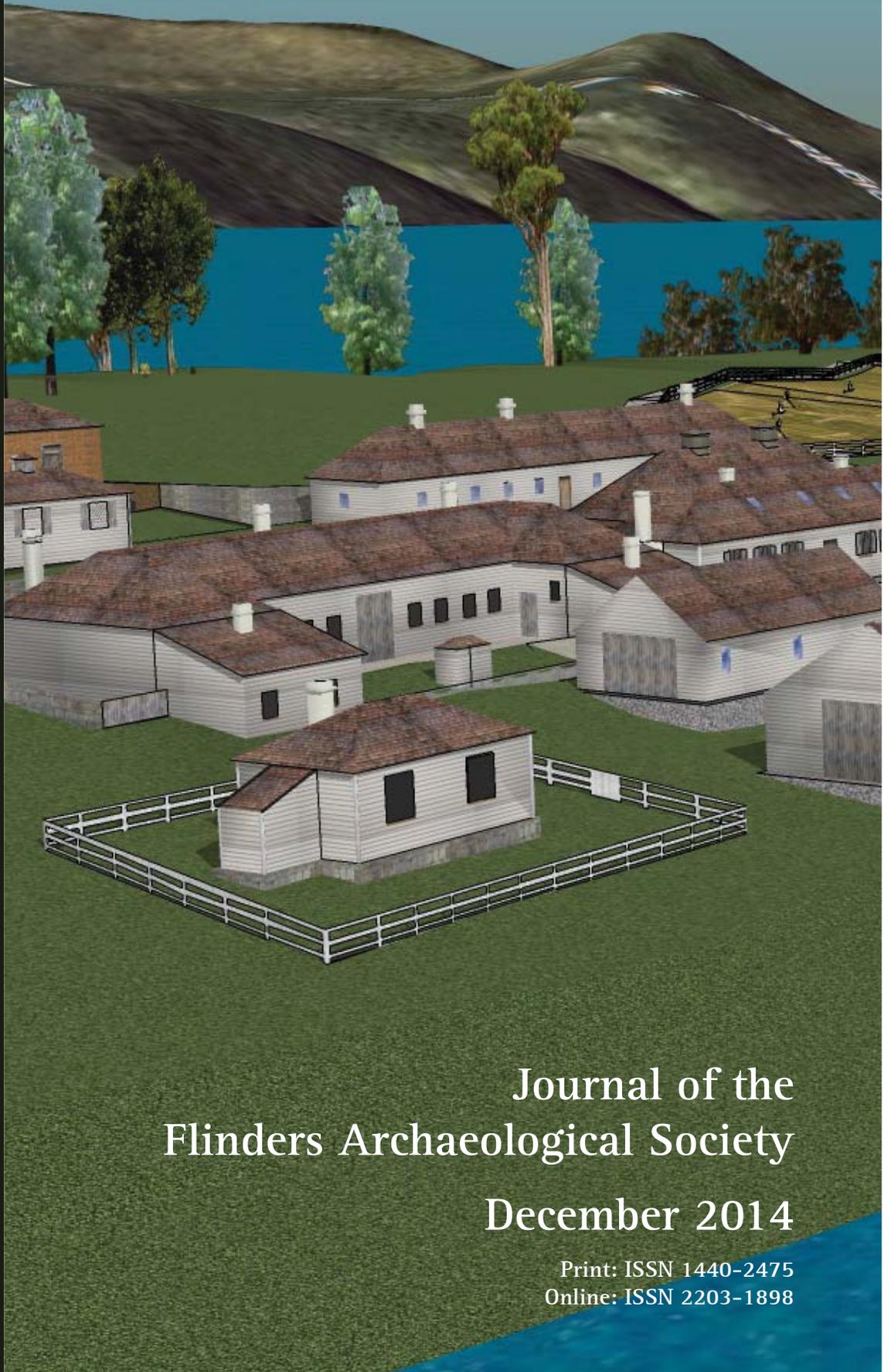




# DigIt

Volume 2, Issue 2



Journal of the  
Flinders Archaeological Society

December 2014

Print: ISSN 1440-2475  
Online: ISSN 2203-1898

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Cover image: Digital recreation of what the Point Puer Boys' Prison may have looked like in 1845, when the population of the prison peaked at approximately 800 juvenile inmates (created by John Stephenson, May 2013; see pages 89-94)

Email: [dig.it@flindersarchsoc.org](mailto:dig.it@flindersarchsoc.org)  
Web: [flindersarchsoc.org](http://flindersarchsoc.org)  
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# DigIt

# Editorial

*Dig It* is a community product. The total number of people involved in writing, editing, formatting, reviewing, laying out and printing this issue were 39 from 24 different institutions – and that does not even include the greater number of people who provide helpful comments and ideas along the way, or write and talk to us to let us know they appreciate our work – all of which are very important things to keep us going. Special thanks goes out to ArchSoc, who are always there in the background offering practical help at the most critical times.

