

Easter Island 'namoi' connection

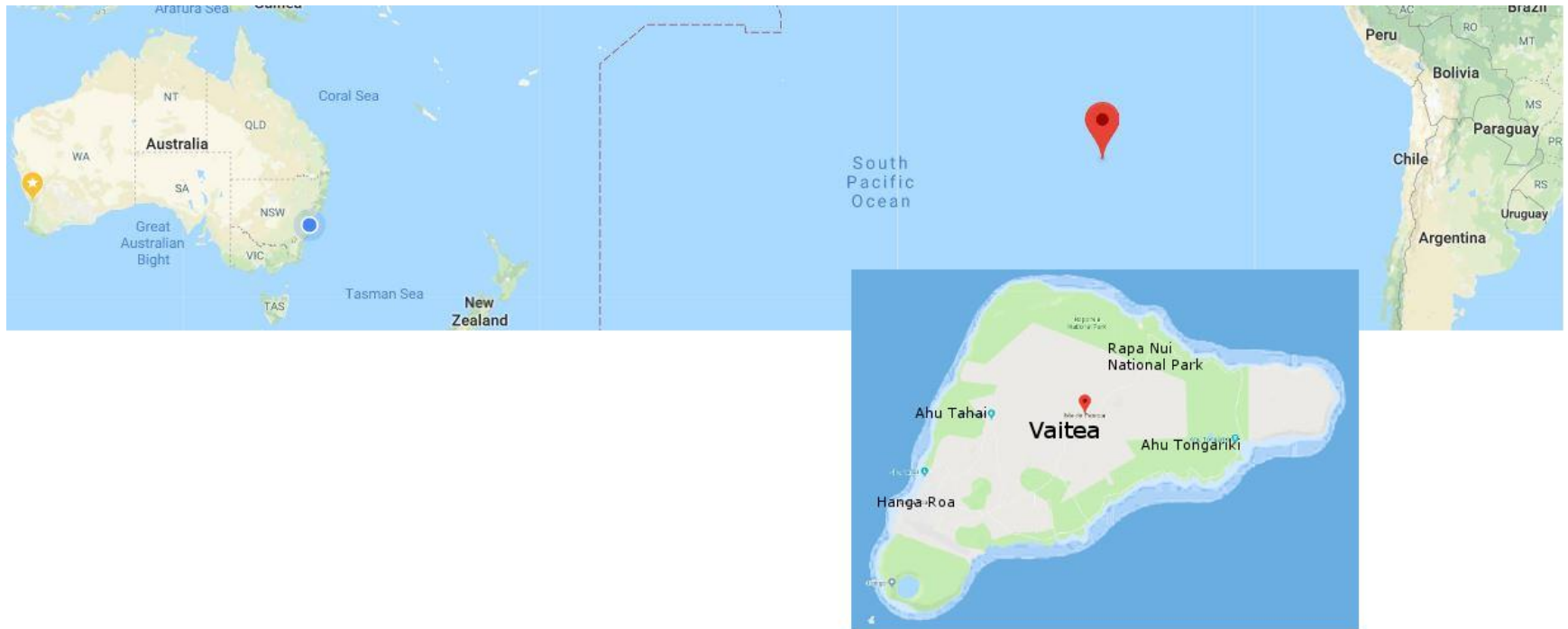
Sue Jackson-Stepowski

Vice President

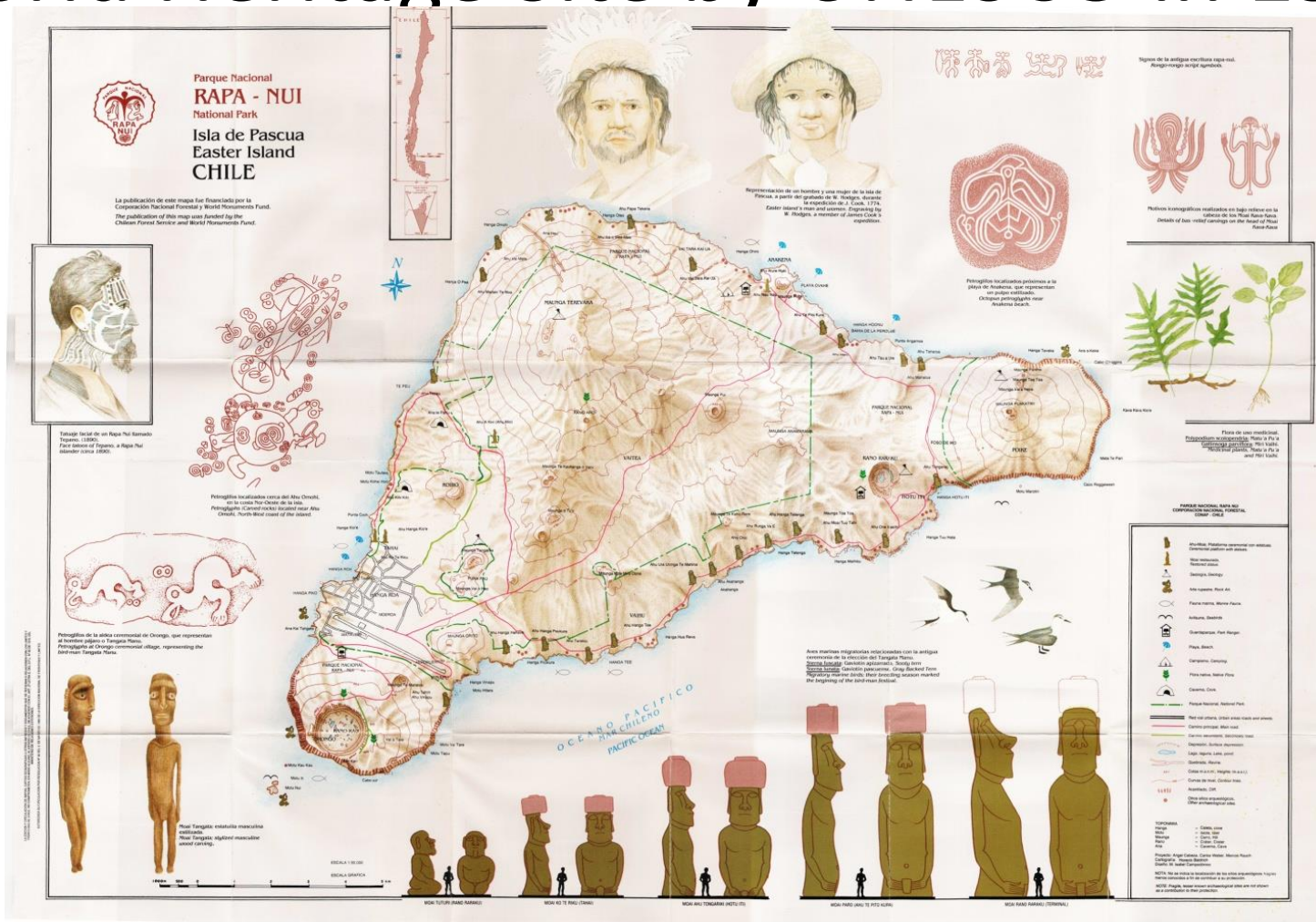
ICOMOS International Scientific Committee for
Shared Built Heritage
and

Abigail Mary Bautista, B.Sc Architecture
University of the Philippines and Masters of
Heritage student at Sydney University

Easter Island Pacific Ocean location



Rapa Nui National Park was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1996







recent research about
the Moai Quarry







tell tales

Rapa Nui guide from Clan Edmunds



What is a 'namois'?
A Spanish or Polynesian
derivative?

Archaeological evidence
of sheep, serves as a time
marker, how they affected
the moai and landscape

