

Sydney Historical Archaeology Practitioners' Workshop (SHAP) 2022



FRIDAY, 20 MAY 2022

The Refectory,
Holme Building, Science Road,
The University of Sydney



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

SHAP22



**9.00 -
9.05 AM**

WELCOME

Dr Jillian Comber

Director of Comber Consultants

**9.05 -
9.10 AM**

WELCOME TO COUNTRY

Michael West

MLALC

**9.15 -
9.25 AM**

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

Prof. Annie Clarke

Professor in Archaeology and Heritage Studies and Head of Department of Archaeology

**9.25 -
9.35 AM**

HOUSEKEEPING

Dr Jillian Comber

Director of Comber Consultants



**9.35 -
10.05 AM**

KEY NOTE SPEAKER

WHAT IF IT'S ALL JUST ARCHAEOLOGY? GENERALISTS, SPECIALISTS, & THE STORIES WE TELL ABOUT TRAINING STUDENTS FOR THE FIELD

Dr James Flexner

Many Australian students come to university with a sense of archaeology as a signifier for distant times and places. In part, this is an artefact of the secondary schools' curriculum, where exposure to archaeology is part of a Eurocentric approach to ancient history focused on the civilisations of Greece and Rome. Whatever the cause, students often come to us with an implicit expectation of travel to distant locations to explore the ruins of exotic societies. Exposure to the archaeology that lies underfoot directly within the everyday environment is less common. Yet there is a long history of Australian students training locally before taking their skills overseas. Furthermore, the largest current employer of archaeologists in New South Wales is in the consulting industry, where historical archaeology is a prominent and growing discipline. From 2016-2021 a series of field schools run by the University of Sydney and collaborators trained over 200 students from at least five different universities in archaeological methods on colonial sites in Tasmania and New South Wales. While some of the training was specific to the time period and materials to hand, much of what was offered provided students with broad-based training in field methods that can be adapted around the world. These experiences provide fodder to ruminate over some broader conversations in archaeology about what (and who) we are training our students for, how specialised an undergraduate education can or should be, and what our students might actually want out of an archaeology degree.



**10.05 -
10.35 AM**

“IT MADE ME FEEL REALLY GROUNDED”: SUPPORTING INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE IN THE PRESENT THROUGH ARCHAEOLOGY

Stirling Smith and Dr Caitlin Allen

The 2022 SHAP workshop theme focuses on archaeological contributions to understanding resilience in the past. This presentation, offers a different perspective on the theme by considering the contributions that archaeological places and practice can make to individual and community resilience and wellbeing in the present. Not just through the production of knowledge about the past but through emotional and social experiences of archaeological places. These ideas will be explored through two current projects: ‘Operation Digger’, a project being developed to support Australian military veterans’ mental and physical health through involvement with archaeological and heritage projects; and PhD research, which indicates that wellbeing, identity, connection and belonging are key outcomes of in situ archaeological conservation in Australian communities.

**10.35 -
11.05 AM**

MORNING TEA



**11.05 -
11.25 AM**

PUBLICATION - THE END OF THE STORY

Dr Iain Stuart

The scope of this brief paper is to encourage the publication of our results, be they reports on archaeological projects, debates on matters of interest or basic historical research. It argues that there are ethical obligations on archaeologists to publish their results in some form but beyond that it is also important for practitioners to have a voice in matters of community interest. The paper then moves into a discussion of various forms of publication from the international journal such as *Industrial Archaeological Review*, a well-respected historical journal such as *The Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society* to a more general short form magazine such as *History* also published by the RAHS. It argues that publication in different forums helps engage with various communities and benefits the understanding of the past that our archaeological work aims to achieve.

**11.25 -
11.45 AM**

'HIC SUNT DRACONES': ANALYSING MAPS OF EARLY SYDNEY

Andrew Wilson

Historical maps are fundamental to the practice of Historical Archaeology but like all documents they must be interpreted critically and understood within their context. Geographic Information Systems and retrogressive analysis provide a basis for this analysis. In 1988 Lynette McLoughlan, preparing maps for a proposed historical geography of Sydney, published a pioneering paper in the journal *Planner* titled 'Maps of Early Sydney: Where does the truth lie?'. This paper examines a sequence of 12 early maps of Sydney as potential sources of information about change over time and their varying relationship to the 'truth'.



