

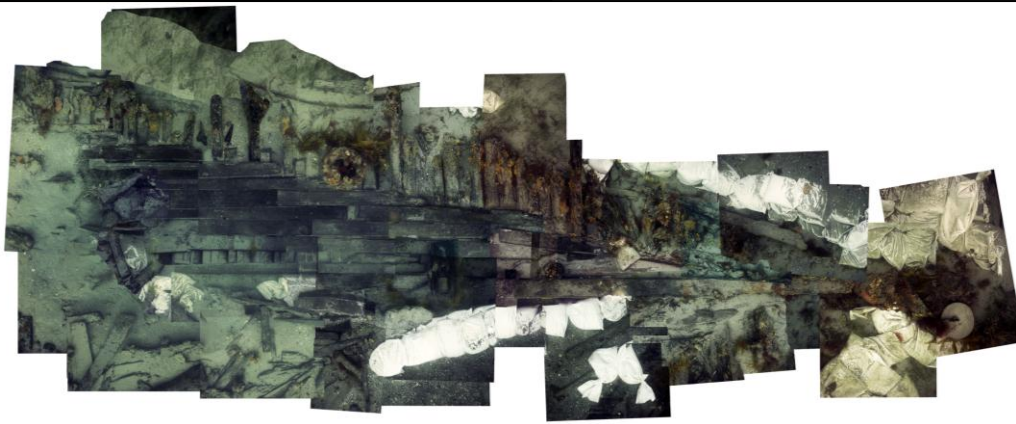
AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC SHIPWRECK PRESERVATION PROJECT

THE IN-SITU PRESERVATION & REBURIAL
OF THE COLONIAL TRADER CLARENCE (1850)

The AHSPP: Interim progress report

Debra Shefi, Peter Veth, Cassandra Philippou, Jennifer Rodrigues, Vicki Richards and Peter Harvey

Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Underwater Cultural Heritage
Honolulu, Hawaii 12 – 16 May 2014



AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC SHIPWRECK PRESERVATION PROJECT

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Project background

February 2012

- \$500,000 AUD Australian Research Council Grant
- Ten Partner Organizations and three Australian universities

Case studies:

1. *Clarence* (Port Phillip Bay, Victoria)
2. *James Matthews* (Cockburn Sound, Western Australia)



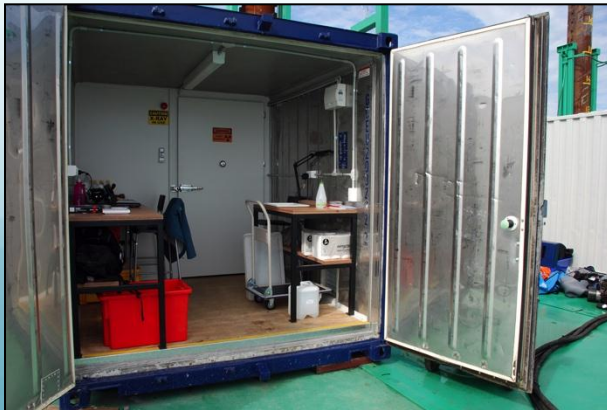
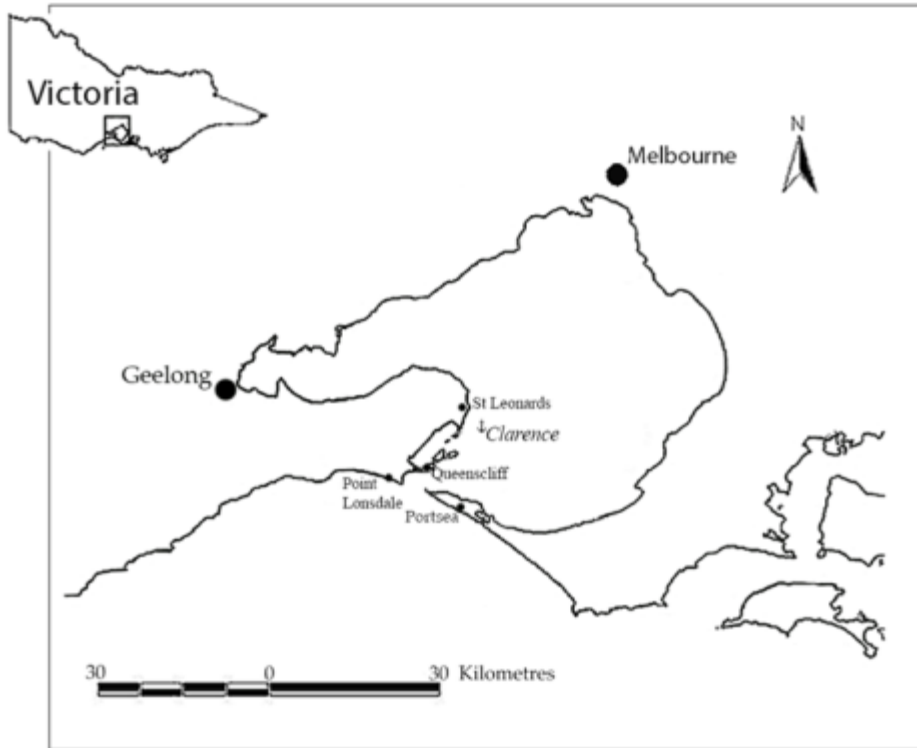
Partner Organizations