Compared to the 2014-1 issue, this second issue of 2014 has a more local touch, but still includes reports about archaeological work being done in places as far away as Thailand, Italy, the UK, and South America. We are proud to have encouraged a number of undergraduate and Masters students to publish their thoughts and research. We want to particularly develop this part of the journal by encouraging fresh new authors to share their ideas. One step towards this goal was a book review Master Class, held in November together with Dr Alice Gorman, book review editor of *Australian Archaeology*, that encouraged 16 students to write reviews for *AA* and *Dig It* – two of which readers can find in this issue.

And since *Dig It* is a community product many editors and review panel members will stay on in 2015 when Jordan Ralph will take over editor-in-chief with new ideas and enthusiasm. During the last weeks, we have been preparing ideas for making *Dig It* even more successful in the future. The 2014 *Dig It* team would like to thank ArchSoc for giving us the opportunity to be part of a rewarding and creative experience. I personally would like to thank all authors, editors, and reviewers for the hard work and dedication that is needed to create one of only three peer-reviewed archaeology student journals in the world: *Dig It!*

## Jana Rogasch

Editor, *Dig It: The Journal of the Flinders Archaeological Society*

<jana.rogasch@flinders.edu.au>



ArchSoc members during Total Station and GPS workshops (photographs by Dianne Riley, 2014)

# President's Address

The second half of 2014 was a busy one for the Flinders Archaeological Society. During this period not only did the Society support University events such as O'week in late July and the Open Day in early August, it undertook a new direction. Under the guidance of a new look Executive Committee, ArchSoc organised a series of workshops in order to allow members the opportunity to further develop their professional skills. Participants came together in a relaxed atmosphere and in total three workshops have been held since July; two Total Station workshops (August and September), and a GPS workshop (October). Thanks is especially given to the two professionals, Rob Koch and Jordan Ralph, who gave their time pro bono to ArchSoc, and who also committed to undertaking further workshops in 2015. ArchSoc continued to support the Flinders University Department of Archaeology's Thursday Seminars in 2014 and looks forward to continuing to do so in 2015. In November, ArchSoc also supported the Book Review Master Class with Dr. Alice Gorman.

In October, ArchSoc was asked to take part in the Highercombe Museum Vintage Fair. This was a direct result of the involvement of ArchSoc members in the public archaeology event carried out during *About Time: South Australia's History Festival* in May. As a result of its connection with Highercombe, ArchSoc went on to present a brief overview of the value of potential relationships with branches of the National Trust, at the State Conference of the National Trust of South Australia on 19<sup>th</sup> November. This presentation was undertaken with a view to setting up future opportunities of field work and research for ArchSoc members.

Overall, however, membership was down for 2014 and this is something that needs to be addressed in 2015. Membership fees will, however, remain at \$15, with no concessions, for the coming year. The ArchSoc 5-year-plan (a product of the Forum held in November) is exciting and offers future committees the benefit of an in-place strategy for the future direction of ArchSoc.

In review, 2014 has been an innovative and productive year. To ensure that the vision for the future direction of ArchSoc materialises, continued energy and commitment from all ArchSoc members will be needed in 2015.

## Dianne Riley

President, Flinders Archaeological Society 2014

<rile0066@flinders.edu.au>



Dianne Riley, Adeena Fowke and Aletta Fowke at the ArchSoc stall, Flinders University O'week (photograph by Susan Arthure, July 2014)

# From Village Mounds to Monuments: New survey in the Upper Mun River Valley, northeast Thailand

Caitlin Evans

College of Arts, Society, and Education, James Cook University, <caitlin.evans@my.jcu.edu.au>

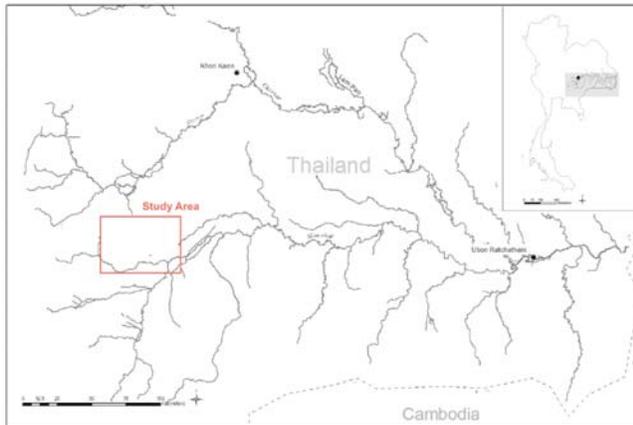


Figure 1: Location of the study area, highlighted in red (created by author)



Figure 2: Modern landscape of the Upper Mun River Valley, with wet-rice agriculture (photograph by the author, March 2013)



