

**The Maritime Archaeology  
and Maritime Cultural Landscapes of Queenscliffe:  
A Nineteenth Century Australian Coastal Community.**

**Thesis submitted by  
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In October 2006**

**For the degree of Doctor of Philosophy  
in the School of Anthropology, Archaeology and Sociology,  
James Cook University**

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**This thesis is dedicated to my late mother, Shirley Duncan (nee Ashcroft) who germinated the seed of archaeological enquiry in a young mind, and to my children, Emily and Liam, who gave me the inspiration to tend it through to fruition. I could not have done it without your support and love.**

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## **Abstract**

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This thesis develops a new methodological approach to the archaeology of Australian Colonial maritime landscapes and communities, based on a critical reading and evaluation of international advances in cultural landscape theory and research. It explores the full range of possible maritime sites situated both above and below the waterline, and characterizes the archaeological signatures of many previously unrecognized maritime and other non-shipwreck related sites associated with maritime societies. A key aspect of the thesis are the methods of collection, analysis and integration of archaeological, oral and documentary sources, and the complex interplay between the data sets.

The community of Queenscliff (Victoria, Australia), established in 1855, provides a case study by which to examine the problem of how to understand the archaeology of non-indigenous communities living and working across the land/sea divide. Three maritime themes of defence, fishing, and shipping mishaps are explored intensively to investigate the maritime utilization of the study area and the differing visibility of these activity types within the diverse data sets, especially the archaeological record. They also provide a backdrop for further consideration of the intricate web of relationships on land and sea that comprise a maritime community.

Observations of social and practical behaviors are linked to relict material cultural remains through the innovative use of GIS technology that facilitates thematic comparative analyses of multiple incongruent data sets and provides insights into overlapping landscapes. In particular, the availability of a surprising depth of previously unrecognized and unexplored traditional community knowledge facilitated striking ethno-archaeological observations that connected maritime culture with new types of archaeological sites. The dissertation establishes that understanding of each maritime landscape is made accessible only by using highly varied combinations of data sets.

This study clearly shows that in the Australian Colonial setting, non-indigenous maritime communities equally access both the terrestrial and nautical environments, and manipulate and experience their maritime surroundings in the same way as their terrestrial landscapes. The effects of social interaction between terrestrial and maritime groups are demonstrated to be strong contributing factors for landscape generation for all sectors of the community, where many cross-cutting relationships formulate multiple overlapping landscapes and subsequent archaeological signatures. These complex and far-reaching social relationships highlight the complexity of studying maritime societies, and the strong interrelationship between land and sea areas. The

cognitive driving mechanisms of several common types of maritime thematic landscapes in Colonial Australia are now better understood, as are their potential data sources and archaeological characterizations. Overall, the methodology was highly successful in accessing cultural meanings imbued in landscape, leading to a better understanding of the practices and social behaviours of maritime communities and providing challenging new research directions for Australian maritime archaeology.

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## Abbreviations

”	inch (in relation to gun bore diameter)
<b>AGD</b>	Australian Geodetic Datum (cartographic datum)
<b>Age</b>	<i>The Age</i> Newspaper
<b>AHO</b>	Australian Hydrographic Office
<b>AIMA</b>	Australasian Institute for Maritime Archaeology
<b>AIN</b>	<i>Australian Illustrated News</i> Newspaper
<b>AMG</b>	Australian Map Grid (cartographic projection)
<b>ANHFR</b>	<i>Australian News for Home Readers</i>
<b>Anon.</b>	Anonymous
<b>Argus</b>	<i>Argus</i> Newspaper
<b>AS</b>	<i>Australian Sketcher</i> Newspaper
<b>ASHA</b>	Australian Society for Historical Archaeology
<b>ASL</b>	Above Sea Level
<b>BA</b>	<i>Bairnsdale Advertiser</i> Newspaper
<b>BL</b>	Breech Loading
<b>BOP</b>	Battery Observation Post (Range-finding Station – Military)
<b>BS</b>	<i>Ballarat Star</i> Newspaper
<b>Capt.</b>	Captain
<b>Cmdr.</b>	Commander
<b>Col</b>	Colonel
<b>COPW</b>	Commissioner of Public Works
<b>CSO</b>	Colonial Secretary’s Office
<b>CSS</b>	Confederate Steam Ship
<b>diam.</b>	diameter
<b>DNRE</b>	Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria
<b>DOA</b>	Department of Army
<b>DOI</b>	Department of Infrastructure, Victoria
<b>DON</b>	Department of Navy
<b>DOT</b>	Department of Transport
<b>DPA</b>	Department of Primary Affairs
<b>DPH</b>	Department of Ports and Harbours, Victoria
<b>DPW</b>	Department of Public Works, Victoria
<b>DRF</b>	Direction Range Finder (Range-finding Station – Military)
<b>DSE</b>	Department of Sustainability and Environment, Victoria
<b>DTC</b>	Department of Transport and Communications, Victoria
<b>ELD</b>	Electric Light Direction Station
<b>EUCC</b>	European Union Coastal Council – The Coastal Union
<b>FQM</b>	Fort Queenscliff Museum
<b>GA</b>	<i>Geelong Advertiser</i> Newspaper
<b>GHC</b>	Geelong Heritage Centre
<b>HMS</b>	Her/ His Majesty’s Ship
<b>HMCS</b>	Her Majesty’s Colonial Ship
<b>HMVS</b>	Her Majesty’s Victorian Ship
<b>HOA</b>	Hydrographic Office, Admiralty
<b>HP</b>	Hydro Pneumatic (in relation to Disappearing Gun mechanisms)
<b>HSAC</b>	Historic Shipwrecks Advisory Committee
<b>HV</b>	Heritage Victoria
<b>IAN</b>	<i>Illustrated Australian News</i> Newspaper
<b>IJNA</b>	<i>International Journal of Nautical Archaeology</i>

