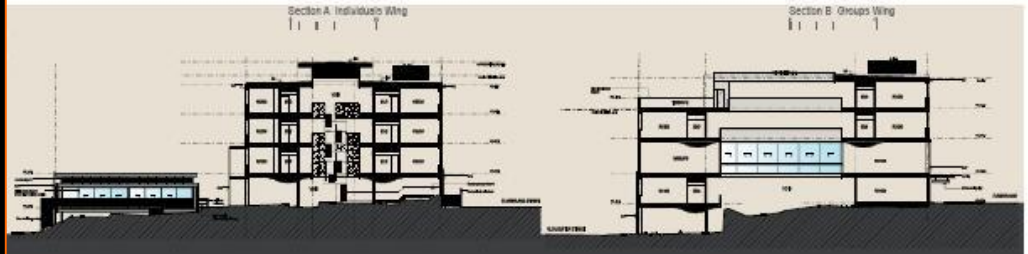
YHA NSW LTD
SYDNEY HARBOUR YHA & THE BIG DIG ARCHAEOLOGY EDUCATION CENTRE

. . . Real History in a *LIVING COMMUNITY*"

Archaeology Education Centre



Plan Level 3



YHA NSW LTD
SYDNEY HARBOUR YHA & THE BIG DIG ARCHAEOLOGY EDUCATION CENTRE

A Celebration!

Some references:

‘Whose Archaeology? Social Considerations in Archaeological Research Design’, *Of the Past, For the Future: Integrating Archaeology and Conservation,* Agnew, N and Demas, M (eds), J Paul Getty Conservation Institute, Los Angeles, 2006.

‘Archaeology: Stories and Contemporary Social Context’ in Cremin, A and Croker, A (eds), *Historic Environment*, Vol 18, No. 3, 2005

www.gml.com.au

Godden Mackay Logan
Heritage Consultants

Connecting Archaeology and Community in The Rocks

Prof Richard Mackay, AM

Godden Mackay Logan

4 April 2008