**11.45 -
12.05 PM**

FUTURE USE OR NO FUTURE AT ALL? DISCOVERING AND ACCESSING POST-EXCAVATION HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL ARCHIVES IN NSW

Caiti D'Gluyas

Historical archaeologists recognise the professional responsibility and value of sustainably archiving their archaeological data, as well as making data available for research, public access, or other intentions. This paper asks, are our methods resilient? Data collected from 40 historical archaeological sites in NSW and first presented at the ASHA conference in 2018 has been expanded to benchmark the current situation in the state. This research outlines the precarious status of our efforts in archiving for perpetuity and the reliance on informal and personal networks within the archaeological community to discover and access archives. While the focus remains on understanding the key issues, a number of recommendations are also made to allow the discipline to adapt to change. While it is common for archaeologists to be concerned about the physical storage conditions, this research argues that a more relevant issue is the visibility or accessibility of the archaeological archive in the first place.

**12.05 -
12.30 PM**

'BAKE IT' VOTING

**12.30 -
1.30 PM**

LUNCH



**1.30 -
1.50 PM**

UNDERSTANDING THE CUMULATIVE IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT ON 'CONVICT HUT' SITES ACROSS THE PARRAMATTA CBD

Charlotte Allen, Maggie Butcher, Lauren Harley and Joshua Madden

Parramatta was established as the second British settlement in the colony of New South Wales in November 1788 and quickly became its agricultural and administrative centre. Integral to the establishment and development of the early settlement was convict labour. The convict labour force was initially housed in simple huts along what is today Macquarie, George and Church Streets with additional convict era huts and residences constructed across the Parramatta CBD. Archaeological investigations of the Parramatta CBD, undertaken in accordance with historical archaeological Excavation Permits commenced in the early to mid-1980s. Since the earliest historical archaeological excavations, both pre and post-excavation analysis of these 'convict hut' sites has argued that these resources are of State significance.

The authors draw on publicly available data to analyse the cumulative impact of development across the Parramatta CBD on 'convict hut' sites since the 1980s. This paper presents the initial results of a broader research program which looks at the cumulative impact archaeological investigations, DA developments and NSW Major Projects have had on the 'convict hut' sites and convict era archaeological resources across the Parramatta CBD.

**1.50 -
2.10 PM**

THE AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURAL COMPANY - RESILIENT AND ADAPTABLE OR JUST PLAIN GREEDY?

Tim Adams

The Australian Agricultural Company (created in 1824) is one of Australia's oldest companies with great importance to the social and economic development of New South Wales. The Company were a major influence in the early development of Newcastle and the coal mining industry in general. Although intact archaeological evidence of pre-1850s Newcastle is generally rare, recent investigations have revealed archaeological evidence of the Australian Agricultural Company's influence on establishing Newcastle as a major city and port. The presentation will discuss the archaeological evidence as the Company adapted from wool farming to coal mining to power the East India Company's steamships, from convict to free miners when the transportation of convicts to NSW ended and from horse drawn wagons to steam locomotives.



**2.10 -
2.30 PM**

ARCHIVAL RECORDING AND HERITAGE CONSERVATION OF AN INDUSTRIAL SITE UNDER REHABILITATION AT HUNTERS HILL

David Nutley

Property NSW is rehabilitating former industrial land at 5-13 Nelson Parade, Hunters Hill. The site has been used for industrial and subsequent residential purposes in the twentieth century. When levels of contamination from the industrial activities were detected, the land was resumed by the State Government. Contamination includes coal tar and radioactive waste, by-products of the earlier industrial uses of the site. Rehabilitation is designed to allow the properties to be reverted to residential ownership. Rehabilitation involves the removal of all soil, vegetation and other materials that have been in contact with the soil. This includes existing stonework from the previous residential era set along terraces and above sandstone outcrops. In accordance with the Rehabilitation Environmental Management Plan (REMP), Property NSW engaged Comber Consultants to undertake a detailed survey and archival recording of the evidence of those former industrial and residential phases of the study area. The archival recording was undertaken prior to removal of the soil and residential features and included a dilapidation survey of the seawall frontage onto Sydney Harbour. This presentation outlines the archival recording of the site, including conservation measures implemented to protect historic graffiti of the ss Titus and a dive survey of the seawall.