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Clarence April/May 2012 Fieldwork



Project tasks

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- Sandbag support along exterior
- Pre-disturbance ecology survey
- Sediment cores
- Excavation

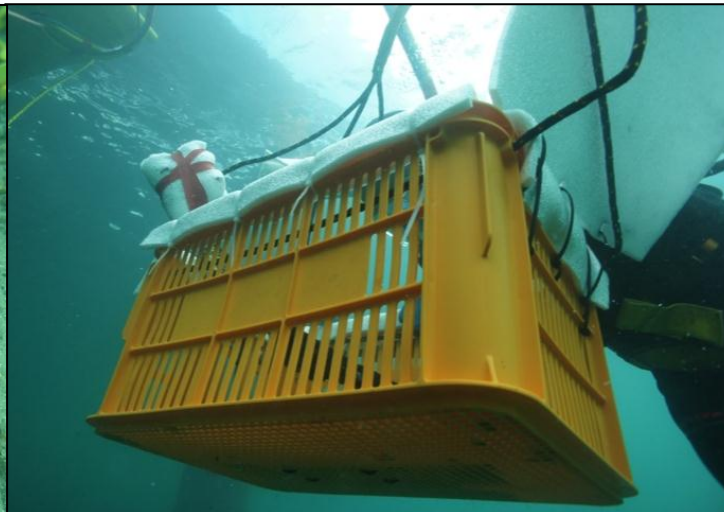


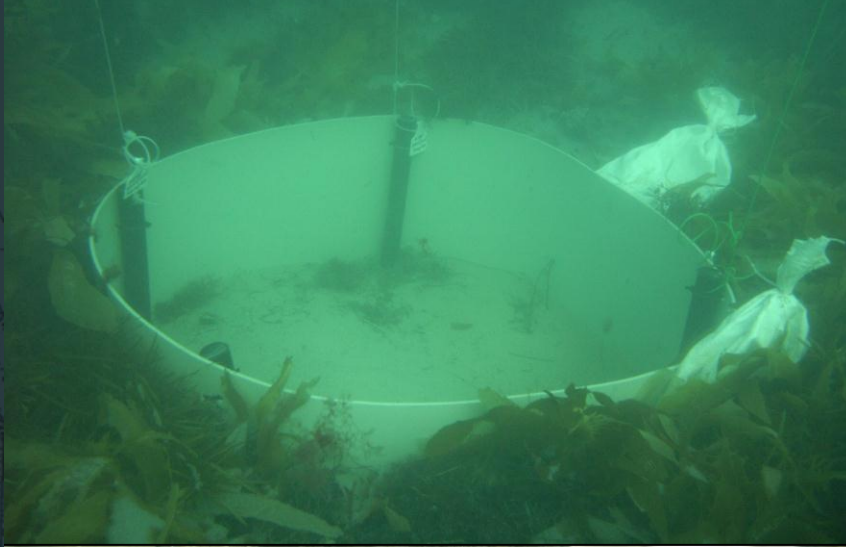
Project tasks

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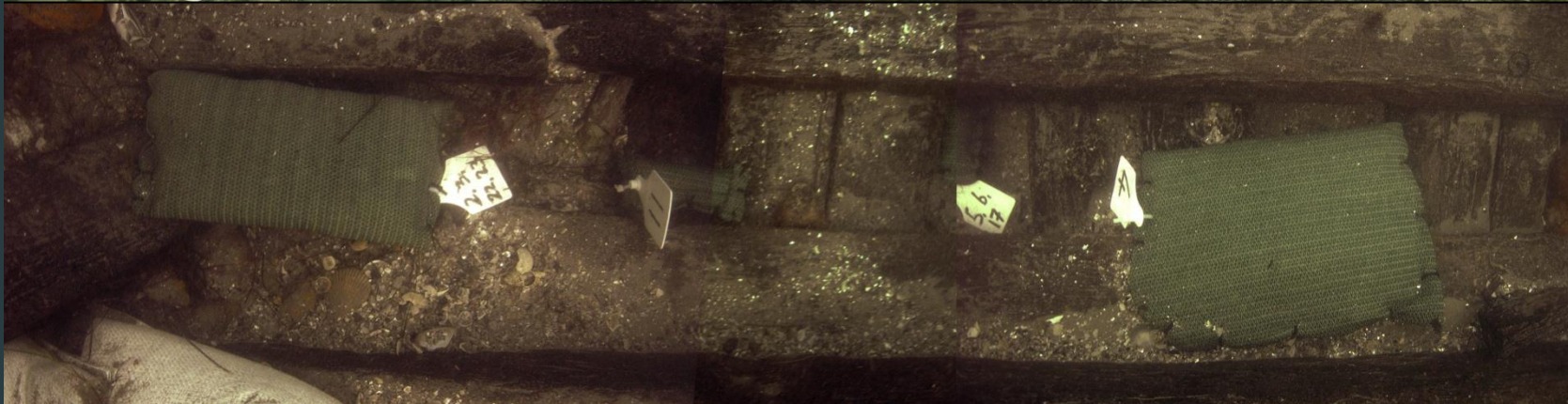
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- *In-situ* and *ex-situ* artifact recording
- clean, number, photograph, X-ray (if necessary), document
- wrap in geotextile and then shade cloth
- Leave in saltwater until reburial phase



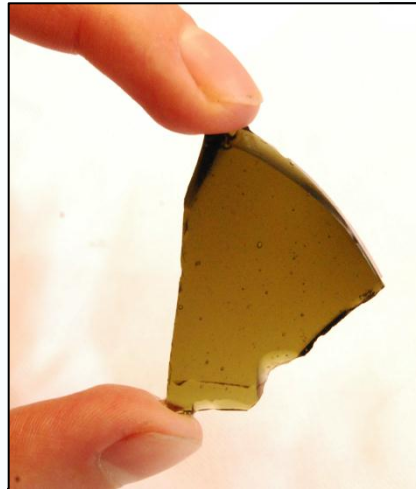