Figure 3: Field team 2013 (photograph by Gordon Stenhouse, February 2013)

Over twenty years of excavations by the Origins of Angkor (OA), Fine Arts Department of Thailand (FAD), and the Society and Environment Before Angkor (SEBA) projects, have revealed 4,000 years of continuous occupation in the Upper Mun River Valley of northeast Thailand. Located upon a major tributary of the Mekong river highway, the archaeological significance of this region is readily apparent. The Upper Mun River Valley contains some of the earliest evidence of sedentary occupation in Mainland Southeast Asia, with Neolithic middens and burial mounds dated to at least the 18th century BCE. Furthermore, the complexity in mortuary ritual and vast water management projects hint at the development of local hierarchies, pan-regional trade networks, and perhaps polity(s) to rival its neighbours: the Angkor Empire to the southwest (modern-day Cambodia) and the Dvaravati polity(s) to the west (modern-day central Thailand).

However, excavations to date within the Upper Mun River Valley are somewhat isolated and lack contextualisation within inter-site and/or community settlement patterns. Members of the SEBA team together with independent Thai archaeologist Jitlada Innanchai instigated a new round of surveys to the northwest of Phimai to build upon earlier reconnaissance work by the Khorat Basin Archaeological Project (KBAP) team (Welch 1985:Figure 1). The aim was to provide greater detail on occupation patterns over time, with a focus on Upper Mun River Valley human-landscape interaction models (Boyd and Chang 2010). There were, however, challenges to survey. Upwards of 85% of the Upper Mun River Valley has been deforested, and in most cases heavily ploughed, causing the destruction of many archaeological mounds (FAO 2009:Figure 2). Systematic, intensive survey, often described as 'full-coverage survey', seemed the most appropriate method to reconstruct settlement patterns given this disturbance. Such an approach had been successfully applied in large swaths across Southwest China (Peterson and Drennan 2005) and Mesopotamia (Wilkinson 2000).

Systematic, intensive pedestrian surveys of surface artifacts were conducted over three successive field seasons, covering a total of 50km<sup>2</sup>. The initial survey area (b) in the low-mid terraces (160-180 metres above mean sea level MAMSL) was completed mid-January 2012. Following consultation with local authorities an area some 6.5 km north of the well-documented Ban Non Wat site (Higham and Kijngam 2009) was chosen, where the author and 10 volunteers surveyed 18.9km<sup>2</sup> over a 16 day period. Method consisted of four groups of field walkers spaced 50m apart walking parallel transects west-to-east across the survey area. Each group contained a local Thai guide, a fluent English speaker, and someone trained in recognising and recording artifacts.

Intensive pedestrian survey in the Upper Mun River Valley presented many physical challenges for team members (Figure 3). There were no passable roads within this section of the sub-district, forcing teams to walk for up to an hour to reach the survey starting point. From late-January to early-February the rice paddy fields were between harvesting and replanting for the new season, so the ground surface consisted of baked clay mud, dry brush/long grass, and freshly ploughed earth. The heat and constantly uneven terrain made survey particularly difficult for volunteers (Figure 4). The many agricultural canals and

tributaries feeding into the Mun River had to be navigated, with teams forced to wade across shallow rivers as a group and then reform into transects. Despite challenges the preliminary survey revealed an unprecedented number of surface artifact clusters or 'sites' within a relatively short period, and was deemed successful.

Subsequently, in the 2013 January/February season a second pedestrian survey (survey area c) was completed within the upper alluvial floodplains (142-160 MAMSL) of the Upper Mun River Valley. Over 21 days a further 16.5 km<sup>2</sup> were surveyed, reaching from the southern banks of the Huay Yai River to the northern edge of Noen-U-Loke. Finally in March 2014 a third survey area was completed, consisting of a 15 km<sup>2</sup> section of uplands (200-260 MAMSL), located within Sa Chaeng sub-district, Kham Sakaesaeng district, Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand (survey area a). Artifacts recovered varied considerably, but included a large collection of stone tools (Figure 5), many examples of historic glazed stoneware (Figure 6), and vast amounts of early prehistoric cord-marked earthenware jars (Figure 7).

The 2012-2014 pedestrian surveys allow us to reconstruct in greater detail settlement organisation of the Upper Mun River Valley and plan for future field seasons. Four large Neolithic (ca. 1650-1000 BCE) surface artifact concentrations (hereafter referred to as sites) indicate that early settlement within the region consisted of low density settlements located on naturally raised plateaus of old alluvium and regolith formation, beside major river channels of the late Holocene. The proceeding millennia of occupation followed a similar settlement pattern, but with expansion into a greater range of landscapes, including more occupation in the low-mid terraces, directly upon the original late Holocene river channels. This likely reflects the gradual infilling of swamps and single-string rivers, creating a highly fertile valley for Bronze Age (ca. 1000-500 BCE) and early Iron Age (ca. 500-0 BCE) settlements.