**2.30 -
2.50 PM**

THE COLONIAL ENTANGLEMENTS OF SETTLER DIETS - OBSERVATIONS FROM THE HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY OF SYDNEY

Nicholas Pitt

This presentation considers the ways that the diet of urban settlers living in Sydney during the 1830s and 1840s were caught up in the rhetoric of colonisation. Settlers consumed peaches and meat in quantities not seen in Britain and Ireland at that time. Both foods became clichéd tropes of colonial plenty that were used to entice immigrants and reinforce settler identity. This historical context brings new light to parts of the archaeology of Sydney that might otherwise seem mundane. Peach seeds are regularly found in large numbers in contexts suggestive of consumption in large quantities. Evidence for butchery is not uncommon, whether in the form of tools such as knives, or discarded animal material such as horn cores.



Understanding how these things were caught up in the colonial rhetoric of the period opens up fresh meanings for understanding archaeological sites with contemporary relevance. Many of the environmental and cultural challenges our society faces in the present are caught up in ideas that in many ways echo or directly continue the settler rhetoric of the mid-nineteenth century. Perceiving the entanglements of the past offers up ways to more nuance interpretations with relevance to a resilient future.

**2.50 -
3.00 PM**

THE CERTIFIED ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTITIONER (HERITAGE) PROGRAM - AN INTRODUCTION

Dr MacLaren North

The Certified Environmental Practitioner program was introduced 20 years ago as a method for environmental practitioners to demonstrate a commitment to sound environmental practice, and be certified by a neutral, third-party assessor. In 2020, the CEnvP program introduced a Heritage sub-certification, aimed at heritage practitioners from across the fields of heritage including archaeology, architecture, planning and conservation. This session introduces the scheme and discusses the differences between this scheme and other membership-based organisations, and highlights some of the benefits of certification and the process for becoming certified. The session is presented by Dr MacLaren North, Director of Extent Heritage and the inaugural member of the CEnvP (Heritage) certification. He discusses his rationale for certification, and puts it in the context of current and emerging trends in the industry and government. This brief introduction to the scheme will be followed by a question and answer session and information will be on hand for those who may be interested in investigating certification."

**3.00 -
3.40 PM**

AFTERNOON TEA

'BAKE IT' WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT



**3.40 -
4.00 PM**

RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF FLOODS; SOME SITES JUST WON'T GO AWAY - RESILIENCE OF UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN HIGH ENERGY ENVIRONMENTS AN EXAMPLE FROM THE HAWKESBURY RIVER

Cosmos Coroneos

With discussions increasing on the effects of increasing sea level rise on heritage sites this short talk looks at one site that has shown resilience in the face of sustained flooding events for two hundred years. The purpose of this talk is to illustrate that some site types can fare better than others in high energy underwater environments. The subject site discussed concerns remains of Greenways 1820 Windsor Wharf and the findings of the 2018 excavation. Created out the vicissitudes of constant and destructive flooding the wharf functioned for over three decades leaving behind what is in effect a culturally rich and varied under floor deposit that has withstood greater floods than those witnessed in recent years.

**4.00 -
4.20 PM**

FRAMING RESILIENCE FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE FUTURES: THE IUCN-ICOMOS CONNECTING PRACTICE PROJECT PHASE IV

Steve Brown

'Resilience' is a term that has increasing currency in the work of heritage conservation, yet has diverse meanings across different places, disciplines, and languages. In this presentation I outline current work by ICOMOS and IUCN, in partnership with ICCROM and the Stockholm Resilience Centre, to develop a 'Resilience Thinking Framework' applicable to World Heritage properties. The case study for this project is the medieval, fortified town of Visby, Sweden. For this project, resilience is defined as the capacity of a social-ecological system to sustain human well-being in the face of disturbance and change. A key focus of the project is to apply resilience thinking to management planning 30 to 50 years into the future. I argue that this resilience thinking framework will be relevant to the conservation of significant archaeological places across Australia.



**4.20 -
4.40 PM**

BACK TO BACK CREEK

Dr Jillian Comber & Tessa Boer-Mah

In 2020 Comber Consultants and Heritage Now undertook testing and salvage at the Back Creek settlement, Minmi near Newcastle, prior to development of the site.

The Back Creek Mining Settlement has historical significance as a township wholly owned by the mining proprietor, the J & A Brown Company. The Back Creek settlement housed the workers for the Back Creek Colliery and their families from 1877 - 1924. The archaeological evidence showed that despite harsh working conditions and exploitation, the workers and their families developed a thriving village, through resilience in the face of hardship.