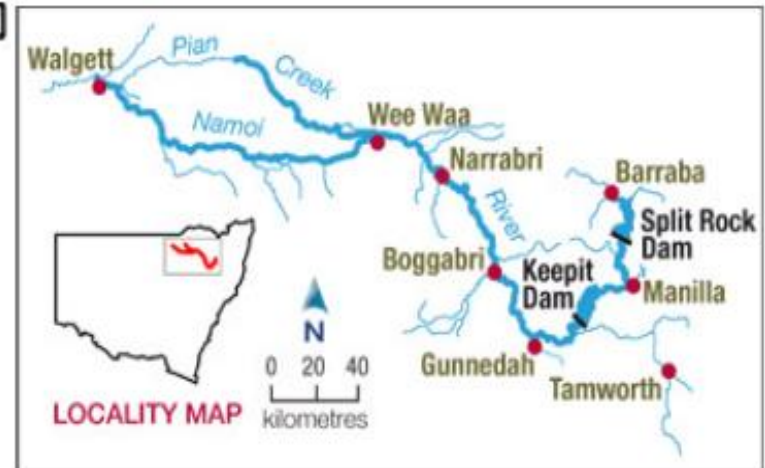
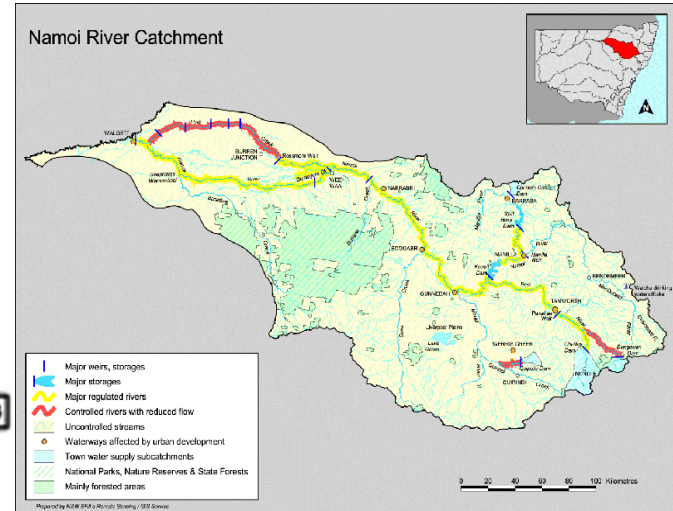
William Ayres wsayres@uoregon.edu



Eucalyptus groves of trees



Namoi River Valley NSW



Percy Edmunds and Clan Edmunds



Easter Island Farm Manger's house, Mataverí,
c1900 by HP (Percy) Edmunds

Edmunds-Byran photo collection

<http://digicoll.manoa.hawaii.edu/rapanui/Pages/viewtext.php?s=browse&tid=20&route=browseby.php&category=3&by=category&s=browse>

Vaitea Sheep Shearing Shed





the Edmunds/Bryan photo collection
<http://digicoll.manoa.hawaii.edu/rapanui/Pages/browseby.php?s=browse&by=category&category=3m>

sheep dip & pens c1900 & 2017



Vaitea Sheep Shearing Shed 2017



- * lease
- * revolt
- * wool prices
- * collapse



CONFLICT & SHARED HISTORIES

Recognising
Understanding
Conveying

World Heritage Examples

- Robbin Island
- Port Arthur
- Suomenlinna

Hanga Roa



occupation and forced segregation

neglecting "contemporary" history?

The Vaitea facilities are protected under law N^o 17.288 of National Monuments of Chile.

However, the facilities are currently in very bad shape, in as much that there is a warning signage nearby indicating "peligro de derrumbe" or in danger of collapse.

There is also no evidence that the government of Chile is making an effort to conserve or restore it.

Assessing significance

- **Historic:**

- its associations with the sheep ranching industry since c1880s & during the 20th century in Easter Island

- the knowledge, technology and processes involved in gathering and processing wool during that period.

- It has shared historical significance with the sheep industry in Australia, particularly the sourcing of its commercial rams and ewes from the Namoi region in NSW, and vernacular forms of the 'tin and wood' architectural style of the shearing shed, and the sheep dip.

- **Historic Associations:** It is significant for its associations with the sheep ranching industry during the 20th century in Easter Island and the knowledge, technology and processes involved in gathering and processing wool during that period.
 - It has shared historical significance with the sheep ranching industry in Australia, particularly the sourcing of its commercial rams and ewes from the Namoi region in NSW and the 'tin and wood' architectural style of the shearing shed, and the sheep dip.
 - It is significant for its association with the Island's grassland landscape. This is also the area where the first grove of eucalyptus trees were planted on Easter Island, and the horses introduced.
 - Associations with *Compania Explotadora Isla de Pascua* and its Australian manager, Mr Edmunds, whose legacies are an Island clan bearing the Edmunds surname, and his photographic collection of this era of the Island's history.