During the late Iron Age (ca. 0 BCE-500 CE) a rise in population levels can be seen as sites expanded deeper into the alluvial floodplains including strings of new, small sites associated with emerging anatomising channel network. Many of these sites were only occupied for brief periods, with constant localised movement. Half of all alluvial floodplain sites were reused into the pre-Angkorian period (ca. 500-802 CE), when population levels peaked, and expansion continued into higher elevations. It is during the pre-Angkorian period, not the Angkor period (ca. 802-1431 CE) as previously reported, that the first settlements appear in the uplands of the Upper Mun River Valley and a regional shift in settlement distributions occurs, from a northeast-south west direction to a northwest-southeast direction. This shift, combined with a collection of 6th-8th century CE monasteries, brick temples, and monuments displayed near major riverine trade routes, suggests a developing relationship with southwestern Mekong Basin polities (modern day Cambodia) predating the absorption of the area in the Angkorian Empire during the 9th century CE.

One of the most remarkable and well-documented trends is the longevity of settlement within the Upper Mun River Valley (Figure 8). It appears there was more localised movement of individual sites than previously documented (sometimes within individual 'site' boundaries). As a whole, communities have occupied particular locales, and a small number of significantly sized sites, for over four millennia. Such longevity implies community strength, organisation, and resilience, particularly given the changing climate of the Upper Mun River Valley.



Figure 4: Recording artefacts in the salt flats of survey area b (photograph by Wilbert Yee, February 2013)



Figure 5: Stone adze recovered from survey area b (photograph by the author, January 2012)



Figure 6: Angkor period stoneware sherd, with wave design and stamped circle pattern (photograph by Jitlada Innanchai, January 2012)



Figure 7: Examples of early prehistoric cord-marked, earthenware sherds (photograph by the author, January 2012)



Figure 8: Modern village built on an ancient occupation mound in survey area c (photograph by the author, January 2013)

The next season is scheduled for January 2015 when we will look to expand existing survey areas and incorporate remote sensing and satellite survey into our investigations. We are also currently integrating our results into a model of settlement patterns in the Upper Mun River Valley that emphasises linear, kin-based community structures.

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# An Education in Italy

**Sarah Hutchinson**

Department of Archaeology, Flinders University,  
<lawr0096@flinders.edu.au>

Over the course of the Flinders University semester break I was fortunate enough to attend a summer school program in Osteoarchaeology and Paleopathology. The course was held at the University of Pisa's Division of Paleopathology and run by the Institute for Research and Learning in Archaeology and Bioarchaeology (IRLAB). The course was a 3 week intensive (23rd June-11th July, 2014) that provided theoretical knowledge and practical experience on the methodologies utilised to clean, restore and analyse human remains. While no assumed knowledge is required, it is beneficial to have some anatomical background.

In total there were 6 students representing the USA, Italy and Australia. The student's backgrounds were in archaeology and physical anthropology.

The course was facilitated by Dr Valentina Giuffra and Dr Simona Minozzi and overseen by Professor Gino Fornaciari. All are current researchers active in the field of osteoarchaeology and paleopathology.

As part of providing students with tangible experience in analysing human remains, we were each assigned a skeleton of an adult and sub-adult. We were responsible for the cleaning and restoration of these remains throughout the course. The remains were excavated from a nearby Middle Ages church in Vecchiano, 8km north of Pisa. They were found in a supine position under the road that was located in front of the church. The site has been dated between the 7th and 8th century.

## **Summary of Adult 251**

The remains of Adult 251 were found to be in a supine position, west to east facing. They were well preserved with some fragmentation. There are a number of variables that can be used to determine age at death. Based on an approximate average of those variables, the remains were determined to be that of a male whose age at death was approximately 40 years. Using the Fully (1956) method, the height of this specimen was determined to be 144cm tall.

A number of pathological and stress indicators were identified. This man suffered from early stages of osteoarthritis, porotic hyperostosis, enamel hypoplasia and enthesopathies. Non-metric traits were also observed. Schmorl nodes were present in the vertebrae indicating that he carried a heavy load during his youth. Cribra orbitalia was also evident indicating he had suffered from anaemia at some point. Evidence of hyperplasia on his teeth indicates at least two childhood periods of physical stress.

One of the most interesting finds was the discovery of what appears to be cut marks on some of the bones. The distal and proximal ends of the right femur were quite prominent. They were also found on the calcaneus bilaterally as well as the left patella. It was not possible to determine if these were ante or post mortem and they require further analysis.

Two other sets of remains also showed evidence of similar markings. No markings were found on the remains of the sub-adults. Needless to say there was a bit of interest in these marks. As there are approximately 100 sets of remains from this location they will be examined for similar markings. There is no known evidence of any particular conflict in this area; however villages are known to have been attacked by marauders. Further investigation is warranted and will be conducted in due course.