The testing and salvage revealed extensive information on the nature and extent of archaeological deposits throughout the archaeological site, the domestic structures and infrastructure of the Back Creek settlement, the layout of properties within the settlement and the layout of structures within these properties. Of particular interest are the different types of wells uncovered across the site and the artefacts found within. The wells and artefacts will be the focus of this presentation.

**4.40 -
4.55 PM**

WRAP-UP

Prof. Annie Clarke & Dr Jillian Comber

**4.55 -
5.00 PM**

CLOSING REMARKS

Dr Jillian Comber

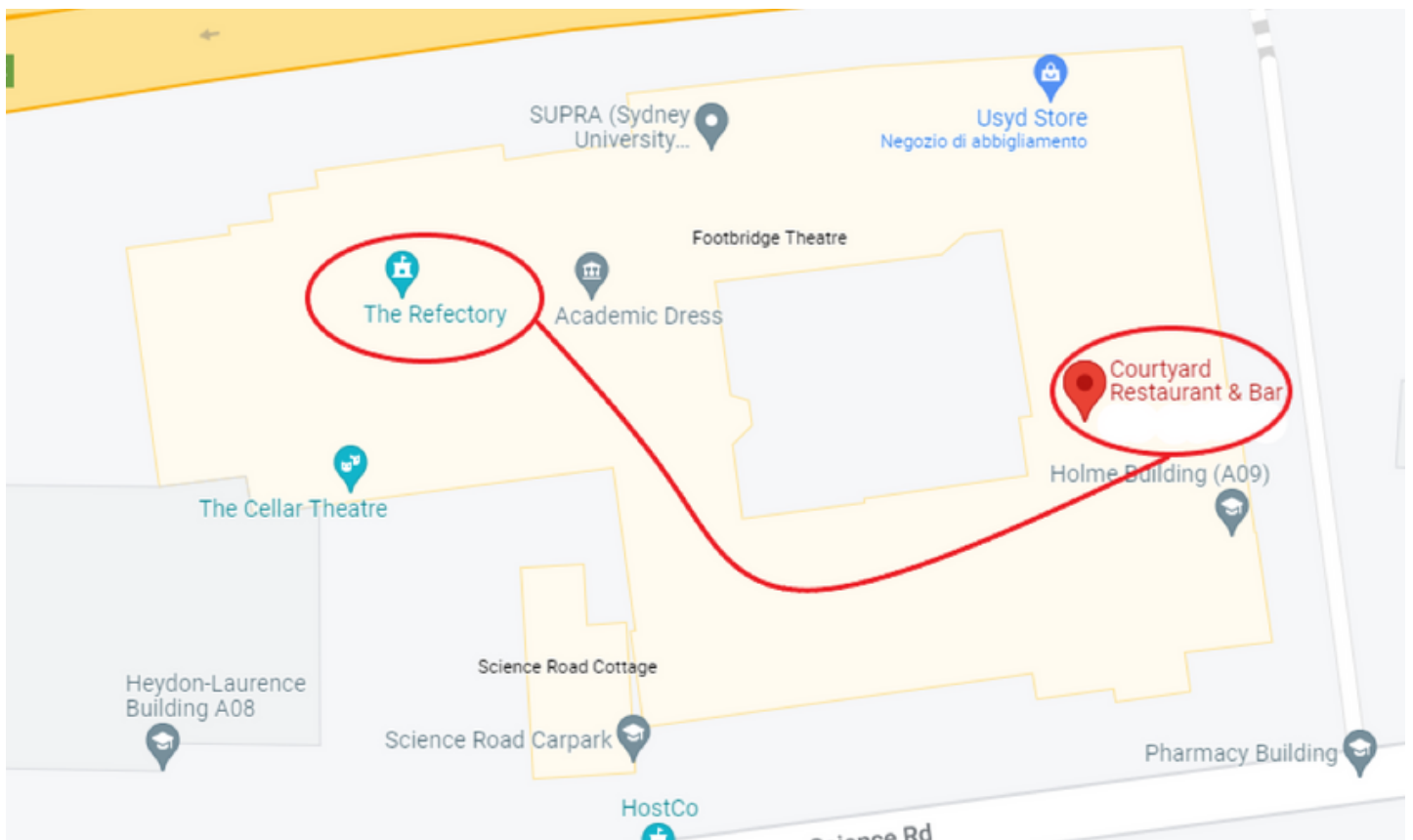
EVENT SPECIAL



**FROM
5.00 PM**

WINE, CHEESE AND NIBBLES AT:

THE COURTYARD RESTAURANT & BAR
Science Rd, Camperdown NSW 2006



EVENT SPECIAL



**SHAP 22
WINE**

FUNDRAISING TO SUPPORT SHAP22

EVENT SPECIAL

SHAP22 Wine from S-E Australia!