Artifact reburial and sacrificial samples



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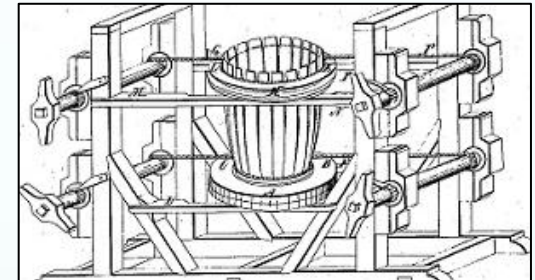
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Tierce casks



A tierce is equivalent to:

- 1/3 of a pipe
- 42 wine gallons
- Half a puncheon
- ~158 to 160 Liters



Clarence staves averaged between:

- 876 mm to 890 mm for the interior
- 911 mm to 930 mm for the exterior

(English stave lengths: 31.5 inches or 800 mm)

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Identified features:

- branding marks
- incised lines and circles
- branded names
- hoop marks

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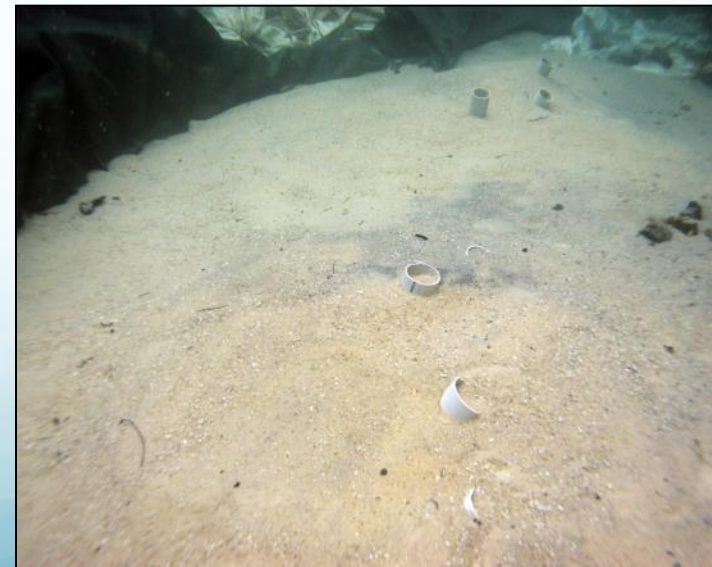
Leather bag or satchel which is thought to be a bosun's bag.