I found the course valuable in extending my knowledge in osteoarchaeology and paleopathology. The practical experience gained is unique and the small group facilitates learning.

If you have an interest in this area, I highly recommend the course (which is taught in English). Not only will you gain hands on experience, an Italian summer is something to be experienced. Summer school opportunities through IRLAB also include field schools. We were fortunate enough to visit the Pozzeveri 2014 field school. It is a very professional outfit and students are offered opportunities to partake in all aspects of the excavation. We also went on a field excursion of our own to observe CT examinations of some existing projects, with the most notable being the CT examination of the preserved anus of King Ferrente I of Aragon (1431-1494).

*For further information on schools run by IRLAB visit*  
<<http://irlabnp.org/>>



*Figure 1: Author examining the remains of a sub-adult (photograph by Ari Brin, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2014)*



*Figure 2: Author examining the remains of Adult 251 (photograph by Valentina Giuffra, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2014)*

# Using Old Maps to Create New Data

Andrew Frost

Department of Archaeology, Flinders University,  
 <fros0074@flinders.edu.au>

The use of historic maps and images within a modern Information System are well documented and well supported (ArcGIS Content Team 2014). These maps can be used to glean new information, transpose old data into modern digital storage formats, or to compare what was to what is. Quite often this integration of the old into the new is quite straight forward, but occasionally there are issues, especially with much older material that may lack a high level of cartographic accuracy or detail. This is a brief account of such a time when things did not go quite to plan, what went wrong, and how the day was saved.

In 2010, a collaboration between the University of Adelaide and three regional councils (Adelaide Hills Council, The Barossa Council, District Council of Mount Barker and the City of Onkaparinga) resulted in the decision to launch a bid to place parts of the Mount Lofty Ranges on UNESCO's World Heritage

List. This bid is based on the region's working agrarian landscape, as many of the agricultural areas of the Mt Lofty Ranges have been producing high quality produce for South Australia since settlement, and will be a well-deserved recognition of the world class beauty and heritage values that lie on our doorstep.

The settlement of Adelaide is unique in Australian history as it is the first fully planned state capital city. In order for the British Parliament of the time to allow the settlement of the new colony, the sale of land was required to be fully subscribed. Colonel Light was ordered to undertake the surveying of the new colony and he divided the lands from Outer Harbour to Cape Jervis into five regions, which were to be surveyed first. Other land holders who were moving to South Australia to start agricultural pursuits quickly moved to stake out the prime areas for agriculture. These areas became known as the Special Surveys (Flinders Ranges Research 2014), and are the base for the world heritage bid as they form part of the areas that have been in continuous production. Names associated with these Special Surveys like Dutton, Morphett, Eyre, Gilbert and Angas are well known and respected in South Australia, as these men went on to become pioneers

and wealthy landholders. It should also be noted that the South Australian Company was named as the principal of five of these surveys, most notably the Lyndoch Valley and areas along the upper reaches of the River Torrens.

In 1847 a surveyor by the name of Arrowsmith produced a map (Figure 1) of the new colony to help show progress to the government of the day back in London. This is the first recorded definition of these Special Surveys. Little hard evidence is known as to the specifics of origin of these survey areas. From investigation and personal communications (pers. comm. from various staff, Surveyor-General's Office 2014; Rob Koch, pers. comm. 11 October 2014) it is believed that the areas were first drawn roughly on a map, and then survey crews went and surveyed each area according to the practices of the day, in that each area was required to have a surveyed town within the boundary. It is my humble, but whimsical opinion, that these survey boundaries were first drawn on a map in the back room of a hotel somewhere in the new colony. Sadly detailed