Chardonnay

Shiraz

Buy it from the registration desk

Chardonnay | Shiraz

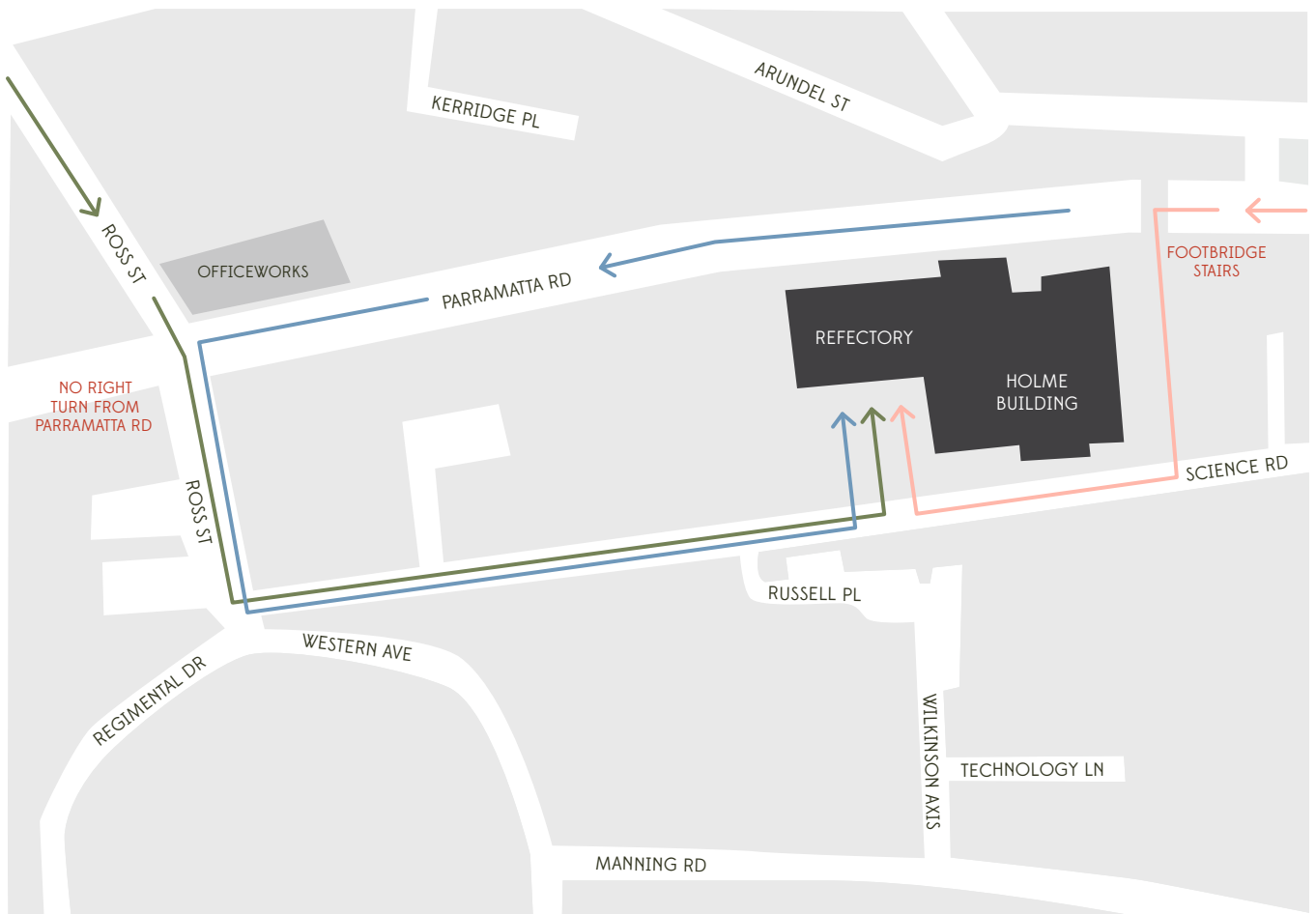
1 Bottle: \$12

6 Bottles: \$60 (\$10 each)

12 Bottles: \$108 (\$9 each)

HOSTCO

Map and Directions



Driving away from the city on Parramatta Rd

Turn left at Ross Street entrance
Take first left onto Science Road
Drive up Science Road until you reach a HostCo sign and enter the Holme Building via the Refectory stairs