Bosun: A petty officer on a merchant ship or a warrant officer on a warship who is responsible for the maintenance of the ship and its equipment.

May 2012



June 2012



Final Phase (Nov 2012)



BURIAL
ENCE (1850)

y (7 x 14 m)



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March, September and November 2013

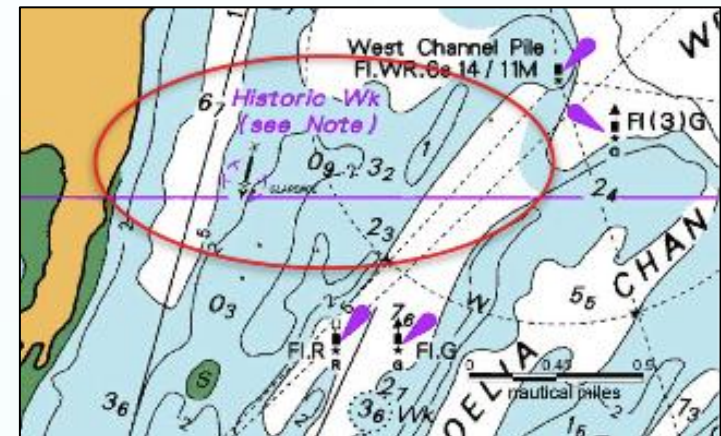


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Long-term management:

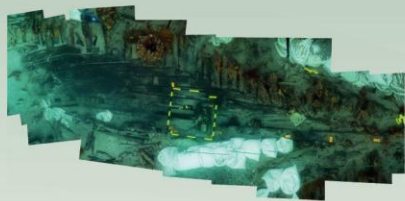
- Visual site inspections
- Program of regular compliance patrols



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Clarence (1850)

Excavation and *in situ* Artefact Conservation

02

In April-May 2012 a team of 65 Australian and international participants took part in a month-long excavation of the historic shipwreck *Clarence* (1841 – 1850), located off the coastal township of St Leonards on Victoria's Bellarine Peninsula.

The team consisted of professional, student and volunteer divers, maritime archaeologists and conservation scientists; many of the participants had additional skills and backgrounds including photography and marine ecology.

Together, we undertook pre-disturbance survey, sediment sampling, excavation, artefact recording and conservation on the site and artefacts from the *Clarence*.

At the end of the excavation all artefacts were reburied on or nearby the site in a designated reburial depot and the trench was backfilled and covered with shade cloth for protection.



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Clarence (1850)

Site Reburial and Future Research

03

In November 2012 a small, highly experienced team of divers returned to the site to undertake the largest-scale *in situ* shipwreck reburial program ever attempted world-wide.

The team deployed 250m² of shade cloth and 298m² of PVC tarpaulins over the site, completely covering it. In addition, 3500 sandbags were used to backfill excavation areas and secure the shade cloth and tarpaulins to the seabed. This aims to create an anaerobic environment beneath the covers for the future preservation of the hull and artefacts.

The site is now fully covered, and the project team returns annually to recover sacrificial samples of timber and metal, and obtain sediment cores for chemical analysis to determine how the reburial of the site is fairing. *Clarence* is regularly visited by Heritage Victoria and project staff to monitor its general condition.

More information about the project can be found online at: www.ahspp.org.au and via iPad on the App Store at: <http://appstore.com/biblioboard>, or via Android tablet on Google Play at: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.biblioboard>, search for "Preserving the Colonial Trader *Clarence*".



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Clarence (1850)

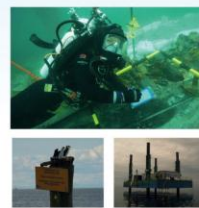
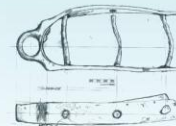
The excavation and *in situ* preservation of a colonial trader

01

The Australian Historic Shipwreck Preservation Project (AHSPP) is a multi-organisational national maritime archaeology research program involving four Australian universities and 10 agencies from the Australian Commonwealth, State and Territory governments as well as the Australasian Institute for Maritime Archaeology.