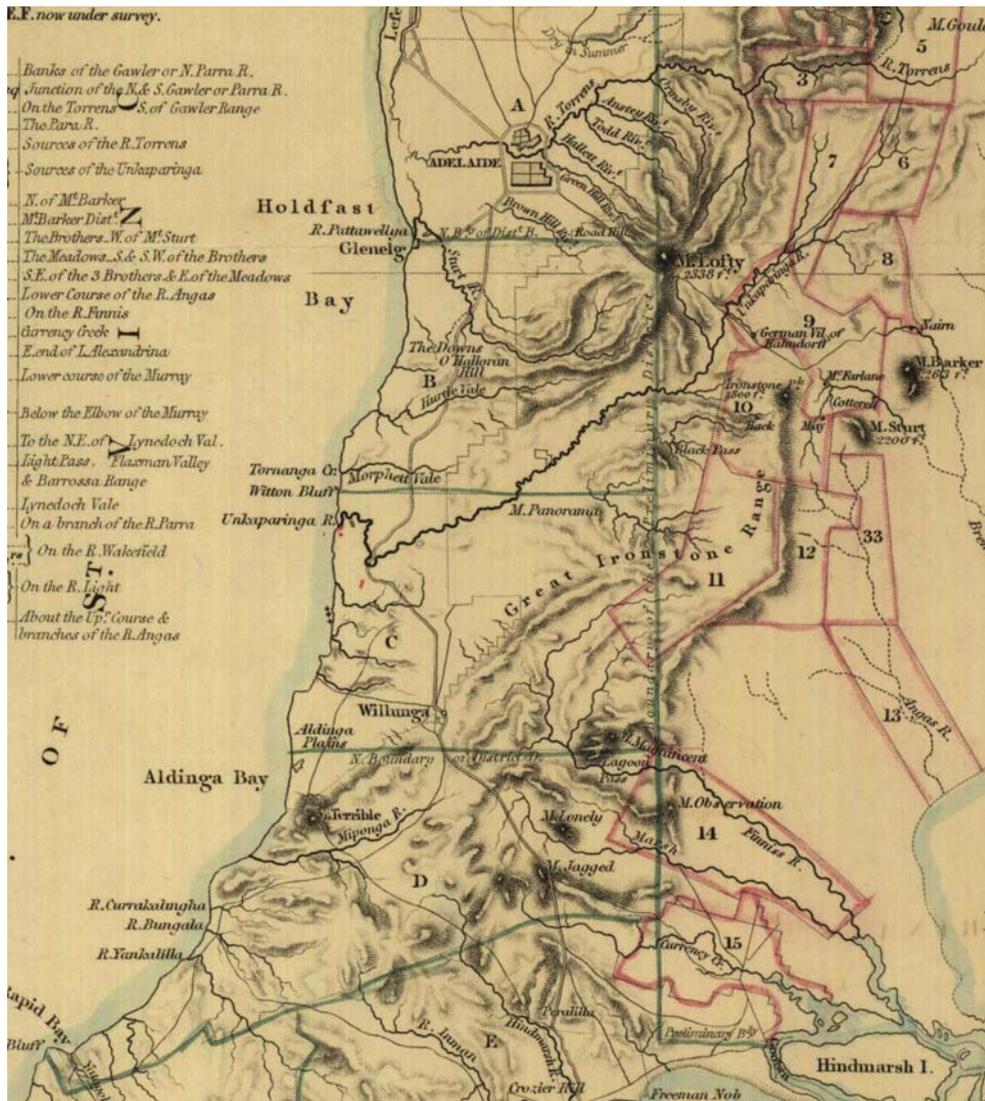


Figure 1: Details of 1847 Arrowsmith map (courtesy of State Library of South Australia, file identifying number C381)

knowledge of the true origins of these surveys could not be reliably found.

As these Special Surveys would form the foundation of the World Heritage Bid, the plan was for Arrowsmith's map to be incorporated into a modern Geographic Information System (GIS), to form the basis of any future research to support the World Heritage Bid, and to save the boundaries in a modern spatial format. A high quality scanned copy was obtained from the State Library and the aim was to georeference this scanned map. A scanned map or image has no information that the GIS could process to determine where in the world the image or map refers to. Georeferencing is the process that can supply this information to the GIS, and simply put, is a process of using the coordinate system within the GIS to relate the map or image to real world features. The Arrowsmith map had several natural and artificial features that could potentially be used for this purpose, namely the coast line, roads, a rudimentary latitude and longitude grid, and rivers.

Under normal circumstances this process is quite straight forward, requiring only a few hours to be competently completed. However, despite Mr Arrowsmith creating a fully functional and quite attractive map, the quality and accuracy of the cartography was lacking. Several attempts were made to georeference the image of the map, using all the experience and skill of the author, but due to the inherent discrepancies in the underlying cartography, the image was distorted so badly that it was quite unusable (Figure 2). As is quite often the case when seemingly insurmountable problems are faced, this work was put to one side. A casual conversation with the manager of the Land Services Group section of the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure brought forward an invitation to research their store of digital maps, which to my excitement proved to be a digital archive of a very large number of scanned historical maps produced since settlement. I discussed the Special Surveys with staff from the Surveyor-General's Office, who were quite interested in the project I was undertaking, and agreed that the original boundaries could have been drawn in a pub one night. After looking through dozens of scanned maps from

the early days of the colony, a pattern began to appear. Many of the maps were of areas within the Special Surveys, and contained well laid out surveyed blocks, with faint boundaries of the Special Surveys. After discussion with the surveyors (pers. comm. from various staff, Surveyor-General's Office 2014), it was agreed that the boundaries were in fact roughly drawn, then the land within was 'properly' surveyed at a later date, a fact that was confirmed by Rob Koch in conversation later.