- **Aesthetics:** two modest vernacular farm structures are representative of shearing sheds and dips found in eastern Australia during the 19th and 20th century.

- Social Positive:
 - it is symbolic of the end of the sheep ranching period in Rapa Nui history. It is a memorial that is emblematic representing the endurance of the Rapa Nui people in rising above adversity.
 - The clan that is descended from Mr Edmunds
 - The attachment to the wild horses
- Social *Negative*:
 - The site represents the century long suffering by the Rapa Nui people, wherein at one time, the entire population was confined to the village, and at another almost wiped out.
 - The large scale sheep farming in the island made the life of the islanders quite difficult and miserable.

Cultural Routes

Cultural Landscapes

- **Research Potential:** The Easter Island sheep shearing shed complex is able to tell about the evolution of the century long sheep ranching, its impact on the Island's grasslands and native peoples, and to expand knowledge about the 'shared built' heritages that cross national borders and the Pacific Ocean.

- **Rarity:** This is the only shearing shed and sheep dip on the Island. Together with the grove of eucalyptus trees, these are the only remains of the era of sheep farming on Easter Island.

The future

- Visitors to see and understand the wider, and more recent past, story of the Rapi Nui people
- Tell the history and international connections (cultural routes) of sheep farming, and how this affected the Rapi Nui people
- The Shearing Shed, within its gum tree setting, as a display space and to extend visitor experiences
- Turning an era of tragedy into a renewable resource economic benefit for the future of the Islanders

end

Thank you for your attention

- I know there was trade between Australia and Chile around turn of 20th century but did not think about wool colonisers
- In the centre of the Island still extant are ruins of an Aussie shearing shed and sheep dip.
-
- The local Rapu Nui people refer to 'namois' i.e. sheep because they were imported from the Namoi valley in northern NSW.
-
- Sheep grazing also changed the Island landscape (in addition to the more well-known removal of trees for the 'maois' stone heads) to that as the tourist sees today.
-
- The sheep station operation is a dark episode in the Island's c1880-1940 history, some-what akin to apartheid. As tourism is the only income source for the Islanders, they seek to turn the shearing shed to add another dimension for visitor experiences and learning as an interpretation centre about this aspect of the Island's history.
-
- As our guide found out what I did, I was asked to find the 'namois' link -if possible
-
- Other than as I have already started via my Heritage Advisor jobs at Moree Plains and Narrabri. e.g. local newspaper articles, and what would you suggest. I have already been in touch with the Uni of Hawaii, but their holdings appear to be focused on the statues and only in passing refer to the sheep framing operations
-
- Fascinating story ... and as reverse colonisation (exporting the Aus shearing shed etc unfortunately the homestead has since gone)., plus the strength of the Aust sheep trade during this period.

- Recently I was on Easter Island (with in-law family from Santiago).
-
- Our Rapa Nui guide occasionally mentioned things she called “namois”, I initially thought it was some Spanish derivative but we all were amiss as to what this meant. So I asked. The Rapa Nui people called sheep something sounding like ‘namoi’! She said I was the first person to say where ‘Namoi’ is.
-
- Once she found out about what I do, and my the links to World Heritage assessments, she took us to a ruin that was the former shearing shed and sheep dip – *and* surrounded by gum trees!! Apparently the sheep came from Namoi in NSW. I assume somewhere in the upper Valley but where exactly ? In 1880-90s a Frenchman shipped the sheep from Namoi to Easter Island, and subsequently the operation was despotically run by an Australian called Edmunds. The is now a ‘clan of Edmunds’ descendants on the Island.
-
- Reputedly the local Rapa Nui people were herded in to a small island apex (a sort of apartheid), and hence the location of the town, Hanga Roa, today, and the rest of the island was taken over for raising sheep for wool. The operation ceased in mid 1950s when the wool prices fell and/or the Chilean Government refused to renew the lease arrangements. Hence the now ruins. Many of the older locals worked with the sheep and shearing for the annual shipment to where (? unknown).
-
- Despite this being a dark episode for the Rapi Nui people, as to forced segregation etc, they seek to increase tourism places on the island (the only income). An option is to restore and adapt the former shearing shed and dip with interpretation to tell the more recent story of this aspect of the island’s history.
-