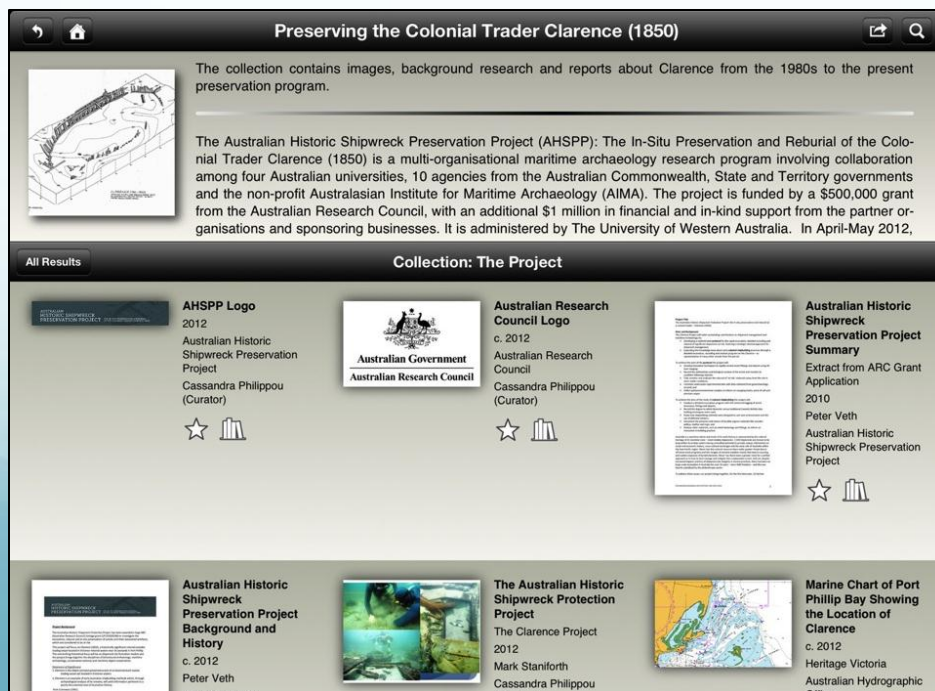
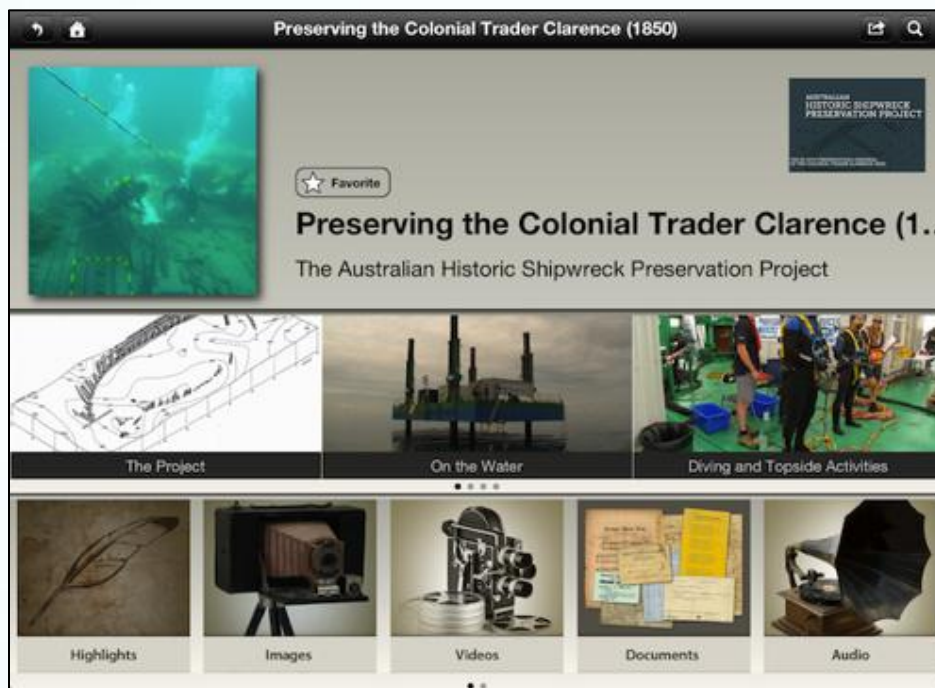
It is funded by the Australian Research Council and led by The University of Western Australia with support from the project partners and sponsors. The *Clarence* Project was conceived to investigate the excavation, reburial and *in situ* preservation of at-risk wrecks and their associated artefacts, in line with the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage 2001.