Once this was realised, the search for the boundaries of the Special Surveys did change focus, as it was realised that finding a complete, quality set from the late 1840s would be quite difficult. After further digging, and with great joy, a more modern map of the survey areas with Hundred Boundaries was uncovered. Hundred Boundaries date from 1846 (Primary Industries and Regions 2014), and were the first recognised land divisions in South Australia. Fortunately still current today, they were drawn to contain approximately one hundred square miles each and were slowly surveyed and drawn to cover much of the state. Georeferencing this map was a straightforward exercise, as was

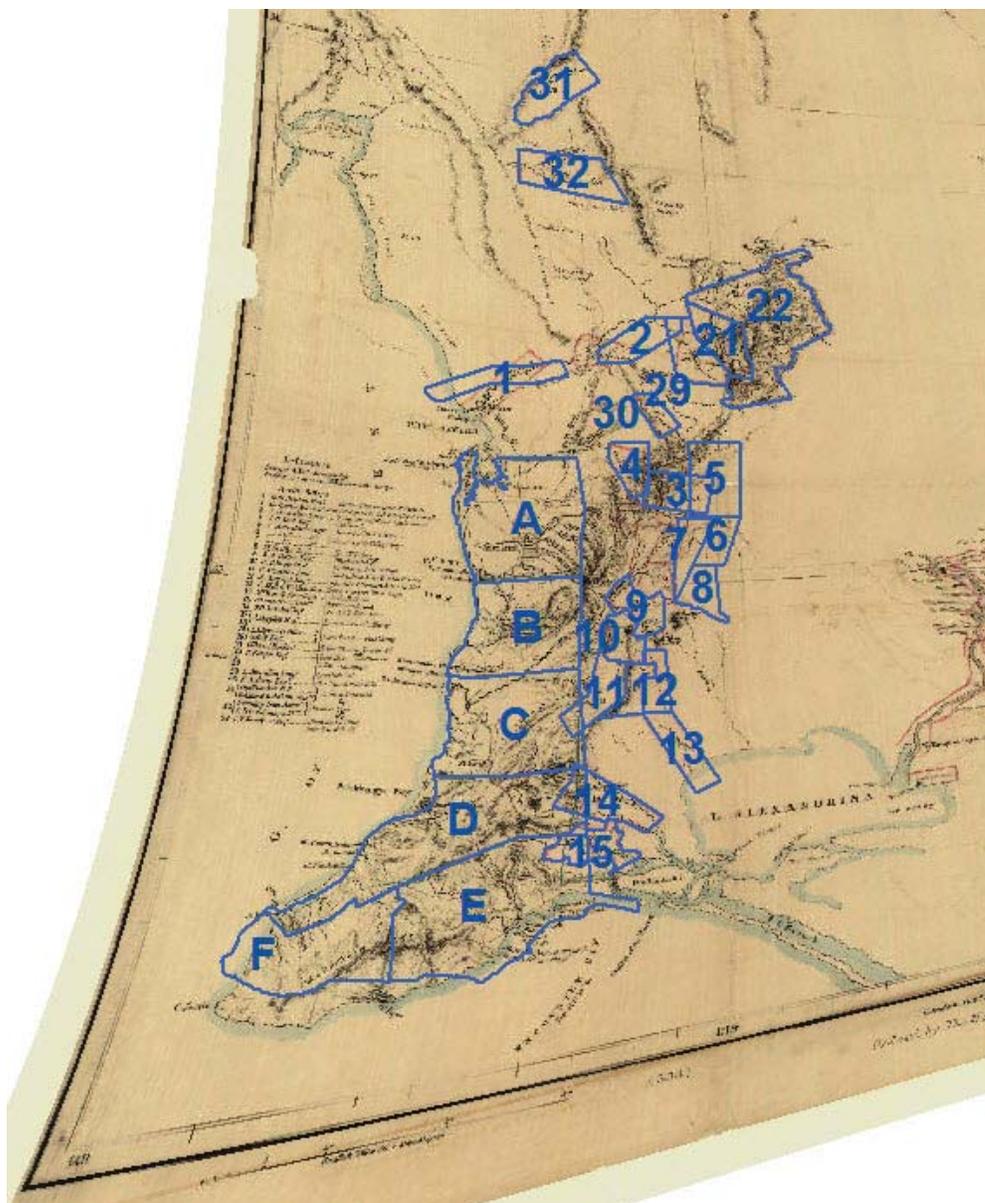


Figure 2: Distortion from georeferencing original map. This map appears to be bent or slightly crumpled. Note inaccuracy around Cape Jervis (created by the author)

creating the Special Survey boundaries in a modern context. The survey areas did contain a few minor differences, and there were three more than on the 1847 Arrowsmith original, but having the Hundred Boundaries made the task of georeferencing much easier (Figure 3). Having these Special Survey boundaries saved in a modern spatial format allows the Mount Lofty Ranges World Heritage Bid team to incorporate them easily in any further activities, research or analysis, and in fact a map showing them was displayed at a recent UNESCO conference!