Driving towards the city

Enter via Ross Street
Take first left onto Science Road
Drive up Science Road until you reach a HostCo sign and enter the Holme Building via the Refectory stairs



Walking on Parramatta Rd from footbridge bus stop

Enter grounds via the footbridge stairs
Turn right onto Science Road
Walk down Science Road until you reach a HostCo sign and enter the Holme building via the Refectory stairs

HOSTCO

Parking

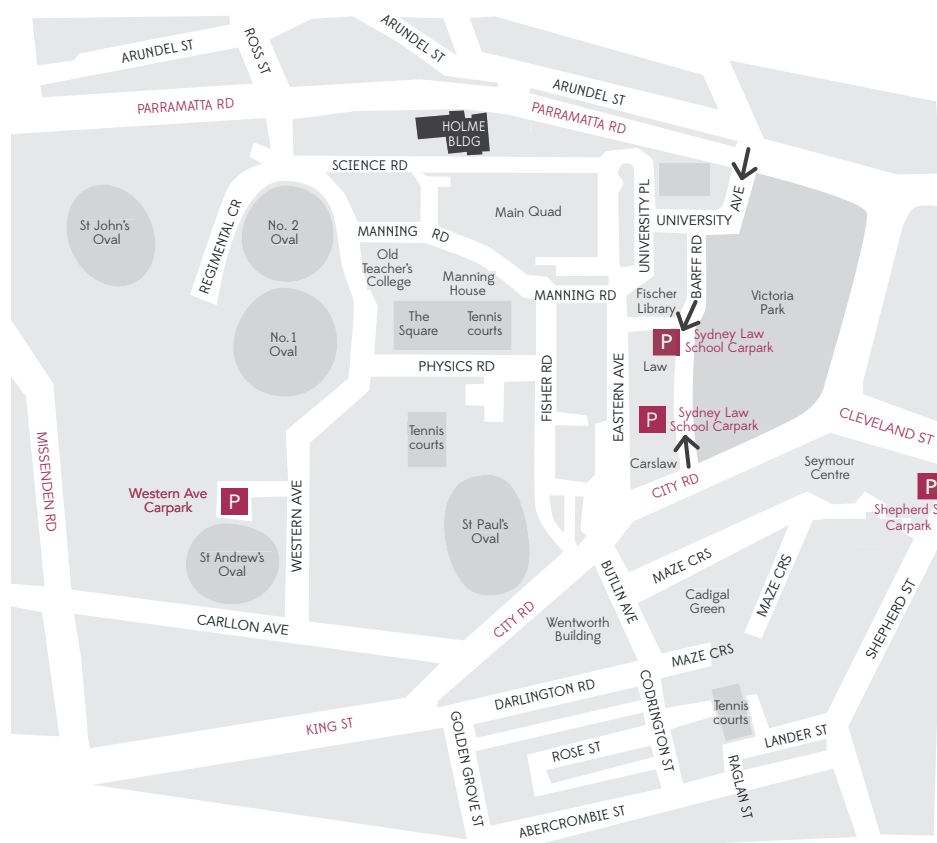
The parking meters are “Pay by Plate”. Park your vehicle, go to the meter, pay the fee and enter your vehicle’s registration number and go on your way.

You have four options to pay for parking at the meters and there are three different type of machines. There are nine that take credit card only, seven that take credit cards or coins and six that take credit cards or coins or notes.

You can still pay through credit card using the free mobile App called CellOPark. You can download CellOPark from the app store. When you pay for parking your licence plate will register as paid with the parking officers and you will not be fined.

You can also top up your parking at any machine by simply paying and entering your registration details.

eReceipts can also be requested from the machines. Anyone wanting a receipt should follow the prompts and enter their email address into the machine and a receipt will be emailed to them (Please note the machines cannot print out receipts).



Carpark	Rates	Casual Rates
Shepherd St	NA	\$4 hourly rate (maximum \$24)
Sydney Law School Carpark	From 3pm only*	\$4 hourly rate (maximum \$24)
Western Avenue Carpark	From 3pm only*	\$4 hourly rate (maximum 2 hour limit)
Parramatta Road	Free 10am-3pm	NA
Arundel Street	Limited free or hourly parking	NA