Graduate program in Maritime Archaeology

The Graduate Certificate in Maritime Archaeology is designed to provide professional knowledge and expertise in maritime archaeology particularly for practitioners working in related fields such as consultants and for government agencies. It may also provide an avenue for entry into the other graduate courses in maritime archaeology available at Flinders University (the Graduate Diploma in Maritime Archaeology and the Master of Maritime Archaeology). To qualify for the Graduate Certificate in Maritime Archaeology a student must complete 3 topics (18 units).

Starting in first semester of 2003 some of the topics for the Graduate program in Maritime Archaeology were made available by distance learning (externally). The first distance learning version of the topic ARCH 8101 *Maritime Archaeology in Australia* was taught to 6 students who were located in South Australia (2), NSW (1), WA (1), Qld (1) and New Zealand (1). Students completed the topic using a published Reader (*Maritime Archaeology in Australia - A Reader* by Mark Staniforth and Michael Hyde), a CD-ROM and WebCT. In second semester (July to November) there were 9 students enrolled in ARCH 8102 *Coastal and Underwater Archaeology*. The third topic that comprises the Graduate Certificate is ARCH 8103 *Underwater Archaeology Field School*, which will be taught at Portarlington in Victoria in February 2004 (as a 2 week intensive field school). The last field school was held at Port Victoria in South Australia in 2002.

Capstan on the wrecksite of the wooden ketch *Eclipse* near Balgowan, South Australia (photo by Robert Hamlin during the 2002 field school).

The quota of 20 for the 2004 field school (ARCH 8103 for postgraduates and ARCH 3304 for undergraduates) has already been filled. Arrangements are being made to bring out Wes Forsythe and Ciara Herron from the University of Ulster to help teach in the field school as part of the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding between Flinders University and the University of Ulster. This MOU also means that starting in 2004 the Master of Maritime Archaeology will be offered online by the two universities. It is expected that there will be at least 8 students enrolled in the Master of Maritime Archaeology in 2004: some are Australians and some are from overseas (including Canada, UK and USA).

At the end of 2003 Julie Ford (Bachelor of Archaeology Hons - Flinders University) became the first student to complete the Master of Maritime Archaeology. Julie’s thesis was titled *The Archaeology of Aircraft Losses over water in Victoria during World War Two*. 
Undergraduate interest in maritime archaeology at Flinders University continues to grow - the second year topic ARCH 2004 Australian Maritime Archaeology had more than 50 students enrolled in 1st semester of 2003 including 17 Bachelor of Science (Marine Biology) students.

Excavation of Sydney Cove Survivors’ Camp

In December 2002 Mark Staniforth, Susan Briggs, Aidan Ash and Aara Welz from the Department of Archaeology participated in the search for, and excavation of, the Sydney Cove survivors’ camp on Preservation Island, Tasmania. Sydney Cove was carrying cargo from Calcutta to Port Jackson when it sank in 1797 and the wreck has been archaeologically excavated over the past twenty years.

Nathan Richards and Aidan Ash conducting a metal detector survey at the Sydney Cove survivor's camp (photo by Mark Staniforth).

The work was conducted under the direction of Mike Nash from the Tasmanian Heritage Office, ably assisted by Nathan Richards (Flinders University PhD graduate). A visual search and a metal detector search (using a loaned XT 18000 metal detector courtesy of Minelab in South Australia) located the site on the very first day. Despite the hazards posed by some very large tiger snakes and the ceaseless wind, the team managed to excavate seven 2m x 2m trenches in just over a week on Preservation Island. Substantial quantities of Chinese export porcelain, broken bottle glass and bricks from the galley were found as well as vast amounts of mutton bird (short-tailed shearwater) bone and some mammal bones. Mike will use the data obtained during the fieldwork to complete his thesis for the Master of Maritime Archaeology at Flinders.

The Perseverant Project

In May 2003 Mark Staniforth together with Mike Nash, Matt Gainsford, Corioli Souter and Jeremy Green (from the WA Maritime Museum) travelled up to Dirk Hartog Island to conduct a pre-disturbance survey and magnetometer survey on the survivor's camp and wrecksite of the Perseverant - a French whaling vessel. The fieldwork was funded by a Flinders Small Grant of $11,000.