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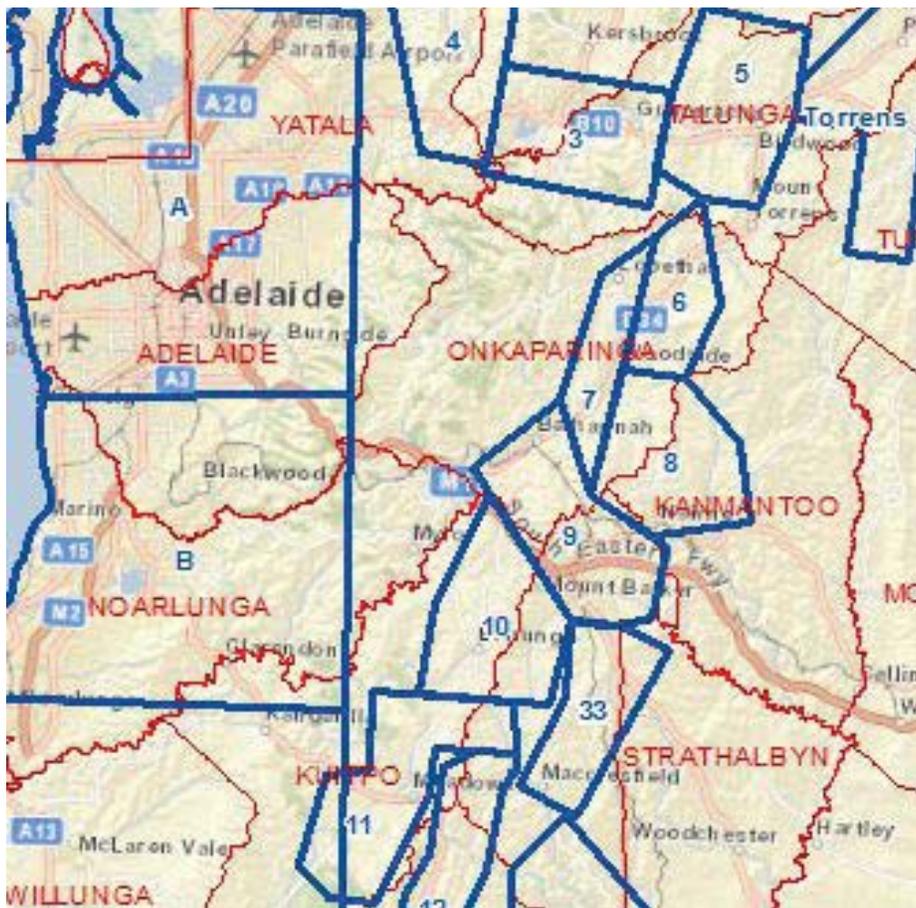


Figure 3: Details of the finished map with Special Surveys in blue, Hundred Boundaries in red (map data: ESRI 2013 and Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources 2014; map produced by the author for Mount Lofty World Heritage Bid)

*Dig It* is a student-run journal and the official newsletter of the Flinders Archaeological Society. The publication began in 1997 and after a hiatus of at least five years, it was relaunched in 2012. The new series began in 2013. The purpose of *Dig It* is to provide students, from undergrad through to postgrad and recent graduates, with the opportunity to practise and familiarise themselves with writing, publishing, editing and the reviewing process involved in professional publications. It aims to offer emerging young academics with an avenue to engage with archaeological dialogues and discourse. In addition, it aims to keep aspiring archaeologists connected and informed about what is happening in the archaeological community.

*Dig It* is published twice a year and is printed at Flinders Press. *Dig It* considers a range of contributions, including research articles, essays, personal accounts/opinion pieces, book reviews and thesis abstracts for publication. We welcome contributions from local, interstate and international undergrad and postgrad students and recent graduates.

The guidelines for contributors can be found here:

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Correspondence to the Editor should be addressed to:

The Editor, *Dig It* c/o ArchSoc  
Department of Archaeology  
Flinders University  
GPO Box 2100  
Adelaide, 5001

or email <[dig.it@flindersarchsoc.org](mailto:dig.it@flindersarchsoc.org)>

Editor: Jana Rogasch

Co-editors: Matthew Ebbs (academic reviews), Antoinette Hennessy (field reports) and Jordan Ralph (layout and ArchSoc news)

Permanent review panel: Rhiannon Agutter, Amy Batchelor, Robert DeWet-Jones, Anna Foroozani, Simon Munt, Dianne Riley, Ada Dinckal, Fiona Shanahan, Rhiannon Stammers and Isabel Wheeler

# DigIt

Email: [dig.it@flindersarchsoc.org](mailto:dig.it@flindersarchsoc.org)

Web: [flindersarchsoc.org](http://flindersarchsoc.org)

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