<b>IMP</b>	<i>Illustrated Melbourne Post</i> Newspaper
<b>kts</b>	Knots (measurement of speed)
<b>Lt</b>	Lieutenant
<b>LTGL</b>	<i>Letters to Governor LaTrobe</i>
<b>M</b>	Mile
<b>MAAV</b>	Maritime Archaeological Association of Victoria
<b>MAFRI</b>	Marine and Freshwater Resources Institute, Queenscliff
<b>MCL</b>	Ministering Children's League
<b>MDC</b>	Marine Discovery Centre, Queenscliff
<b>MEE</b>	Mechanisation Experimental Establishment, Department of Army
<b>MMA</b>	Master Mariners Association, Victoria
<b>MMH</b>	<i>Melbourne Morning Herald</i> Newspaper
<b>MV</b>	Museum Victoria
<b>nM</b>	Nautical Miles
<b>NAA</b>	National Archives of Australia (Melbourne Branch)
<b>NHS</b>	Nepean Historical Society
<b>NRMA</b>	National Road and Motor Association
<b>NSW</b>	New South Wales, Australia
<b>NTM</b>	<i>Notices to Mariners, Victorian Government Gazette</i>
<b>PHB</b>	Ports and Harbours Branch, Department of Public Works
<b>PHD</b>	Ports and Harbours Division, PWD
<b>PHO</b>	Ports and Harbours Office, Victoria
<b>PMA</b>	Port of Melbourne Authority
<b>PMS</b>	Photo Mapping Services, DOI
<b>PPG</b>	<i>Port Phillip Gazette</i> Newspaper
<b>PPH</b>	<i>Port Phillip Herald</i> Newspaper
<b>pr</b>	Pounder (in relation to gun ordinance size)
<b>PV</b>	Parks Victoria
<b>PWD</b>	Public Works Department, Victoria
<b>PWONTM</b>	<i>Public Works Office, Notice to Mariners</i>
<b>QH</b>	<i>Queenscliff Herald</i> Newspaper
<b>QHM</b>	Queenscliffe Historical Museum
<b>QMM</b>	Queenscliff Maritime Museum Inc.
<b>QS</b>	<i>Queenscliff Sentinel</i> Newspaper
<b>QSA</b>	Queenscliff Sewerage Authority
<b>RBL</b>	Rifled Breech Loader (Guns)
<b>RML</b>	Rifled Muzzle Loader (Guns)
<b>RMS</b>	Royal Mail Ship
<b>RN</b>	Royal Navy
<b>RNLI</b>	Royal National Lifeboat Institution (UK)
<b>RR</b>	<i>Rip Rumour</i> Newspaper
<b>RSL</b>	Returned Service League
<b>SAHB</b>	South Australian Heritage Branch
<b>SBICMC</b>	Swan Bay Integrated Catchment Management Committee
<b>SGO</b>	Surveyor Generals Office, Melbourne
<b>SHA</b>	Society for Historical Archaeology
<b>SLV</b>	State Library of Victoria
<b>SS</b>	Steam Ship
<b>SVGG</b>	<i>Supplement to Victorian Government Gazette</i>
<b>The Bay</b>	Port Phillip Bay
<b>The Heads</b>	Port Phillip Bay Heads

<b>THO</b>	Tasmanian Heritage Office, Department of Tourism Parks Heritage and Arts, Tasmania
<b>UK</b>	United Kingdom
<b>VCA</b>	Victorian Channels Authority
<b>VGG</b>	Victorian Government Gazette
<b>VHI</b>	Victorian Heritage Inventory
<b>VHR</b>	Victorian Heritage Register
<b>Vic</b>	Victorian
<b>VPD</b>	<i>Victorian Parliamentary Debates</i>
<b>VPP</b>	<i>Victorian Parliamentary Papers</i>
<b>VPRS</b>	Victorian Public Records Service
<b>VR</b>	Victorian Railways
<b>WWI</b>	World War One
<b>WWII</b>	World War Two

Note: A **Glossary of Terms** is included before the Reference List at the rear of this thesis.

### **Table of Conversions**

1 fathoms	= 3ft
3 1/3 feet	= 1m
1 mile	= 1609m
1"	= 2.5cm