The project is a landmark study for *in situ* preservation of submerged maritime archaeological sites, and builds on the Reburial and Analysis of Archaeological Remains Project (RAAR) underway in Scandinavia.



Sponsors and project partners





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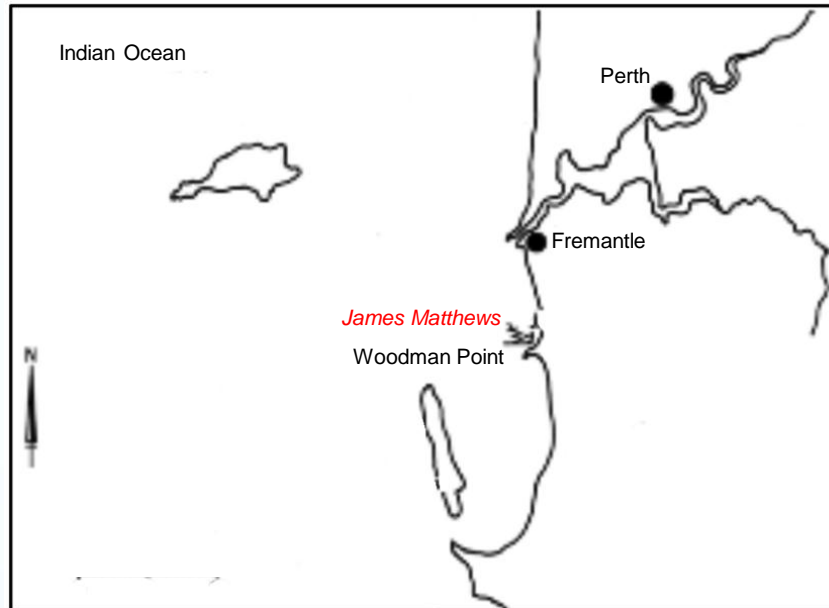
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***James Matthews* (1841)**

- French-built wooden brig, used in the slave trade
- One of the world's best-preserved examples of a 19th century illegal slaving ship.
- Excavated in the 1970s
- Experimental *in-situ* reburial trials began in 2000,



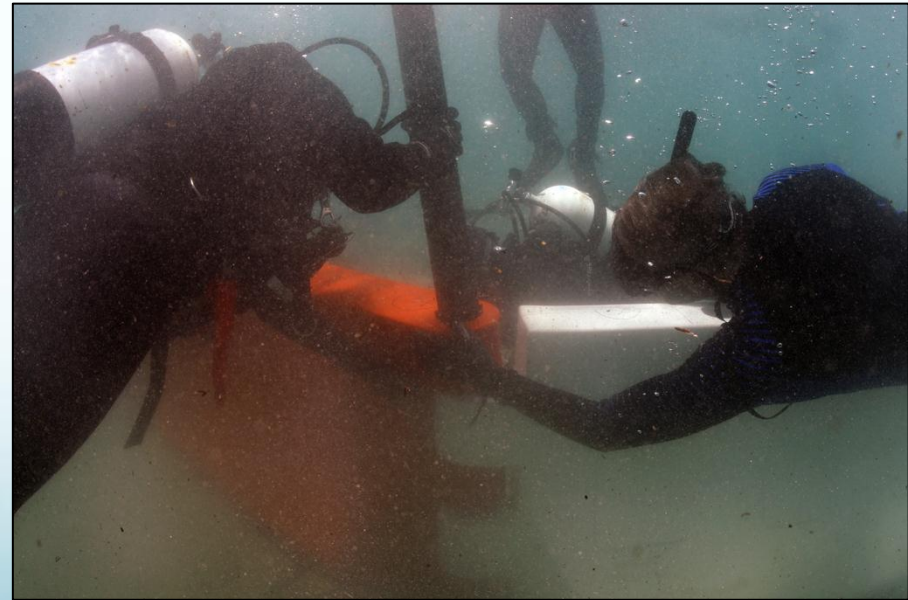


James Matthews fieldwork
18 – 22 November 2013



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2013



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