Graduate Program in Maritime Archaeology

Applications are invited for an expanded graduate program in maritime archaeology at Flinders University. For the first time the Department of Archaeology is offering the Master of Maritime Archaeology degree both part-time and externally through a combination of online, distance learning and intensive topics. Students can still choose to study full time and on-campus. This degree is designed to meet the needs of archaeology, and related graduates, who wish to specialise in maritime archaeology. It is a collaborative initiative between Flinders University and the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland. The Masters program includes a minor thesis of 18,000 words.

A total of 11 Master of Maritime Archaeology students were enrolled at Flinders University in 2004 including students from Canada, UK and the USA as well as Australia. Entry to the Master of Maritime Archaeology and the Graduate Certificate in Maritime Archaeology now takes place twice a year (in February and July).

Information about the Graduate Program in Maritime Archaeology is available at: http://ehlt.flinders.edu.au/archaeology/courses/maritimegrad.php

An application form is available at: http://www.flinders.edu.au/students/future/application_high_deg.pdf

Applications for entry in 2nd semester of 2005 close on 15 June 2005.

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Maritime Archaeology Field School

The annual Flinders University Maritime Archaeology Field School (ARCH 3304 for undergraduates / ARCH 8103 for postgraduates) was conducted at Portarlington in Victoria in early Feb 2004.

Field School students heading out to dive the Paddlesteamer Ozone at Indented Head, Victoria. (photo by Mark Staniforth during the 2004 Field School).

The Field School has previously been taught in collaboration with both Heritage SA and Heritage Victoria at Port Victoria/Wardang Island in Feb 2001 and Feb 2002. This year the Field School was run with the assistance of the Maritime Heritage Unit of Heritage Victoria, the Maritime Archaeology Department of the WA Maritime Museum and the University of Ulster. The University of Ulster staff (Wes Forsythe and Ciara Herron) were in Australia largely as a result of the Memorandum of Understanding.
(MOU) between Flinders and Ulster signed in 2003.

The first part of the topic (two days) consisted of the Australian Institute for Maritime Archaeology (AIMA) and Nautical Archaeology Society (NAS) Part 1 Training program and the remainder of the topic comprised of practical exercises, skills training and associated lecture/seminars. The students were a mix of undergraduates (11) and postgraduates (9) including students from the UK, New Zealand, Queensland and NSW as well as South Australia. The weather was the usual Victorian mixture of good, bad and indifferent but we only lost one day to bad weather which was a pretty good result overall. Some (unsolicited) comments about the Field School were:

I had a great time on the field school.
(Student 2004 Field School)

I can't remember if I mentioned it to you specifically but I was pretty impressed with the structure of the field school and will definitely be recommending it to others that might be interested back here (Student 2004 Field School)

Just a quick note to say thank-you for the field school invitation and the whole experience, its given us a lot to think about and take away with us (Team supervisor 2004 Field School)

Thanks to all of the team supervisors, instructors and staff of the various organisations who participated in the Field School. Next year (in Feb 2005) the Maritime Archaeology Field School will be at Port Arthur in Tasmania. Port Arthur is a former convict penal colony, a highly significant archaeological site and now Tasmania's largest tourism attraction. In 2006 the Field School will be held in the Myall Lakes region, three hours north of Sydney, NSW.

The Oystertown Project

Dr Mark Staniforth took a team of postgraduate students out to Coffin Bay in June 2004 to examine the site of an oyster fishing settlement called, appropriately enough, Oystertown. Oystertown was an early oyster industry settlement that was probably established about 1848 and lasted until about 1880. Despite some rain the team located some remnants of the nineteenth-century settlement on land. A new underwater metal detector from Minelab (the "Excalibur") has recently been purchased and was tested out for the first time during this fieldwork. Underwater searches by a group of graduate students in Maritime Archaeology program including Rick Bullers, James Beringer-Pooley and Shane Lyons together with former student Julie Ford found little nineteenth-century evidence.

Mark completed an interim report on the Oystertown project for the local community at Coffin Bay on Eyre Peninsula. A poster was also produced. Community and organisational support for the project has allowed an ARC Linkage grant application to be made and the project will be ongoing.