Underwater and Maritime Archaeology Theme at WAC5

The Underwater and Maritime Archaeology Theme at WAC5 in Washington DC was very successful with 10 sessions and nearly 100 papers presented from all continents including more than 25 different countries. Mark Staniforth and Dolores Elkin were the Theme convenors for the Underwater and Maritime Archaeology theme. See the WAC5 website at: http://ehlt.flinders.edu.au/archaeology/wac5/indexhomepage.html

Pre-disturbance survey at Gaultois (Newfoundland) Shore-based Whaling Station

Mark Staniforth conducted a pre-disturbance survey of the 19th century shore-based whaling station at Gaultois on Newfoundland, Canada under a permit from the Provincial Archaeology Office in St John’s. The work was done over a three-week period in July 2003 with the assistance of Doug Nixon (Caribou Heritage), a local consultant archaeologist, and Martin McGonigle (a postgraduate student from the
University of Ulster). It was funded through a Faculty Research Grant (FRG) from the Association for Canadian Studies in Australia and New Zealand (ACSANZ) and the Canadian High Commission as well as a Flinders Small Grant.

Doug Nixon and Martin McGonigle conducting pre-disturbance survey on Whake Island (photo by Mark Staniforth)

The archival research revealed that the local whalers had been experimenting with Congreve's rocket system during the 1820s for catching the fast swimming rorqual whales such as the Blue and Fin whales. Burnt bricks from the tryworks floor were found together with the foundations of the whale oil store on Whale (or Lamy's) Island in Gaultois Harbour. Mark will present a paper at the SHA Conference in St.Louis, USA in January 2004.

**Australian Association for Maritime History (AAMH)**

The Australian Association for Maritime History (AAMH) and the Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology (ASHA) held a very successful joint conference on Norfolk Island (1 to 5 October 2003. Mark Staniforth was the program organiser and thirty-one papers were presented over the three days. More than sixty full registrations meant a very good turn out. Mark ended a five-year term as President of AAMH and Mrs Lindsey Shaw, who is a Senior Curator at the Australian National Maritime Museum (ANMM), became the new President at the AAMH AGM on Norfolk Island.

Mark Staniforth and Lindsey Shaw on Norfolk Island during the AAMH/ASHA Conference (photo by Jeffery Mellefont ANMM)

**Dr Nathan Richards appointed to a position at East Carolina University**

Flinders University maritime archaeology PhD graduate Dr Nathan Richards was appointed to a position as Assistant Professor in the Program in Maritime Studies and Nautical Archaeology at East Carolina University (Greenville, North Carolina, USA). Nathan, who graduated at the April 2003 ceremony, also won the prestigious Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) dissertation prize for 2003.

**UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional workshop on underwater cultural heritage**

In November 2003 Mark Staniforth participated in the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional workshop on the protection of the underwater cultural heritage held in Hong Kong. Nearly 80 people from more than 20 countries participated in a three-day
workshop held at the Hong Kong Museum of History. This is one of a series of workshops held around the world to help and encourage countries to ratify the UNESCO Convention on the protection of the underwater cultural heritage (2001). Other meetings have been held in St Lucia (Caribbean) and Maputo (Africa). It looks like a number of countries in the Asian region may ratify the Convention in the next year or two including Cambodia, Thailand, India and Sri Lanka.

Aidan Ash at Heritage Victoria

Aidan Ash will spend three months (Dec 2003 to March 2004) as an intern with the Maritime Heritage Unit at Heritage Victoria. This is the first maritime archaeology internship offered by Heritage Victoria and hopefully will lead to a regular program of internships in the future. Aidan is currently an honours student in maritime archaeology at Flinders and his thesis will incorporate data from the survey of the Star of Greece wreck that he has been working on with SUHR (Society for Underwater Historical Research) over the last two years.

Publications


and jointly published a book chapter with Department of Archaeology PhD student Cass Philippou:


Mark also completed the following:

Book Review of Integrated Marine Investigations on the Historic Shipwreck La Surveillante by Colin Breen et al. for Historical Archaeology.


Book Review of To Harness the Wind by Leo Block for The American Neptune

Some Maritime Archaeology graduates

Julie Ford (B. Archaeology Hons 1999) worked as a maritime archaeologist at Heritage Victoria and completed a Master of Maritime Archaeology degree at Flinders.

Chris Lewczak (B. Archaeology Hons 2000) spent some time working as a research assistant in the Department of Archaeology at Flinders University and is now working as a consultant archaeologist in Sydney.

Cass Philippou (BA Hons 1998) is currently working as a maritime archaeologist for Heritage Victoria in Melbourne and is a part-time PhD candidate in Archaeology.

Nathan Richards (BA Hons 1997 and PhD 2003) spent a year working for the Tasmanian Heritage Office in Hobart. His PhD thesis won the SHA dissertation Prize in 2004 and he is now an Assistant Professor at East Carolina University in the USA.

Jennifer Rodrigues (B. Archaeology Hons 1999) completed an MA (Maritime Archaeology) at the University of Southampton and is now working in the Department of Maritime Archaeology at the WA Maritime Museum in Fremantle.