Cultural Heritage Management in Victoria (Historical Archaeology)

Presentation to the Environment Institute Australia & New Zealand

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Department of Environment,
Land, Water & Planning

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Heritage Victoria (DELWP) administers the Heritage Act 2017

In Victoria, legislation to protect the state's historic heritage started with the *Historic Buildings Act* in 1974.

The *Heritage Act 1995* has just been replaced by the new *Heritage Act* (2017)

The Heritage Act established the Victorian Heritage Register, which is a listing of places (and objects) that are of cultural heritage significance to the state.

Any changes (including demolition) to a Registered place are subject to a permit process to prevent inappropriate alterations.

Historical Archaeology in Victoria

The Act also provides very strong (blanket) protection for historical archaeology in Victoria, even if the site is not of state-level significance

The Heritage Act 2017

In Victoria it is an offence to disturb any historical archaeological site, unless *Consent* has been obtained from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria (section 123).

An "archaeological site" means a place which:

(a) contains an artefact, deposit or features
    which is more than 75 or more years old; and

(b) provides information of past activity in the State; and

(c) requires archaeological methods to reveal information
     about the settlement, development or use of the place; and

(d) is not associated only with the Aboriginal occupation of the place.

Victoria has a significant, complex historical archaeology. Historical archaeology is an important (and growing) part of the heritage profession.

A few case studies:

Chinese Kiln and Market Garden Bendigo (H2106)
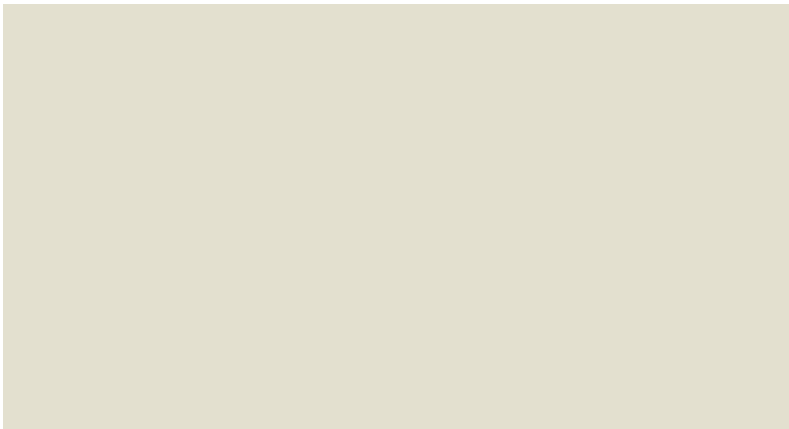
Former Pentridge Prison, Coburg

Pentridge, c.1938

Gold mining sites

Former Ann Jones Inn, Glenrowan (H2000)

Stringybark Creek site (H2205)

The archaeology
of early Melbourne

Guidelines for Conducting Historical Archaeological Surveys
Heritage Council of Victoria
Heritage Victoria

WRECK, ROCK AND RUIN
Exploring careers in archaeology

Guidelines for Investigating Historical Archaeological Artefacts and Sites

Heritage Act Consent