Postgraduate students conducting a transect during the Oystertown project fieldwork (photo by Mark Staniforth, May 2004).

First Graduate Program in Maritime Archaeology students graduate
Julie Ford (B.Archaeology Hons - Flinders University) became the first student to graduate in the Master of Maritime Archaeology at the April 2004 graduation ceremony. Julie’s thesis was titled *The Archaeology of Aircraft Losses over water in Victoria during World War Two*.

Two students completed their Master of Maritime Archaeology theses at the end of November 2004. Mike Nash completed his thesis titled *Investigation of a survivor's camp from the Sydney Cove shipwreck*. Matt Gainsford completed his thesis titled *Hamelin Bay Jetty: A study of Hamelin Bay Jetty and the Timber Trade*. Currently at least five students are on track to complete their MMA theses in 2005.

Maritime archaeology internships

Aidan Ash who was an honours student in maritime archaeology at Flinders University spent three months (Dec 2003 to March 2004) as an intern with the Maritime Heritage Unit at Heritage Victoria. This was the first maritime archaeology internship offered by Heritage Victoria and hopefully will lead to a regular program of internships in the future.

Three students have been supported to conduct internships over the summer period 2004/2005. James Beringer-Pooley is with the Maritime Heritage Unit of Heritage Victoria conducting research into the J class submarines and developing a conservation management plan. Rick Bullers is in Tasmania conducting research on Australian shipbuilding with the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service and the Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority. Peta Knott is doing research for an exhibition on shipwrecks being developed by the South Australian Maritime Museum. Our thanks to these four agencies for the their support of the steadily developing maritime archaeology internship program.

New Lecturer in Maritime Archaeology

Dr Joe Flatman joined the Department of Archaeology in July 2004 as a Lecturer in Maritime Archaeology on a twelve-month contract. Joe has a BA (with first class honours), an MA (with Distinction) in Maritime Archaeology and a PhD from the Department of Archaeology at the University of Southampton where he studied under Dr Jon Adams. He has been on temporary funding as a visiting lecturer and/or tutor at the University of Southampton, the University of Bristol and Cardiff University over the past three years. He recently published a paper titled "Cultural Biographies, cognitive landscapes and dirty old bits of boat: 'theory' in maritime archaeology" in the *International Journal of*
Nautical Archaeology (IJNA 32.2:143-157). Joe will be teaching and supervising in the Graduate Program in Maritime Archaeology.

Dr Joe Flatman has been kept busy with the increased number of applications for the Master of Maritime Archaeology and the Graduate Certificate in Maritime Archaeology in 2005. To date 20 offers have been made and the intake is expected to be at least double that of 2004. Joe will also be in charge of the Maritime Archaeology Field School at Port Arthur in Tasmania in February 2005.

Australasian Institute for Maritime Archaeology Vice-President

Mark Staniforth was elected as one of three Vice-Presidents of the Australasian Institute for Maritime Archaeology at the AIMA annual general meeting held during the joint AIMA/ASHA Conference in New Zealand.

Publications and Conferences

Mark Staniforth attended and gave a paper at the Managing Marine Cultural Heritage Conference organised by the Maritime Affairs Group (MAG) of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA). The paper was titled "Australian approaches to defining and quantifying underwater cultural heritage: learning from our mistakes" and the conference was held in the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, UK.

Mark Staniforth completed the following:


Some Maritime Archaeology graduates

**Julie Ford** (B. Archaeology Hons 1999 and Master of Maritime Archaeology 2003) worked as a maritime archaeologist at Heritage Victoria and as a Technical/Research Assistant at Flinders University.

**Matt Gainsford** (Master of Maritime Archaeology 2004) is working in the Department of maritime Archaeology at the Western Australian Maritime Museum.

**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.

**Mike Nash** (Master of Maritime Archaeology 2004) is the Maritime Heritage Officer with the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service in Hobart.

**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 the Department of Archaeology at Flinders University.

**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. Jen is now a PhD candidate at the University of Western Australia and is working part-time in the Department of Maritime Archaeology at the WA Maritime Museum in Fremantle.